

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2023

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Pastor's Meditation

Without Faith

The late Thomas Merton lived for a time with his grandparents, at 241-15 Rushmore Avenue, in the section of Queens, New York City, in a section known as Douglaston-Little Neck. It was and remains a prosperous upper middle-class community. The stately home,

over 100 years old now, still stands. But even while experiencing an idyllic life, Merton could tell something was missing. After a misspent young adulthood, Merton decided to leave material comforts behind and entered a Kentucky monastery. Reflecting on his grandparents' lives, he wrote:

“Was there any possibility of happiness without faith? Without some principle that transcended everything we had ever known? The house in Douglaston, which my grandparents had built, and which they maintained for twenty-five years with the ice-box constantly full and the carpets all clean and fifteen different magazines on the living-room table and a Buick in the garage...was the symbol of a life that had brought them nothing but confusions and anxieties and misunderstandings and fits of irritation.” (Thomas Merton, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, 396).

This sentiment is echoed in a disparate source, the script of the movie *Field of Dreams*:

Ray, people will come, Ray. They'll come to Iowa for reasons they can't even fathom. They'll turn up your driveway, not knowing for sure why they're doing it. They'll arrive at your door as innocent as children, longing for the past.

"Of course, we won't mind if you look around," you'll say. "It's only twenty dollars per person." They'll pass over the money without even thinking about it. For it is money they have and peace they lack." (Field of Dreams, movie script).

Both sources indirectly ask the question: *what if you succeed in life, and then discover you're not happy?* For the Hollywood movie, the antidote is baseball. (The script continues: "The one constant through all the years, Ray, has been baseball. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It's been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt, and erased again. But baseball has marked the time.")

Much as I appreciate baseball, I would challenge us to go deeper. Consider Thomas Merton's solution to the human condition: faith. What good is it for someone to achieve all their dreams and then discover that they missed their true purpose in life? These are the people about whom Jesus asked, "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" (Mark 8:36, NIV).

Faith tells us there is something more, beyond material comforts, beyond the World Series, beyond the American Dream, even. There is God, who created us. God had in mind some purpose for our very being. Jesus' purpose was to live and die so that all sins could be forgiven. How? By faith. Faith is the belief that God is real, and that God's promises in Scripture will be fulfilled. Faith is the belief

that God will forgive our transgressions, right all wrongs, heal all sicknesses and fulfill all God's reasons for our very existence. Faith is holding on to these convictions even should this world fall apart around us. Faith restores joy to this problematic world and promises new life in the next. Where is the answer found? Is it in comfort? Is it in baseball? As the hymn declares, "Faith is the victory, that overcomes the world."

In Christ, Pastor Steve



April Birthdays

- 6 Jeff Bertrand
- 9 Jim Reynolds
- 11 George Blackman
- 12 Margaret Militello
- 13 Dawn Donaher
- 13 Mirka Green
- 14 Nancy Lancaster
- 19 Blake Phillips
- 20 Lia Donaher
- 22 Michael Bergonzi
- 23 Donald Maring
- 25 Donna Trabert
- 26 Chis Ahl



Church Ladies' Lunch

Tuesday, April 18th at Noon

**Timothy Patrick's (TP's)
916 Panorama Trail
Rochester, NY 14625**



Men's Lunch

Thursdays at Noon

Riki's Restaurant in Fairport



Garments Needed

Please consider making, knitting hats, shawls, prayer shawls, lap quilts. Mittens for those in need. Please contact Pat Heckman for more information.



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

Pastor Steve's Minister-Church Agreement for 2023 has been approved by the Trustees and signed by the Pastor, Chair of the Trustees and the Church Moderator.

The "Replace the Roof" Capital Fund Drive will begin soon. Be on the lookout for further details.

EMS, our fire alarm system provider, conducted the annual testing in early March and we successfully passed.

Mark your calendars: the second half of the church Annual Meeting will be during second hour on April 21, 2023. We strongly encourage you to attend this important meeting.

Respectfully,

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



Missions Report

The Missions Team wants to thank everyone who so generously supported our efforts during March!!

In response to the recent, devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, 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 disasters, we decided to move that campaign to March to replace the America for Christ offering which we will now present in June.

With your donations our church has helped with humanitarian relief for the earthquake survivors; the needs are so great! With ongoing prayers, we can continue to lift up the people who have lost loved ones; there were over 50,000 deaths. Also, we need to remember the injured and the rescue workers. We are reminded of the 2021 theme of One Great Hour of Sharing, which was: **Let Love Flow**. Love Responds; Love Rebuilds; Love Remembers.

We also want to thank all of you who brought food for the **Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf** on March 25th. Spirits run high at our drive-thru collections, a testament to how good it feels to be helping to brighten someone else's life with a special meal. You are all a part of that excitement, and we hope

your sharing makes your Easter more special too. Thank you for your bountiful contributions!

Janette, Ellen, Susie



April Adult Discussion

Adult Discussion, April 2023 will feature *Good Boundaries and Goodbyes: Loving Others Without Losing the Best of Who You Are*, a video series by Lysa Terkeurst. She asks the questions: "Is it unloving or selfish to set a boundary? And what does the Bible instruct us to do when a relationship is no longer safe or unsustainable?"...After thousands of hours of counseling intensives and theological research, Lysa has discovered that good boundaries pave the road for the truest version of love to emerge within the relationships that make up so much of who we are and what we want the most.

Discussion will begin at 11:15am, in New Fellowship Hall and also on Zoom.

April 2 - *Boundaries Aren't Just a Good Idea, they're a God idea.*

April 9 - Easter (no adult discussion)

April 16 - *A Relationship Can Only Be as Healthy as the People in It*

April 23 - Annual Meeting, Part II (no adult discussion)

April 30 - *Maybe We've Been Looking at Walls All Wrong*

First Baptist Church of Penfield
2023 Coffee Schedule

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in providing snacks and making coffee for our second hour, please sign up in the NFH and call Sarah Phillips at 585-329-7072 or email her at dunes1158@yahoo.com



How to Join Sunday
Worship Service by Phone

Dial in by phone to join each Sunday's virtual service
Zoom opens at 9 am
Worship Service starts at 9:30 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 ----- > #_



Adult Discussion Following Worship
Zoom Instructions

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>

Meeting ID: 845 6042 1536

Call-in information

[+1 646 876 9923 US \(New York\)](tel:+16468769923)

Meeting ID: 845 6042 1536



Cameron Meal

Our next Cameron meal will be on April 30, 2023. We will be serving our beloved chili that day and need people to sign up to make Chili, Salad, Corn Bread, and Cookies. There will be sign up sheets in NFH on Sundays, April 2nd - April 23rd, so please consider signing up!

We ask that your food donation be placed in the kitchen (either on the counter or in the refrigerator) by Sunday, April 30th at 11:00 am.

Thank you so much!

Virginia Bergonzi-Blackman

Wednesday Zoom Prayer Group

Please join Pastor Steve Wednesday for a Zoom Prayer Group Meeting. We will share our concerns and take them to God. Although we've scheduled a one-hour Zoom meeting, these are expected to end sooner. Please join us!

1:00 pm Prayer Group:

Zoom Computer Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/950690121>

Meeting ID: 950 690 121

Phone users dial: 1-646-876-9923

When Prompted, enter

Meeting ID: 950 690 121



Maundy Thursday Service

7pm New Fellowship Hall

Jesus served his disciples by washing their feet and said, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." (John 13:20). Pastor Steve will ceremonially re-enact (just pouring clean water from a pitcher over one of your feet while catching the water in a basin below, then handing you a clean towel so you can dry your foot). No food will be provided - just music, scripture prayer, and the promise of a meaningful re-enactment of Jesus' service to his disciples.

Bible Club Meeting

**Wednesday, - Time: 6:00 pm
NFH and Zoom**

Please join us as we begin reading the Bible, from start to finish, using *The Daily Contemplative Bible*, which has segmented the entire Bible into 365 daily readings. By the end of the year, we will have read the Bible cover-to-cover! Teaching & Worship Teams have provided the first 10 copies. If additional people participate, the cost is \$14 each. Electronic copies are also available for Kindle readers at a cost of \$10.

The New Revised Standard Version text—the most trusted, accepted, and accurate translation of the Bible on the market.

How to join us online:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86182075740>

Meeting ID: 861 8207 5740

Call-in:

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 861 8207 5740



Your health and safety are foremost with us, and we encourage everyone to wear a mask, due to the following current information from the Centers for Disease Control Website ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)): **Medium** as of March 16, 2023

Medium

In Monroe County, New York, community level is **Medium**.

- If you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), wear a high-quality [mask or respirator](#) (e.g., N95) when indoors in public.
- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them.
- [Stay up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines, including recommended booster doses.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow the recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19.

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality [mask or respirator](#) when indoors in public.

If you are immunocompromised, learn more about [how to protect yourself](#).

Find out more about the COVID-19 situation in **Monroe County, New York** with [COVID-19 Data Tracker](#).

December 22, 2022

What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a mask indoors in public • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms • Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

People may choose to mask at any time. People with [symptoms, a positive test, or exposure](#) to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. Masks are recommended in indoor public transportation settings and may be required in other places by local or state authorities.

If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease, learn more about [how to protect yourself](#) with additional CDC recommendations for each COVID-19 Community Level.

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

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

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

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.