

# The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



January 2026

## This Issue

Pastor’s Message.....	1
Moderator’s Message.....	2
January Birthdays.....	2
Men’s Lunch.....	2
Ladies’ Lunch.....	2
Notes from the Trustees.....	3
Pledges & Donations.....	3
Year-End Statements 2025.....	3
January Flapjack.....	4
Moment for Missions.....	4
Weekly Church Events.....	5
Historian’s Corner.....	5
Missions Report.....	5
Thank You!.....	6
Photographs.....	7

### Pastor's Meditation - January, 2026

*Since I have completed writing Pastor's Meditations here in Penfield, I thought it would be appropriate to give Mom the last word. (Lord knows she let me have the last word many times during my upbringing! It's time to pay her back.) Annette and I echo the sentiments she expresses here. God Bless and keep you.*

*In Christ, Steve Brotzman*

October 17, 2025

Dear Friends of the Penfield Church:

As I awoke this morning, I felt the Lord's prodding to write a letter to you regarding the change you are now facing.

I have been where you now sit. We all like to stay in our comfort zones. None of us really enjoy change. Change is how we grow and this is how we meet new people who come into our lives, that we could meet no other way.

I want to tell you "Thank You" for all the many acts of kindness and love that you have shown to my son Steven and my daughter-in-law Annette. The acceptance you have given them will not soon be forgotten.

Your church has so much good through your music and sharing projects to reach Penfield and your outreach area for the Lord. Keep up the good work and keep growing in the Lord. My prayers are with you.

In Christian Love,

Audrey Stepanian (Steve & Annette's Mom)



**Mumblings of the Moderator**

What a flurry of activity is going on at Penfield Baptist. Certainly not the least of this flurry is the beautiful music that brings inspiration to each worship service. We are so blessed by our choir, and by our choral scholars. Similarly, as Steve draws to a close of his leadership, his sermons have become even more personal, relaying stores of his younger days and his trips (including to Florida to try to work for Disney). It was touching to hear of that young woman still here in the north, writing to ask when he was coming back home.

We have been blessed by Steve and Annette's leadership, including Annette's singing in the choir. We will miss their presence but will rejoice from afar as they become a greater part of their family's lives. You see, God has had a habit of taking good care of us as we move from issue to issue, from pastor to pastor. Not all have gone as smoothly as our time with Steve, but we are still worshiping together, and share high hopes of even brighter days ahead. May God give leadership to our excellent search committee in 2026.

Don Fox



**January Birthdays**

- 13 - Lilly Swail
- 14 - Lisa Fox
- 22 - Meho Kapidzic
- 23 - Marsha Kiriazides
- 24 - Jeffrey Phillips, Jr.
- 29 - Scott Daniel
- 29 - Kaya Keenan



**Men's Lunch**  
Thursday, at 11:30am  
Riki's in Fairport



**Church Ladies' Lunch**  
Resumes in April 2026



**Notes from the Trustees**

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign has ended and the Trustees thank you for your response. If you haven't responded yet, please considering doing so soon, as the budgeting process is started and the pledges are the basis for the 2026 church budget.

The Trustees are having a budget workshop meeting on January 6, 2026. January 13<sup>th</sup> is our regular meeting when we will finalize a budget proposal. On Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> the budget will be shared with the Coordinating Council for their input and approval.

The proposed budget will be presented to the congregation, during second hour, on Sunday, January 18, 2026. This is a great opportunity to learn about the 2026 proposed budget, ask questions, and add thoughts.

January 25<sup>th</sup>, during second hour, the budget will be reviewed and voted on. Your attendance on both January 18 and 25 are your opportunity to understand the First Baptist Church of Penfield financial plans, projected income, and projected expenses. We hope to see at both of these very important meetings.



**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



**Year-End Statements 2025**

Everyone who contributed financially in 2025 to the church will receive a year end statement in the mail.

Check this carefully for accuracy. Statements will be mailed January 12, 2026.

Bill Werther  
Financial Secretary



**Flapjack is Back!!**



**Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>  
from 8 to 10.**

**\$10.00/person,**

**\$5.00 for children under 12.**

**Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit  
topping, whipped cream, coffee,  
Real Maple Syrup,  
fellowship.**

**Tell your friends...**

Kitchen helpers need to wear a hat and most of them will also need to wear gloves. **Only workers** will be allowed in the kitchen. Sign up sheets are in Fellowship Hall.

The Mission Board has selected the following group for sponsorship: Open Door Mission

Bill Werther/Jeff Phillips



**Missions Report**

The Missions Team wants to thank everyone who contributed to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries (RMMO) offering in December. The "Thank You" checks that get sent out from these donations are not large, but the love, gratitude and remembrances that they represent are huge.

On Sunday, December 7, we were happy to have many of you attend the 2nd Hour to hear the engaging and informative speaker, Robert Williams, from the Open Door Mission. It is good to stay informed about the breadth of services of this organization. We are proud that our church can be a part of that in a small way with the support that we give, and they are very grateful!

The Missions Team is ready to dive into 2026, realizing that the needs of our neighbors in Penfield and beyond remain. Please contact one of us if you have questions, concerns, or if you know of a situation that might warrant our consideration.

Happy New Year!

Janette, Barb, Ellen



Historian’s Corner

By Jim Symonds

In 1847, a little chapel known as the Bethel was erected at Lovett’s Corners ( intersection of Penfield and Harris Roads) for “out-station services”. The land for this chapel was leased from Joseph Fuller, who had joined the church in 1824.



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 Schedule

2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Sundays at 11:15 am

NFH & Zoom

January:

4<sup>th</sup> TBD

11<sup>th</sup> Michelle Archibad guest speaker from

Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity

18<sup>th</sup> Budget Presentation

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Part I

Adult Discussion link and call-in:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81942247372>

Dial by your location

• +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 819 4224 73



Health Safety

For the latest info on COVID-19, flu, & RSV,  
please go to the Monroe County Board of  
Health - Covid Information updates.

[https://www.monroecounty.gov/health-covid-  
flu-rsv](https://www.monroecounty.gov/health-covid-flu-rsv)

Phone #: (585) 753-5555



**Thank you!**

**To our Friends at First Baptist Church:**

THANK YOU for the wonderful farewell Christmas Tea you hosted for us on December 21st.

We were overwhelmed by your cards, the generosity of your gifts (both congregational and personal) and your tributes.

It has been our joy belonging to FBC Penfield. May God's Spirit fill this church and renew its ministries for years to come.

With Much Love,

Steve and Annette Brotzman



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the lovely Christmas card and generous gift. It is always a pleasure and privilege to serve you at First Baptist Church of Penfield.

Thank you so much for all your support and love throughout this last year.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Naomi

**To the Congregation of First Baptist Church**

Thank you, so much for the thoughtful gift and Christmas card.

May God bless you throughout the New Year!

Sandra



**Baptism**



**Christmas Tea**



**Right Hand of Fellowship**







**December Flapjack Breakfast  
with Santa & Mrs. Claus**





## 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

Choral Scholars:

Alexandra Hague, Morgan Kerr,

Lucas Mann, Mitchell Parmelee

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 12:45pm

### **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.*