

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2022

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Pastor's Meditation January 2022

In January, we welcome a new year and think of doing new things. In church, we often read verses like, "Behold, I am making all things new." (Isaiah 43, Revelation 21). This month, I decided to share with you something that Christian author Phillip Yancey, wrote recently, describing an early experience with God that led to newness of life for him. This happened over 50 years ago, when he was a student at a fundamentalist Bible College. There he met his future wife, Janet. Back then, he did not feel particularly close to God. He viewed himself as an outsider of the faith but was required to reluctantly participate in a group praying for the salvation

of the students of a nearby state university. I hope this speaks to you as it did me:

"In late February of my sophomore year, Mr. H. gives us an assignment to his class on hermeneutics: 'Write an essay about a time when God spoke to you through a passage of the Bible.'

I have no idea what to write. To my knowledge God has never spoken to me, let alone through the Bible. At times I have parroted the correct answers, and prayed the right words, but always with the sense that I've memorized the part of the performance. I can't distinguish the authentic from the fake.

... A few days later the university team gathers for a prayer meeting, as we do every Wednesday. We follow a consistent pattern: Joe prays, Craig prays, Chris prays, then all three pause politely, waiting for me. I never pray, and after a brief silence we open our eyes and return to our dorm rooms. With the essay deadline looming, I join the team grudgingly for the requisite meeting. Joe prays, Craig prays, Chris prays, and they wait the usual few seconds. To everyone's surprise - most of all my own - I begin to pray aloud.

"God..." I say and the room crackles with tension. A door slams down the hall, interrupting me.

I start again, "God, here we are, supposed to be concerned about those ten thousand students at the university who are

going to Hell. Well, you know that I don't care if they all go to Hell, if there is one. I don't care if I go to Hell."

I might as well be invoking witchcraft or offering child sacrifices. Even so, these are my friends, and no one moves. My mouth goes dry. I swallow hard and continue. For some reason, I start talking about the parable of the Good Samaritan, which one of my classes has just been studying. "We're supposed to feel the same concern for university students as the Samaritan felt for the bloodied Jew lying in the ditch," I pray. "I feel no such concern. I feel nothing."

And then it happens. In the middle of my prayer, as I am admitting my lack of care for our designated targets of compassion, the parable comes to me in a new light. I have been visualizing the scene as I speak: a swarthy Middle Eastern man, dressed in robes and turban, bending over a dirty, blood-stained form in a ditch. Without warning, these two figures now morph on the internal screen of my mind. The Samaritan takes the face of Jesus. The Jew, pitiable victim of a highway robbery, also takes on another face - one I recognize with a start as my own.

In slow motion, I watch Jesus reach down with a moistened rag to clean my wounds and stanch the flow of blood. As he bends toward me, I see myself, the wounded victim of a crime, open my eyes and spit on him, full in the face. Just that. The image unnerves me - the apostate who doesn't believe in visions or biblical parables. I am

rendered speechless. Abruptly, I stop praying, rise and leave the room.

All that evening, I brood over what took place. It wasn't exactly a vision - more like a vivid daydream or an epiphany. Regardless. I can't put the scene out of my mind. In a single stroke my cockiness has been shattered. I have always found security in my outsider status, which at a Bible college means an outsider to belief. Now I have caught a new and humbling glimpse of myself. In my arrogance and mocking condescension, maybe I'm the neediest one of all.

A feeling of shame overwhelms me. Shame that my façade of self-control has been unmasked. And also shame that I might end up as one more cookie-cutter Christian on this campus.

I write a brief note to Janet, telling her cautiously, "I want to wait a few days before talking about this, but I may have had the first authentic religious experience of my life."

Yancey, Philip. Where the Light Fell, Convergent Books, 2021, 244-245.

This epiphany began Yancey's journey to new life as a committed Christian, which found its expression in 50 years of writing books and for magazines. I submit this as an encouragement for everyone, if they aren't already doing so, to "Get real." It doesn't matter whether you are praying in a group or alone, an important, burning question is: How do we feel about God - Really? More

importantly: How does God feel about us? Do we think God doesn't know how we feel? In a new year, or anytime, newness of life follows honesty. Often, brutal honesty. Don't be afraid to share your feelings with God.

Here's to new life, everyone!

In Christ, Pastor Steve



Message from the Moderator

Hello Church Family and Friends,

I have a few important items to bring to your attention as we enter into January 2022.

1. At our December 14th, 2021 Coordinating Council meeting, we worked to revise number 1 on the Covid Policies and Procedures list. It now reads as follows:

'Church Entry and Exit - People will continue to enter through the ramp door to ensure mandatory sign in should we need to contact trace. Following the church service, attendees may leave the sanctuary in whatever way is most convenient. Masks must still be worn throughout the indoor areas of all buildings.'

As people enter through the ramp door, they must be wearing a mask and they are going to be required to sign themselves in. For anyone who is not attending on a regular basis and/or is not listed in our church directory, a phone number is required should we need to contact trace. It is one of the responsibilities of the assigned Greeter/Usher continue to enforce these policies.

2. A reminder to all teams: Team Reports that are to be included in the 2021 Annual Report are due to the church office NO LATER THAN Tuesday January 11th.

The Annual Meeting/Part I will be held on Sunday January 30th, following Worship. It will be held in New Fellowship Hall for those who choose to attend in person. It will also be held on the zoom platform for those who choose to attend online. We encourage everyone to attend.

3. Lastly, Flapjack Saturday continues to be put on hold. I think we can all agree that it is not yet safe for us to hold a community event of this nature. The Coordinating Council will continue to revisit the possibility of starting up again as we meet each month.

My best wishes to all for a very blessed, very safe, very happy, and healthy New Year!

Kathy Ahl, Moderator



January Birthdays

- 11 – Betty Holderbaum
- 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



Thank You!

FROM PASTOR STEVE AND ANNETTE

Please accept our sincere gratitude for First Baptist Church of Penfield's generous Christmas gift this year. We often pray for the church and its growth in God's image. May God richly bless our church in 2022!



Dear church family,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It is truly a gift to serve you all; thank you for your friendship and support.

With best wishes for the holiday season,

Naomi



Dear People of the First Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for the lovely card and the generous Christmas Gift!

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a great New Year!

Sandra



Missions Report

In December our church participated in the American Baptist Churches' annual offering for emergency assistance to Retired Ministers and Missionaries and a thank you check to them at the end of the year, in appreciation for their many years of dedicating their lives to God's service. We thank you for your caring responses to our reminders throughout December.

As we welcome 2022 and embrace all the possibilities of a new year, the Missions Team is ready to work together to lend support to those in need of our concern and action. You can contact any one of us if you know of a situation that we should be aware of. We continue to meet once a month to serve, as responsibly as possible, on behalf of the congregation.

Sue, Ellen, Janette



Note from the Trustees

Our Stewardship campaign this fall was a success. With most of the pledges returned, our total amount for budgeting purposes is \$131,000.00, about \$5000.00 more than last year. We will have additional budget concerns such as a Youth Minister, increases in utilities and wages, etc. The Trustees thank everyone who participated in the campaign.

There will be a proposed budget presentation will be on **Sunday, January 23rd at 11:00**, following worship.

The Annual meeting, where the congregation will vote on the budget, will be on **Sunday, January 30 at 11:00** following worship.

There are two large LED lights mounted on the north face of the Education Building for lighting the parking lot. The east light is not working; therefore, the parking lot is not illuminated as usual. We have been corresponding with the parent company who installed the lights in 2015. Communication within the company has been difficult and as a result the light has not been repaired yet. If the light can't be repaired it will be replaced. We are at the mercy of the parent company.

The Boy Scouts are considering moving their meeting space from Old Fellowship Hall to

New Fellowship Hall. The Trustees have agreed that the move could be possible. Discussions will follow to decide which items would move from one space to the other and where they might be placed. We will keep you informed as talks continue.

Respectfully,

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



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



Adult Discussion Schedule

First Baptist Church of Penfield

On Zoom and in NFH

You Were Made For This Moment, DVD series by Max Lucado

There is a story in the Bible that reminds us of this truth, a book by the name of Esther. Remember Esther? She found herself smack dab in the middle of political upheaval, cultural divides, and family drama, to say the least. When faced with a royal decree that would annihilate her people, Esther had to make some tough choices. Would she remain silent or would she speak up? Would she blend in or would she stand out? Would she trust that God could use her to save a nation or would she cower in fear?

Like Esther, you may be staring down a seemingly impossible situation. And what’s true for Esther is true for you: Deliverance will come. God will have his victory. He will rescue his people. He will right the wrongs of this world.

The question is not, *Will God prevail?* The question is, *Will you be part of the team?* You, like Esther, can act in a way that will bless more people than you could imagine. This is your moment.

Your challenge is an opportunity to join God in His work. You don’t need to become undone by tough times. You can become

unleashed by our triumphant god. You, my friend, were made for this moment.

Series runs 11:00am after Worship, In Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. (no Adult Discussion on January 23 & 30, for Budget Meeting and Church Annual Meeting, respectively)



Roger's Birthday

The four deacons,, celebrated our beloved Roger Zaenglein's birthday on November 30 with a wonderful visit, cupcakes, and balloons. A great time was had by all!



We love you, Roger!!!



Covid Policies
and Procedures *Revised
Tuesday December 14, 2021

1. Church Entry and Exit - People will continue to enter through the ramp door to ensure mandatory sign in should we need to contact trace. Following the church service, attendees may leave the sanctuary in whatever way is most convenient. Masks must still be worn throughout the indoor areas of all buildings.
2. Face Masks and Sanitizing Hand Gel - Both will continue to be available at the entrance for anyone who needs them.
3. FULLY VACCINATED - At the present time, fully vaccinated people should enter the sanctuary, join in the service wearing a face mask, keep it on for the entire service and practice social distancing as needed to respect the wishes of others around them.
4. UNVACCINATED or NOT FULLY VACCINATED - Unvaccinated people or those who are not fully vaccinated, are expected to continue wearing a face mask, keep it on for the entire service, and continue to practice social distancing of 6 feet or greater while in the church. Attending the church service online is also encouraged.

5. About the Children - We understand that some children will not yet be vaccinated or not yet fully vaccinated, there will be a section of pews designated for children and their families only at the front of the sanctuary. Just beyond the children's section, there will be a section of pews that will be off-limits for any seating. The remainder of the pews will be available for general seating.
6. Children's Moment - Anyone providing the Children's Moment in person will be required to wear a face mask, whether fully vaccinated or not.
7. Singing - Any member of the congregation who chooses to participate in singing at any time throughout the church service must wear a face mask while singing, whether fully vaccinated or not.
8. There will continue to be no childcare provided at this time.
9. The offering plates will not be passed, however, there will continue to be an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary.
10. On Communion Sundays, the Lord's Supper will continue to be given using sealed,

disposable communion cups and wafers to ensure everyone's safety.

11. The regular Sunday Worship Services will continue to be available electronically, over-the-phone, and on the on-line ZOOM platform.

***Our policies will continue to follow the guidance provided by Monroe County Department of Health and the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://mappingmonroe.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/217749730f174776a3896b3e8950e03b>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Fellowship Hall
Covid Precautions
(Updated 12/5/2021)

Anyone attending Coffee & Fellowship Time and/or Adult Discussion In Fellowship Hall following Sunday Worship must be wearing a mask.

The only time anyone's mask should be lowered or removed, is when they are seated first to drink and/or eat. The tables and chairs will be setup for this purpose and with distancing in mind. When done drinking/and or eating, masks must be put back on.

Thank you.

Kathy Ahl, Moderator



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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

Caroline Duers, Samantha Sosa,

David Griffith, Jason Rober ~ 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

Website ~ 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.*