

# The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2023

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### Pastor's Meditation July 2023

Annette's parents, Warren and Lenys Hazen, were married for over 57 years. They met around 1938 and began an on-and-off courtship that ran nearly 10 years until their marriage on Christmas Eve, 1948. After a long pause during the courtship, they began talking again as Warren considered asking Lenys to marry him. Part of family lore is Warren's question to Lenys: "Do you go to church?"

She replied, "Yes."

Then he asked: "*Does it mean anything to you?*"

The Pew Research Center recently asked a similar question to a sampling of the

American public: "The 2021 NPORS (National Public Opinion Reference Survey) ... asked respondents how often they pray and how important religion is in their lives." Regardless of how one defines "religion," religion is still important to many Americans. However, the numbers are declining: "Today, fewer than half of U.S. adults (45%) say they pray on a daily basis. By contrast, nearly six-in-ten (58%) reported praying daily in the 2007 Religious Landscape Study, as did 55% in the 2014 Landscape Study. Roughly one-third of U.S. adults (32%) now say they seldom or never pray, up from 18% who said this in 2007."

The survey goes on to report, "Still, the available data indicates that Americans are growing less religious by this measure, too. Random-digit-dial (RDD) telephone surveys conducted in 2017 and 2019 found fewer U.S. adults saying religion is "very important" in their lives compared with previous telephone polls. And the 2021 NPORS finds that 41% of U.S. adults now say religion is "very important" in their lives, 4 points lower than the 2020 NPORS and substantially lower than all of the Center's earlier RDD readings on this question."

([https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2021/12/14/about-three-in-ten-u-s-adults-are-now-religiously-unaffiliated/pf\\_12-14-21\\_npors\\_0\\_4/](https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2021/12/14/about-three-in-ten-u-s-adults-are-now-religiously-unaffiliated/pf_12-14-21_npors_0_4/))

The causes for this phenomenon are not completely clear. Some commentators blame distractions, such as youth sports, Sunday football and entertainment-on-demand. Others cite weakening family structures and the decline of the traditional Monday-Friday 40-hour workweek. Yet others blame religious leaders' advocacy for one political party over another. This particular commentator speculates that it's not an "either-or" cause, but more of a "both-and." I've known plenty of young people and parents who couldn't attend Sunday church because of competing Sunday morning practices. I've experienced, in my own life, the pull of Sunday football. I've known people who would not attend church after their family fell apart because it was too embarrassing. I possess strong political beliefs, but I've seethed as corrupt so-called "faith leaders" cozied up to one politician and one party, completely abdicating their responsibility to represent God. God existed long before political parties and God will live on, forever after the Democratic and Republican parties are disgraced and extinct.

My approach to these challenges is to look at Scripture and address what we can. Where in the Bible does it say church must always meet on Sunday? Where does it say that our lives need to be perfect before we can enter worship? Opening up the Bible, I can discern what is said (and not said) about important issues. I consistently refuse to endorse any candidate from the pulpit, so no politician will ever "own" me. I strive for the basics and

encourage you to do so as well: Read Scripture. Consider. Communicate with God (which means talking, as well as listening). Ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit and don't let up. Ask God for help. Ask God for healing. Ask, seek, knock. (Matthew 7:7-8).

Back to Warren's question: Did church mean anything to Lenys? She answered, "yes," and then served the church, and moreover, her Savior, at times mightily, during her long and fruitful marriage. Does church mean anything to me? I answer, "yes," not because those are the words you're expecting a pastor to say, but because I feel my very calling, my very soul, requires it. A Christian church only means something if it serves Jesus Christ. And I want church to mean something more and something more again, to me and everyone else.

Over 75 years ago, my father-in-law posed good questions to his future partner:

*"Do you go to church?"* and

*"Does it mean anything to you?"*

What are your answers?

In Christ, Pastor Steve



**July Birthdays**

- 4 Marie Foltz
- 8 Johnathan Britt
- 15 Nathan Bertrand
- 20 Joseph Collison
- 22 Fritz May
- 24 Bella Greco Lopes
- 24 Olivia Phillips
- 27 Kay Brockway
- 27 Liz Fasel
- 29 Jenna Collison
- 29 Lauren Collison
- 31 Drew Britt
- 31 Gloria Fisler



**Church Ladies' Lunch**

**Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>  
Donnelly's  
State Street,  
Fairport**



**Men's Lunch**

**Thursdays at Noon  
Riki's Restaurant in Fairport**



**Missions Report**

**At the time of this writing, the America for Christ** special offering is about at the halfway mark. The Missions Team is pleased to say that at this juncture, over \$850 has been donated for bringing "**Grace Upon Grace**" to people in the United States and Puerto Rico who need hope and healing from difficult and devastating circumstances. We **thank you** for your donations.

American Baptist Churches Rochester-Genesee Region (ABC-RGR) is an important local resource for our church. In June we designated \$1,000 from our Missions budget in support of their work, "shaped by the values of respect, Godly justice and reconciliation." (quoted from [abcgrg.org](http://abcgrg.org)) We have also designated \$500 for the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf (PEFS) on Jackson Road because their need to provide food typically increases during the summer months when schools are not in session.

We wish you a safe and fun summer,  
Ellen, Susie, Janette



**Notes from the Trustees**

The Capital Fund Drive to cover the cost of tree removals at 1866 Penfield Road and roof replacement on the east side of Old Fellowship Hall, meeting room and bathrooms officially ended June 30<sup>th</sup> but all pledged funds and additional contributions are still welcome. To date we have collected about \$12,300.00 with an additional \$2,200.00 pledged but still outstanding. If you have not yet contributed and are considering doing so, there is still time.

The new east roof on Old Fellowship Hall has been completed. When the roofing was removed on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 60 plus sheets of plywood were replaced due to water damage, adding about \$4,000.00 to the cost of the project. The new total for the replacement project is \$19,000.00. Cameron Roofing did the project and was very professional to work with.

This summer, PVNS (Penfield Village Nursery School and Kindergarten) will be painting their portions of the education building. The work will entail painting all three floors of the PVNS stairway, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hallways, the hallway leading to the gym (Old Fellowship Hall), the foyer outside OFH and the ceiling in both areas. The Trustees agreed to this \$7,000.00 improvement in lieu of rent increases for the next 3 years. Additionally, PVNS is looking to make improvements to the playground, including replacing the stone and small patch of grass with playground mulch. The

anticipated cost is approximately \$12,000.00. The fresh paint and playground improvement will be a welcome upgrade.

Respectfully,

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



**Roof Work**



**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

**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 ----- > #\_



**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

**Bible Club Meeting**

Wednesday, - Time: 6:00 pm

Online/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 – cost is \$14. each. By the end of the year, we will have read the Bible cover-to-cover!

Pizza provided for those attending in-Person

**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



**Adult Discussion Following Worship**

will resume in the fall



**Penfield Independence Day Parade**

**Saturday, July 1, 2022**

**10:00 am**

**Meet on Front Lawn of the Church  
before 9:30 am**

**Penfield road will be closed to traffic  
from 9:30 am to approximately noon.**



**Health Safety**

The COVID-19 level is updated Thursdays after 8:00 pm.

For the latest info on Covid-19, please go to the Center for Disease Control Website [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for weekly updates of the COVID-19 level. Or call the CDC at 1-800-232-4636 for updates.



## **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

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

### **Summer Church Office Hours**

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

### **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.*