

# The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2022

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### Pastor’s Meditation December 2022

#### **Silent Night – “YOU NO FIGHT, WE NO FIGHT”**

I’m writing this in early November, at the end of yet-another contentious election season. At this moment, all results aren’t tabulated yet,

so the contest continues. This exhausting period, characterized by grandstanding, personal attacks, accusations and incendiary rhetoric, is something like the experience of war, minus the physical violence (although January 6, 2021 is still etched in our collective memory). In the backdrop is a real war in a far-away place, Ukraine.

In 1918, U.S. Senator Hiram Warren Johnson allegedly said, “The first casualty when war comes is truth.” This may have echoed something Samuel Johnson wrote less-concisely over 150 years earlier, (“Among the calamities of war may be jointly numbered the diminution of the love of truth, by the falsehoods which interest dictates, and credulity encourages.”) When at war, we lie about our enemies to make killing them seem morally acceptable. Politics works in a similar way. When in a political war, we lie about our enemies to make demonizing them seem okay. When a January 6 event comes, the line is crossed from verbal abuse to physical violence, and things start to look and feel like real war.

The First World War was undoubtedly a real war, costing the world approximately 40 million casualties. Early on, the war was effectively a stalemate, with soldiers living and dying in trenches, holding on to territory. As Roger Waters wrote about such conflicts, “The General sat, and the lines on the map moved from side to side.”

In the midst of this muddy and bloody conflict, *peace broke out* on Christmas Eve, 1914. At various places along the “No Man’s Land” that separated British, French and German troops, mutual decisions were made to stop fighting in honor of Christmas. Stanley Weintraub wrote about one such example, “As both sides milled about in a frosty mist still slow to fade, the Queen’s Westminster Rifles, near Armentieres, sent out Rifleman A. J. Philip to meet five Germans who, after singing since daybreak, shouted for someone to arrange a ‘you no shoot, we no shoot’ day. Armed only with wine, cakes, chocolate and cigarettes, one German gravely saluted and announced in English that he was an officer and a Londoner....Signboards arose up and down the trenches in a variety of shapes. They were usually in English, or from the Germans – in fractured English. ...’YOU NO FIGHT, WE NO FIGHT’ was the most frequently employed German message. Some British units improvised ‘MERRY CHRISTMAS’ banners and waited for a response. More placards on both sides popped up.” (Weintraub, Stanley, *Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce*, New York: The Free Press, 2001). This cease-fire was not the result of any formal diplomacy. It was soldiers themselves, opting to stop fighting for a day to celebrate Christmas. Legend has it that more than one football (soccer) game broke out between enemy forces, played on badly-scarred frozen terrain. Once the holiday was over, war resumed.

What can be said about such a Christmas miracle? It required people to trust one another. To make a placard was the easy part. To walk into a vulnerable spot, at the risk of one’s life, required immense courage. Jesus, God incarnate, took this risk, and dared walk this earth. People said all kinds of untruths about him; that he was a drunkard and a glutton, that he was trying to start an uprising, etc. But he walked into the world anyway, being rejected and suffering death on the cross for it. Much of his message resembled the German placards; They said, “YOU NO FIGHT, WE NO FIGHT.” Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9). In his honor, forces on both sides of World War I lay down their arms, for a time. They could do that, and we can too. I hope this Christmas season you will enjoy the truth of peace in your hearts and with your families and friends. Let’s say to those who believe differently, “YOU NO FIGHT, WE NO FIGHT.”

In Christ, Pastor Steve



### **December Birthdays**

- 8 - Thomas Keenan
- 10 - Laura Swail
- 20 - Lois Neely
- 20 - Sandra Pray
- 22 - Ginna Bergonzi-Blackman
- 22 - Marian Lee Kuykendall
- 23 - Darwin Pray

- 25 - John Holderbaum
- 28 - Betty Hartman
- 29 - Alexandra Collison
- 29 - Sue Sparnecht
- 31 - Michael Kimball



**Thank You**

Our Deacons and their volunteer crew did a wonderful job providing us with a delicious Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings early in November. It had to take many hours to prepare.

I want to thank all of you for the nice greeting Lois Neely received when she arrived and for those of you that came to our table to say "hello".

When we returned to the Friendly Home she told me " I enjoyed that".

Gratefully,  
Bruce Neely



**Notes from the Trustees**

The Trustees want to thank all of you for returning your pledge forms with your financial commitment for 2023. The budgeting process will be starting soon and your commitment is the basis for the budget. If you haven't returned your pledge form yet, please do so soon. The budget typically is developed in December with 2 trustee workshops early in January. A presentation of the proposed budget will be made to the congregation, during second hour, the week prior to the Annual Meeting. The budget is voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Soon Jeff Bertrand will be notifying team leaders to submit requests for 2023. Each team should discuss their goals and financial needs as early in December as possible.

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

**2023 Pledge/Giving**

By the time you read this, your 2023 Pledge should have been sent to my attention at church. If you have not sent it in, it is NEVER too late!!

Anyone that requested pledge envelopes will have them available in church Sunday January 1 at the back of the sanctuary. Should you decide later that you want envelopes, I can manage that request.

Supporting our church financially is one way to ensure our growth and sustainability.

2022 Financial Contribution Statements will be mailed before January 20, 2023.

Bill Werther  
Financial Secretary



**Church Ladies' Lunch**

**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Noon  
Place TBD**



**Men's Lunch**

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

**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----- > #**



**Zoom Instructions**

**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)**



Wednesday Zoom Prayer Groups

Please join Pastor Steve at 1 pm or 6:15 pm Wednesdays for a Zoom Prayer Group Meeting. Pastor Steve will read a brief meditation followed by a brief discussion, a listing of our prayer concerns, and a time for anyone who wants to lift our concerns 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>

Phone users dial: 1-646-876-9923

When Prompted,

enter **Meeting ID: 950 690 121**

6:15 pm Prayer Group:

Zoom Computer Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/740345839>

Phone users dial: 1-646-876-9923

When Prompted,

enter **Meeting ID: 740 345 839**

Birthday Cards for Rev. Tom Clifton  
Former FBCP Pastor

Hi there FBC,

My husband, Tom Clifton, served as pastor of FBC for 9+ years from 1985.... We loved FBC Penfield and are grateful for many precious memories.

On December 13, Tom will be 80. If any folks exist from "our" time, perhaps they'd like to send a card. If so, please ask them to send to our daughter who will collect them as they come in. That way, we can celebrate Tom on Dec 13.

Jill C. Millard

715 Orchard Hill Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Blessings as you continue a wonderful ministry,

Audrey Clifton



## **MISSIONS REPORT**

During the month of December, the Missions Team will be presenting the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries (RMMO)** annual offering of the American Baptist Churches USA. The theme for 2022 is, "**For all they've done.**" That phrase will no doubt bring forth varied memories from individuals, of how their own minister or a missionary interacted with them in a helpful way. Each December we join this tradition of American Baptists to give back to retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to service in ABCUSA.

**"Thank you for partnering with us."** That is how the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf (PEFS) began a letter to our church to express their appreciation for the food we collected on October 15th to help them prepare for the holiday meals. With the need growing, the PEFS serves an average of 185 households weekly. They also appreciated the \$500 check the Missions Team sent from our budget in October, and wrote that our, "gift" would be used to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products, meat for weekly distributions.

In November the Missions Team sent \$200 to Cameron Community Ministries. We are hopeful that this extra money coming in at the holiday time will help them to feed and

comfort adults in need, and to brighten the season for the children they serve as well.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas,

Susie, Ellen, Janette



## **First Baptist Church of Penfield** **2022-2023 Coffee Schedule**

### **Volunteers needed**

If you are interested in providing snacks and making coffee for our second hour, please call Sarah Phillips at 585-329-7072 or email her at [dunes1158@yahoo.com](mailto:dunes1158@yahoo.com)



## EROI Organ Concert

Friday 2 December, 7pm,  
in the Sanctuary

Join us for a one-hour concert of organ music presented by students of the organ department of Eastman School of Music with music for the Advent and Christmas season.

EROI is the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative: an outreach program of the organ department of Eastman School of Music, sharing organ music with the Rochester community and beyond.

Free admission; all welcome! Please come to support these talented young musicians.

Naomi Gregory



## ROC CITY RINGERS

### Upcoming Concerts



September 17th  
12:00 pm



The ROC City Ringers are excited to return to the Rochester Fringe Festival! We are comprised of 15 musicians whose love for bell ringing brought us together to create music that goes well beyond traditional handbell music. We have put together an eclectic mix of music for this year's Fringe. Enjoy an afternoon filled with everything from pop to classical and movie scores to marches! See you at the Fringe!



CenterStage Theatre at the JCC  
1200 Edgewood Ave.  
Tickets available at [rochesterfringe.com](http://rochesterfringe.com)  
Or at the door day of show

\$10

#### Upcoming Concerts:

September 25  
4 pm Gates  
Hall/Pultneyville  
Tickets \$10 at  
the door

December 10  
3pm  
Webster  
Library

December 12  
7pm  
Penfield  
Library

December 13  
7pm  
Irondequoit  
Library

Roc City Ringers is the community bell choir that Sandy Pray participates in.



**Church Ladies Lunch**

Mama Lor's Cafe  
Webster, NY



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

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

- 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

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.

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](#).

October 27, 2022

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

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

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.

### Please Note!

The CDC guidelines are updated each Thursday at approximately 8:30pm, so the levels that you see in this Carillon *may* change from week-to-week.

This community level of medium was updated on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> after 8:30 pm

Please check the CDC ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) Website for weekly Updates.

Or, call the CDC at 1-800-232-4636 for updates



**Christmas Worship Services at First Baptist Church of Penfield**

**Christmas Eve**

Saturday, December 24, 2022

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

In the Sanctuary and on Zoom

**Christmas Day**

Sunday, December 25, 2022

In the Sanctuary and on Zoom

9:00 – Zoom Opens

9:30 am Worship Service begins



**Special Advent and Christmas Music:**

**Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**EROI Organ Concert: Advent and Christmas music**

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Chancel Choir Music Sunday: items from Britten's *Ceremony of Carols***

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Bell Choir: festive bell music for the season**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

**Christmas Eve: Chancel Choir with the Hohenfels Trombone Quartet**



**Who We Are**

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.*