

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



September 2021

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Pastor's Meditation

Unlearning What I Learned

Below is a photo from my 8th birthday party, over 50 years ago in Churchville, NY:



Left to Right: Mark, Todd, me, Carlos

Carlos was a good friend growing up. He's a successful M.D. now. Todd taught me how to ride a bicycle. I'm not sure where he is now. I don't remember Mark that much, and I don't know where he is, either. Four boys and three colors. It never occurred to us then that we didn't belong together.

Two years later, my family moved to the Southern Tier of NY. People had different economic situations and neighborhoods, but everyone was white. It was here I learned racism. (Make no mistake, the Southern Tier is not the only place perpetuating racism, as shown last year's Democrat & Chronicle article:

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2020/08/04/racial-covenants-were-widely-deployed-monroe-county-property-contracts/5574832002/> .)

One day, in the Southern Tier, I heard my classmates discussing a rumor that a black family was going to move into our little town. They all agreed, "They (the grownups) will never let that happen." And, sure enough, it did not happen while I was there. I returned to Rochester for college, my head filled with stereotypes about black, Irish, Hispanic and Italian people and a repertoire of Polish jokes. That change occurred after only eight impressionable years. I could talk at length about all I "learned" and how I learned it.

But what I want to impart is: people are not born with racism in their minds and hearts. They learn it. For the past 40 years, under conviction of the Holy Spirit, my task has been to unlearn it.

This September, we will be having a conversation about race during Adult Discussion time. The series is called *How to Fight Racism*, by University of Mississippi Ph.D. student Jemar Tisby. Here is a short blurb: “Jemar Tisby believes the key to America's racial reconciliation lies within the Christian faith. Building on his previous book *Color of Compromise*, he details how Christians can make positive changes to move forward to a more equitable future.” This series comes highly-rated by users and religious leaders.

Jim Wallis wrote, “We can go deeper to understand ourselves not only as members of one race against another but as fellow citizens with common dream for our future, hopes for our children, and commitments to a better nation. In the end, we can and must shed ourselves of our racial idols and divisions that have bound and separated us, and find our dignity together as the children of God all made in the image of the One who loves us all.” (Jim Wallis, *America's Original Sin*)

In the human condition, there is no trap that Jesus doesn't know the way out of. I hope you will join me in freeing ourselves from the lies of prejudice and continuing the process of unlearning what we've learned.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve



Moderator's Message

Dear Church Family and Friends,

September is here, and with that, our Adult Discussion schedule is back on and it begins following our Sunday Service on September 12th. The topic is on Christianity and Racism. There will be a video to watch for each session, which will be followed up with an ‘adult discussion’.

There will be an opportunity to participate either in person in New Fellowship Hall, or online on the Zoom platform.

With that being said, beginning on Sunday September 12th, following the service, we will begin offering a ‘modified’ period for coffee and a snack in New Fellowship Hall. For the time being, masks are required in New Fellowship Hall. The only time anyone's mask should be lowered or removed, is when they are seated to drink and/or eat. The tables and chairs will be setup for this purpose and with distancing in mind. When done drinking and/or eating, masks must be put back on. These rules apply to both Coffee & Fellowship Time and the Adult Discussion Hour in New Fellowship Hall.

There has been some discussion in regards to Flapjack Saturday. We recently spoke of starting back up again on Saturday October 16th. With this being a community event, we will continue to monitor the fluctuating Covid situation and make a decision when we are able as to when we will actually start back up again. Leadership and staffing for this event will also play into that decision.

Please keep in mind that it is possible that in the near future there could be changes to any of our scheduled programming as Covid conditions continue to fluctuate. We continue to keep a close eye on this and will be sure to notify everyone of any changes that may be necessary.

We do have an Audio Visual Tech Team, and they are in great need of a few additional people to join them. If you happen to have a knack for modern technology and would be willing to spare a just a bit of your time, please contact Gregg Goodman.

Also, I can't tell you how excited I am with the progress being made on the new Nursery and the preparations that are being made for a Youth Room! These are exciting times as we prepare for the future for children and youth in our church. Thank you to everyone who is helping in anyway with this process.

Lastly, an important reminder to please continue to follow the Covid Policies and Procedures as listed by the members of Reimagine Committee. The most recent update to this list was made on August 5th

and contains a change to number 3. In short, the change is that anyone entering the sanctuary for Sunday Worship, whether fully vaccinated or not, must enter with a mask on, keep it on thru the entire service, and not remove it until you have exited the building. Please come prepared with a mask. We do have disposable masks available at the door if one is needed. We thank you for adhering to these rules as we continue to look out for ourselves, our families, and one another thru these changing times.

Be safe and be blessed!

Kathy Ahl, Moderator



September Birthdays

4 Bea Anderson
 7 Ellen Stokes
 8 Agnes Nichols
 9 Bruce Thon
 11 Walter Durland
 14 Molly Frenia
 15 Meliha Sehovic
 16 Joyce Calkins
 18 Penny Goodman
 18 Irene Lipinski
 19 Phyllis Britt
 24 Chris Collison
 30 Jane Pearson

Note from the Trustees

The north doors of our Education Building have been repainted. They look great! Thank you Sarah and Jeff Phillips and Jack O'Brien for a job well done.

The Trustees are considering installing a camera to monitor the dumpsters, in an attempt to spot individuals putting personal and construction items in the garbage dumpster. We are concerned about individuals disposing of personal and construction items that are not church related.

The paper dumpster is meant for clean paper and cardboard. **Plus**, we just learned that the church can dispose of clean glass and clean plastic in that dumpster as well. The recycling center sorts these items after collection. Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien,
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



Church Ladies' Lunch

Tuesday, September 21st at noon

Place – Flaherty's 3 Flags in Webster
(on the right side of Bay Road
just north of Empire Blvd)

All women of the church are welcome!

Please RSVP to Sarah Kohlenberg
Phone # 586-2876

with questions and to sign up



Missions Team Report

At our August Missions Team meeting we began looking forward to Fall, which is fast approaching and typically a busy season.

During the month of September we will be presenting the American Baptist Church's International Ministries **World Mission Offering**. The 2021 theme is: **We've been surprised by God's Glory**. Through International Ministries' World Mission Offering, thousands across the country celebrate and support ministries that God is using to transform the world.

Plans are also being discussed for the upcoming holiday season when we focus on support for the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf (PEFS) at Thanksgiving and also bringing Christmas cheer to the homeless women and children who are being assisted by the Open Door Mission at the Coldwater Road Home. You will be hearing more in the weeks to come about our **RING IN THE HOLIDAYS** drive-through event in 2021.

We are sending support from the Missions Budget to Cameron Community Ministries - \$250 for back-to-school supplies and \$500 to the Shepard Home in Penfield which is in need of community support for their restocking and reopening after their pandemic pause. Additionally, we are sending \$400 to the Fairport Baptist Home where we have a long history of their care and comfort for many of our members and friends.

Sue, Janette, Ellen



Project Homeless Connect

We are participating in a winter coat drive that is organized by a Social Worker from Cameron Community Ministries. We will be collecting gently used coats for all ages, from infants, to children, to adults. Please take a few minutes to see if you might have a coat or two to donate, and be sure to check with family members and friends as well.

If you would like to donate a coat during office hours, please hit the buzzer on the East set of double doors off the parking lot. Sandra can buzz you in.

Instead of taking it to the office, please take coats downstairs to the coat rack outside new fellowship hall. We will collect the coats from there thru Sunday September 26th.

If anyone has anything to donate and is unable to get it to church, please notify me. I would be more than happy to pick any donations and deliver them to the church.

It's a two way blessing when giving to those in need. Thank you for your consideration and participation in this Rochester Area Winter Coat Drive.

With much gratitude,

Kathy Ahl

From Your Teaching and Worship Committees...

The Teaching and Worship Committee has a LOT of news to share this month!

First of all, we are excited this fall about the possibility of bringing **our choir** back to the sanctuary! We don't have all of the details worked out yet but are hopeful that we can make it happen while following all of the appropriate guidelines for safety for everyone in the sanctuary. Under the leadership and direction of Naomi Gregory, we are all looking forward to the Sunday when we walk in and not only hear our phenomenal choir, but can see them in person once again as well. Thank you for your patience while we work out details. (In the meantime, this would be a great time to let her know if you are interested in participating in either the choir or the bell choir!)

On a related note, we are also looking forward to welcoming our members back to New Fellowship Hall for Adult Discussion Hour each week. Following CDC guidelines, we will be spaced the appropriate distance and will have our tables set up appropriately to accommodate this when you arrive. At this time in Monroe County we must also be wearing masks at all times indoors as well so please don't forget yours in your car! Pastor Steve has a great topic for us to explore and we will be working with our Technology Team to be able to welcome those who are

joining us from home via Zoom. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to talk to your Teaching Team (Sandy Pray, Pat Holderbaum and Ginna Blackman).

Secondly, we know how beautiful the sanctuary looks when **flowers** are a part of our Sunday morning. Coming soon will be a new online option for signing up to provide flowers for our altar. Whether you wish to bring flowers or have them delivered by a florist, now is the time for you to reflect on those special times of the year when you want to honor or remember an important person or event, and reserve that Sunday. If you notice that there is no one signed up for a Sunday, please grab some blooms from your garden if you can. Those are always welcomed and appreciated as well! The link will be available on the church website and we'll let you know when it goes "live".

If you aren't already aware, we've made some changes in "room assignments" to make space for a new youth room. In making these moves we have found that **our nursery** was SO well stocked with great toys and items that we were able to donate some of these items to the Crisis Nursery of Greater Rochester. Their mission is to provide a temporary safe haven for children whose families are in crisis, and thus provide short term childcare families need while resolving their problems. They care for children birth to age twelve and are open 24 hours per day, most days of the year. They were very appreciative of our donations and we were

glad that our items found a new home with such a worthy cause. For more information you can visit www.cngr.org.

Finally, we are in search of a person willing to help coordinate our usher schedules for Sundays. We are very thankful for Bonnie Cleaver who has filled this role up until now. A task list is being created to help ushers know what needs to be done on the Sunday that they have volunteered, and we all know that people are eager to step up and help out. We are just seeking someone to help create the schedule and reach out to members to help get the schedule filled. Please contact Georgia May, Margaret Militello or Annette Brotzman (our Worship Team!) if this is something you can help out with.



Thank You

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and the delicious care packages from the deacons that appear at just the right time. We are so grateful to be blessed with your generosity and care.

Ellen & Michael Stokes

Policies and Procedures *Updated
Thursday, August 5, 2021

1. Church Entry and Exit - People will enter and exit through the ramp door only. All other ways will remain closed.

2. Sanitizing Hand Gel and Face Masks - Both will continue to be available at the entrance (Usher's Station) for anyone who chooses to use them.

3. FULLY VACCINATED - At the present time, fully vaccinated people should enter the sanctuary and join in the service wearing a face mask and practice social distancing as needed to respect the wishes of others around them.

4. UNVACCINATED or NOT FULLY VACCINATED – Unvaccinated people or those who are not fully vaccinated, are expected to continue wearing a face mask, keep it on for the entire service, and continue to practice social distancing of 6 feet or greater while in the church. Attending the church service online is also encouraged.

5. About the Children - We understand that some children will not yet be vaccinated or not yet fully vaccinated, there will be a section of pews designated for children and their families only at the front of the sanctuary. Just beyond the children's section, there will be a section of pews that will be

off-limits for any seating. The remainder of the pews will be available for general seating.

6. Children's Moment - Anyone providing the Children's Moment in person will be required to wear a face mask, whether fully vaccinated or not.

7. Singing - Any member of the congregation who chooses to participate in singing at any time throughout the church service must wear a face mask while singing, whether fully vaccinated or not.

8. There will continue to be no childcare provided at this time.

9. The offering plates will not be passed, however, there will continue to be a donation box in the back of the sanctuary.

10. On Communion Sundays, the Lord's Supper will continue to be given using sealed, disposable communion cups and wafers to ensure everyone's safety.

11. The regular Sunday Worship Services will continue to be available electronically, over-the-phone, and on the on-line ZOOM platform. Our policies will continue to follow the guidance provided by Monroe County Department of Health and the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

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



We have 2 methods of receiving the monthly newsletter.

Method 1—Open the link on our web page at www.fbpenfield.org

Method 2—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 ~ Music Director

Sandra 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, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Wednesdays may vary

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.