

# The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



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### Pastor's Meditation April 2022

Easter is this April 17<sup>th</sup>. Though we make a big deal about Christmas, with its catchy songs and splendid decorations, Easter is far more central to our faith. While the importance of God becoming human cannot be understated, in another sense, newborn babies happen daily. How often do self-administered resurrections take place, proving that the baby, who grew to be a man named Jesus, was really God? Christianity is famous

(or infamous) for its moral standards, but every rule kneels worshipfully before Jesus' Easter resurrection. Perhaps another pastor can explain Easter's significance in a better way. Below is taken from an Easter meditation by Frederick Buechner, entitled, "The End is Life." I hope it speaks to you as it did me. Happy Easter, everyone! In Christ, Pastor Steve:

*If I thought that when you strip it right down to the bone, this whole religion business is just an affirmation of the human spirit, an affirmation of moral values, an affirmation of Jesus of Nazareth as the Great Exemplar of all time and no more, then like Pilate I would wash my hands of it. The human spirit does not impress me that much, I am afraid. And I have never been able to be get very excited one way or the other about moral values. And when I have the feeling that someone is trying to set me a good example, I start edging toward the door.*

*So what do I believe actually happened that morning on the third day after he died?*

*I can tell you this; that what I believe happened and what in faith and with great joy I proclaim is that he somehow got up, with life in him again, and the glory upon him. And I speak very plainly here, very un fancifully. He got up. He said, 'Don't be afraid.' Rich man, poor man, child, sick man, dying; man who cannot believe, scared sick man, lost one. Young man with your life ahead of you: "Don't be afraid."*

*He said, "Feed my sheep," which is why, like the chief priests and the Pharisees, we try to make that tomb as secure as we can. Because this is what he always says: "Feed my sheep...my lambs." And this is what we would make ourselves secure from, knowing the terrible needs of the lambs and our abundance, knowing our own terrible needs.*

*He said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."*

*Anxiety and fear are what we know best in this fantastic century of ours. Wars and rumors of wars. From civilization itself to what seemed the most unalterable values of the past, everything is threatened or already in ruins. We have heard so much tragic news that when the news is good we cannot hear it.*

*But the proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well, but as one who has faced the cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, his will not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and our lives through him, in him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord has risen. (Buechner, Frederick, in various eds., Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter, p.290)*

In Christ, Pastor Steve



## **Message From The Moderator**

Hello Church Family and Friends,

Spring has arrived! A time of fresh growth and new beginnings! I hope you are all ready for it, because I believe that God has BIG plans for us!

After two full years of uncertainty, on the first day of spring, we have begun optional masking. (Please find the official announcement, below my message.)

All of this coincides with the timing of our Annual Meeting, Part II, on Sunday April 24th, following worship. At this meeting, we will be voting in new team members to our various teams. With our new team members finalized, we will all move forward together to begin planning for the future of our church. These are exciting times as we are now able to get back to planning like we used to do, pre-Covid.

With all of that being said, the Vice Moderator and I continue to make contacts with prospective team members for various teams. This is being done prayerfully, with much thought and consideration. By the time this message gets out, there may still be a few slots to be filled. If you happen to get contacted by one of us, please carefully and

prayerfully consider our suggestion. We have much to catch up on as we are able to become active again, and we all need to ‘team-up’ and work together to accomplish great things for our church, it’s people, and the community around us.

To God be the glory, great things he has done! And great things He will continue to do through us, if we continue to answer His calling for our church. Let’s all be a part of His vision here at this beautiful, historic, First Baptist Church in the heart of Penfield, New York!

This is my last ‘Message From The Moderator’, as I step down to welcome Bruce Blackman as incoming Moderator effective on Sunday April 24th, following our Annual Meeting. It has been my pleasure to serve. I thank you all for your love and support. I will continue to serve in a few different capacities and I look forward to working with all of you to make this church all that God desires it to be.

Blessings, Love and Light,  
Kathy Ahl, Moderator



**ANNOUNCEMENT - Regarding**  
**OPTIONAL MASKING**

From The Moderator – Effective  
Sunday March 20th, 2022

**Optional masking has officially started.**

Please attend our live services in our sanctuary in whatever way you are most comfortable.

Masking is optional as well in Fellowship Hall, where we gather for Fellowship Time, Adult Discussion and other various events.

Disposable Masks and Hand Sanitizing Gel will continue to be available for those who chose to use them. (The Coordinating Council will continue to monitor Covid updates provided by the Monroe County Department of Health and will make changes to our masking policy if necessary.)

\*\*\* **Please Note: Masking will continue to remain mandatory for our Nursery Staff until further notice.**

Thank you, Kathy Ahl – Moderator



**April Birthdays**

- 6 Jeff Bertrand
- 11 George Blackman
- 12 Margaret Militello
- 14 Nancy Lancaster
- 19 Blake Phillips
- 22 Michael Bergonzi
- 23 Donald Maring
- 25 Donna Trabert
- 26 Chis Ahl



**Men’s Lunch**

Thursdays  
at Noon  
Riki’s Restaurant  
in Fairport



**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



**Notes from the Trustees**

Last month the Trustees informed you that upgrades to our technology were needed especially for broadcasting purposes.

In late February, Mike Pray and Jeff Phillips met with a representative from Applied Audio and Theater Supply to review what we currently have, suggest improvements and longer term goals.

It was decided that we needed an audio converter that would send our church sound directly into the Zoom output. Also, some adaptors, and a new mic to pick up music

would be needed. The equipment was purchased, at a modest cost, and installed. Sound is now going out to Zoom participants “inline” rather than through an external mic.

Mike and Jeff also talked with Applied about upgrading and replacing the system we have. For \$2,000 - \$3,000, depending on the speakers we choose, we can get a new digital mixer that will feed a signal to the new in house speakers, which will have their own amplification. We would eliminate the current speakers and channel mixer and replace them with a 9/10 channel mixer and two amplified speakers.

Upgrading our technology is going to greatly improve our electronic communication, but at the same time, we strongly encourage anyone who can worship in person to do so.

Respectfully,

Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien, Mike Pray, Sarah Phillips, David Trump



## Missions Report

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, tooth brushes. 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.

On the same morning Penfield Boy Scout Troop 230 will be collecting cans/bottles with a New York State deposit, to benefit humanitarian relief in Ukraine. They have asked us to share the parking lot. Of course, there is space for all. So, if you have cans/bottles that you would like to donate to the Boy Scouts, bring those along too. We hope you can join us in this community mission.

In response to the crisis in Ukraine, the Missions team reorganized our plan for Sundays in March. Since the One Great Hour of Sharing offering of American Baptist Churches USA are funds that are directed to international locations, we decided to move that campaign to March to replace the

America for Christ offering which we will now present in June. Our hearts go out to do what we can to help with humanitarian aid for the people of Ukraine and to the surrounding countries as they open their arms to refugees in dire need. "Let your heart be broken for a world in need..." We are in prayer for this horrific conflict to come to an end.

Happy Easter Everyone!

Sue, Ellen, Janette





**SPRING INTO ACTION**

**Drive-thru Collection for Penfield  
Ecumenical Food Shelf**

**SATURDAY APRIL 2, 2022  
10 A.M. - NOON**

**First Baptist Penfield parking lot**

**ITEMS NEEDED AT THIS TIME:**

- Bar soap
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Ground coffee (1 lb cans)

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.



**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 -----> #**

**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**

## **LENTEN Adult Discussion**

Sunday Adult Discussion is 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.



**Thank You**

Pastor Steve and Annette say "Thank you!" for all the expressed congratulations and gifts for our son David and his wife Kayla as they welcome into the world their first child (and our first grandchild), Skye Lenys Brotzman. We are grateful to God and proud as Punch!





**Maundy Thursday  
Dinner and Service**

Please join us in New Fellowship Hall for a Maundy Thursday dinner and service, on Thursday, April 14.

Dinner starts at 6:00pm. Service starts at 7:00pm, also in New Fellowship Hall.

For the dinner, a stuffed-shells meal will be provided.

Masking is optional. Seating will be spread-out.

Take-out is available.

There is no charge, but you will be allowed to make a donation: any profits (above the meal's cost) will support the Ukrainian Cultural Center of Rochester.

**Please call Sandra with your seating reservation or to reserve takeout.**



**Who We Are**

The First Baptist Church of Penfield was established in 1804 in what is now an eastern suburb of Rochester, New York.

We are affiliated with American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region, and nationally with the American Baptist Churches, USA.

We welcome all to worship with us. Our congregation is a gathering of people who are diverse in theology and political opinions, but who are all seeking to know God in a deeper and more meaningful way.

The First Baptist Church of Penfield continues to include all who seek Jesus as Lord - regardless of race, class, gender, disability, place of origin, or sexual orientation, identity, or expression.





## **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

Samantha Sosa, Caroline Duers,

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](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 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.*