

# The Carillon



First Baptist Church of Penfield

2024

## This Issue

Pastor’s Message.....	1
A Message from Your Moderator.....	2
Men’s Lunch.....	2
December Birthdays.....	2
Church Ladies’ Lunch.....	3
Historian’s Corner.....	3
Notes from the Trustees.....	4
Pledges and Donations.....	4
Flapjack.....	4
How to Join Worship Service by Phone.....	5
Adult Discussion Following Worship.....	5
1 pm Wednesday Zoom Prayer Group.....	5
Bible Club Meeting.....	5
To All Coffee Angels.....	6
Missions Report.....	6
Photographs .....	7
New Heath Safety Website.....	10
Who We Are.....	11



### Pastor’s Meditation December, 2024

First of all, I want to make a disclaimer: I love manger scenes, also known a *creches*. “I like ‘em, I love ‘em, I want some more of ‘em,” as the song goes. I even own one, given to me by Ruth, a generous woman from my first church. At the same time, I strive for biblical accuracy. If a manger scene follows

the combined Gospel narratives of Matthew and Luke, it features the usual characters: Joseph, Mary, the Shepherds, the Angels and, of course, the baby Jesus. In the popular imagination, the Magi, also called the “Wise Men,” or the so-called “Three Kings” are there manger-side, worshipping Jesus.

Trouble is, the Magi weren’t at the manger. Matthew is the only gospel that tells us anything about the Magi, and that narrative can be found in Matthew 2: 1-12. “Magi” is the only name used for them, not “Kings” or “Wise Men.” And *Magoi*, the Greek word used for them in Matthew, is best translated as “sorcerers, magicians or wizards.” As we know, they were following a star they had seen in the East, which means they did not start their trip from the East or the “Orient,” as the song declared. Instead, they came from the West, following the star in the East. Some have speculated that the Magi came from Persia, which is modern Iraq, but no one knows for sure.

We do know the star lead them straight to Bethlehem, to the place where the Christ-child was. However, the text says they didn’t show up at the manger, but rather a “house” (Matthew 2:11) that Joseph and Mary apparently lived in by that point. Matthew says the Magi presented three gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh, but does not say there were three Magi. Their number may have been three or something else. How soon

after Jesus' birth did they arrive? The text doesn't say, except that when Herod was told about the Christ-child, he guessed the child had to be at least 2 years old, which is why Herod had every child of that age or younger murdered. So, it's possible that the Magi's visit took place as late as 2 years after the Manger scene. As a result, when I set up Ruth's manger scene, I leave out the wise men, or set them way off to the side, showing them "on their way."

Also missing from the scene are the intense political pressures that surrounded the miracle birth: Roman occupation and taxation, Herod's deadly little fiefdom in occupied Israel, Joseph's and Mary's need to flee with their son across the border to Egypt for safety. These are the dictatorial realities that most Americans only dread. But the biblical narrative shows us: even during oppression, God finds a way to save people. God saves people from the physical laws governing conception and birth, from brutal despots, from certain death, from our sins and ultimately, from ourselves. No scene, however accurate or beautifully-crafted, could ever represent the power of the birth of the Christ-child. God became a person and lived here with us in this perilous world. We celebrate God's love for us when we look at the manger scene, and throughout the Christmas season.



### **A Message from Your Moderator...**

Something really awesome happened at the last pancake breakfast. For starters, my youngest son Noah and his fiance Mackenzie not only came for the third month in a row, Mackenzie finally convinced her friend Mo and husband Todd to join us. Mo also happens to be Pat Casey's daughter. Roger Zaenglein rode along with his neighbor who, in turn, invited a friend, Scott, who has been a friend of mine for over 30 years! Scott's grandmother-in-law was Betty Funk. Noah looked across the aisle and saw Kaya Keenan, ironically commenting on how grown up she has gotten. (Have you seen Noah lately people? Engaged even!) At the door to the kitchen some young child was going head to head with Jeff Phillips in a lively conversation. It didn't take long to realize that it was his own grandson - Blake had come for breakfast with both his children. We have heard wonderful things about Judy's friend Grace, and there she was helping alongside Katie Lochner as a server.

It is always our hope to fill our sanctuary with people on Sunday to worship alongside us. In December we will have beautiful decorations for the season, amazing music, and sermons to make us think, reflect, and rejoice. But I also look around me for the connections- the ways that our love and faith spreads and pulls people toward us. For those who are involved every month in any part of Flapjack Saturday, I thank you for all that you are doing. I thank you for giving me one more opportunity each

month to be closer to people- those I love dearly, those I have missed seeing, and those I am eager to meet and learn about, hoping that they too will join us again soon.

May this month fill all of us with the joy of the season, the joy of being near others, and the joy of the birth of our Lord.

Love,  
Sandy



### **Men's Lunch**

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



### **December Birthdays**

8 Thomas Keenan  
10 Brenda Beechner  
10 Laura Swail  
17 Sue McNally  
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

### **Church Ladies' Holiday Lunch**

**Men are invited!**  
**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Noon**  
**Boccacini's Italian Bistro & Bar**  
**6720 Pittsford Palmyra Road**  
**located in the Perinton Square Mall**

We do have a reservation, however, I need to call in the number in our party the day before, so please notify Sandra by Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> before 12:00

[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!



### **Historian's Corner**

By Jim Symonds

*In 1819 we established "The Monthly Concert" and voted to become a missionary body. "Concert", as used here, could probably be defined as "mutual agreement". The first collections were for foreign missions and then for the state convention and Hamilton seminary.*

**Notes from the Trustees**

The Trustees will be developing a 2025 budget during the month of December. Pledge results from the Stewardship Drive are the basis for creating the 2025 budget which will be presented the congregation during second hour on January 19, 2025. The congregation will vote on the proposed budget during the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025.

Pledge materials were mailed in early November to all who attend our church. Pledge Sunday was Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. If for some reason you did not receive materials, please contact the church office.

The Trustees have signed a contract with Penport Property Services for snowplowing and one with Scott’s Service, LLC for salting.

All of the asbestos abatement in room 16 has been completed.

Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien, Chris Ahl, 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

**Flapjack is Ready  
for Another Breakfast.**

**Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> from 8 to 10.**



**\$10.00/person, \$5.00 for children under 12.**

**Pancakes, eggs, sausage, apple topping,  
whipped cream, coffee, 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.

All profit will be donated to  
Open Door Mission.

Bill Werther/Jeff Phillips - Coordinators



**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**

**December 2024 Adult Discussion**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hour**

Dec. 1 – THANKSGIVING WEEKEND –  
No adult discussion

Dec. 8 – *The Message of Christmas (Who  
Needs Christmas?) video 3*

Dec. 15 – *The Message of Christmas (Who  
Needs Christmas?) video 4*

Dec. 22 – Christmas Tea

Dec. 29 - No Adult Discussion

**Updated 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 7372.



**Wednesday Zoom Prayer Group**

**Wednesdays at 1 pm**

**Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18**

**No Meeting Dec. 25, Christmas**

**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**

**Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18**

**No Meeting Dec. 25, Christmas**

**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**

**To My Coffee Angels:**

It's that time of year. We are planning the winter schedule for church activities to resume.

If you would like to volunteer to bring in goodies and make coffee please email me [dunes1158@yahoo.com](mailto:dunes1158@yahoo.com) or sign up on the fellowship bulletin board.

It is much easier if two people share the responsibilities, so ask a friend to partner with you.

**Volunteers needed in January**



**MISSIONS REPORT**

Each December the Missions Team presents the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)** of the American Baptist Churches USA. The purpose of this offering is to remember, celebrate, and thank retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses for 15 or more years of devoting their lives to serve ABCUSA churches and ministries. The theme for 2024 is, "**Together, we remember.**" This theme is based on I Chronicles 16:12, "**Remember the wondrous works that God has done.**" Undoubtedly each of us can remember at least one of these servants who touched our own

lives. A donation to this offering is a tangible act of remembering with a grateful heart. In their retirement, even such a small gift (the average check from RMMO to each retiree being about \$154) is representative of enduring appreciation and caring. Please remember to indicate RMMO in the memo line of your check or on-line contribution.

The food donations for the **Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf (PEFS)** and the pajamas and children's socks and underwear for the families at the **Coldwater Road House for Women and Children** have been delivered. **Thanks to you**, the November 9th **Ring in the Holidays** event was a huge success! The Missions Team thanks each of you who donated so generously to support our hope that the 2024 Holiday Season will be a more joyous and carefree time for the families that we impact. The Missions Team has also sent \$750 from our budget to the **PEFS** and \$750 to the **Coldwater Road House for Women and Children** with \$250 of that being specified for each of the 18 children in residence to be given a special Christmas gift from our church family.

We wish all of you a joyous and carefree Christmas too!!

Susie, Janette, Ellen



Ring In the Holidays 2024



**Pastor Steve**



**The Church Retreat**



**Judy, Yvonne**



**Sue, Judy**



**Lunch Buffet**





**Gregg, Mike, Penny, Yvonne,  
Judy, Sandy, Marsha**



**Jeff, Sarah, Marie, Sue, Barb, Kerm**



**Jim, Liz, Dean, Sue, David, Richard**



**John, Betsy, Jim, Larry, Mary Kathern, Herb**



**Bruce, Ginna, Annette, Pastor Steve**



**Sandy, Marge, Don, Liz, Georgia, Fritz, Don**

### Health Safety

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

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/health-covid-flu-rsv>

Phone #: (585) 753-5555



### 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, Caroline Smith,

Lucas Mann, Pedro Sperb

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.*