

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2022

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Pastor's Meditation **March 2022**

The Importance of Our Stories

My mother-in-law, who died last year, would've turned 99 this month. Beyond missing her, Lenys' passing cost us an important link to family history. Lenys often talked about her father, speaking joyously about his personality and accomplishments.

Lenys' Dad, the Rev. R.R. Blews, earned a Ph.D. from Cornell University while a young man. We still have his "sheepskin" from that achievement. After graduation he served

Cornell as Professor of Classics and Ancient History for nearly a decade. Eventually, he sensed God's calling to the pastoral ministry in the Free Methodist Church, so he resigned his tenure-track position. Hearing he was leaving, one colleague declared, "You're a d--- fool," but Blews followed God, anyway. A nearly 50-year career in ministry ensued, bearing much fruit. He pastored churches, was District Superintendent and for years was president of a Christian college. During one church service, while young Lenys and her mother stood in the pew singing a hymn, her mother spied Blews seated behind the pulpit, scrawling something on the back of an envelope. She whispered to her daughter, "He's changing his sermon!" Following the hymn, he delivered a complete, meaningful message - all from last-minute notes jotted on the back of an envelope.

In his 70s, past so-called "retirement age," he took a pastorate at a church in Titusville, PA. There, he worked with a group of boys who were thought to be incorrigible. After just a few years, these boys committed their lives to Christ. Almost all of them grew up to serve the Lord in ministry and mission work. Rev. Blews died in 1974 at the age of 93. People traveled from all over for the funeral. I didn't meet Annette until years later, so I never met him, but one retired pastor we met grew wide-eyed with excitement talking about the late Rev. R.R. Blews.

Missing Lenys' stories, I took the liberty of tracking down Blews' last book, *Master Workmen*, a collection of biographies about bishops who built The Free Methodist Church. It was reprinted years ago by the denomination and was easily purchased online. The book has much to offer. I take issue with Blews' emphasis on men, excluding the women who surely accomplished great things in their own right. (In their defense, the Free Methodists were one of the earliest denominations to ordain women). And I'm proud of the denomination I serve. Having said all that, here is how the founder of Free Methodism, Rev. B.T. Roberts, described his calling to ministry, in 1844, at the age of 21:

"A pious but illiterate cooper, a very bad stammerer, gave in his testimony at the regular Sabbath afternoon prayer-meeting. I was there by the invitation of friends and his testimony found way to my heart. There was no special religious interest. The church was cold and sinners hard. God enabled me to start alone. Oh! The riches of His grace. I commenced to pray. It was hard work; but God encouraged me to persevere. As the light of the Spirit shone, I gave up one thing after another; but I clung to my profession. For three weeks I pled with God to convert me, but to let me have my choice in the business I would follow. Many who had power with God prayed for me; but I had to yield. Christ demanded an unconditional surrender; I made it. The joys of pardon and peace flowed into my soul. My cup was full, my happiness

unspeakable." (Blews, *Master Workmen*, p. 17)

Today there are 1.2 million Free Methodists worldwide, slightly smaller than the 1.3 million American Baptists. It all started with the testimony of a stammering, illiterate cooper. Right now, you have your own testimony. You possess a story of how God worked in your life. Maybe you can't compose a sermon on the back of an envelope, or turn around a group of unruly boys, but you still have a story. If you tell it, maybe something good will happen. Don't hesitate to share what God did for you. This month, I miss my mother-in-law Lenys, and her stories. Someday, someone might miss yours.

In Christ, Pastor Steve



Message From The Moderator

Hello Church Family and Friends,
and Hello March!

With some of the more major issues relating to Covid currently winding down in our community, it's time to start getting closer to somewhat normal. We are now back to in person Sunday Worship, in person Fellowship following worship, and in person Adult Discussion. We need our current teams to be active in their roles and volunteers who are willing to step up where help is needed. We are the church. We all need to work together to serve one another within our congregation and to serve the people within in our community as well.

One of the areas that we currently need help in is our Fellowship Time following worship. This involves a person or two to set up snacks and beverages and then clean up at the end. There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall with available dates open where help is needed. We will also be adding an opportunity to sign up on our church website. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like to be put on a certain date to help out.

I look forward to our time of fellowship with our church family, friends, and the people from our community who come to visit.

Thank you.
Kathy Ahl, Moderator

March Birthdays

2 Bonnie Cleaver
3 Elizabeth Beauter
4 Naomi Gregory
10 Georgia May
11 Michael Pray
13 Ashley Blackman
14 Laura Stokes
18 Stephen Bergonzi
18 Steve Hartman
20 Dick Andrews
21 Haley Bertrand
23 William Werther
26 Margery Maring
31 Libby Bertrand



Men's Lunch

Thursdays
at Noon
Riki's Restaurant
in Fairport

Notes from the Trustees

TECHNOLOGY: The COVID-19 Pandemic and increased usage of technology (broadcasting) from our sanctuary has emphasized the need for upgrading our current equipment. Zoom has allowed us to provide access to Sunday worship for those who are unable to attend in person. Trustees have met with a representative from Brighton Lights and Sound to determine what equipment improvements are needed for better broadcasting. The nature and cost of these improvements is yet to be determined.

BOILER,COMPRESSOR,

CIRCULATING PUMP: The Education Building has a 55 year old hot water boiler system that has served that building very well. The system is composed of a three chamber gas fired boiler, a compressor and a water circulating pump. Routine maintenance is done yearly. In November of 2021 the compressor motor was replaced.

On a Monday morning in early February 2022, PVNS experienced extremely warm classrooms (87 degrees). The boiler was shut down to eliminate the heat from climbing higher. By Wednesday morning the classrooms were chilly. A technician arrived mid-morning and determined the compressor motor had once again burned out. PVNS cancelled classes on Thursday due to the cold temperatures. The church office also closed, Sandra worked from home.

On Thursday, the motor was replaced and the system was working well when a technician left. Two hours later the new motor had seized and burned out. It was concluded that the problem lay with the working parts of our 20 year old compressor. We tried to manually operate the circulating pump to prevent pipes from freezing. New problem: the motor on the circulating pump didn't operate.

On Saturday, a new circulating pump and a temporary portable compressor were installed. We have found and installed new parts for the compressor, essentially creating a "new" compressor. We want to thank Feldman Heating and Cooling for working with us to create both temporary and permanent solutions to the equipment failures.

Respectfully,

Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien, Mike Pray, 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

Missions Report

During March the Missions Team will be presenting the America for Christ offering. This is one of the 4 annual offerings of the American Baptist Churches USA. The 2022 theme is based on Psalm 22:22: **“I will praise you and testify about what you have done.”** Donations to this offering provide much-needed assistance to communities devastated by natural disasters and the pandemic. Individuals and families in the United States and Puerto Rico who have faced uncertainty and crises from wild fires, floods, hurricanes, as well as children in poverty, are beneficiaries of this ministry and aid. When mailing a check to the church office, please remember to include America for Christ offering on the memo line.

Locally, we responded in February to the crisis at the Pines of Perinton by sending a \$500 check from the Missions budget to the fund that was set up to directly help the residents who were displaced by the fire.

Again this spring the Missions Team will be holding a **SPRING INTO ACTION** drive-thru collection in the church parking lot, to bolster the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf.

Date: SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

Time: 10 A.M. - NOON.

The items needed at this time that we have been asked to share are: **bars of soap,**

dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes. Also ground coffee in the "1 pound" size (actually about 11 oz) is needed. The Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf remains very grateful for the generous donations from our church family. We hope you can join us in this community mission.

Sue, Ellen, Janette



How to Join Sunday Worship Service by Phone

Dial in by phone to join each Sunday's virtual service starting at 9 am

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

When prompted, punch in this meeting ID -----> 839 345 585

When prompted, punch in -----> #



LENTEN Adult Discussion

Beginning March 6, Sunday Adult Discussion will be based on the DVD series, 'Seven Words,' description as follows:

While many of us naturally wish to avoid the reality of the cross, it's from the cross that Jesus speaks and shows his deepest love for us. It's from the cross that Jesus' full humanity draws us closest to him. It's from the cross, as Jesus breathes his last breath and speaks his last words, that his deep trust in the Father and his divine glory are revealed. Those who listen to Jesus' last words from the cross will discover what he most wants them (the world) to hear and will experience an intimate and divine awe only available to those who are willing to draw near his cross. In *Seven Words*, Susan Robb looks at the seven last words of Christ on the cross through a lens that finds life and hope in his final sayings, while exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. The book brings a hopeful and contemplative take on the cross during the weeks of Lent. The six-session DVD features Susan Robb guiding participants through the study. The video sessions are approximately 10-12 minutes in length and, when combined with the six book chapters, make an ideal six-week group study. All video sessions are closed captioned.



Zoom Instructions for Adult Discussion

**Adult Discussion Following Worship
11:15-NOON
This is a recurring meeting
In person and on Zoom**

Below is the Online Information

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84560421536>

Call-in information
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 845 6042 1536

Please save this Zoom information



World Day of Prayer Service **Friday March 4 at noon**

Friday, March 4 is World Day of Prayer. Pastor Steve and other Rochester-area ministers will be hosting a half-hour Zoom prayer service to honor that day. We hope you can join us. Link and call-in information appears below:

Time: Mar 4, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85678751377>

Call-in information:

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 856 7875 1377



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



Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday March 13th



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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.*