

# The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2020

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## Pastor's Meditation

### ***THE POWER OF QUESTIONS***

A Pastor-in-Training met with his Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Supervisor, early in his first unit of CPE. The Supervisor began asking questions. Below is that Pastor's account of the conversation they had:

SUPERVISOR: "Do you believe that God made everything?"

STUDENT: "Yes."

SUPERVISOR: "Do you believe that God is all good?"

STUDENT: "Oh Yes." (He thought, 'that's an easy one!')

SUPERVISOR: "Do you believe that God is all-powerful?"

STUDENT: Of course. (He thought, 'where is she going with these questions?')

SUPERVISOR: "Then how do you account for the presence of evil in the world?"

STUDENT: (thoughtful pause) Because the Enemy tempted people back in the Garden..."

SUPERVISOR: "All right. Who or What is the Enemy?"

STUDENT: "The Devil. He's the evil one."

SUPERVISOR: "But you just said God made everything, and that God is all good."

STUDENT: "Yeah, I did."

SUPERVISOR: "If God created everything, did God also make the Enemy?"

STUDENT: "Yeah, I guess so, but it was the devil's choice to be evil."

SUPERVISOR: "But you said God created the devil. And who gave the devil the choice, whether to be evil or not? Was that God? (*Pastor-in-Training nods*) So if the devil is evil, and God made him, and God gave him the possibility of choosing evil over good, then God made evil, didn't He?"

STUDENT: (visibly upset.) "No, No, WAIT A MINUTE! That's not what I believe...."

SUPERVISOR. "Just exactly what do you believe, then?"

If you haven't already guessed, the struggling Pastor-in-Training was me. What a revelation

that was, over 20 years ago. Throughout the conversation, my supervisor had a bemused look on her face, like an expert juggler watching a novice fumble the pins. Perhaps she foreknew what our dialogue would lead to: a lifelong journey of fumbling questions, never finding a perfect answer. Yet I know my faith is stronger because she dared ask. I later learned these questions are part of what is known as “Theodicy,” defined as, “*The branch of theology that defends God's goodness and justice in the face of the existence of evil.*” ([wordnet.web/Princeton](http://wordnet.web/Princeton)). The theodicy questions should be on everyone’s mind this year, as we slog through one of the worst global pandemics in over 100 years and its economic fallout. Surely good and innocent people are getting sick, dying or losing their jobs. How could a good God allow this?

After struggling with theodicy for years, I realized that no living human will ever comprehend everything. But that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t ask questions. Inquiry is essential for people to grow. Very early in our development, as toddlers, we tested our parents’ patience by repeatedly asking “Why?” As we grow, we sometimes become too self-conscious to ask questions like we did. This is an unfortunate mistake; there is power in asking questions.

2020, of all the years we’ve lived, is the ideal time to ask the most powerful question: “Why do bad things happen to good people?” Asking that question can unlock the door to a better understanding of how the universe

works. Along the way, we affirm God’s power and goodness in the face of evil. And in the process, we grow our faith.

In Christ,  
Pastor Steve



### Moderator’s Musings

Dear Church,

Let me take you back to your youth (or maybe not so long ago) when you rode your first roller coaster. You waited in line (maybe it stretched back many hundreds of feet) and you got to the point in line where backing out was near impossible. The next milestone was choosing which line/car you would get into. You were now under a roof and your stomach may have been churning with excitement, fear....a little of both. Finally, the gate opens and you find yourself in an open area without people pressing in on both sides of you. You have a choice, enter the car and sit or enter the car, pass through, and run out the exit! You choose to sit and the bar that holds you in comes down. The cars start to move and it’s exiting- until you hit that point where you get pulled up the first, impossibly high lift. You are pushed back in your seat by gravity and the angle of climb, the chain beneath you rattles and clanks, the peak gets closer and closer until the cars are half up and half down. For a moment, you are either hanging backwards looking at the sky, hanging forward looking at the ground (frightfully far below) or you are sitting at that peak with the

option to look back, look forward, or just admire the view for a second before.....

That describes my life as moderator since February and my life, both as moderator and teacher, moving forward. But moving forward I must and so must the church.

My intention, with discussion from our Reimagine Committee and church leaders is to begin having “in person” services with a Zoom component by mid-September. There will be a congregational meeting prior to that (Zoom-wise) to discuss procedures, rules, and eventualities (“what happens if I’m the 46th person coming into church?”). This meeting would also be a time to learn how to log on for Zooming services (not much different than you’ve been doing). All of this contingent on whether or not Monroe County continues in it’s excellent downward tracking of infection; which at the writing of this letter is below 1%! College onboarding and returning to school may have some effect on that- which we are waiting to see- as well as guidance from State and local officials.

The good news is that the church sanctuary is as ready as ever to welcome you back. Seating has been established, procedures have been put into place, and, as of yesterday, the potential for allowing people to be a part of the service through Zoom is a conceptual certainty- we’ve tried it with the technology we have and it works.....we are moving towards making it work even better!

I feel the car I’m sitting in beginning to move so it is here that I must close this letter. Will what follows be thrilling? Will it be terrifying? Will I want to ride again? Will I feel the need to throw up? I don’t know. The best I can do is (try to) enjoy the ride. I guess, in life, that’s all any of can really do.

Peace and Understanding,

Michael Pray



### **September Birthdays**

3 Karen Casey  
 4 Bea Anderson  
 7 Ellen Stokes  
 8 Agnes Nichols  
 9 Bruce Thon  
 11 Walter Durland  
 14 Molly Frenia  
 15 Meliha Sehovic  
 16 Joyce Calkins  
 18 Penny Goodman  
 18 Irene Lipinski  
 19 Phyllis Britt  
 24 Chris Collison  
 30 Jane Pearson



**Thank You**

I want to thank the ladies for the well-wishing cards you sent to me.

Barbara King



**Note from the Trustees**

The basement window well repairs are underway. The project, which entails building new walls and caps, was previously delayed while waiting for the stakeout to be executed.

Several gray folding chairs are missing from the storage cabinet in Fellowship Hall. If anyone borrowed chairs please let us know. We are willing to loan chairs and tables to church members but the request should go to the church office or Fritz May beforehand.

Chris Ahl has been busy gardening around the church, weeding, trimming bushes and raking. Thank you Chris, your hours of work are making the church look so cared for at a time when we are unable to use the church building. These gardens take hours of work of Chris's time but the results are much appreciated.

The flowers in front of church were planted and maintained by Judy McNeil and Marsha Kiriazides. They also maintain the Memorial Bell Garden area just east of the building. Thank you both for taking on this very visible project.

If you haven't been by the church building lately, take a ride and see how great things look.

Respectfully,

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



**A Message from the PRT...**

As we patiently wait for our return to church, 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





Reminder to our members using the paper/cardboard dumpster in the parking lot:

Please remember to shred any personal papers before placing them in the dumpster. On multiple occasions, individuals have been seen in the parking lot standing at the dumpster going through papers that have been put in there.

For your own safety and privacy, please shred personal papers!



## Mission Giving in September

The challenges of COVID-19 are being felt by everyone. Your mission dollars mean more than ever to these local organizations responding to critical unmet needs. Thank you FBP family! *James 2:18: "I will show you my faith by what I do."*

Coldwater Women & Children Residential Home \$500

Penfield Hope \$500

Resolve (Domestic Violence Services) \$750

We welcome any suggestions or questions.

Janette Keenan, Sue Sparnecht, Ellen Stokes;  
Mission Team



**Penfield Coalition of Churches**

**FCHH**



Together with FCHH we look forward to celebrating a House Blessing of the *Penfield Coalition of Churches* co-sponsored house at 77 Melville St. in Rochester on September 12, 2020 at noon.

This marks the start of our 2019-2020 home build!

Thanks to each of you who support the Penfield Coalition for Habitat through mission giving, buying Thanksgiving pies, and plant or yard sale donations and purchases. We will introduce our home buyer family and share photos of the build progress in the coming months.

Learn more about the Habitat Interfaith Partnership and faith-based coalitions at [www.rochesterhabitat.org/faith](http://www.rochesterhabitat.org/faith).



**A Nice Gentle Cat**



**Needs a New Home**

Mittens, a 5 year old neutered male, doesn't like to be held, but loves to sit at your side, purr and look at you adoringly.

Mittens must find a new home because a family member has allergies.

If interested, and for more information, call Marie Sandman at 425-7528.





Every September 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.



## **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](http://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](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.*