

# The Carillon



First Baptist Church of Penfield

June 2020

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## ***Pastor's Meditation - June 2020***

How many sermons can you remember? Don't worry, this is not a test; I won't be quizzing you about my sermons. Mind you, for years, I was laity before receiving a call to ministry. When we are in the pews, or now on computer, our minds wander. Sermons with original thoughts (or original ways of conveying them) are rare. Over the years, I've heard hundreds of sermons, but remember only a dozen or so. A couple of them are memorable because they were horribly bad, but most of the memorable ones were incredibly good.

One preacher, a now-retired Bishop from another denomination, preached two of the most memorable sermons. And I only saw him preach twice! He knew my parents, and served with my stepfather Mike, but I doubt he would recognize me if he saw me on the street (especially these days, wearing a mask!) He is a modest man who probably couldn't care less about how memorable his sermons were.

The first sermon I heard him preach was when he was District Superintendent, just before being promoted to Bishop. He spoke about pastoring a church in the late 1970s. He felt led by God to pray for the youth group. As he prayed over a period of several months, he watched the group grow spiritually and in numbers. His own son was growing in Christ. Then, flattered by the success, he gradually prayed less and increasingly managed the group. As time passed, he began controlling more of the details, deluded into thinking that, as an experienced pastor, he knew what to do. His actions backfired, and the result was not growth, but the decline of the group. As he preached, everyone could see his heavy heart. He confessed, *"To my knowledge, not one of those young people is serving the Lord today, including my own son."*

The second sermon I heard the Bishop preach, over a decade later, was his last

official function before retirement. He discussed a conflict at denominational headquarters. Without naming names, or pointing fingers, he described how a toxic culture of gossip and slander developed among the leaders there. At one point, one of the leaders rose above the fray and said that everyone should be praying, not gossiping or slandering. Everyone took that message to heart and began praying together more often. The Bishop astutely noted that as a result of prayer, "Nothing changed. But everything changed." In other words, the problems didn't go away, but everyone's perspective changed. God had shown them a better way.

Both sermons underscore the importance of prayer to ministry (and Christian life, for that matter). The more experience we get, the more we tend to think we can manage things, but ultimately, our success depends on prayer. "Success" doesn't always mean that situations change. Sometimes, through prayer, God changes us. The Bishop spoke kind words at my stepfather's funeral last summer. I also learned in recent years that his son had reconnected with Christ, which must be a great comfort to him. My guess is that the Bishop knows how it happened; not by his management, but through earnest and sustained prayer over many, many years. We have shown that technology doesn't stop prayer. What should we be praying for?

In Christ,

Pastor Steve

## Moderator's Musings

Dear Church,

I would like to begin this Moderator's Musings with a story:

*A woman was cooking a ham for Easter dinner and her friend noticed that she cut the end off the ham before she put it in the oven. Curious, the friend asked the woman, "why do you cut the end off the ham?". The woman looked at her puzzled and said, "I don't know, I've always cut the end off the ham." The woman, now curious to find out where this 'cutting the end off the ham' started, called her mother. When her mother answered the phone she asked, "why do you cut the end off the ham at Easter?" Her mother paused for a bit and said, "well, my mother, your grandmother, always cut the end off the ham.....so I always cut the end off the ham." The mother then called the grandmother to ask the same question. The grandmother laughed and told her, "when we were in that tiny apartment the stove was pretty small. I had to cut the end off the ham so it would fit inside!"*

I love this story because it reminds me to be mindful of what I am doing and why I am doing it. Growing up, my mother always poured the grease from the stove into a metal can and when it filled up she'd toss it. Subsequently, I always poured my grease into a metal can next to the stove- for YEARS- until my brother asked me why I did it. I had

no idea! Now we just wait for it to cool and pour it directly into the trash.

I give you these stories because doing what we've always done is going to change as we **move forward** in bringing service and other activities back to the church proper. Things like where we sit, how we approach people, how we collect the offering, who uses which microphone, how we enter and leave the sanctuary, and can we continue to offer online media during a live service are all things to be looked at with a mindful eye. We must ask ourselves, why do we do what we have always done and is there a "safer" way to get the same result or reach the same outcome.

To this end, we are looking at documentation from various sources including Church Mutual insurance company, documents from the American Baptist Churches, and the Rochester Regional Office. We are also creating a subcommittee of people from the Coordinating Council, Trustees, and leaders from the other church committees to delve into this process and report to the congregation.

This will not be a quick process. Some of the changes we will need to make may not be comfortable to everyone and will certainly take a bit of practice and getting use to. However, like the ham and my personal grease practice, it is my hope that we will find better ways to do things we have always done, safer ways to do things we had never

considered, and a new path to move us forward as a church, a congregation, and God's people.

Peace and Understanding,

Michael Pray



## **June Birthdays**

- 1 Yvonne O'Brien
- 2 Catherine Swail
- 2 Peggy Webber
- 5 Heidi Tyler
- 12 Steve Wilterdink
- 16 Kathy Werther
- 19 Melissa Phillips
- 19 Tim Tyler
- 21 Andrew Frenia
- 21 Jeff Phillips
- 24 Lucy Phillips
- 25 Barbara King



## **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**

It has been a while since we have worshiped together inside our historic church. COVID-19 has changed lives in a number of ways and the ability to gather is one of them. We're eager to "get back to church" but returning to the "new normal" won't be easy or normal. Churches seem to be in Phase 4 (groups gathering of 10 or more) of the NYS plan for opening the state.

In order to open our church, we must develop a plan for opening and a plan for its implementation.

- All sections of our church community will work together to create a comprehensive plan that moves toward opening. *Creating a plan that is fluid and adaptable is critical.*
- Implementation is going to be difficult and will require the work and cooperation of everyone.
- Things like eliminating soft surfaces (seat cushions), no hand held materials, changes to communion, virtual bulletins, wearing gloves and masks, seat distancing, elimination of Greeters (at least temporarily), etc. may become the norm, at least for a while. Also, no hugging or hand shaking allowed.

The Trustees have discussed keeping the Zoom services available even when we are able to return to the sanctuary. Zoom has been a great tool for reaching those who cannot come to church and for reaching new people who have never attended our services before.

We all look forward to the benefits of being together but we need to be patient. Zoom for worship and meetings has been a great substitute, but it is two dimensional, just not the same as face to face..

A huge Thank You to Mike Pray, Naomi and Pastor Steve for keeping us electronically connected. Our church office continues to function well even though Sandra has been working from home. Thank you Sandra for doing all you are doing.

Until we are able to be with each other in person, remember, many church representatives will be working on a plan that combines our needs and wishes while coordinating with government requirements and guidelines. Won't it be great when we can actually be together again?

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](http://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](mailto:pastorbrotz@gmail.com)*

*Church Website: [fbpenfield.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:pastorbrotz@gmail.com)**

**585-368-8643**

to learn how to attend by phone.

In Christ,  
Pastor Steve



### Don't Flip Out



**Flap Jack is flipped out over Covid 19**

**The final breakfast in June is cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control.**

**Rest up for next year and do something nice for someone...**

**Bill & Jeff**

**A Note from Bruce Neely**

You have not gotten a report on Lois Neely's condition at the Friendly Home lately.

She uses her walker on her own for short distances, seems in good spirits, works on picture puzzles and plays solitaire.

They give her excellent care. The home was prompt in taking precautions against the corona virus and they are vigilant in their protective procedures.

All the residents and staff were tested recently.

Lois has been confined to her room now with no visitors for 11 weeks. We converse on the phone daily. It will be good when we can hug and take car rides together again.

Lois enjoys all the greeting cards you have sent her.

Bruce Neely



**Thank You from the Hoover Family and from Judy McNeil**

First Baptist Church of Penfield received a lengthy and heartfelt thank you letter from Frank and Wilma Hoover, my Mennonite

friends who lost their farmhouse to fire on Good Friday. Our church family rallied in ways that I never expected. It made me very proud to know that I am a small part of this loving and caring church family.

Because their thank you letter was quite long, filling both sides of a sheet of notebook paper, the following are some excerpts from their letter:

"We can't begin to find the words to express how very thankful and grateful we are for your generosity to a family you have never met."

"Although, the loss of our farmhouse was devastating, it also showed us God's hand at work. God brought us together with you. We felt your love and knew that God was at work once again, bringing strangers in Christ together."

"We are in our house once again. As we look at our children, we see shirts, pants, boots, and shoes that we wouldn't have if it weren't for your generosity. God bless you."

"We are using the money you gave us to buy those things that we need to replace. Thank you for opening your hearts to us."

"If you are ever in Bluff Point, right near Keuka Lake, stop in to visit us. Judy can give you directions. We would love to thank you in person."

"We thank God for you and ask God to show His blessings to each one of you."

I, too, thank you from the bottom of my heart.  
Judy McNeil

## **The Pastoral Relations Team News**

This month the Pastoral Relations Team met to discuss strategies for pastoral appraisal based on a recent webinar presented by ABC USA and Dr. Laura Miraz. Our goal is to collaborate with Pastor Steve and set goals that can enable our church's shared mission and vision.

Please reach out to us if you have any praises, suggestions, or concerns to share! Enjoy the sunshine,

The Pastoral Staff Relations Team  
AK, Judy, Libby, Penny, and Pat C.



## **Our Historic Stained Glass Windows**

One of the windows on the west side of the sanctuary was given in memory of Alvah Covey (1840-1884). His house is at 2105 5 Mile Line Road and he operated a nursery on both sides of 5 Mile Line Road

He participated in building the "new church" in 1834, and in 1860 was elected to the building committee that brought about the extensive remodeling of 1861.

Alvah was also an abolitionist and friend of Frederick Douglas. Slaves running away from the South were brought to him at night

where they were fed and sheltered in the cupola of his house during the day.

As soon as a carriage with an abolitionist driver could be obtained, they were taken, at night, to Pultneyville and hidden in an old brick house until they could be taken to Canada.

Alvah's wife, Jane, helped organize the first Ladies Aid Society in 1857.

These windows surely are very important in our history and in Penfield history. We should be very proud of their history.

Marie Sandman



## **75 Years of True Love!**

FBH residents Arthur and Pauline had to celebrate their 75th anniversary at a bit of a distance, since they live in different areas of our building, but that didn't stop them from enjoying their big day.

We were neighbors when they still lived in their home and I've learned so much from their true devotion to one another through the years. Wonderful individuals and couple!

Ellen K. Stokes



## *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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:fbpenfield@toast.net)

Website ~ [www.fbpenfield.org](http://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.*