

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2020

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Pastor's Meditation

Should I Go to the Church?

I'm writing this to encourage some of you not to go to the church. Yes, that's what I said!

On October 4, 2020, First Baptist Church will resume worship in our Sanctuary. Our most-recent live-and-in-person service there was March 15. Praise God, through the gallant efforts of Mike Pray & others using the Zoom platform, Church never stopped worshiping, not even once.

We are reconvening because of a strong desire to resume worship in our sanctuary and for people to be around one another. We are also reconvening because the percentage of Covid-19 cases in Monroe County is fairly low. We are not reconvening in the sanctuary because of any financial consideration. Truth is, the congregation has supported the church

generously these past 6+ months and the Trustees did well to participate in the Federal Stimulus' Payroll Protection Program. In-person worship is not resuming because Zoom is stopping, either. On the contrary, Zoom worship will remain available to everyone with a tablet, laptop, smartphone or ordinary telephone. "Snowbirds," "Homebodies," "Out-of-towners" and summer "Cottage-dwellers," and anyone/everyone else can still electronically attend each Sunday service at First Baptist Church of Penfield.

On September 27, after Zoom worship, we will have a Zoom congregational meeting to remind everyone what-is-expected from those who will attend the October 4 service in-person, in order to keep everyone safe in the sanctuary. Please read the next sections carefully:

Below is a list of most, if not all, precautions/protocols that will be in place October 4:

- 1. People will enter at the ramp entrance. All other entrances to the church are closed.*
- 2. Outside the church at the ramp entrance, people form a line 6-feet apart.*
- 3. Before entry, people will be asked about their health. Those reporting symptoms*

(listed below) are sent home and encouraged to seek medical attention.

4. *Before entry, each person's temperature is taken using a non-contact thermometer, pointed at the forehead. Those with above-normal temperatures are sent home and encouraged to seek medical attention.*

5. *Before entry, each person is required to wear a facemask and keep it on for the entire service. If not wearing a mask, one will be provided.*

6. *People entering will be required to sanitize their hands.*

7. *People will be seated front-to-back, e.g. the first people in line are sent to the frontmost available rows.*

8. *Seating at the church is established with the 6-foot rule in mind. Non-used pews will be roped off.*

Families may sit together in the same pew.

9. *The congregation will not be singing at any point in the service.*

10. *Restrooms can be used for **emergencies only**, one person-at-a-time.*

11. *There will be no childcare provided.*

12. *There will be no passing the offering plates. However, there will be a donation box in the back of the sanctuary.*

13. *There will be no hymnals, bibles, tissues, or paper bulletins. All words will appear on the screen.*

14. *At service end, people will be dismissed row-by-row, starting with the rear of the sanctuary.*

15. *When moving in and out, or during service, people are required to stay at least 6 feet apart.*

16. *Worship will continue to be available electronically/over-the-phone and on Zoom*

On Communion Sundays, the Lord's Supper will be given using sealed, disposable communion cups & wafers to ensure everyone's safety

From the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) website: *“People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:*

- *Fever or chills*
- *Cough*
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- *Fatigue*

- *Muscle or body aches*
- *Headache*
- *New loss of taste or smell*
- *Sore throat*
- *Congestion or runny nose*
- *Nausea or vomiting*
- *Diarrhea*

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.”

Source

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)

From the CDC Website, regarding who is most at-risk for severe illness:

“Among adults, the risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk. Severe illness means that the person with COVID-19 may require hospitalization, intensive care, or a ventilator to help them breathe, or they may even die.

Risk for Severe Illness Increases with Age

As you get older, your risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases. For example, people in their 50s are at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 40s. Similarly, people in their 60s or 70s are, in general, at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 50s. The greatest risk for

severe illness from COVID-19 is among those aged 85 or older.

There are also other factors that can increase your risk for severe illness, such as having underlying medical conditions. By understanding the factors that put you at an increased risk, you can make decisions about what kind of precautions to take in your daily life.”

Source

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html>)

Also, from the CDC:

*“People of any age with the following conditions **are at increased risk** of severe illness from COVID-19:*

- [Cancer](#)
- [Chronic kidney disease](#)
- [COPD \(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease\)](#)
- [Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from solid organ transplant](#)
- [Obesity \(body mass index \[BMI\] of 30 or higher\)](#)
- [Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies](#)
- [Sickle cell disease](#)
- [Type 2 diabetes mellitus”](#)

Source

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>?)

[CDC AA refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fgroups-at-higher-risk.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html))

I've shared all of this information out of Christian love. I am concerned for your health and well-being. If you fall under any of these categories, please stay home, worship on Zoom and avoid sanctuary worship.

I know it's not easy, and I am available to support you through it. Don't hesitate to pick up your phone and call me. The fact remains that if any of us has the above conditions, yet still come to in-person worship, we do so of our own choice and at our own risk.

When we were young, we were told not to give into peer-pressure. Now that we're older, peer-pressure still exists, albeit in a different form. If you don't feel comfortable going to church, and someone tries to cajole you, saying things like, "Oh Come on! Don't worry! Go to Church!" you have my permission to stand up for yourself and say, "I will be going to church - on Zoom." Remind them that church attendance on Zoom is still church attendance. Later, we might have lots of time together in the Sanctuary, if we stay healthy through this pandemic.

Please know that the church, in the Reopening/Reimagining Committee, Trustees,

Teaching and Worship and Coordinating Council has done everything we can to ensure a safe in-the-building worship service. But Coronavirus is not even one year old, and there may be aspects even the experts don't understand. If someone promises that the sanctuary is 100% safe, that might be a promise they can't keep. If you have even the smallest level of doubt it, please stay home.

These past 6 months, it has been my joy to see you, face-to-face, on Zoom. And that will continue. I'll see you on October 4, one way or the other. During the week, if you would like to see me in person, give me a call 585- 368-8643 and I'll drive over, wearing a mask and social-distancing. I'd love to see you!

And, for all of you, I hope to see you healthy and in-person when this global pandemic has faded into (bad) memory. Psalm 46 was written thousands of years ago, but still applies today:

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth
should change, though the mountains shake
in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
Selah*



Moderator's Musings

Dear Church,

As I had mentioned in my last writing, I was hoping that we would be able to get back to “in person” services by mid-September. After follow-up discussion with the Reimagine Committee, the “in person” services were postponed to October 4th. A major reason of concern and discussion was the unknown affect the start of the school year- public, private, and the many colleges and universities around us- would have on our COVID numbers.

Starting October 4th and beyond, we will be holding these services with strict guidelines around safety. **The service will also be broadcast on Zoom- same link as always.**

We will be holding a congregational meeting on September 27th to go over those safety guidelines and new protocols that will be in place for the October 4th service and moving forward. Prior to that meeting, the procedures and protocols will be sent to you so that you have a chance to read them before the meeting on the 27th.

And now a word about risk..... There are a lot of “Facebook Facts”, sensational news stories, article titles meant to grab your attention, and communications flying fast and furious over our computers. I like numbers. I like verifiable facts. As of the writing of this letter, the numbers in Monroe county are 177,

037 tested with 171,504 coming back negative for the virus. That is a total of 5,533 positives (a grand percentage of .03% positive in Monroe county) with 4,922 recovered. There are 315 active cases and there has been 296 deaths. There were (as of 2019) 741,770 people in Monroe county. That puts the number of active cases and deaths at .0004% for Monroe county. There are 24 patients in the hospitals and, of those, 9 are in ICU.

This data derived from the Monroe County COVID dashboard:

<https://mappingmonroe.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/217749730f174776a3896b3e8950e03b>.

Of course, other parts of the State and country do not have numbers this “good”. New York did a great job of “flattening the curve” and continues to keep the numbers down. Does that mean there is no risk of catching COVID if you attend church on Sundays? No! There will **always** be risk. Just as there will continue to be a risk of shopping for groceries, interacting with food delivery people, touching anything (but the studies on this show infection from objects is relatively rare), or going to work. Who has been in contact with who and who have they been in contact with? It is a weighty decision but one that we on the Reimagine Committee must leave up to you to make.

We will have protocols and procedures in place to manage that risk. We fully expect those that attend church “in person” will abide by and follow those protocols and procedures for their own safety and the safety of the other people in our church family. **This is not a time to take a stand, make a point, or test our protocols, procedures, or our resolve to keep those that attend safe.** If that is an intention, we would kindly ask you to worship with us over Zoom. We look forward to “seeing” you one way or the other as we begin October and move forward into times unknown.

Peace and Understanding,

Michael Pray



Note from the Trustees

- Repairs to the west basement window wells of the church were completed in early September.
- MERV 13 filters have replaced the previous furnace filters to meet new air filtration requirements for heating and cooling the sanctuary.
- Sandra Augustus will return to the church office on October 5th. Sandra has been working from home while the church building was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- We will return to In-Person Worship on Sunday, October 4th. On Sunday September 27th we had a congregational meeting, explaining the safety standards for building preparation and worshipers. Maintaining all of the safety standards we have become accustomed to will keep us safe as we worship each Sunday.

The church building has been divided into 3 zones, 1 for PVNS, 1 for the Boy Scouts and 1 for us. ***We will be using the sanctuary only***, no other parts of the building, except the church office and Pastor Steve's office, will be accessible. **All of the congregation will enter and exit the sanctuary via the front ramp only.**

Respectfully,

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



Anne-Marie and Dick Andrews'
New Address

Chapel Oaks
1550 Portland Ave., Apt 1317
Rochester, NY 14621

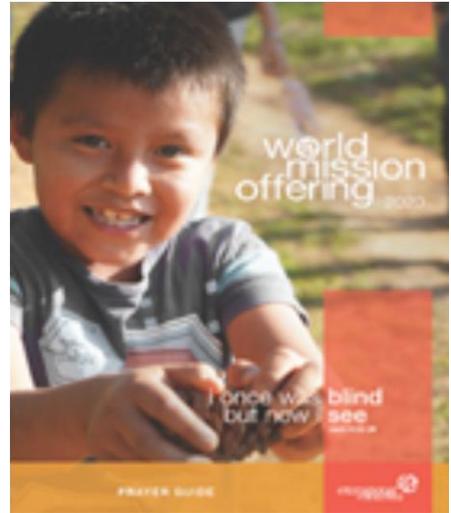
Home Phone (585) 742-3474

Dick's Cell Phone (585) 381-6189



October Birthdays

- 1- Mark Britt
- 1- Don Lochner
- 5 – Annette Brotzman
- 7- Eric Scott Hunter
- 11- Mindy Kimball
- 13- Ginny Wilterdink
- 17- Ibrahim Kapidzic
- 17- Bruce Neeley
- 18- Kathy Ahl
- 19- Judy McNeil
- 21- Eric Keenan
- 21- Eun Jean Keenan
- 27- Sarah Kohlenberg
- 29- Hava Kapidzic
- 30- Art Bennett
- 31- Edda Schneider

**International Ministries (IM)**

Throughout September and October ABC congregations come together for a time of awareness, advocacy, and action for global mission. We are able to participate in God's work around the world in partnership with International Ministries (IM), a cross-cultural mission agency with a long heritage in the American Baptist mission movement. You will hear more about this special offering in September worship. Your support in prayer, encouragement and giving makes possible amazing transformative work around the globe. Contributions marked "World Mission Offering" can be mailed to the church office.



Your Fall Mission Giving

The Service Board of Fairport Baptist Homes is a volunteer organization that dates back to the Home’s founding in 1904. They are a group of volunteers that exists solely to enhance the lives of the residents. As the Covid-19 restriction on visitors continues we especially wanted to help fund the board’s projects so have designated a **\$250 donation** to the Service Board. “100% of this money goes directly to helping make the residents’ daily lives better”.

Cameron Community Ministries is an Urban Outreach Community Center in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood of Rochester that provides hope to that community through emergency services, engagement, education and empowerment. **\$250** is being given to assist RCSD students with remote learning in the Cameron Learning and Enrichment Center.

The Mission team always welcomes any suggestions or questions,

Janette Keenan, Sue Sparnecht, Ellen Stokes



Noah Pray’s Eagle Ceremony

Thank you to all of the church family members from First Baptist Church who were able to attend Noah Pray’s Eagle Ceremony held in early August. The forecast called for 60% chance of rain the night before, reduced to 15% that morning, and the ceremony ended up being held under a beautiful sunny sky and just enough wind to make the day even more memorable (a few tipped flags, a stage skirt that briefly caught fire...). We cannot thank everyone enough for all that they have done for the Pray family while Darwin and Noah have been in scouting. Noah’s speech says it best....

“I want to give a big thank you to my church family, who has been there for me from the beginning. I remember running down after every weekly service with my popcorn sheet in hand and sitting down right in front of the doorway to sell popcorn to anyone who walked by. And after everyone got sick of popcorn, I would opt down to the entrance and sell spaghetti dinner tickets to those same people who were tired of eating so much popcorn. And then God you guys never got sick of spaghetti cause I had run out of things to sell at that point! Without the support of everyone in my church, I wouldn’t have been able to do nearly as much as I was able to, and so many memories I have are thanks to the support I got year after year by everyone from the church.”



A Message from the PRT...

You can reach any of the PRT members by phone or email. We would love to hear from you! Our team has been meeting monthly, providing support for the pastor, as well as providing a channel of communication between the pastor and the congregation.

If you have any praises, suggestions, or concerns to share, please reach out to one of the members.

- Libby Bertrand
- Pat Casey
- Alexandra Collison
- Penny Goodman
- Judy McNeil

Blessings,

The Pastoral Staff Relations Team



The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield
1862 Penfield Road
Penfield, NY 14526



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

Contact Information

(585) 586-2876

E-mail ~ fbpenfield@toast.net

Website ~ www.fbpenfield.org

Find us on Facebook

Church Office Hours

Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 12:00 pm

Wednesdays may vary

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.