

The Carillon



First Baptist Church of Penfield

2024

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Pastor's Meditation

At the 1978 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, in the small town of Jasper, NY, a 40ish, balding 8th-grade public school teacher gave a brief message to the new inductees. I was completing 9th grade and felt proud to be among them. I remember it as a fairly-ordinary speech, about the virtue of making the most of our abilities. In my memory, he concluded: "The greatest man who ever lived, about 2000 years ago, said, 'You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.' I encourage you to pursue Truth, wherever it may be found."

I knew who he meant by "the greatest man:" Jesus. And I knew my teacher, Mr. James C. Nosky, made the most of his abilities. He was a devout Catholic follower of Christ. As a public school-English teacher, he dared not say the name Jesus in his speech for fear of accusations of proselytizing. (Mr. Nosky's fears were justified: Once in study hall, I overheard another student loudly complaining about Mr. Nosky's religion. She angrily declared, "He'll never convert me!") Truth is, I never saw him try to convert anyone. For 32 years, in that small school (475 students, K-12), Mr. Nosky walked a line that we pastors don't need to; being a believer but unable to talk much about it. He respected the reality that public schools have no official religion (nor should they). Instead, Mr. Nosky simply performed his job at a high level and, being a natural extrovert, stood in the hall outside his classroom door every morning, cultivating relationships by listening to what his students had to say. A worn Bible sat on his bookshelf, but he never opened it or shared from it during class time. Somehow, everyone knew he was a man of faith.

After school hours, Mr. Nosky was a sportsman; running, skiing, bow-hunting and fishing. It seemed like every year he killed a buck with his bow. (He didn't like guns; he felt it gave the hunters an unfair advantage.) As students reached adulthood and graduated, he would invite them to go running, bowhunting, fishing or skiing, and/or

breakfast. When his hobbies took him near a former student's home, he would stop by to say hello. When tragedy struck in the community, he would attend the calling hours. He kept a voluminous correspondence, writing perfectly-penned letters to me and countless others. For almost 40 years after I left Jasper, he met me for breakfast when I was in town. He always insisted on paying. As he and his wife Josephine (called "Jo") aged and retired, they received home visits from former students almost daily, including Annette and me. In the privacy of one-one-one conversation, unencumbered by school rules, he might share his faith, or "nudge" us along in ours. When I received a calling to ministry, he wrote a recommendation to the seminary.

Over the decades, our relationship developed to the point that I became his confidant. He confessed that as a young person he had started Catholic seminary in Buffalo. He thought of being a priest, but then met Jo, and chose marriage instead. After retirement, he kicked himself for not being a priest. I protested: "Mr. Nosky (I never had the temerity to call him "Jim"), if you had become a priest and tried to serve Jasper, where there was maybe only one Catholic family, they would've run you out of town! Instead, you were able to join the community and minister to hundreds of souls over all these years." Years later, he thanked me for saying that; it comforted him. I think he recognized that he really did have a ministry there.

In later years, after Jo died and as vascular dementia set in, Mr. Nosky was placed in memory care. The visitors continued to pour in. Dementia or not, he always recognized Annette and me. During each visit, I offered prayer and he always replied, "Certainly!" One day, he added, "I always start praying for visitors the minute they enter the room." That sounds consistent with his character; he was first and foremost a praying man.

In early May, it was announced that he was dying at the age of 89. Recovering from knee surgery, I could not visit him. I did the only thing I could: I called the nurses' station and asked for someone to put the cordless phone up to his ear. A nurse graciously did. I prayed my final prayer with this man who for nearly 50 years meant so much to me. The nurse said, though he couldn't speak, he opened his eyes through the whole conversation. I feel certain that he heard me. I prayed expressing our love for him. I thanked God for leading him to Jasper, for his 59-year marriage to Jo, for the blessing he was to my life, and for his service to hundreds of people. He died a few days later, having made the most of his life. I am convinced that he was able to accomplish all this because he had a friend, Jesus, "The greatest man who ever lived," the one who is the Truth, who has finally set Mr. Nosky free.



**James and Jo Nosky
2010**



July Birthdays

- 4 Marie Foltz
- 8 Jonathan Britt
- 15 Nathan Bertrand
- 20 Joseph Collison
- 22 Fritz May
- 24 Bella Greco Lopes
- 24 Olivia Phillips
- 27 Kay Brockway
- 27 Liz Fasel
- 29 Jenna Collison
- 29 Lauren Collison
- 31 Drew Britt
- 31 Gloria Fisler



Men's Lunch

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



FBCP June Ladies Lunch

Tuesday July 16th
12/Noon

**Timothy Patrick's (TP's) Irish Restaurant
& Sports Pub**

916 Panorama Trail South
(Across from Paychex)

If would like to attend, please RSVP Sandra
at the Church office

by Friday, July 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!

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

• Painting of the exterior, south facing
façade of the sanctuary building has been
completed. The trustees are currently
researching painters interested in painting the
remaining exterior surfaces.

• Recently a generous donation was
made to the Endowment Fund. The purpose is
to bolster the fund for long term growth.

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

Historian's Corner

By Jim Symonds

"Grace is a plant, where'er it grows
of pure and heavenly root;
But fairest in the youngest shows
And yields the sweetest fruit."

By Rev. Duncan Grant, Aberdeen, Scotland
From a book used in our Sunday School in

1851, titled
Addresses to Children.

**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

In NFH and on Zoom

Resumes September 8th



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. Please join us!

Meeting ID: 950 690 121

Phone users dial: 1-646-876-9923

When Prompted, enter

Meeting ID: 950 690 121

Note: We do not meet July 31st.



Bible Club Meeting

Wednesday, - Time: 6:00 pm

NFH and 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

Note: We do not meet July 31st.



Our Church Picnic

Flowers from Annette

Richard brought a Cake

Water Balloons for Pastor Steve

American Independence Day



Celebrate and Cherish!

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

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 Summer Hours

Tuesday thru Friday, 8:00am to 11:30 am

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.