

The Carillon



First Baptist Church of Penfield

In This Issue

Pastor's Meditation	1
July Birthdays	2
Men's Lunch	2
Church Ladies' Lunch.....	2
Note From the Trustees.....	3
The Alpha Course	3
Year Through the Bible.....	3
Mission in Action.....	4
Pledges and Donations.....	4
Warning!!! Warning!!! (Judy M.).....	5
A Note From the Garden Elves (Marsha K.)	5

Pastor's Meditation

"The Gracious General"

In the early 1920s, an Army Major and his wife lost their four-year-old son to scarlet fever. They had always taken great measures to shield their child from contagious diseases, which were largely untreatable in those days. When the Spanish Flu was passing around the base where they were stationed, they sent their son to live with grandparents hundreds of miles away. Despite their best efforts to protect him, the child succumbed to scarlet fever and died. In their grief, their marriage became strained, a blow from which, one biographer claims, their love never fully recovered.

Some months after the funeral, the

Army discovered that it had overpaid the young Major. While their son was away living with grandparents, the Major had continued to receive a child allowance in his salary. Because his son was not living on the base for those months, the Major was not eligible to receive this allowance, which added up to \$250 (approximately \$3,500 today). It was the Major's duty to report the overpayment, but, for whatever reason, he did not. Once the Major was confronted with the overpayment, he quickly paid it back, but this offense was eligible for Court-Martial. Potential punishments included a dishonorable discharge from the army.

Before the Court-Martial proceedings began, a superior officer, General Fox Conner, expressed a strong desire that this Major be reassigned as Executive Officer at the Panama Canal Zone. The charges were inexplicably dropped (though a written reprimand remained in his file). The Major moved to his new post, undoubtedly feeling like he had dodged a bullet. The reason we know this story is because the couple who lost their son was Dwight D. and Mamie Eisenhower. About twenty years after this incident, Eisenhower became the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces during World War II, and later served as President of the United States during a time of relative peace and prosperity. Had General Fox Conner not intervened, it is possible that Eisenhower

would have been dishonorably discharged and sent home to a far-different life. God is not a General. God is not the President. God is so much more powerful than either, more powerful than we could imagine. God is omniscient: no offense, big or small, could escape God's attention. But like the General, God can forgive our offenses, and place us on a better path than what we deserve. This is because of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died to cover all offenses, big and small.

In Matthew 16:19, speaking to Peter, Jesus said, "I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven." This is the same Peter who later committed one of the colossal sins of scripture, denying Jesus in his most-critical time. Think of it: Jesus entrusted the Kingdom keys to a man who would later deny him, because, like the gracious General, Jesus saw the big picture. Once forgiven, Peter would lead the early Church, building a movement which goes on forever.

This is how Grace works. All of us have done things for which we deserve to be punished, but God sees our potential and says, "I want you." God knows we've sinned, but God also knows who we can become, when freed by Grace.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve



July Birthdays

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



Men's Lunch
Thursdays at Noon

Canceled until Restaurants Reopen



Church Ladies' Lunch
Third Tuesday of Each Month

Canceled until Restaurants Reopen



Note from the Trustees

Improvements and upgrades to the Wi-Fi service in the sanctuary and third floor of the education building are currently being done. We will be adding some new equipment (routers and Wi-Fi hubs) to the sanctuary. As of June 18 all of the wiring has been completed. We are switching our internet provider from Frontier to Spectrum. The Wi-Fi signal to the sanctuary is currently very weak and can't support even our current needs.

As we move forward with our plans for returning to "live" services in the sanctuary, we are planning to continue Zoom broadcasts to reach those who are not able to attend church services.

Respectfully,

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

The Alpha Course

*A new series, featuring Nicky Gumbel
runs June 4 – August 13*

Online using Zoom until Further Notice

Offered Weekly

Every Thursday at 6pm

A Zoom link has been sent to everyone using e-mail in the congregation.

Links to all meetings also appear on Church Website: fbpenfield.org

People without internet can call in to the group. A postcard with phone numbers has been sent out.

Questions? Call or Text

Pastor Steve Brotzman: 585-368-8643

Email: pastorbrotz@gmail.com

Church Website: fbpenfield.org



Year Through the Bible

Wednesdays, 1pm and 6pm

Online using Zoom until Further Notice

*Even if you haven't started reading the Bible
with us, you can "drop in" anytime.*

A Zoom link has been sent to everyone using email in the congregation.

Links to all meetings also appear on Church website: fbpenfield.org

People without internet can call in to the group. A postcard with phone numbers has been sent out.

Questions? Call, email or Text Pastor Steve

Email: pastorbrotz@gmail.com

585-368-8643

to learn how to attend by phone.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve

Mission in Action

Our congregation continues to serve Christ and our local community during this unprecedented time of need. To date in 2020 our FBP Mission giving has totaled over \$8,100 and special offerings over \$1,000. In our planning we strive to prioritize helping local organizations and to that end your mission support has gone to Cameron Community Ministries, Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf, Penfield Coalition of Churches for Habitat, Open Door Mission, Refugees Helping Refugees, Penfield Hope and Penfield Village Nursery School. Our giving to the Open Door Mission was intentionally timed so that our \$500 donation was matched and actually doubled to \$1000. Here are excerpts from letters we received just this month from two of these local organizations: *“We deeply appreciate your generous donation of \$500 to **Penfield Hope**. You have our commitment that your funds will be put to the best possible use.”*

*“I simply want to express my heartfelt thanks for your recent donation to **Open Door Mission**. The generous gift from your congregation is a tremendous testimony of your compassion for the poor and homeless at this critical time in our Rochester community.”*

Additionally, your commitment to Mission is reflected in our March special offering for **America For Christ**, where your contributions totaled \$930. AMC supports American Baptist mission and ministry across

the United States and Puerto Rico. Thank you!

We are always open to your questions and input.

Your Mission team,

Janette Keenan, Sue Sparnecht
and Ellen Stokes



Pledges & 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



WARNING!!! WARNING!!!

There have been some First Baptist elves prowling around the church gardens in the black of night and in the blistering sun. One group has been spotted raking, weed whacking, weeding, weeding, and doing some more weeding. The second group of elves (who so appreciated the work of the weeding elves) were seen planting begonias in the bell planter and geraniums and impatiens across the front of the church.

These elves are very sneaky. They come when you least expect it, do their gardening chores, and slip away, usually unseen. Rumor has it they will continue to take care of the church gardens throughout the summer months. If you are driving by and spot one of these Baptist elves, give a honk. They might wave as you pass by.



A Note from the Garden Elves:

If you're ever driving by the church and have 15 minutes to spare, please stop and help us by watering the flowers. There are two hoses available for your use. This heat keeps them very thirsty!
Thanks!

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 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.*