

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2025

This Issue

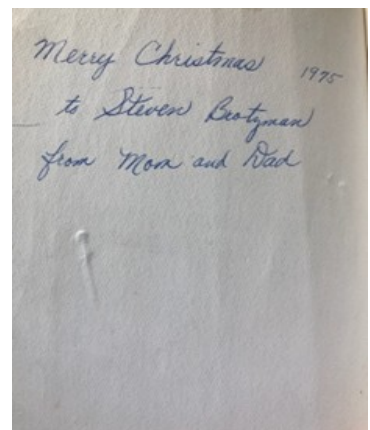
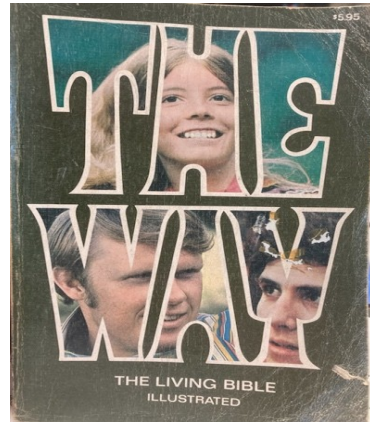
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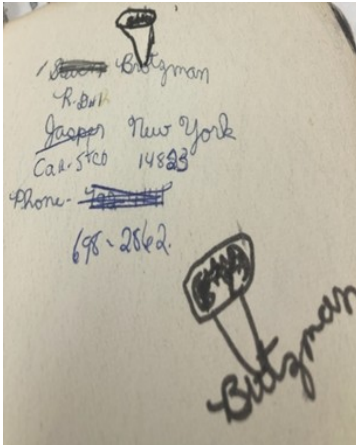
Pastor's Meditation - December 2025

"The Way"

I want to share with you a Christmas gift that I received 50 years ago this month. No, it wasn't a "Red Ryder Carbine-action 200-shot range model air rifle," that Ralphie wanted in the movie, *A Christmas Story*. It wasn't a train set, my favorite gift from 2 years earlier. It was a young person's *Living Bible*, with lots of teen-themed meditations, titled *The Way*. It set my parents back a

whole \$5.95. I doubt it was my sole gift that year, but I'm certain it's the sole gift I still possess from that Christmas. I've added photos of the cover and some pages, including our addresses and a phone number (we moved from Jasper to Canisteo in 1978) and doodles (I was obviously reading *Batman* simultaneously with *The Way*, incorporating the "Bat Signal" into my surname):





Unlike *Batman* and *Detective Comics*, this book *The Way* changed my life. Or, so did the contents therein. This was where I learned that God is real. This was where I learned about right and wrong, which even scriptures make plenty complex. I had learned from Merle Miller's *Plain Speaking* that Harry Truman habitually marked up his own books, and so I tried it for myself here. In the margins, I would write, "True! True!" next to a meaningful passage, or "I am struggling with this now" next to passages about temptation. Books like this, even Bibles, are just ink on paper, unless we actually read them and let them speak to our hearts. I was doing my level-headed best to read, let it speak and then, internalize its messages.

This is where Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6). This was more than the source

for the book's title. "The Way" became the name used by the early Church to describe itself. And "The Way" is Jesus, who is elsewhere described as "The author and finisher of our faith." (Hebrews 12:2). I have devoted decades of my life to proclaiming Jesus: his life, death, resurrection and eternal glory and unlimited grace, for those who would listen. I hope that Jesus has impacted your life, as he has mine. As our time together draws to a close, please know that I will miss you and hope to see you again. May God grow your faith and bless you with eternal life. I'm praying that, in time, all of us will find The Way.

In Christ, Pastor Steve



Mumblings of the Moderator.

Greetings to everyone in this busy time. As I write this report, we have had our first significant snow fall, an example of times to come. The Coordinating Council is engaged in selecting and recruiting a search committee, and has met with Rev Sandy Hasenauer to discuss the process. As you will already know, we have scheduled a congregational meeting on December 7 for the congregation to receive and consider the proposed slate of members for the search committee. A second congregational meeting on December 14 is reserved in case we need the extra time. The December 7 meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately after the

worship service since the Teaching Team has invited a speaker for the second hour. Rev Hasenauer has also been invited to the Congregational meeting to answer questions regarding process and to give an outline of timing. I am assuming that the meeting will be zoomed, and the members attending on zoom will be able to vote by raising of hands.

We continue to request volunteers for the Worship Team, and one slot for the Teaching Team. I would encourage everyone who is willing to serve to let me know.

Don Fox



Church Ladies' Lunch

Men are invited!

Tuesday December 9th at Noon

Boccacini's Italian Bistro & Bar

6720 Pittsford Palmyra Road

located in the Perinton Square Mall

RSVP BEFORE 11:30am

Monday, December 8th.

fbpenfield@toast.net

(585) 586-2876

or Contact Kathy Ahl



December Birthdays

8 Thomas Keenan
 10 Brenda Beechner
 10 Laura Swail
 12 David Taber
 17 Sue McNally
 20 Sandra Pray
 22 Ginna Bergonzi-Blackman
 22 Marian Lee Kuykendall
 23 Darwin Pray
 25 John Holderbaum
 29 Alexandra Collison
 29 Sue Sparnecht
 31 Michael Kimball



Men's Lunch

Thursday, at 11:30am

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 grateful for your careful consideration of your church pledge for 2026. In addition to our ongoing financial commitments, we begin the search process for a new Pastor. Thank you for your financial support of First Baptist Church of Penfield. We hope that it will be a successful campaign.

Contracts have been signed with Penport Property Services LLC for snow plowing and Scott’s Services LLC for salting. Empire Gutter Cleaning cleaned the gutter at both 1862 and 1866 Penfield Road.



Flapjack is Back!!

**Saturday, December 20th
from 8 to 10.**

\$10.00/person,

\$5.00 for children under 12.

**Pancakes, eggs, sausage, blueberry
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.

The Mission Board has selected the following group for sponsorship: Open Door Mission

Bill Werther/Jeff 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 Schedule

2nd Hour Sundays at 11:15 am

NFH & Zoom

December:

7 – Representative from Open Door Mission

14 – TBD

21 – Christmas Tea / Pastor Steve & Annette's

– Last Sunday at FBCP

28 – Christmas/New Year's week

– No Adult Discussion

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 73

Wednesday Zoom Prayer Group

Wednesdays at 1 pm

Meeting ID: 950 690 121

Phone users dial: 1-646-876-9923

When Prompted, enter

Meeting ID: 950 690 121



Historian's Corner

By Jim Symonds

The John Weaver House (c.1829) at 1884 Penfield Road was the Baptist parsonage from 1873 until 1937. It once included a west wing that was removed in 1915 along with part of the east wing. From 1937 until 1959, the Lincoln House at 2156 Five Mile Line Road (South Road) was used as a parsonage.



Missions Report

Our annual "**Ring in the Holidays**" drive-through event on November 8th was a huge success! **Thank you** so much to everyone who brought donations of food for the **Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf** and pajamas, underwear and socks for the **Coldwater Road House of the Open Door Mission**. Both organizations were extremely happy to have your generous donations to support their work to feed and house local families in need. The Missions Team was able to provide some additional items which will make the temporary housing a little more comfortable and homey. In response to the staff's wishes and with money from the Missions budget, we purchased 2 beanbag chairs, some family board games, a floor mat decorated with the ABC's, for the little ones, as well as more of the requested women's pajamas and children's socks and underwear.

The coat collection for the **Open Door Mission** was also a big success. The goal hoped for had been set at 75 coats, and over 100 were donated. Again, **Thank you** for helping to make our plans come to such rewarding conclusions this fall.

On Sunday, November 9th, Mai Abdullah and Sadiya Omar from **Refugees Helping Refugees** came to speak at the 2nd Hour program. As Executive Director and Cofounder/Lead Case Manager respectively, they were able to clearly explain the

numerous ways that they help immigrants coming to the Monroe County area. Because of growing need and funding cuts, they will be forced to cut services if they cannot find different resources. Our church contributed \$1,000 from the Missions budget to support their important work.

During Sundays in December the Missions Team will be presenting the American Baptist Churches USA's annual offering for **Retired Ministers and Missionaries. (RMMO)**. The theme this year is "**Honoring the Service of God's Servants.**" It focuses on celebrating the generosity, grace, and tireless work of retired ministers and missionaries who have dedicated at least 15 years to serving ABC-USA, and their widowed spouses.

Finally, we want to offer our thanks to Pastor Steve for his participation and support of our Missions activities and for his willingness to set us up for Zoom meetings. We also appreciate that Pastor Steve and Annette both helped at all of our annual "**Ring in the Holidays**" and "**Spring Into Action**" events. No matter how inclimate the weather might have been, they were there to support us. We will miss them, but we wish them many blessings as they move on to spend more time having grandparenting fun.

We Wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Janette, Ellen, Barb





The Ring In the Holiday Crew



Delivery to PEFS - Jackson Road



Our Annual Thanksgiving Day Luncheon
Sunday, November, 16th



November Flapjack Breakfast



Health Safety

For the latest info on COVID-19, flu, & RSV, 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.



Have a blessed
Christmas and a
Happy New Year!



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, Morgan Kerr,

Lucas Mann, Mitchell Parmelee

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.