

# The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2024

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### Pastor’s Meditation – March 2024

#### Papa “O”

Today my thoughts wander toward “Papa O.” I’ll leave out his real name to protect the innocent. He supervised college students like me in the Maintenance Department at my

college. I worked two years with him, including summers, but knew him long before that. Some of my earliest memories are of grocery shopping with Mom in a local store, where he worked. Back then, he was just “Mr. O.” He managed that well-run store from an elevated booth that gave him a full view of most of the aisles. Under his leadership, the store met with Mom’s strong standards for cleanliness and value. Each time we shopped, my siblings and I would wave at and call out Mr. O., who also attended our church.

Having succeeded as a store manager, he took a risk, starting his own business in the 1970s. He opened a convenience-type market, which unfortunately went under. By the time I was in college, he had become known as “Papa O.” He was scrambling to finish out his career and afford retirement. He and his good-natured wife had full-time jobs at the college. He also had a second job as a local school bus driver. Once, while I was up at 5am finishing papers, I looked out the dorm window to see his car parked at one of the buildings. Here he was in his late 50s, doing maintenance chores in the middle of the night before heading to the bus garage. I had been feeling self-pity for all the schoolwork, but then I saw what his life was like.

Near the end of Senior Year, at 5:30 one Sunday morning, he knocked on my door. I opened it to find him holding a bucket and a

mop. “Somebody spread limburger cheese all over the bathrooms. You gotta get that cleaned up before everyone starts using them.” It took over an hour, but I somehow managed to clean them without throwing up, although a residual smell lingered for months. (I figured out it was a Senior prank by one of my female classmates. She later confessed and we are on good terms today.)

I guess Papa O either liked my work or liked me, maybe both. He started talking with me frequently. He opened up about his life and times. He blamed the store’s failure on his decision to set aside his beliefs and sell alcohol and tobacco, both of which he never used and strongly opposed. If I had known anything about anything, I might’ve argued with him; maybe discussed ‘70s stagflation or differing views about alcohol and tobacco, but it didn’t matter. Papa O was convinced. In his eyes, he had gone outside of his values. He was not true to himself and his faith, and that’s why his business failed. Theologians have written volumes about why bad things happen to good people, and many would disagree with his spiritual explanation for something that went bad, but ultimately, it was up to him to discern what the Holy Spirit was saying. I guess it’s up to all of us. If I were speaking with him today, I’d accept his views, while talking about the Grace of Jesus Christ, who forgives even our worst failings.

Honestly, I’ve forgotten (maybe repressed) what limburger cheese smells like. But I won’t forget Papa O, contemplating spiritual causes for his successes and failures. He

encouraged me to learn from his life and never compromise my values in the pursuit of money. That lesson, unlike the smell of limburger, stayed with me.

Papa O lived until he was 83 years old. Unfortunately, we lost touch after he retired. Health concerns eventually led him to a well-run retirement home for the rest of his days. I imagine him in eternity, resting from his labors and enjoying the Love of his Savior, who showed him the ultimate meaning of things. Through life’s successes and failures, the grace of Jesus covered him.

In Christ, Pastor Steve



**March Birthdays**

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

**Church Ladies' Lunch**

We plan to meet again on the third Tuesday, March 19th, the First Day of Spring!

Please mark your calendars. We will announce the location as we get closer to that date.

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



**Men's Lunch**

**Thursdays at Noon  
Riki's Restaurant 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**

Thank you to everyone who voted on the proposed 2024 budget, that was passed at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024. The proposed budget was presented during second hour on January 21, 2024 for comments and then for a vote on the 28<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you to Jeff Bertrand for all the work he does on the budget preparation and throughout the year.

According to our church constitution, it is the responsibility of the Trustees to appoint the Financial Secretary. Bill Werther was appointed as the church Financial Secretary for 2024.

The Trustees are identifying needed projects for this year. If you have any suggestions, please contact a Trustee.

Respectfully,

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



## March Flapjack



Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am – 10:00am

Watch for the sign-up sheets.

Tell your friends. Make friends and tell them too!

Let's make this a success.

Bill Werther/Jeff Phillips



## MISSIONS REPORT

During March the Missions Team will be presenting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering, one of the 4 annual offerings of the American Baptist Churches-USA. The theme this year is **Grace Upon Grace**, reminding us that we have all received one gracious blessing after another. The donations to this offering allow the American Baptist Home Missions Society (ABHMS) to provide financial support to American Baptist Churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico. Nearly 1/3

of the funds that are donated are returned to the regional office of the local church - that for us would be the ABC-USA Rochester-Genesee Region, directed by Reverend Dr. Sandra Hasenauer who spoke about their work in our community at a 2nd Hour program here last fall. Bringing "healing and hope" to communities can mean food for hungry children and adults, literacy programs, services for senior citizens, training leaders, and much more. In general it is bringing relief to struggling neighbors who need to be helped, comforted and reminded that God sees their struggle and cares about them.

Our **Spring Into Action** food drive for the **Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf** this year is **Saturday, March 2nd from 10 A.M. - Noon** in the church parking lot. The items that are needed for Easter meals this year are Jello, Brownie Mixes, Applesauce (no glass please). We greatly appreciate how generously the congregation partners with us on this project.

Our team was also in contact with **The Shepherd Home** in February to support them in advance of the February Flapjack Breakfast. The Featured Charity for the March Flapjack Breakfast will be **Penfield Hope**. In the same manner, the Missions Team will be working with that organization so that they can encourage participation at the breakfast.

Susie, Ellen, Janette

## Annual “*Spring into Action*”

### Drive thru food collection for PEFS

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024**

**10 AM to NOON**

**First Baptist Church Parking Lot  
1862 Penfield Road**

The Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf Coordinator has asked if we would provide the following items needed to complete this year’s family **Easter Dinner** boxes:

**APPLESAUCE (preferably no glass)**  
**JELLO GELATIN**  
**BROWNIE MIXES**



## Historian’s Corner

*by Jim Symonds*

At the annual business meeting of January 12, 1917 the following plan was unanimously carried: “That members of churches of denominations other than Baptist, in good and regular standing, be received upon acceptance of their letter and be accorded all the privileges of other members, their letters to be held by us until letters of dismissal shall be asked for, then to be returned to them together with letter of recommendation to the society with which they wish to unite”. Previously, baptism by immersion had been required for membership.



## Coffee Hour Schedule

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](mailto: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

**Below is the Online Information**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84560421536>

Call-in information  
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

**Adult Discussion March Schedule**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Philip Yancey, "What's So Amazing About Grace?": Grace Put to the Test
- 10<sup>th</sup> Philip Yancey, "What's So Amazing About Grace?": Grace Abuse
- 17<sup>th</sup> Habitat for Humanity Presentation: Gareth Evans
- 24<sup>th</sup> Philip Yancey, "What's So Amazing About Grace?": Dispensing Grace
- 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday – No Adult Discussion



**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**



**Health Safety**

**For the latest info on COVID-19, please go to the Center for Disease Control Website ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov))**

**Or call the CDC at 1-800-232-4636 for updates**



**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



**Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
**Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 2:00am**





**Cameron Meal March 24<sup>th</sup>**

We will be continuing our Chili Meals on the following Sundays: **March 24<sup>th</sup>** and June 30<sup>th</sup>

We will be serving our beloved chili these days and will need people to sign-up to make Chili, Salad, Corn Bread, and Cookies.

There will be sign-up sheets in NFH on the following Sundays: **March 17<sup>th</sup>** and June 23<sup>rd</sup> so please consider signing up!

We ask that your food donation be placed in the kitchen (either the counter or in the refrigerator) by \*Sundays listed at the top of this memo by 11:00 am

Thank you so much!

Virginia Bergonzi-Blackman



**POT LUCK DINNER SCHEDULE:**

New Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**  
**5:30pm – Pot luck dinner**



*Maundy*  
*Thursday*  
 SERVICE

**Thursday, March 28, 2024**  
**Maundy Thursday**

5:30pm – Maundy Thursday Pot luck dinner  
 6:10 pm – Music and Brief Meditation

(Both pot luck dinners end in time for Bell Choir to being rehearsal at 6:30 pm.)





Easter Sunday  
March 31<sup>st</sup>



**Have a Blessed Easter**

### 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](http://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](mailto: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

Saundra Augustus ~ Office Assistant

Laura Swail ~ Nursery Care

Meho & Hava Kapidzic ~ Church Custodians

### **Contact Information**

(585) 586-2876

E-mail ~ [fbpenfield@toast.net](mailto:fbpenfield@toast.net)

Website ~ [www.fbpenfield.org](http://www.fbpenfield.org)

Find us on Facebook

### **Summer Church Office Hours**

Tuesday thru Friday, 8:00am to 12:00pm

### **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.*