

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2024

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Pastor’s Meditation – April 2024

“Someone’s been ridin’ with you.”

My 1986 Jeep Cherokee plodded down pothole-laden Ridge Road, near Greece. The speed limit was 40 and I was keeping up with traffic, going close to 50. In the vehicle were our two children, aged 2 ½ and 3 months, and our foreign exchange student, Natalie, who

was nearly 18. It was technically Spring, 1997, but as is so often the case here in the Rochester area, it was cold, with snow on the ground. We were grocery shopping and running errands. After I pulled into my driveway to unload the kids and groceries, I remembered one more errand: the other car was in the shop and the bill needed to be paid. I asked Natalie to watch the kids for a few minutes while I went to pay the bill. She agreed. After the Jeep was unloaded, I backed out of the driveway and started down the road.

Suddenly, from the back of the Jeep came a loud crashing noise, followed by a dragging sound and everything stopped. I shut off the engine and got out. What happened?

My driver’s side rear wheel had fallen completely off. It was in the middle of the street, still spinning up-and-down on its side. I pointed at the rotating wheel and started laughing, though I’m not sure why. I guess it was the nervous laughter of someone who just dodged a bullet. What were the odds? Had that wheel broken just a few minutes earlier on Ridge Road, with all the other traffic, what would’ve happened? Once the wheel was done spinning and rested on its side, I stood it up and rolled it to the shoulder of the road. I started up the hobbled Jeep, engaged the four-wheel drive and used the front wheels to “drag” it to the shoulder so it wouldn’t block traffic.

My neighbor Don heard the loud noise and came running out. “What happened?”

“My wheel fell off,” I told him.

“How?” Don dropped to the road and started looking under the Jeep, where the wheel had once been. Retired from General Motors and mechanically-inclined, he quickly found the problem. “Your axle spindle broke.” He showed me the cylindrical spindle, about the thickness of a quarter. On the end, there was a shiny area, less than the width of a dime. “That shiny area is where the break happened. The dull area is where it was already broken. You’ve been riding on a busted axle for who-knows-how-long.”

“Wow!” I exclaimed.

“Someone’s been ridin’ with you.”

It took a few seconds for that comment to sink in. Don was not, far as I knew, a religious man. But he clearly meant God, or an Angel, was riding with us. Some divine being was in the Jeep when we were precariously barreling over the Ridge Road potholes. And that someone had kept us safe. Other than \$400 to fix the spindle, that Godly being had delivered all of us, unharmed. About 7 months later, God called me to be a minister.

Decades later, I still wonder who (or what) was there that I could not see. I think about the men on the road to Emmaus (in the gospel of Luke) who walked for awhile with Jesus and had no clue. The Epistle of Hebrews tells us: “Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have

entertained angels without realizing it!” Whatever we see, scripture gives us the impression that there’s more there than meets the eye.

As I experience life, has God or God’s angels been riding with me? More importantly, “Have I been riding with God and the angels?” It’s a question we all should ponder. Are we expecting God to be here to protect us, or are we here to serve God? Jesus said, “I am with you always.” Who is riding with us? And, more importantly, who are we riding with?

In Christ, Pastor Steve



April Birthdays

- 6 Jeff Bertrand
- 9 Jim Reynolds
- 11 George Blackman
- 12 Margaret Militello
- 13 Dawn Donaher
- 13 Mirka Green
- 14 Nancy Lancaster
- 19 Blake Phillips
- 20 Lia Donaher
- 22 Michael Bergonzi
- 23 Donald Maring
- 25 Donna Trabert
- 26 Chis Ahl

FBCP April Ladies Lunch

Tuesday April 16th at 12/Noon

McArdle's

1355 Fairport Road
Fairport, NY 14450

If you would like to attend, please RSVP Sandra
at the Church office
by Friday, April 12th before noon.
fbpenfield@toast.net
(585) 586-2876

*We always have a wonderful time and we
would love for you to be a part of it!
Please consider joining us.*

~ Kathy Ahl, your Common Life Team and
all of our wonderful volunteers!



Men's Lunch

**Thursday, at Noon
Riki's in Fairport**



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

Notes from the Trustees

The Trustees are in the process of identifying
projects and repairs that need to or should be
addressed in 2024. If you have become aware
of anything that we should know about, or
have any other suggestions, please contact a
Trustee.

A new copier will be installed in the church
office on the morning of Thursday, April 4th.
The current copier is five years old and the
lease has expired. The Easter season puts
heavy use on the copier so we have waited
until after Easter for the installation. The new
copier will have lower power consumption,
more speed, improved technology, along with
a host of updates. Sandra is looking forward
to the new machine.

Early in March the fire alarm system (EMS
Systems, Inc.) in the education building was
tested and passed its' annual inspection.

Respectfully,

Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien, Chris Ahl,
Sarah Phillips, David Trump



MISSIONS REPORT

Many thanks to all our church family who came out to the Saturday, March 2nd **Spring Into Action** food drive for the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf. Once again the PEFS volunteers, who helped to unload a full SUV of your generous Easter dinner box items, expressed their gratitude and appreciation to our congregation for recognizing and responding to the increasing needs of the Penfield community they serve.

PEFS is facing a 30% increase in the number of families accessing their service along with a 30% increase in the amount of food they are purchasing and distributing. This supplemental food relief organization serves the 14526 and 14625 zip codes, in addition to families of children in the Penfield School District. Their mission is to alleviate food insecurity in the Penfield community by providing nutritious food to those in need, in a compassionate, respectful and non-judgmental manner. PEFS is governed by an all-volunteer board and run solely by volunteer staff. The Missions Team is happy to support these dedicated volunteers at PEFS, but we couldn't do it without you.

During March we also presented the American Baptist Church's annual **America for Christ** offering. Your donations to this offering impact the needs of people in the United States and Puerto Rico. We hope you took a few minutes to read the various stories in the bulletin inserts. Susie Sparnecht also shared a very heartfelt connection to how this

funding has made a positive difference in her hometown, Youngstown, Ohio. So many people in our country who have great needs are being helped with food, health and educational programs, clothing, senior services and socialization opportunities and more. Thanks to this support they are lifted and are reminded that they are not forgotten.

If anyone is interested in joining us on the Missions Team, please let any one of us know. You too could be in the next photo!

Susie, Ellen, Janette



Habitat Update

On Sunday, March 17th we welcomed *Gareth Evans, the Associate Director of Development and Volunteer Engagement at Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity* to Adult Discussion. Since 1997 our church has sponsored over 20 Habitat houses in the JOSANA neighborhood of Rochester as a member of the Penfield Coalition of Churches for Habitat. In January 2023 we joined with 5 other faith-based coalitions to form **Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders (GRIB)**. GRIB's mission is to finance and build a Habitat home every year.

- Our first house is 108 Ackerman St, Rochester, NY 14609, in the Beechwood neighborhood. If you are interested in working on the building of 108 Ackerman St., go to grhabitat.org and look for the "Faith" tab under Construction Volunteering. Once there you can sign up to volunteer and see photos of our groundbreaking and wall-raising ceremonies and the latest building updates.

Habitat for Humanity ReStores are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers that sell new and gently used furniture, appliances, building materials and more to the public at a fraction of the price. Each donated item keeps quality and usable items out of the landfill, and each item sold is a great deal for customers that generates money to further GR Habitat for Humanity's mission. Volunteering might include greeting and assisting customers, organizing donations

and displays, assisting at the sales counter, and receiving donations or picking up donations.

- If you are interested in joining a group of FB Penfield members in a short "volunteer day" visit to the new Baytowne ReStore at 1900 Empire Blvd., Webster NY to get an idea of what volunteering at the Webster ReStore is like Gareth will set this up for us. Please contact the church office by phone or email and give Sandra your name. Invite friends and family that may want to join too!



Historian's Corner

By Jim Symonds

In 1804 our church was established as the Baptist Church of Northfield. After Northfield was renamed Boyle, and Penfield was carved out of it in 1810, our church was renamed the Baptist Church of Penfield. That name continued until 1974 when the congregation became concerned that some other group might incorporate as the First Baptist Church of Penfield. So, we officially registered as First Baptist Church of Penfield that year.



April Flapjack



April's breakfast is scheduled for the 20th, 8:00am - 10:00am.

Mission is planning to send the proceeds to Willow Domestic Violence Center If you want to learn more about them you may go to this link. <https://willowcenterny.org/>

Sign up sheets are posted in the Fellowship Hall. Please be sure to share the breakfast date and time with your friends and neighbors.

March's breakfast was a huge success. Penfield Hope helped by advertising in town and at St. Joseph's Church. We had 104 customers, enough to be able to send a check for about \$900 from breakfast proceeds plus what Mission already sent from their budget to Penfield Hope.

Thanks to all who helped and let's work to make April at least as successful as March.

Jeff Phillips and Bill Werther



Coffee Hour

If anyone wishes to volunteer for Coffee Hour there is a calendar on the bulletin board in New Fellowship Hall.

Please contact Sarah Phillips by email or telephone. dunes1158@yahoo.com or 585-329-7072

Thanks again to all my Coffee Angels who signed up last year.

Blessings, Sarah Phillips



**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

11:15-NOON

This is a recurring Meeting
In person and on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84560421536>

Call-in information

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

**1 pm 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!

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
NFH and/or Zoom

How to join us online:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86182075740>

Meeting ID: 861 8207 5740

Call-in:

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 861 8207 5740

**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.

The Carillon

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 Cooke, Caroline Duers, David Griffith, ~
Choral Scholars

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, 9:00am 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.*