

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2025

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Pastor’s Meditation – January, 2025

On November 19 2024, we lost an original: Rev. Tony Campolo, Ph.D., American Baptist Pastor, Scholar, and all-around “rock star” as a speaker/preacher. He died at the age of 89. I was thrilled to see Campolo speak twice, and once, while taking classes at Eastern University, I had the privilege of being introduced to him. We shared a mutual

friend; one of my Pennsylvania retired clergy friends knew Tony personally for over 70 years. In honor of Campolos’ life and ministry, I’m going to share an excerpt from his 1983 defense of Christianity, A Reasonable Faith (Waco, TX: Word Books, p. 92-93). (note: Although, in the style of that day, he used masculine pronouns, he surely intended this counsel for both men and women):

*Let me describe for you what usually happens at the youth meetings and retreats at which I speak. Almost always, someone takes me aside in a private discussion and asks, “How can I discover the will of God for my life?” Such a question assumes that what a person is supposed to be and do has already been established for him by God. The seeker thinks that his only problem is that he doesn’t know how to find his preexistent purpose and meaning. He is convinced that if he could only figure out how to discover God’s preordained meaning for his life, he could escape life’s ambiguities. My response is that the Bible does not promise the kind of personal revelation that he is seeking. I argue that the Scripture teaches that living by faith is like being willing to work out, in fellowship with Christ, a plan of action for **today**. To be a follower of Jesus is to not have a grand plan for the rest of one’s life, but to be totally committed to walking with Jesus, daily seeking His will, hourly working out one’s*

salvation with fear and trembling. It is to be open to the possibilities inherent in each existential moment and to believe that commitment to Christ can be expressed today in ways that were totally undreamed of yesterday.

Most of the Christians I know readily testify to the fact that just a few years ago, they did not have the slightest idea that they would be doing what they are currently doing. Furthermore, they point out that they are glad they didn't know, for otherwise they might have been overwhelmed with crippling doubts about their abilities to meet their new challenges...

To summarize my position, I believe that God calls us to make the choices that determine our lives. Unlike (noted Philosopher Jean-Paul) Sartre, however; I do not believe that these choices must be made alone. To live by faith is to make life's decisions in the context of a fellowship with One who loves me and gave Himself for me... I say choose a course of action from the multiplicity of actions that are available to you at the present moment, and as you choose, be sensitive to God's reactions to your choice.

As Bono once said about Johnny Cash, "Every man could relate to him, but nobody could be him." The same could be said of Tony Campolo. For 89 years, Campolo navigated life's decisions with Christ at his side. This unique partnership, which any or

all of us could have, sets the tone for our journey in life. Being in fellowship with God is the starting point. From there, with God's guidance, anything is possible.



A Message from Your Moderator...

Happy New Year! That seems like such a standard way to start anything in January, right? But consider this- our church new year begins September 1st, the school year begins the first day after Labor Day, and this year for the first time students in New York public schools will have a day off in February to honor the Lunar New Year. For my son Noah, this year begins a new chapter in his life when he marries his high school sweetheart in October. There are so many new beginnings happening all of the time around us.

For our church family, April is also a pretty big deal. That's when we start up our new teams and committees and vote in our next moderator for a year term. David Trump and I have been working behind the scenes to identify what positions are available and who we think might be willing and able to fill those spots. But this is where we need your help. There are a number of ways to become involved and we ask you to prayerfully consider how you might be just a small part of our church leadership. It doesn't mean that you have to DO all the work that is part of that committee's purpose, just help be the leadership that organizes it getting done.

Please also prayerfully consider the requests that come from teams and committees- we are always in need of ushers, coffee hour hosts, Adult Second Hour leaders, readers, pancake servers.....I know I have missed a bunch here but for sure you get the idea!

In this new calendar year I ask you to please pause and reflect on your gifts, talents, and interests and let David and I know where your heart is. We hope to have full teams and committee lists for our April Congregational meeting!

Blessings to everyone and the hope for a year that is filled with great memories.

With love,
Sandy



Men's Lunch
Thursday, at Noon
Riki's in Fairport



January Birthdays

13 - Lilly Swail
14 - Lisa Fox
22 - Meho Kapidzic
23 - MaryLou Bullock
23 - Marsha Kiriazides
24 - Jeffrey Phillips, Jr.
29 - Scott Daniel
29 - Kaya Keenan



Historian's Corner

By Jim Symonds

The original church structure, completed in the fall of 1823 at Upper Corners (near the corner of Baird and Penfield Roads), was moved and enlarged to become the "new" church on the present site in 1839.



Notes from the Trustees

Important Dates: The proposed 2025 Budget will be presented during second hour on Sunday, January 19, 2025. The congregational vote on the budget will be during the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Both meetings will be on Zoom and in person in Fellowship Hall. The Trustees thank everyone who responded the Stewardship Drive in November.

A new furnace, that provides heat for the gym and all the rooms in the old basement, was installed in late November. The new furnace replaced a 26 year old furnace that was no longer providing dependable heat. Fortunately, our yearly budgets have been putting a modest amount into a Capital Fund which is meant to help pay for projects like this.

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



Blessings and Challenges

I have been working with the Trustees trying to finalize the pledged income potential for 2025 and the estimated additional funds that might be available to pay bills and staff. As the Trustees have told you, our insurance carrier, Liberty Mutual agreed to renew our policies but with an increase of over \$7,000 in premium. (We have experienced two claims in three years totaling about \$26,000.)

I set out to shop our insurance and at this writing am hopeful Church Mutual might provide a quotation and maybe some savings. What I learned answering their questions is some of the valuable surroundings we enjoy. For instance, our Andover Organ is now appraised at \$675,000 and the stained-glass windows are estimated to be worth \$154,000!! Our buildings are estimated to cost about \$5.25 million to replace. We have a very talented staff that would like a pay raise and work hard for us. We just replaced two 100,000 BTU furnaces that were 26 years old for another \$13,000 and have had several repairs on the hot water heater for the kitchen.

So, as we enter the new year, take a minute to evaluate your relationship with OUR Church. If all you do is attend and think someone else will cover the issues, think again. We all need to help pay the bills and be responsible stewards of the property.

We need to serve on boards and help where help is needed. If you have not changed your pledge in 5 or 10 years, maybe a little

increase to OUR Church might be in order. (We all know our personal cost of living has increased. OUR Church is no different.)

This is my opinion and observation as the person who makes all the deposits and has to answer the tough money questions the Trustees ask.

Bill Werther
Financial Secretary



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



**Flapjack is Ready
for Another Breakfast.**

Saturday January 18th from 8 to 10.



**\$10.00/person, \$5.00 for children under 12.
Pancakes, eggs, sausage, apple topping,
whipped cream, coffee, fellowship.
Tell your friends...**

Kitchen helpers need to wear a hat and most of them will also need to wear gloves. **Only workers** will be allowed in the kitchen. Sign up sheets are in Fellowship Hall.

**All profit will be donated to
Penfield Hope.**

Bill Werther/Jeff Phillips - Coordinators



**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

In NFH & on Zoom
11:15-NOON

January 2025 Adult Discussion

2nd Hour

- Jan. 5 – No Adult Discussion
- Jan. 12 - Penfield Hope
- Jan. 19 – Church Budget Presentation
- Jan. 26 - Church Annual Meeting Part I

Updated Adult Discussion link and call-in:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81942247372>

Dial by your location

- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 819 4224 7372.

Wednesday Zoom Prayer Group

Wednesdays at 1 pm

No Meeting Jan 1st, New Year's Day

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 Zoom

No Meeting Jan 1, New Years Day
Jan 8, 2025

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



To My Coffee Angels:

It's that time of year. We are planning the winter schedule for church activities to resume.

If you would like to volunteer to bring in goodies and make coffee please email me dunes1158@yahoo.com or sign up on the fellowship bulletin board.

It is much easier if two people share the responsibilities, so ask a friend to partner with you.



Missions Report

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Annual Offering. December does seem to be the perfect time of year for this show of love and appreciation to those retired individuals who have served the American Baptist Churches for over 15 years.

Now we turn our attention to 2025, with our first meeting planned for January 9th. We welcome your comments and we very much appreciate your cooperation and consideration of the mission concerns in our community and beyond. Our joint hope is to share our bounty in ways that give hope and help to the less fortunate. We wish all of you a blessed New Year.

Janette, Ellen, Susie

Flapjack Benefit Breakfast

Saturday January 18, 8 to 10 am

We offer delicious pancakes, pure maple syrup, scrambled eggs, sausage, apple topping, whipped cream, coffee, fellowship and more for \$10.00 per person (\$5 kids)!

Sugar free syrup available



Gather with your friends and family, and let us do the work!

All January proceeds will go directly to help support **Penfield Hope**:



Penfield Hope exists to address unmet needs in the Penfield area; to offer emergency financial assistance, non-perishable food, diapers, children's clothing, internet access and most importantly, a listening heart.

Donations gratefully accepted.

First Baptist Church of Penfield

1862 Penfield Rd, 585-586-2876

www.fbpenfield.org

Handicap accessible

Health Safety

For the latest info on COVID-19, please go to the Monroe County Board of Health - Covid Information updates.

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/health-covid-flu-rsv>

Phone #: (585) 753-5555



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

Choral Scholars: Alexandra Hague, Caroline Smith,

Lucas Mann, Pedro Sperb

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 12:45pm

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.