

# The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2024

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### Pastor’s Meditation – May 2024

#### *“A Thank You Letter to My Left Knee”*

*“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28*

Forgive me if I’ve already said too much about it, but my left knee is a pest. About a month after I started here at FBC

Penfield, it dislocated on a Saturday night on my way into the Pembroke Thruway Rest Stop, dropping me to the ground. As it has done many times, the kneecap went off to the side and the knee could not bend or support weight until I had manipulated the kneecap back in place. As I sat on the ground replacing the cap (which only takes about 15 seconds), a small group of Thruway rest-stop customers surrounded me with concerned looks and questions: “are you all right?” and “can I help you?” At first, such preferential treatment annoyed me, but I’ve since learned to appreciate the considerate people, who are everywhere. Once the knee was back in place, I climbed up off the sidewalk without assistance, nervously laughing (It’s a bad habit; laughing during trouble) and telling everyone “It’s all right.” But it wasn’t all right. I could barely walk. I gingerly made my way to the men’s room and then back to my car. The knee continued swelling as I drove. The next day was church. I rode down the hallway in a wheelchair and served communion with a stiff knee. Again, more considerate people stood around me as I wheeled in. I truly appreciate you.

This has been happening since I was 12. It first happened while loading plywood into Dad’s ’71 Chevy wagon. It happened climbing up a snow drift with my sister. It went out during a gym class volleyball game (no considerate people were there that time – just other kids, laughing). It was surgically

repaired in 1980, but that didn't completely fix the problem. It dislocated again during college, and later in graduate school. It went out at the factory during my union probationary period, but thankfully, nobody saw me fall to the ground. Once it happened when I was playing with my young kids. In the 1990s it went out in bed, while I was reading a book! And many other times. What a pest! Though seldom, my right knee is capable of dislocating, too. As I write this, I'm preparing to have the knee replaced. But before that happens, let me say, "Thank you" to the knee.

Why "Thank you?" In the fall of 1997, it became clear to that factory work, for all its comradery, was not for me. With two small kids in our house, I applied for a job that offered better pay, benefits and retirement. It was at a new local detention enforcement center. I went through a thorough interview process, and background check. After about two months, a Fed Ex truck backed into my driveway and delivered an envelope. It contained a "Conditional Offer of Employment" "Conditional?" "Conditional on passing an orthopedic examination."

The examination included an x-ray and a meeting with an orthopedic surgeon, an older man, who looked at everything and concluded, "There is no way you can do this job, son." Why not? "If there was any kind of crisis, and you had to run down the hall, then make a cut, your knees could dislocate right there, putting yourself and others in danger." These were troubling words. This

time, I didn't laugh. Goodbye pay, pension and benefits. I somberly asked, "Is this because of my weight?"

"No." He assured me. "Don't get me wrong - weight doesn't help, but that's not the problem. Your knees were aligned this way from birth. It's no surprise that they go out. *God made you this way, son.*" His words hovered like a cloud, for days. A few days later, another Fed Ex truck backed into my driveway to deliver another envelope. The "Conditional Offer of Employment" was withdrawn. It's no surprise that for a while I was more-than-a-little mad at God. This sent me deeper into prayer. I was sometimes angry, always confused, but ultimately determined to do whatever God asked. It was October, 1997.

Weeks later, on November 3, 1997, I received a clear-cut calling to ministry. And I've been trying to follow that calling ever since. Over time, my need to say "Thank you" became apparent: Without that pesky left knee, I might never have preached a sermon. If God hadn't made it this way, I might never have visited a grieving person. I might never have walked through long hospital corridors, knee braces on, to be with a family who was hearing the worst possible news. And, I never would have been blessed by you and other concerned people, who are still everywhere. Surgeons promise a new knee that won't dislocate. That sounds wonderful. I know I won't miss the old one, but I will continue to marvel at this ongoing specialty of the divine: God takes something

bad and makes something good out of it. To my left knee: Thank you.

### May Birthdays

5 Donald Fox  
 10 Mary Durkee  
 12 Darcy Britt  
 13 Janette Keenan  
 16 Dietlinde Payne  
 17 Christopher Britt  
 19 Bruce Blackman  
 19 Joshua Goodman  
 21 Noah Pray  
 23 Joshua Britt  
 26 Pastor Steve  
 27 Kermit Slye  
 29 Tim Green



### FBCP May Ladies Lunch

Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>  
 12/Noon

### Place TBD

If would like to attend, please RSVP Sandra at the Church office by Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> before noon.  
[fbpenfield@toast.net](mailto: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 currently proceeding with the application process to renew Dr. Naomi Gregory's VISA. The VISA renewal will be good for three years.
- We are preparing to install two exterior cameras, one overlooking the PVNS playground and one aimed at the dumpsters.
- An agreement has been established with Rev. Peg Williams to be the supply pastor while Pastor Steve is recovering from knee surgery.

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

**MISSIONS REPORT**

The Missions Team meets monthly. We have been coordinating with the principal volunteers of the Flapjack Breakfasts; and donations from the Missions Budget have been sent to the Open Door Mission, The Shepherd Home, and Penfield Hope. In addition we have sent \$750 to Cameron Community Ministries in support of their present struggle with access to their funding. Our church's annual support of \$2,000 has also been sent to the ABC Rochester-Genesee Region.

Our congregation raised \$1,555 for the ABC-USA America For Christ Offering. Thank you for responding to our March presentations with your generous donations which will help to alleviate so much stress and suffering right here in our own 50 states and Puerto Rico.

As of this writing we are looking forward to the April 20th Flapjack Breakfast for Willow Domestic Violence Center. We have been in contact with their staff, and they very much appreciate our efforts to help them in their critical work in our greater-Rochester community.

Susie, Ellen, Janette



**Historian's Corner**

By Jim Symonds

Three bells have resided in the church steeple since its construction in 1839.

Two were purchased from Meneely Bell Foundry in West Troy and transported here via the Erie Canal. The first weighed 668 lbs. and was hung in the steeple by Alvah Covey at an expense of \$30. In 1848 it was exchanged at 20 cents/lb. for a larger 828 lb. cast bronze bell at 28 cents/lb. The bell that was removed from the steeple in 1982 and placed in the memorial bell tower sign was cast in Buffalo in the 1850's and weighed nearly 1800 lbs. according to the crane measurement. Alvah Covey has a memorial stained-glass window in our sanctuary.



**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**

**Adult Discussion Schedule**

May 5<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Philip Yancy - *Prayer:  
Does it Make a Difference?*

What is prayer? How does it work? And more importantly, does it work?

Filmed in different locations in the Rocky Mountains, *Prayer* takes you to the mysterious intersection where God and humans meet and relate. Prayer is a priceless point of contact between us and the God of the universe. But it is often frustrating, confusing and fraught with misery. Sessions include:

May 5 Philip Yancey *Prayer:  
Does it Make a Difference?*  
*How to Pray* – Pat Holderbaum  
(Tech Support: David Trump)

Music Sunday for Choral Scholars

12 Mother’s Day –  
no adult Discussion

19 Philip Yancey  
*Prayer: Does it Make a Difference?*  
*Prayer Problems* - Pat Holderbaum

Tech Support: Gregg Goodman  
or Jeff Phillips)

26 – Memorial Day Weekend –  
No Adult Discussion

June 2 Philip Yancey *Prayer:  
Does it Make a Difference?* -  
*Does Prayer Change Anything?* –  
Ginna Blackman  
(Tech Support: Gregg Goodman  
or Jeff Phillips  
or hopefully Pastor Steve)

**All discussions will be in|  
New Fellowship Hall.**

**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**

Resumes when Pastor Steve is sufficiently recovered. (We will notify the church.)

**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**

**Zoom Only in May**

**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 \(New York\)](tel:+19292056099)**

**[+1 646 931 3860 US](tel:+16469313860)**

**Meeting ID: [861 8207 5740](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86182075740)**



**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](mailto:dunes1158@yahoo.com) or 585-329-7072

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

Blessings, Sarah Phillips



**Flapjack Breakfast**



Resumes in September.  
Have a good Summer!



## Creamy Chicken and Wild Rice Soup

Yield: 6 Servings

- ¼ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 2 carrots, diced
- ½ onion, diced
- 1 shallot, diced
- 1 tsp poultry seasoning (\*see note below)
- 1 tsp salt
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup (211 g) wild and whole grain brown rice blend
- 6 cups low sodium chicken broth + drippings from chicken
- 2 cups water
- 3 cups diced rotisserie chicken
- 1 cup half and half or cream

Melt the butter in a large stockpot over medium heat. Add the celery, carrots, onion and shallot and cook, stirring frequently, for 6 to 7 minutes. Stir in the poultry seasoning, salt, and pepper and cook for 1 minute.

Sprinkle the flour over the vegetables and stir to evenly coat. Continue cooking, stirring frequently, for another 1 to 2 minutes.

Stir in the rice and gradually add the chicken broth, drippings, and water. Bring to a boil, cover, and reduce the heat to medium low. Cook for 25 to 30 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until rice is tender.

Add the chicken and cook for another 4 to 5 minutes, or until the chicken is heated through. Stir in the half and half and check for seasoning. Add more salt and pepper if necessary.

Ladle into bowls and serve.

\*I use 1 or 2 packets of Goya Sazon seasoning.

Note: If you cannot find a shallot, use the entire onion (instead of just half), and add two minced garlic cloves.

Recipe submitted by Lynn Pietzold.



**FBC of Penfield Committees and Teams**

**April 2023-2024**

**Coordinating Council**

- Sandy Pray- Moderator (25)
- David Trump- Vice Moderator (25)
- Susan McNally- Church Clerk 26)
- Brenda Beechner (26)
- Jeff Phillips (25)
- Liz Fasel (27)
- Bruce Blackman -Past Moderator (25)

**Trustees**

- David Trump (25)
- Chris Ahl ( 25)
- Sarah Phillips (26)
- Jack O'Brien (26)
- Fritz May (27)
- Don Fox (27)

**Pastoral Relations**

- Pat Casey (25)
- Herb Beadle (26)
- Barbara Slye (27)
- Bruce Blackman (28)
- Susan McNally (29)

**Teaching Team**

- Ginna Blackman (25)
- Pat Holderbaum (26)
- one position unfilled (27)

**Common Life**

- Kathy Ahl (25)
- Judy McNeil (25)
- Sue Greco (27)

**Mission Team**

- Sue Sparnecht (26)
- Ellen Stokes (26)
- Janette Keenan (26)

**Deacons**

- Judy McNeil
- Marsha Kiriazides
- Carol Morse
- Sue Sparnecht

**Worship Team**

- Marie Foltz (25)
- Annette Brotzman (25)
- (one position unfilled)

**Nomination Committee**

- David Trump (26) TBD

**Regional Representative**

- Annette Brotzman

**Technical Team**

- Penny Goodman
- Gregg Goodman
- Sarah Phillips
- Jeff Phillips
- Michael Pray

**Financial Secretary**

- Bill Werther

**Treasurer**

- Jeff Bertrand

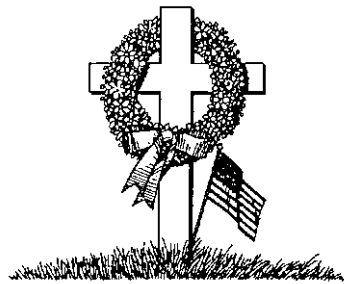


**In Memory of Veterans**  
**First Baptist Church of Penfield**

- Edgar Anderson
- Elmer Andrews
- John Bartholomew
- Fred Beauter
- Arthur Bennett
- Althea Bilous
- Andrew Britt
- Lamond Brownell
- † Abel Case
- Pharcellus Church
- Richard Cleaver
- Walter Coleman
- John Cranch
- William Credit
- Marvin Darling
- Eugene Dewey
- †† Rex DeWispelaere
- †† Robert Funk, Jr.
- Robert Harris
- Earl Hockenbrough
- Roger Kussie
- Charles LeClear
- Harold Lindsay
- Marion Lindsay
- Guy McGowan
- Frank Mehlenbacher
- Philip Morse
- Stewart Nichols
- Bryant Parsons
- William Pearson
- Bob Rode
- Kenneth Thomson
- Robert Tiege
- Marvin Waddell

Walter Wadeikis  
Edward Wallin  
Orrin Weber

† **Died in Civil War**  
†† **Died in Vietnam War**





*Mother's Day is May 12<sup>th</sup>*

*Blessings to all the women  
of First Baptist Church*

### **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

### **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.*