

# The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2023

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### Pastor's Meditation August 2023

#### *Getting "Unlinked"*

Years ago, I attended a pastor's lunch meeting, where each pastor brought her or his own lunch. One pastor friend brought Korean beef from a nearby restaurant. From the moment he opened the takeout container, the fragrant scent of that meal began filling the room. As he ate, I was distracted by the aroma and experienced coveting. I struggled to appreciate my own, less-desirable lunch. I patiently waited until he was finished before asking him what he had eaten. "Bulgogi – Beef," he replied, "Amazing food. I would've gladly let you try some," and I said,

"That's why I waited – I didn't want to steal off your plate."

Not knowing what to make for dinner that night, I picked up an order of Bulgogi from that same restaurant. To pay for it, the proprietor swiped my debit card into an attachment on her cellular phone, using a digital application. I received an email receipt later that day. I thought, "This is convenient – no cash register, no receipts to carry around."

Weeks later, though, I received another email receipt, this time for \$50.09 worth of food from that same restaurant. I wouldn't have minded buying another order, even a \$50 order, because that place serves truly great food. The problem was: it wasn't my order. I hadn't been back to the restaurant since that first day. I calmed down when I realized the order wasn't billed to my debit card, or to any other card of mine. The proprietor had simply entered the wrong email address and sent the email receipt to the wrong place. The message gave me the option of clicking on a link to certify that it wasn't my receipt, which I did. Then I was asked if I wanted to be "unlinked" from that credit card, and I happily clicked, "YES." Just like that, the screen reported I was "unlinked." The next time that person ordered food, I didn't get his receipt or anyone else's (other than my own), in all the years since.

I wish that sin and bad habits could be so readily “unlinked.” But it is human nature that we persistently repeat bad behaviors, until God, in time, brings changes. Maybe we are overly-compelled toward Korean barbeque, which is my sin. Maybe, as explained in the Bible, we succumb to a myriad of sins in “thought, word and deed.” As the prayer continues, we sin “By things we have done, and things we have left undone.” Whatever the sin, eliminating it can be exasperating. The Apostle Paul is arguably the greatest Christian missionary ever. But when he thought of his own sins, he exclaimed,

*For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:22-25 NRSVUE).* Paul’s solution was not some email link, but a real human being with whom he related, someone unique, fully God and fully human, Jesus. He proclaimed, “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” We can all have that relationship. Christ forgives the sins we have committed, and even continues to forgive us as we stumble and fall. And ultimately, in God’s good time, God can change our hearts – empowering us so that we don’t keep stumbling into the same old habits. What do

you struggle with? Whatever it is, through Jesus Christ, we can be “unlinked.”

In Christ, Pastor Steve

**August Birthdays**

- 5 Rev. Berta M. Arnold
- 11 Carolyn Fry
- 15 Pauline Bennett
- 18 Sarah Stokes
- 20 Jim Symonds
- 21 Carol Morse
- 27 Jacob Trabert
- 29 Bob Foltz



**Church Ladies’ Lunch**  
**Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon**  
**Restaurant - TBD**



**Men’s Lunch**  
**Thursdays at Noon**  
**Riki’s Restaurant in Fairport**



## Notes from the Trustees

Thank you to everyone who supported our recently completed Capital Fund Drive. The purpose was to cover the cost of two unexpected expenses, replacing the east roof over Old Fellowship Hall and tree removal at 1866 Penfield Road (the custodian's house). We have paid the bills and have a surplus of about \$2,000.00. The Trustees have decided to add that balance to the Capital Reserve for future capital projects.

The sound system in the sanctuary is operated under the very capable control of Mike Pray, Greg Goodman and Jeff Phillips. Any event, in the sanctuary, that wishes to incorporate the sound system must state that to the office when reserving the sanctuary space. Mike, Greg or Jeff must be involved with any usage of the technology. Recently, we were unable to produce our normal Sunday service broadcast because the sound system was inappropriately used for an event during the previous week. The bottom line is, no one should attempt to use the technology equipment without Mike, Greg, or Jeff being involved in the process. The Trustees appreciate your awareness and respect for the recent upgrades to our technology and why only those trained operators are to be involved with its usage.

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**

A very recent news article from the American Baptist Churches USA, was about the storms and flooding in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and Pennsylvania. The heading: "ABHMS Mobilizes in Response to Devastating Flooding in the Northeast" Yes, people facing a disaster in our quadrant of the country will be helped by generous donations like those collected at our church! During the month of June, the total collected for the America for Christ offering was \$1,255.40 per Bill Werther.

"Healing and transforming communities" becomes so much more than words spoken in a video!

The Missions Team did not meet in July, but we preplanned for disbursements from our budget. \$500 was sent to Penfield Hope for their work to help people in need in our community. \$1,000 was sent to American Baptist Churches' United Mission. United Mission is the, "simple, efficient way American Baptists pool financial resources to maximize the amount of good we can do." We participate annually in this joint fund.

We wish you a safe and fun summer,

Ellen, Susie, Janette



**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**

**No Meeting Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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**

**NFH & Online/Zoom**

**No Meeting Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**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



**Health Safety**

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**



## Habitat for Humanity Updates

First Baptist Penfield has been a member of the Penfield Area Coalition of Churches Supporting Flower City Habitat since 1997. In January of 2023 the Flower City, Wayne County and Ontario County Habitat for Humanity Affiliates merged into a new organization that is now called *Greater Rochester Habitat For Humanity*.

Additionally, in March of 2023 the Penfield Area Coalition steering committee voted to join a joint coalition of five other area faith-based coalitions to form **Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders (GRIB)** with the mission of financing and building a Habitat home every year. The first Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders home is slated to break ground July 22, 2023. The house is located at 108 Ackerman Street in the Beechwood neighborhood. Our Penfield coalition will continue to meet and fundraise as a separate group as will each of our coalition partners from Perinton, Brighton, Greece, Harvest Home/Henrietta and Habitat Interfaith Partnership/Pittsford. The GRIB Coalition is made up of representatives from each of these six Faith coalitions. A monthly newsletter and website will be available soon.

**For more information visit**  
[info@grhabitat.org](mailto:info@grhabitat.org)

Photos of the 2023 Penfield Area Coalition of Churches sponsored home. This is the last home we sponsored on our own before joining Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders (GRIB) in March 2023.





## 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, ~ Choral Scholars

Sandra 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.*