

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2021

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Pastor's Meditation

His Eye is on the Sparrow - and “Kookish”

In April, 2002, I delivered a candidacy sermon for my first-ever pastorate. It was a good day, overall. Worship went well. The congregation voted unanimously to call me as pastor. Everyone seemed so nice. At the end of the day, we walked out the back door of the church to the parking lot. Once in our car, I asked my family, “Well, everybody, what do you think about moving here?” Annette said it went well. Our son, then 7 years old, said he had fun there. Then, when it was 5 year- old daughter’s turn, she became quiet.

“Honey,” I insisted, “What did you think?” Again, more silence.

“It’s okay, go ahead and say whatever you want to.”

She burst into tears, and exclaimed, “I DON’T EVER WANT TO GO THAT CHURCH!”

I was troubled. Had somebody mistreated her in some way? I let her cry for a minute, then asked, “What happened?”

She hesitated, then finally admitted, “I’m scared for Kookish.”

Kookish! Kookish (pronounced “Kook-EESH” was a celebrity in our family. She is a tiny stuffed bunny, just small enough to fit in the palm of a 5-year old girl. The previous year, Kookish had been lost, until I just happened to see her lying in the wet gutter next to our parked Buick. Our daughter must have dropped her when getting out of the car. I took Kookish indoors, cleaned her thoroughly, and our daughter and Kookish had become inseparable since.

“What are you afraid might happen to Kookish?” I asked.

Still sobbing, she said, “I’m afraid she’ll fall into the waterfall.”

It didn’t take long to figure out what she was talking about. Taking the back way out of church en route to the parking lot, we had stepped over a large grating. The grating covered an underground creek, over which

part of the church had been built. The grating had large holes, big enough for a toy bunny to fall through. Once through the grating, Kookish would have dropped several feet, into a rapid current, probably never to be recovered. Turns out Vanessa had every reason to be afraid, especially since we had a history of dropping Kookish.

I thought for a moment and finally said, "You know, if I'm the pastor here, I'll get a set of keys, probably to more than one door to the church. Maybe we can bring Kookish into church another way." We got out of the car, and I took her to the main entrance, where most people entered the church. There was no such grating there, no "waterfall." She could drop Kookish at any point and never lose her. She became visibly relieved. "It's okay now," she said. As we drove back to Pittsburgh, she played with her little stuffed companion, happy again, as if nothing had ever troubled her. She wisely avoided that grating from then on.

A wise person once said, "*90 per cent of everything I ever worried about never happened.*" And, sure enough, nineteen years later, we still have Kookish. I never had to wash her again. The girl outgrew their friendship, and left Kookish behind when it was time for college. I'm now the one who is attached to Kookish, keeping her in a safe place. I'm worried now, praying about my kids' futures, worried about their relationships with God. Deep down, I know it will never again be as simple as it was when the kids were small.

Jesus has advice for all us "prayer worriers": "*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*" Matthew 10:29-31(NIV).

From the perspective of time, a little girl's fears that day seem comparatively small. Our worries may loom large right now. Imagine how small our concerns will seem from the perspective of eternity. One day, we will look back on our seemingly troubled lives and recount all the ways God, with His watchful eye, had spared us. As the song goes, "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me." In Christ,
Pastor Steve



April Birthdays

6 Jeff Bertrand
11 George Blackman
12 Margaret Militello
14 Nancy Lancaster
19 Blake Phillips
22 Michael Bergonzi
23 Donald Maring
25 Donna Trabert
26 Chis Ahl

Thank You!

Thank you so much for your kind notes, cards, dinners and ice cream!!!

I mostly thank you for your prayers which have served me well as I am recuperating right on schedule.

Your Kindnesses are greatly appreciated.

Sue Sparnecht



Note from the Trustees

Our "New Education Building" isn't so *new* anymore. Completed in the mid 1960's, we have to be aware of upkeep and repairs to its infrastructure. Over the years we have replaced the windows and roof, added insulation to the third floor ceiling, added an elevator, changed to a tank- less hot water heater, and, most recently, replaced many of the hallway fire doors. Late this February we had water from melting ice enter the building through windows in the hallway that connects the Education Building and Old Fellowship Hall. As the weather improves, this will be addressed. Also, in late February, a toilet in the bathroom opposite the church office developed a leak. Bill Werther just happened to be at church and learned that to repair a toilet all of the water to the entire Education

Building needed to be turned off. Meho was then called and did all needed repairs.

We are in the age of technology at church. During the past year we have been holding services on Zoom and in person. Zoom will not go away; it is a great way to reach our members who cannot attend in person as well as others who are looking for a church. Realizing that the quality of our presentation is important, we are beginning to research ways to upgrade our technology and improve the quality of our production.

As you can see, the trustees need to continually be aware of the health of our building.

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

Missions Report

The Missions Team has been meeting regularly by zoom. At the time of this writing, we are still looking forward to our **FOOD FOR KIDS** drive-through food collection on March 20. We are also sharing with you weekly throughout March about the American Baptist Church's America For Christ campaign for contributions to support their missions work.

Our team has authorized \$1,000 from the Missions budget of our church to be sent to ABC United Missions for their outreach, and \$1,000 to be sent to the ABC Rochester Genesee Region to further support their work to connect, encourage and empower local congregations. In timing with the Easter season, we are hopeful that these decisions will be impactful in reaching both local and national needs.

Happy Easter to all—
Sue, Ellen, Janette



Dick Andrews' Vermont Address

Richard Andrews
The Residence at Otter Creek
350 Lodge Road
Middlebury, VT 05753
(Cell) 967-2069
(Home) (802) 989-7774

Church Ladies' Lunch

Tuesday, April 20th at Noon

Place – Flahertys – Route 31
All Women are welcome!

Please RSVP!

If you need a ride or wish to carpool,
please contact Marie at 425-7528



Garden Space is Still 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.



Adult Discussion on Zoom

Adult Discussion on Zoom:
Forgiving What You Can't Forget
by Lysa TerKeurst

We will be watching a 15 minute video, followed by a discussion

Series runs from April 11th to June 6th.
Topic: Adult Discussion on Zoom

Time: 11:15 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Most Sundays, until June 6, 2021

(There will be no Adult Discussion on Zoom on Palm Sunday, Easter, FBC Annual Meeting, Mother's Day and Memorial Day)

Apr 11, 2021 11:15 AM: Session #1
Your Mind, Your Mouth, Your Master

Apr 18, 2021 11:15 AM: Session #2
The Divine Echo

May 2, 2021 11:15 AM: Session #3
There's Always a Meanwhile

May 16, 2021 11:15 AM: Session #4
The Compounding Effect of Unforgiveness

May 23, 2021 11:15 AM: Session #5
This isn't Easy, But it is Good

June 6, 2021 11:15 AM: Session #5
What Am I Supposed to Do with All the Hurt?

Below is the Link:

For Computer Participants:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81071505894>

For Telephone Participants:
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 810 7150 5894



From Teaching and Worship

Easter Sunday

There will be 3 large Easter Lily plants on the altar and a basket of plants on the table, as you come in the front door.

The Plants were donated anonymously to The First Baptist Church.

Anyone who would like to take them or one or two, etc., please feel free to do so.

Teaching and Worship



THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST
LAMB DINNER & MAUNDY
THURSDAY SERVICE

5-6pm Take-out lamb dinners with a serving of boneless lamb, roast potatoes, gravy, green beans almondine, mint sauce and lemon bar. Kept hot in biodegradable containers.

Pickup is Drive-Thru, First Baptist Church back parking lot: **pay at West (PVNS) Entrance** and receive dinners(s) at **East (Elevator) Entrance**.

50 dinners available - Order ahead by calling Sandra at the church office or emailing church office fbpenfield@toast.net.

All profits go to Penfield Hope Charity

(<https://holyspirit-saintjoseph.org/penfield-hope>)

Suggested donation: \$12/dinner



7pm: Maundy Thursday Service
Zoom Only (not in Sanctuary).

Special Music arranged by Naomi.

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88352230359>

Call in: 1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 883 5223 0359



FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

7pm - Zoom only.

Jointly with Greece Baptist Church.

Zoom Meeting

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/997086475>

Call in: 1 646 558 8656 US

Meeting ID: 997 086 475

Passcode: 173071



Easter Sunday Worship Service
Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, April 4 - Communion
Sunday - Easter Sunday

Call to Worship: *Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24*

Old Testament Text: *Isaiah 25: 6-9*

New Testament Text: *1 Corinthians 15: 1-11, John 20: 1-18*

Message: “*Brothers and Sisters*”

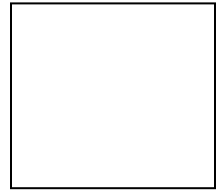
Special Music for Easter: will include a pre-recorded piece by the Bell Choir.



Have a Blessed Easter

The Carillon

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.