The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield

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Pastor's Meditation The Message of the Psalms

As I write this, In Bible Club, we are currently reading all the Psalms. We will finish all 150 of them on June 7. Some of the Psalms are grouped together by a common usage. Examples include Psalms 113-118, called the "Egyptian Hallel" which were read at times of Passover and the "Songs of Ascents," Psalms 120-34, which were probably read by pilgrims on the road to Jerusalem, concluding with a walk/ascension up the Temple steps. But most of the Psalms are grouped together in no apparent order.



In 1985, Walter Brueggemann, Professor at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, created a framework to understanding the Psalms, not by the order they are numbered, but by their themes. In this book, *The Message of the Psalms* (Minneapolis, Augsburg, 1985), he identified three basic kinds of Psalms:

- 1. Psalms of Orientation
- 2. Psalms of Disorientation
- 3. Psalms of a New Orientation

Psalms of Orientation are those that "express a confident, serene settlement on faith issues. Some things are settled and beyond doubt, so that one does not live and believe in the midst of overwhelming anxiety. Such a happy settlement of life's issues occurs because God is known to be reliable and trustworthy." (*Brueggemann*, 25). In my mind, these Psalms are like the popular saying, "God's in Heaven and all's right with the world." Examples include Psalm 1, 8 and 119.

But another popular saying, "Into everyone's life some rain must fall," more adequately expresses reality. When considering the Orientation Psalms, Brueggemann boldly observed, "Life is not like that." **Psalms of Disorientation** are those admitting that "Life is also savagely marked by disequilibrium, incoherence and unrelieved asymmetry. In our time – perhaps any time – that needs no

argument or documentation." (*Brueggemann*, 51). "The Psalms give expression to that new reality of disorientation, when everything in heaven and on earth seems skewed." (*Brueggemann*, 123). Psalms of Disorientation include Psalm 86, and Psalm 22. Jesus invoked Psalm 22 as he died on the Cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Finally, Brueggemann identifies Psalms of a New Orientation, where "the speaker and community of faith are often surprised by grace, when there emerges in present life a new possibility that is inexplicable, neither derived nor extrapolated, but wrought by the inscrutable power and goodness of God. The newness cannot be explained, predicted or programmed. We do not know how such a newness happens any more than we know how a dead person is raised to new life, how a leper is cleansed, or how a blind person can see." (Brueggemann, 124). Examples include Psalms 30 and 40, and everyone's favorite, Psalm 23. In the New Orientation, we don't avoid tragedy. Instead, even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, "Thou art with me." (Psalm 23:4).

I think it's consistent with Brueggemann's message to say that Christian churches for too long emphasized "God's in Heaven and all's right with the world," ignoring the faithshaking tragedies that hit every life. Because of this, many former churchgoers have walked away. Had we considered the true message of the Psalms all along, we might have proclaimed correctly that tragedy escapes no one, but that doesn't mean our faith is in vain. Instead, we read in Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." In my view, that one verse summarizes all 150 of the Psalms. *Trouble is always coming, but God is always there to help.* I believe that's the message we impart in this church, and the message of the Psalms.

In Christ, Pastor Steve

June Birthdays

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- 1 Yvonne O'Brien
- 2 Catherine Swail
- 2 Peggy Webber
- 5 Heidi Tyler
- 12 Steve Wilterdink
- 11 Don Jolley
- 16 Kathy Werther
- 19 Melissa Phillips
- 19 Tim Tyler
- 21 Andrew Frenia
- 21 Jeff Phillips
- 25 Barbara King

Church Ladies' Lunch

Men are Invited!

Tuesday, June 20th at Noon Olive Garden in Victor 204 High Point Drive Across from Eastview Mall

<u>Men's Lunch</u> Thursdays at Noon Riki's Restaurant in Fairport

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Notes from the Trustees

The Capital Fund Drive to secure funds to cover the cost of the tree removal at 1866 Penfield Road and the roof replacement on the east side of Old Fellowship Hall and the meeting room is under way. So far we have collected about \$10,000.00 toward the total expense of about \$24,000.00. If you have not yet contributed and are considering doing so, there is still time. The Trustees are intending to complete this drive by the end of June. The new roof will most likely be installed in July.

Respectfully,

Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien, Mike Pray, Sarah Phillips, David Trump

Pledges and Donations

Just a reminder that all pledges and donations can be mailed into the church office and will be deposited, or you can also use the Donate button on the church website (for a small fee).

Thank you!

Jeff Bertrand

Health Safety

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The COVID-19 level is updated Thursdays after 8:00 pm.

For the latest info on Covid-19, please go to the Center for Disease Control Website <u>cdc.gov</u> for weekly updates of the COVID-19 level. Or call the CDC at 1-800-232-4636 for updates.

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Missions Report

The Missions Team has been preparing to share the America for Christ Offering information during Moment for Missions in June. Your gifts to this annual offering of American Baptist Churches USA impact thousands of people in the United States and Puerto Rico who are in serious need because of floods, fires, poverty, and other crises. The theme this year is "Grace upon Grace" ref. John 1:16 and reminds us of how we too have needed and received Grace at some time in our lives. A portion of the funds given locally will come back to our ABC Rochester-Genesee Region. It will be helpful if you indicate "America for Christ" on your donation.

Recently the Missions Team has sent support from our church to Willow Domestic Violence Center, and to Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in support of their important American Baptist educational endeavors in our area. We sent \$250 to the Open Door Mission during their matching- funds campaign.

We will be serving on the Missions Team for the near future. If anyone has an interest in joining us or questions about Missions, please let us know.

Susie, Ellen, Janette

How to Join Sunday Worship Service by Phone

Dial in by phone to join each Sunday's virtual service Zoom opens at 9 am Worship Service starts at 9:30 am

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

When prompted, punch in this meeting ID - -----> 839 345 585

When prompted, punch in -----> #_

Adult Discussion Following Worship

June 4th will be the last until Fall 11:15-NOON This is a recurring meeting In person and on Zoom

Below is the Online Information

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84560421536 Meeting ID: 845 6042 1536

Call-in information +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) Meeting ID: 845 6042 1536

Wednesday Zoom Prayer Group

Please join Pastor Steve Wednesday for a Zoom Prayer Group Meeting. We will share our concerns and take them to God. Although we've scheduled a one-hour Zoom meeting, these are expected to end sooner. Please join us!

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1:00 pm Prayer Group:

Zoom Computer Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/950690121

Meeting ID: 950 690 121

Phone users dial: 1-646-876-9923 When Prompted, enter Meeting ID: 950 690 121

Bible Club Meeting Wednesday, - Time: 6:00 pm Online/Zoom

Please join us as we begin reading the Bible, from start to finish, using *The Daily Contemplative Bible*, which has segmented the entire Bible into 365 daily readings – cost is \$14. each. By the end of the year, we will have read the Bible cover-to-cover!

Pizza provided for those attending in-Person

How to join us online: Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86182075740

Meeting ID: 861 8207 5740

<u>Call-in:</u> +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) +1 646 931 3860 US Meeting ID: 861 8207 5740

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Roger Zaenglein's Garden Party

Sunday, May 21, 2023





Judy McNeil, Jane Pearson, Marsha Kiriazides



Who We Are

The First Baptist Church of Penfield was established in 1804 in what is now an eastern suburb of Rochester, New York.

We are affiliated with American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region, and nationally with the American Baptist Churches, USA.

We welcome all to worship with us. Our congregation is a gathering of people who are diverse in theology and political opinions, but who are all seeking to know God in a deeper and more meaningful way.

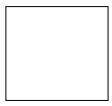
The First Baptist Church of Penfield continues to include all who seek Jesus as Lord regardless of race, class, gender, disability, place of origin, or sexual orientation, identity, or expression.

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First Baptist Church of Penfield 1862 Penfield Road Penfield, NY 14526





We have 3 methods of receiving the monthly newsletter. Method 1—Open the link on our web page at www.fbpenfield.org Method 2—Pick up your personal copy at Sunday Worship Method 3—Receive a printed copy via US Postal Mail Please help us to obtain a cost savings! Open the link or pick up! If you wish to change your method, please e-mail us at fbpenfield.@toast.net or call the Church Office at (585) 586-2876.

#### Our Church Staff

Rev. Steven D. Brotzman ~ Pastor Dr. Naomi Gregory ~ Organist, Music Director Samantha Sosa, Caroline Duers, David Griffith, Jason Rober ~ Choral Scholars Saundra Augustus ~ Office Assistant Laura Swail ~ Nursery Care Meho & Hava Kapidzic ~ Church Custodians

#### **Contact Information**

(585) 586-2876 E-mail ~ fbpenfield@toast.net Website ~ www.fbpenfield.org Find us on Facebook

#### **Church Office Hours**

Monday thru Friday, 9:00am to 12:30pm

#### **OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT**

We welcome to our worship all who desire to know God through Jesus Christ.

We encourage each other to develop a relationship with God and to live as Christ taught us.

We covenant together to seek out and minister to those in spiritual, emotional or physical need.