

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2021

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Pastor's Meditation

Going to the Source

Bible Club spent some time in February, on Wednesday nights, talking about prayer. Of all the disciplines, such as fasting, study of scripture, self-examination, living simply, fellowship and stewardship, prayer is an essential, (perhaps the essential) discipline of the Christian life. Why is it so important? Because healthy relationships require communication, and prayer is how we communicate with God, our most important relationship.

Author Philip Yancey, in Why Pray? writes about Bear Creek, which flows near his house in Colorado. One day, he traced the creek up to the mountains where it begins. Seeing the

creek at its source changed his perspective. Ultimately, he found a metaphor for prayer:

It occurs to me, thinking about prayer, that most of the time I get the direction wrong. I start downstream with my own concerns and bring them to God. I inform God, as if God did not already know. I plead with God, as if hoping to change God's mind and overcome divine reluctance. Instead, I should start upstream where the flow begins.

When I shift direction, I realize that God already cares about my concerns - my uncle's cancer, world peace, a broken family, a rebellious teenager - more than I do. Grace, like water, descends to the lowest part. Streams of mercy flow. I begin with God, who bears primary responsibility for what happens on earth, and ask what part I can play in God's work on Earth. "Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" cried the prophet. Will I stand on the bank or jump in the stream? (Yancey, Philip, Why Pray? Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. p. 23)

Like most people, when I pray, I default to a "wish list" to God ("Dear Lord, could you do this? Could you fix that?") but I want to pray differently. Christians are not those whom Christ follows. Christians are those who follow Christ. Christ decides the direction of our lives. Therefore, we need to reverse the order, go to the source, and ask God, as author

Jess Lair did, “Hey God, what should I do now?” Only then can we enter the Divine stream of justice and mercy that God wants to send flowing through this hurting, troubled world.

No good relationship lacks the give-and-take of speaking and listening. For us to have our strongest possible relationship with God, we should be *listening* more than talking. I encourage all of us to go to the source of the mighty stream, and let God direct our lives.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve



Moderator's Musing

Dear Church,

Have you ever put up drywall? Have you ever put it up as a ceiling? Have you ever tried to do it alone. It's hard. The four by eight foot pieces are unwieldy and heavy! You are trying to attach it to studs AND keep it level. You find yourself propping things up, balancing on ladders, holding large pieces of drywall with your head and neck, and simply trying to make due as long as possible- until it all comes crashing down or, you finish, and it looks terrible.

As we enter March, the vice moderator, Kathy Ahl, will be seeking people to join or stay on various committees that keep our church and our congregation moving forward. These committees are the crew and the drywall is our church- nobody can do it alone! I would ask that you consider what you are currently doing for the church and the congregation in our efforts to move forward. Do you have a skill that would be useful on a certain committee? Would you like to feel more connected to your congregation? Are you low on funds but high on hutzpah?!

Below is a brief description of the various committees who are doing the work of the church. If you would like to know more about a committee's work, please contact someone on that committee- the list is on our website under “About Us”. You can also look at the church's Constitution (also on the web site page). Or, give Kathy Ahl a call or text. Her number is in the directory.

Coordinating Council: Chaired by the moderator. Oversees the “people” part of the church- policies, coordination of the various committees, church functions, arbitration between teams, the church retreat, special duties.

Worship Team: Spiritual growth and well being of the congregation, organizing worship services, oversees membership/baptisms.

Teaching Team: Promote bible study, literature, and programing, determine

educational programs- Second Hour, Sunday School, Children's Moment.

Common Life: Primarily they coordinate our congregational functions including meals, picnics, socials, etc. Coordinate Coffee Hour. They coordinate and facilitate these functions. The congregation needs to help them to execute the events.

Mission Team: Development and administration of the mission budget, organize mission programs.

Trustees: Maintenance and oversight of the physical property, hiring and supervision of non-professional staff, creating a budget and managing the church finances, supervision of endowment funds, technology, Stewardship drive.

Pastoral Relations Team: This is NOT voted on. The current team members solicit their own replacements. Support and maintain a positive relationship between the Pastor and the congregation, negotiate the Pastor's contract and enforce said contract, meet monthly with Pastor to discuss current issues or ideas.

If a team is filled up, you can certainly have more on the committee with the committee's approval- with the exception of the Pastoral Relations Team.

Please consider joining and helping as you can. It's great to be appreciated but many hands make light work- said some person who abandoned putting drywall up by themselves!!

Peace and Understanding,
Michael Pray

March Birthdays

- 2 Bonnie Cleaver
- 3 Elizabeth Beuter
- 4 Naomi Gregory
- 10 Georgia May
- 11 Michael Pray
- 13 Ashley Blackman
- 14 Laura Stokes
- 18 Stephen Bergonzi
- 18 Steve Hartman
- 20 Dick Andrews
- 21 Haley Bertrand
- 23 William Werther
- 26 Margery Maring
- 31 Libby Bertrand



Note from the Trustees

February was a relatively quiet month at church however we did have a large maple tree behind our house at 1866 Penfield Road removed by American Aerial Tree Experts. The tree and several branches on other trees surrounding the house were removed to prevent potential future damage on that property.

Respectfully,

Bruce Blackman, 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



Garden Space is Available!

SPACE IS AVAILABLE for you to have a garden plot at the church!

The ground has already been well prepared this fall. Join the fun and the bounty of gardening.

Please call Ginny Wilterdink at 585-385-3531 before April 1st for more information.



Missions Report

During March the Missions Team will be sharing about the America for Christ Offering - one of the 4 annual collections of American Baptist Churches USA. Your gifts to this effort will help communities impacted by Covid-19 in our country and Puerto Rico as well as families impacted by wildfires, floods, poverty, etc. This year's theme, "For the Purpose of Equipping Saints," focuses on empowering leaders and disciples called to make a difference through missions work. Checks can be mailed to the church office, with a notation: "America for Christ," in the memo line.

SPRING INTO ACTION; LET'S HELP FEED THE CHILDREN!

The Missions Team is planning a drive-through food collection for a special program of the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf, (PEFS) called **Food For Kids**, which provides extra breakfast and lunch items plus healthy snacks on a regular basis. During the pandemic, with children only attending school 2 days a week, the PEFS has been offering **Food For Kids** every other week. These children would have been eligible for free or reduced meals if they had been in school. The program, which has been successful for several years as **Summer Food For Kids**, will also be continued during June, July and August 2021.

DATE: **Saturday, MARCH 20, 2021** - First day of **SPRING!**

TIME: **10 A.M. - NOON** - In the **Church Parking Lot**

WHAT: **Suggested non-perishable items per PEFS:** boxed cereal & oatmeal, canned pasta, children-friendly canned soup, fruit cups, applesauce, cheese crackers, granola bars, etc. The PEFS has asked that the expiration date be written on each item, if possible. They cannot accept expired food.

We hope to see you there!
Sue, Ellen, Janette



From the Pastoral Relations Team

Steve has served as our pastor for 3 years! As an original member of the search committee that called him, I am reflecting on his time with us and what a blessing he has been to our church family!

We are continuing to ask everyone to share your own reflections by email, photo, video or phone call. You can call or email me directly or mail to the church office, to my attention. Be thoughtful, loving, creative and fun with your message! We will be collecting these messages and sharing them with Pastor Steve.

Blessings,
LibbyBertrand
libbybertrand31@gmail.com
585-755-3143

AlexandraCollison-Chair
JudyMcNeil
PatCasey
PennyGoodman
LibbyBertrand



From Your Deacons

Throughout the past year, your deacons have made a sincere effort to keep in touch with our church members through notes, cards, phone calls, and occasional treats. If you know someone who would like a call or a note from the deacons, please let us know. You can also call the church and leave a message with Sandra.

It is unfortunate that we have not been able to visit our members, especially those who are unable to leave their homes or their long term care facilities. We pray for this virus to disappear in the near future so that we may be able to worship and visit together again.

Love from your deacons,
Judy, Marsha, Carol, and Susie



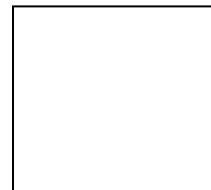
Daylight Savings Time Begins!

Sunday, March 14th



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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 ~ Organist, Music Director

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, 9:00 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.