

# The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2024

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### Pastor’s Meditation – August 2024

We all missed it, but the month of June marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of one of America’s most iconic art projects: the Cadillac Ranch, outside Amarillo, Texas.

Starting in 1972, a group of artists who called themselves “The Ant Farm” convinced a rich

man to donate a former cow pasture and to purchase 10 junked (or nearly-junked) Cadillacs. In June, 1974, the cars were half-buried at a consistent angle to form a row.



Situated near legendary Route 66, The Ranch quickly became a popular tourist destination. Although it is located on private land, visitors are permitted to roam freely and write graffiti on the sunken cars. The Ranch is open 24 hours a day. The only rules are to bring your own paint and take out your trash. Through the years, the poised Cadillacs accepted layer after layer of spray paint and were vandalized to such an extent that virtually all the original chrome, door handles and interior parts are gone. Still the body panels and frames of the Cadillacs remain fixed in the dirt after 50 years.

Below is what the Ranch looks like recently:



Somewhere in my studies, I came across the term, “aggrandizing the trivial.” I’m not sure who coined the phrase (I was unable to find out in internet searches) but it means that something insignificant is thought to be more important than it really is. A material object enters the popular imagination and becomes far more significant than it deserves to be. Popular culture (some would say, specifically *American* popular culture) depends on aggrandizing the trivial; in pop songs, a teenage love-gone-bad is the absolute ruination of one’s life (see Harry Nilsson’s “Without You.”) In contrast, the right car provides validation. A Chevy is “a great way to see the USA,” but “wouldn’t you really rather have a Buick?” Better yet, a Cadillac, the “Standard for the world.”

In 1980, Bruce Springsteen memorialized the Cadillac Ranch in a song of the same name, which became an album-oriented rock staple:

*Eldorado fins, whitewalls and skirts  
Rides just like a little bit of heaven here on earth  
Well buddy when I die throw my body in the back  
And drive me to the junkyard in my Cadillac*

*Cadillac, Cadillac*

*Long, dark, shiny and black*

*Open your engines let ‘em roar*

*Tearing up the highway like a big old dinosaur*

*James Dean in that Mercury ‘49*

*Junior Johnson runnin’ through the woods of  
Caroline*

*Even Burt Reynolds in that black Trans-Am*

*All gonna meet down at the Cadillac Ranch*

According to this song, the Cadillac Ranch is like a dream Heaven, where all car-heroes go when they die. We can step back from the catchy tune and realize that cars, even the shiny ones, can’t save our souls, right? I would call this song’s message, “aggrandizing the trivial,” and I’m pretty sure Bruce Springsteen knows it.

During this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an iconic piece of popular culture, I will point to the One who requires no aggrandizing and is hardly trivial. That’s the Creator, yours and mine, who has been here forever, not just 50 years. God is grand enough to create the human body, with all its complexity. God even crafted the brains of the engineers who designed the stylish automobiles. God is sophisticated enough to create massive ecosystems that allow human life to flourish, and yet is as simple as a baby in a manger. God possesses eternal life yet became a man who was willing to die for human sins. God’s Kingdom will belong to drivers of all kinds, including regular Chevys, and to many who never drove any car.

At some point all that we have aggrandized will be exposed as trivial. All that seems so important will disappear, and we will be left with God, who was always the whole reason we exist. And scriptures tell us that “God is love.” (1 John 4:8). That reality is grand and in no way trivial.



### **A Message from your Moderator....**

Recently both Kathy Ahl and I responded to a facebook post in which a person was looking for a local church to visit. She was feeling disconnected and wanted to find a place that would help her feel a bit better. Obviously we both gave rave reviews about First Baptist Church of Penfield, but so did about fifty other people encouraging her to visit their churches as well. So I got to thinking.....what would YOU say about our church if someone asked? What is it that brings each of us back every week and helps us feel like this is the church we want to be a part of? How do we communicate that to others when asked?

Of course the answer differs for each of us. My husband is swayed by music and whoopie pies. I cannot say enough about the love and care I received when I needed it the most. Noah loves Christmas and Easter because the church is just so beautiful and he, like me, is a sucker for tradition. Darwin- well, he's the tough one of the group. But for all of us, it's family, it's home. It grounds us in our faith.

And I just did the math....I have been a part of this church for more than half of my life now. Imagine that! It seems like just yesterday I was eyeing some girl in the choir making sure she knew that the guy I came to church with was no longer available!

One of the responsibilities of the Coordinating Council is to plan a church retreat. We haven't been able to consider holding one since COVID, but now is the perfect time. Stay tuned for more specific information and confirmed dates, but please consider joining us and helping us to learn more about our church family and what brings each of us together. At our August Coordinating Council meeting we will be talking more about what we hope to accomplish at this gathering so if you have any suggestions or ideas that you would like us to include, please reach out and let us know!

Enjoy the month of August and all that summer still has left to bring...remember, the sanctuary is air conditioned so it's a great place to spend your Sunday mornings! Eat some s'mores at the Fireside Chats, and be sure to get out and visit some people that you don't usually get to see!

Fondly,

Sandy



**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



**FBCP August Ladies Lunch**

**Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup>  
12/Noon**

**Tuesday AUGUST 20th, 12/noon  
Monte Alban Mexican Grill**

2160 Penfield Road

Located in the Parkside Commons Plaza

Easiest entrance is on Route 250

(In location of previous Princess Restaurant)

If would like to attend, please RSVP Sandra  
at the Church office  
by Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> before noon.

[fbpenfield@toast.net](mailto:fbpenfield@toast.net)

(585) 586-2876

*We always have a wonderful time and we  
would love for you to be a part of it!  
Please consider joining us.*

~ Kathy Ahl, your Common Life Team and  
all of our wonderful volunteers!

**Men's Lunch**

**Thursday, at Noon  
Riki's in Fairport**



**Historian's Corner**

By Jim Symonds

The first Daily Vacation Bible School (a three-week course) was organized by Rev. George A. Keetch in the summer of 1921.

His gravestone in Oakwood Cemetery (Penfield, NY) is inscribed "2' TIM. 2' 15."

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, holding a straight course in the word of truth."



**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

- A small pin hole in the supply line to the men's bathroom off the Gym (Old Fellowship Hall) created mold issues in both the bathroom wall and in room 16. Both rooms have been tested for asbestos. The walls in the men's room were negative but the floor tiles in room 16 were positive. The floor tiles will be remediated soon. ServPro did the mold mitigation in both rooms. The plumbing is repaired and the affected walls in the men's bathroom will be replaced soon. David Trumps took the lead on this project and Bill Werther made all insurance contacts and needed documentation.

- You made have noticed a loud noise coming from the women's bathroom off Old Fellowship Hall at times. An investigation found that the cold water shut off valve had been mostly closed, creating the problem. By fully opening the valve the chatter has gone away. This is a good heads up to all of us. If you hear a hammering sound from a supply line to one of your faucets, check the shut off valve before calling a plumber. The valve should be fully open to function properly.

Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien, Chris Ahl, Sarah Phillips, David Trump



## MISSIONS REPORT

The Missions Team is very grateful to be able to share with you that \$2,124.29 was donated to the American Baptist Churches **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering by our congregation. THANK YOU for your generous responses to help with the disasters that can ruin lives in a matter of minutes. Just recently there was even some unusual tornado damage in Western New York and the Eastern Finger Lakes Region. As devastating storms and floods continue to impact lives, the American Baptist Churches USA continues to serve and support the healing after crises arise.

In support of the work at the **ABC Rochester-Genesee Region**, the Missions Team responded to their current need by sending an additional \$300 in June. In July we sent an annual donation of \$2,000 from the Missions budget to American Baptist Churches **United Missions** - a shared financial fund that is used for mission work and ministry as, "the hands and feet of Christ." Also, \$500 was sent to the **Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf** and \$500 was sent to **Cameron Ministries** for the Summer programming fund.

At our August 7th meeting, we will be continuing our planning for fall.

Janette, Ellen, Susie



**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**

In NFH & on Zoom  
11:15-NOON  
Resumes September 8<sup>th</sup>



**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. Please join  
us!

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 and Zoom

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

**Note:** The Bible club will meet on Zoom  
only beginning on August 28<sup>th</sup> for about one  
month while Pastor Steve recovers from  
surgery.



**Habitat for Humanity Benefit Sale**

Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup>

9am to 3pm

Faith Lutheran Church outdoor pavilion  
2576 Browncroft Blvd

The Penfield Coalition of Churches for  
Habitat is holding a benefit yard sale.  
The sale will be in the new pavilion behind  
the church and ample parking will be  
available. To learn more about how you can  
further support Greater Rochester Habitat for  
Humanity, visit GRHabitat.org



**Making Bouquets for Flower Sale**



**In the Church's Garden**



**Annette, Brenda, Barb, Don  
and (hidden): Ellen and Marge**



**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.



**Annette and Helga**

## **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

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 Summer Hours**

Tuesday thru Friday, 8:00am to 11:30 am

### **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.*