

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2021

In This Issue

Pastor's Meditation	1
December Birthdays.....	2
Church Foundation Flowers and Plantings	2
Passing of Reverend Kevin Butler	3
Pledges and Donations	3
2022 Pledges Update.....	3
Note from the Trustees.....	4
Adult Discussion Schedule	4
Missions Report	5
Church Ladies Lunch	5
Covid Policies and Procedure as of 8-05-21 ..	6
Fellowship Hall Covid Procedures 9-12-21 ...	7

Pastor's Meditation December, 2021

Light

Years ago, while filming was underway for the blockbuster, *Jurassic Park*, a hurricane hit the Hawaiian Island of Kauai, where much of the movie was shot. The hurricane caused the electricity to go out. As told by actor Jeff Goldblum, the cast and crew gathered in a hotel ballroom during the blackout:

“The lights went out, and I remember (Director) Steven Spielberg took a flashlight and held it above his head and shined it down on himself and said, “Love story,” and then put it under his chin and said, “Horror story.” “Love story. Horror story.” [i]

Spielberg was obviously entertaining people to help take their minds off the hurricane. Probably better than anyone, a film director would understand the effect of lighting on a person's appearance. He knew that *light from above makes people look lovelier. Light from below makes people look scary.* Just a simple re-positioning of the flashlight and he had, “Love story. Horror story.”

At Christmastime, we read scriptures about light, such as, Isaiah 9:2, “*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.*” Christians often read John 1's treatise on the meaning of Jesus, which says, “*There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world...*”

For the authors of John, and Isaiah, Jesus is the Light. When light shines on people, it can make them look lovely or scary. Jesus' Light has a way of doing both. Because He was sinless, the Light of His example shows us how sinful we are by comparison. In life, people get lost. As scriptures say, “They grope in darkness with no light,” (Job 12:25). Even as Jesus was brought into the world, darkness surrounded; soldiers were trying to kill him. He and his parents had to

seek safety in another country. His ministry was surrounded by often-violent opposition culminating in his unfair death. Nonetheless, his death brought the light of atonement that will overcome the darkness.

Once we recognize our sins, we realize how “ugly” we are. But Jesus’ Light also gives us Hope: Because Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He brings the light of Grace. Grace could be defined as light from Above, that makes us look better than we deserve to look. As U2’s Bono sang, “Grace makes beauty out of ugly things.”^[ii] Even the most-wandering souls are still created in God’s beautiful image.

Jesus’ Light of conviction, grace and transformation can restore us to the beautiful people we were made to be. As we celebrate Christmas, take time to consider the Light of the World, who reveals what a horror story our lives can be without him, but ultimately creates a love story.

“Love story. Horror story.” Christmas is story of Light; a Love story.

^[i]
<http://insidemovies.ew.com/2013/04/04/jurassic-park-oral-history/2/>

^[ii] “Grace,” from the U2 Album, “All That You Can’t Leave Behind.”

In Christ, Pastor Steve

December Birthdays

- 8 - Thomas Keenan
- 10 - Laura Swail
- 20 - Lois Neely
- 20 - Sandra Pray
- 22 - Ginna Bergonzi-Blackman
- 22 - Marian Lee Kuykendall
- 23 - Darwin Pray
- 25 - John Holderbaum
- 28 - Betty Hartman
- 29 - Alexandra Collison
- 29 - Sue Sparnecht
- 31 - Michael Kimball



The Church Foundation Flowers and Plantings

The church foundation flowers and plantings have been gorgeous all summer long. We have Judy McNeil and Marsha Kiriazides to thank for planting the lovely flowers by the front steps and church bell. A special thank you goes to Chris Ahl for the weeding, treatment and watering he did throughout the seasons. The next time you see Chris give him a pat on the back and a big “THANK YOU “ for all the time and sweat he spent on our gardens.

An Observant Member

Passing of Reverend Kevin Butler

Many of our church family fondly remember Reverend Kevin Butler who was our Student Minister in the late 80's. He was a warm and capable guiding figure for our youth group while he served here. Kevin passed very recently according to information his daughter posted on Facebook. Kevin's journey as a minister had taken him to Connecticut where he had been a youth retreat and conference minister, served as an administrative manager at American Baptist Churches of CT (ABCCONN) and was Co-pastor of Asylum Avenue Baptist Church in Hartford.

Janette Keenan

**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

**2022 Pledge Update**

Our Pledge Campaign is almost complete. As of Sunday, we have received 45 pledges for next year. Based upon prior giving patterns, there are about 10 families that have yet to make a pledge for next year.

If you have not made a financial commitment yet, please prayerfully consider making the commitment. We are all aware of inflation as respects our personal finances and OUR CHURCH is not immune to rising costs either.

Thank you for your help.....

Bill Werther, Financial Secretary



Note from the Trustees

- Stewardship Sunday was November 21st. The Trustees appreciate and thank all of you who submitted your pledge forms so quickly. As the Trustees reflect on the 2022 budget, we appreciate your support for the growing cost of operating the church, continuing our many ministries and programs and the hope to hire a student minister.
- In early November we replaced the air compressor motor, which is part of the boiler system in the education building. When the compressor doesn't operate, hot water circulates through the heating system but there is no control over the temperature in each room. When the issue happened, classroom temperatures reached into the 80's before the hot water circulation was stopped and the boiler turned off. A service call by Feldman Heating and Cooling fixed the problem as soon as a motor could be located.
- November is the time for all teams to start looking at their needs for 2022. Jeff Bertrand, the Church Treasurer, will be sending out a reminder but would appreciate your requests in writing before the end of December.
- The 2022 budget draft will be presented for review, the Sunday preceding the Annual Meeting. The budget will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January.
- We are still interested in appointing someone to complete Bruce Blackman's term on the Board of Trustees. If you might be

interested, please contact Fritz May at fhmay209@gmail.com. A basic description of the duties of the Trustees can be found in the current church constitution.



Adult Discussion Schedule

First Baptist Church of Penfield On Zoom and in NFH

December 2021

During Advent, Adult Discussion following Sunday worship will be the DVD series *A Different Kind of Christmas*.

According to promotional literature: "*A Different Kind of Christmas* is a practical and inspiring study for the Advent Season.

Based on (Pastor) Mike Slaughter's popular book, *Christmas is Not Your Birthday*, this study will empower your family and your church to reclaim the broader missional meaning of Jesus' birth and experience a Christmas season with more peace and joy than any toy or gadget could ever bring."

The series will be shown and discussed December 5, 12 and 19, running from 11am to noon.

Please join us!

Missions Report

First, the Missions Team wants to say that your generous response to RING IN THE HOLIDAYS 2021 warmed our hearts on a cold November morning! **THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of you who braved the elements to share with the community.** A packed carload of food was delivered to the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf for distribution at Thanksgiving and another carload of new pajamas was taken to the Open Door Mission's Coldwater Road House for Women and Children. They will be gifted to the moms for Christmas and beyond as needed. We also thank Carol Morse for her help and for delivering the pajamas, Pastor Steve and Annette for their consistent support of our missions, and Ray and Judy Gibb for hot coffee and donuts.

Now that December is here the Missions Team will be presenting information about the American Baptist Churches USA's 4th annual offering which has roots going back to the 1930's. **The Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering (RMMO) provides a tangible way for American Baptist congregations to say "Thank you" for the commitment, service, and spiritual guidance of these dedicated individuals. Our congregation has a tradition to honor and support this collection each December.**

The theme for 2021 is, **TRANSFORMED BY GENEROSITY**, with supporting

scripture from 2 Corinthian 3:18: "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Finally, The Missions Team extends a warm wish to each of you for a Merry Christmas!

Sue, Ellen, Janette



Church Ladies' Lunch

There will be no luncheon in December, January, and February. This event will resume in March 2022



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>

Fellowship Hall
Covid Precautions
(Effective 9/12/2021)

Anyone attending the ‘modified’ Coffee & Fellowship, and/or Adult Discussion in Fellowship Hall following Sunday Worship must be wearing a mask.

The only time anyone’s mask should be lowered or removed, is when they are seated first 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.

Prior to Adult Discussion start time, if people choose to stand to mingle with others while enjoying a beverage or a snack, please do so outdoors. Thank you.



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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

Caroline Duers, Samantha Sosa,

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.