

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2020

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Pastor's Meditation

The Gift We Turn Down

Exodus 16: 22-30 (New Living Translation)

*²² On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much as usual—four quarts for each person instead of two. Then all the leaders of the community came and asked Moses for an explanation. ²³ He told them, “This is what the LORD commanded: Tomorrow will be a day of complete rest, a holy Sabbath day set apart for the LORD. So bake or boil as much as you want today, and set aside what is left for tomorrow.” ²⁴ So they put some aside until morning, just as Moses had commanded. And in the morning the leftover food was wholesome and good, without maggots or odor. ²⁵ Moses said, “**Eat this food today, for today is a Sabbath day dedicated to the LORD.** There will be no food on the ground today. ²⁶ You may gather the food for six days, but the seventh day is the Sabbath.*

There will be no food on the ground that day.” ²⁷ Some of the people went out anyway on the seventh day, but they found no food. ²⁸ The LORD asked Moses, “How long will these people refuse to obey my commands and instructions? ²⁹ They must realize that the Sabbath is the LORD’s gift to you. That is why he gives you a two-day supply on the sixth day, so there will be enough for two days. On the Sabbath day you must each stay in your place. Do not go out to pick up food on the seventh day.” ³⁰ So the people did not gather any food on the seventh day.

Bible-readers generally know that the first “Sabbath” took place in Genesis 2, the seventh day, when God rested after creating the world. But Exodus 16 is the first time the word “Sabbath” actually appears in the Bible. The people of Israel, wandering for 40 years between Egypt and the Promised Land, fed themselves by harvesting the manna that mysteriously fell to the ground overnight. Then one day, twice-as-much manna appeared, followed by a day where none appeared at all. This manna deluge was accompanied by a command, “Tomorrow will be a day of complete rest, a holy Sabbath day set apart for the LORD.”

Imagine what the text doesn’t tell us – somebody had to use the word “Sabbath,” for the very first time, and somebody, perhaps Moses, had to explain the concept: “God took a day off when He created the world. We are

made in God's image, so we need a day off, too." The word *Sabbath* is spelled in Hebrew letters Shin-Bet-Tav and means "to cease, to end, or to rest." For the Hebrew people, it meant, "don't go out gathering manna tomorrow."

Believe it or not, the Bible doesn't demand that the Sabbath take place on Sunday. That phenomenon actually started with the Catholic Church. James Cardinal Gibbons, a Roman Catholic, admitted, "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." Gibbons made a case for Saturday worship, rather than Sunday.

On whatever day the Sabbath falls, there is no way our current society could stop every person from working. Nurses and doctors must work, because patients don't stop being sick on the Sabbath. Policemen, fire fighters, and utility workers are needed because their services can be called upon any time of day, any day. Pastors, of course, work on the Sabbath (not that I'm complaining). Those of us who work on the Sabbath, what should we do? Jesus had a very common sensical approach to the Sabbath, saying, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27). For those who must work, the practice of having a Sabbath is more important than the particular day: "Are you taking a day off each week to follow God's command?"

Suppose I told the story of a hardworking man. God loved him immensely, so God gave him a really valuable gift. But instead of accepting it, the man thought it was better to do without it. Would you say that man was crazy, turning down the gift of God? It happens every week.

The story is told of a hardworking woman. God loved her so much, God decided to give her a gift – a whole day off each week. God told her "on that day you shall do no work." (Exodus 20:10). God told her to not lift a finger. But then she turned it down. ***She turned it down?!***

Likewise, the people of Israel had a hard time adjusting to the Sabbath. God called for them to think differently in Exodus 16:29, saying, "They must realize that the Sabbath is the LORD's gift to you." That means that the chance to cease, the chance to rest, the chance to end, was given as a gift to the people of Israel. Likewise, we need to realize that the Sabbath is a gift given to us, included in the 10 Commandments. Think about it: As God's gift to you, you have God's official permission, God's official command, to take a day off and not move a muscle for 24 hours. Do you accept God's gift, or do you turn it down? I encourage you to take the gift and enjoy it to the fullest!

In Christ,

Pastor Steve

Moderator's Musings

“Yesterday I was so clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.” -Rumi

“Dreams are lovely. But they are just dreams. Fleeting, ephemeral, pretty. But dreams do not come true just because you dream them. It's hard work that makes things happen. It's hard work that creates change.”
-Shonda Rhimes

“When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills.” -Chinese Proverb

“This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.” -Taylor Swift

I wanted to start this month's Moderator's Musings with a few quotes about change- because, well, life has always been about change and, in this time of our living, change is the only constant.....maybe it always has been.

Quote 1: Changing myself has never really been at the forefront of my efforts over the years. When I was a young teacher I knew it all and those around me ought to change to meet my vision of how things should be. That got me through a number of decades but it also brought me more trouble than I wanted (and probably deserved). Our church, which

is to say, each person who makes up our church, may never see so much change in so quick a time. “Good Baptists” like to be presented with change, form several committees, discuss the change at length, and then decide that the change probably isn't something they're interested in and move on- all from as far back in the pews as possible! Unfortunately, these times don't allow for much of that- some- but not a lot. As changes come about at the church, I would ask you to consider being wise and not clever. In the last few years, I have tried to get off my horse of clever and walk the road of wise. It's not easy and that horse is always right there next to me offering a seemingly easier way to get from where I am to where I will be. I don't know where the church will be but I do know that it will take being wise to get there.

Quote 2: Hard work is hard! That's why it's called “hard work”. I am so proud of the people in our church who are doing this hard work- that includes those who are patient and accepting of the changes that are happening (that's hard to do), those that are reaching out to others to check in (that takes time and effort), those that are on multiple committees (committees- need I say more!), and those that are physically working to fix, to publish, to create, to maintain, to keep the church a viable entity moving forward (that takes faith and elbow grease). Someone said the other day that there are churches that are closing or will close for good because of this pandemic. At this time, our church will not- not the

physical building nor the spiritual foundation. Staying open like that just doesn't happen. There are dreamers in our church who's sleeves are rolled up, dirt is on their face, and faith of a better tomorrow is in their hearts. If you are reading this, you are one! We would not be where we are without you. Thank you.

Quote 3: There are walls on the Earth that have stood against the winds of change- but behind them are ruins. This church, I believe, is building windmills and those windmills can be counted. These are our windmills: on-line services, on-line bible study, virtual choral scholar solos, deacon calls, organ music, pastoral care, upgraded church technology and technology infrastructure, Trustee work to maintain our physical building, Mission offerings, on-line Connections time, Re-imagine committee, gardening at the church, and pockets of church members who are finding safe ways to stay connected with each other. If we continue to build these windmills our church and all that it has to offer will continue to grow and move forward in a wonderful new way. As we encounter walls, and we will, I am encouraged to know that there are people skilled in tearing them down and building the windmills we need.

Quote 4: This pretty much sums it up. As we move forward be wise, work hard, and build windmills.

Peace and Understanding,

Michael Pray

August Birthdays

- 5 Beverly Symonds
- 5 Rev, Berta Arnold
- 11 Carolyn Fry
- 15 Pauline Bennett
- 18 Sarah Stokes
- 20 Jim Symonds
- 22 Anne-Mari Andrews
- 27 Jacob Trabert
- 29 Bob Foltz



Note from the Trustees

Several basement window wells on the west side of the Sanctuary and Old Fellowship Hall are being rebuilt or repaired. The window wells were constructed of cement block many years ago and have shown the results of winter freezing and thawing. Many of the cement blocks are pushing inward threatening the safety of the lower windows. The work was done by Lashomb Lawn and Landscape, Inc. and expected to be completed in August. The window wells serve as a way to hold back the earth and to let light into the windows.

The Trustees are currently looking at technology improvements for the sanctuary. When we return to "in person" services we will continue zoom services as well. If anyone

has a laptop that is no longer being used, we could put it to work. If this is something that works for you, a laptop 5 years old or newer would be best for our purposes. Thanks.

Respectfully,

Bruce Blackman, Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien, Sarah Phillips, David Trump



Happy August
Members of FBC Penfield

The Pastoral Relations Team continues to meet monthly during the Covid Closure to support you and Pastor Steve as we navigate through these unprecedented times. Should you have any affirmations, suggestions, or feedback, please reach out to one of the members of the Pastoral Relations Team. We miss seeing you in church, but we are just a phone call or an email away!

Blessings,

AK Collison, Judy McNeil, Libby Bertrand, Penny Goodman, and Pat Casey



Before you put papers into the church recycling bin, PLEASE shred personal information or remove labels with your name and address on it! There have been recent reports of people looking through the papers that are in the bin. Protect your privacy!



FBCP Bell Choir

On June 25, the FBCP bell choir gathered at Collisons (with masks and socially distanced, of course) to celebrate our Naomi's birthday! Her birthday was in March so we were a bit late, thanks to the virus ☹️. It was wonderful to be together and we are anxious to be playing for you again as soon as possible!



First Row: AK Collison, Judy McNeil, Naomi Gregory.

Second Row: Mindy Kimball, Liz Lazarus, Janette Keenan, Debbie Lochner, Christina Laycock, and Marsha Kiriazides.

(If you don't recognize us with the masks)



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First Baptist Church of Penfield
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We have 2 methods of receiving the monthly newsletter.

Method 1—Open the link on our web page at www.fbpenfield.org

Method 2—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

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Church Office Hours

Monday thru Friday, 9:00am to 1:00 pm

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.*