



The Messenger

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You are invited

**JUNE 9
4-8 PM**

Jubilee

**First Baptist - Rochester
BLOCK PARTY
A 200th Birthday Bash**

www.fbcrochester.net

Everyone is welcome!

GAMES FUN FOOD MUSIC

PASTOR'S COMMENTARY

Describe the central tenet of the theology that informs your life in a single word.

I froze when that question was posed to a group of peers and me near the end of our seminary education. I had been prepared well. I was conversant in the 20 century history of the church, its thought, and belief. I debated the finer points of systematic theology – for fun! I knew how to preach, I knew the theory of liturgy and worship, I knew the Bible – in its original languages. I was confident! But that question silenced me; “Describe the central tenet of the theology that informs your life in a single word.”

A single word!? I gave the answer a couple of tries, but the best I could do was a couple of sentences. I wasn't sure there was a word that could hold all of what I believed and the search for the word was starting to make me wonder if I even knew what I believed. I fell flat. I didn't have an answer, so I was encouraged to keep thinking about it and try again a week later. I don't remember when it came to me, but by the following week I had my answer when the question came again; “In a single word, describe the central tenet of your theology.”

I said, “Fun.”

I got a few chuckles and a couple of blank stares, but I meant it. Fun, when I really thought about it, was at the center of my theology. With words like grace, joy, salvation, hope, love, etc., I felt that fun was more central to my theology than any other. You see, I realized at some point that I experienced all of those other wonderful things when I was having fun. To be together with people dear to me, feet together under the same table, laughing, enjoying one another, enjoying life – that's what Heaven looks like to me. To escape in the middle of a busy season out to the mountains for a hike – grace. Even to work really hard on an enjoyable project with creative and dedicated people is a kind of salvific experience for me. My soul comes alive; I am renewed when I'm having fun.

The questions came. "But how do you account for evil in the world? A durable theology has to be able to account for evil." They thought they had me in kind of Socratic trap. I was busted. My one word theology had been shown insufficient (who could have seen that coming?). "What is evil," I posed in return, "but the absence and destruction of fun?" Where young stomachs go empty and pangs of hunger distract there is no room for fun. When a person is being marginalized on the basis of their identity, I assure you they are having no fun. When the earth is destroyed by unsustainable practices and carelessness, the playground God has given us is decimated.

In the gospel according to John, Jesus proclaims that the purpose for his coming is that people might have life *abundantly*. I'm reasonably confident that "abundant" is code for "fun." Ok, ok. Yes, there are nuances of belief and practice that are profoundly important and have nothing to do with fun. In order for life to be truly abundant we have to experience a breadth of emotion and spirituality, but one could do worse, I maintain, than to incorporate fun into their theology. If you are seeking and finding opportunities for fun AND always working to make sure the fun is inclusive enough to include all people, you're off to a good start.

Next week, we at FBCR will invite the neighborhood surrounding our campus, and really all of Rochester to join us for a Block Party in celebration of our Bicentennial. We'll have games for kids, live music, good food, free ice cream, and lots and lots of friends new and existing. But why? Why would a church care about putting on a party for the neighborhood? Is it about attention, an "outreach" project? Well, I'm certainly not opposed to making new and more meaningful connections with our neighbors and raising the awareness of FBCR and who we are in the community, but no, "outreach" isn't really a primary purpose. Then is it a fundraiser? Are we charging an entry fee? No! Everything aside from the hamburgers and hot dogs will be free and they will be very inexpensive. Then we must be peddling something. We're starting a new program and we want a big event to announce it. No. We're proselytizing? NO! Are you kidding, no!! So what then? Why on earth would we bother with a Block Party?

Just for fun!

Pastor Brent

Pittsford Food Cupboard - Brighton Food Depot Parent Affiliated Organization

2017 PFC FACTS - ANNUAL REPORT

Area Served: Rochester - 53%; East Rochester - 22%; Brighton - 20%; Pittsford - 5%

Demographics Served: Over 65 - 12%; Under 18 - 23%; Adults (19-64) - 65%

Pounds of Food Distributed: Community Donated 108,300; Foodlink Purchases 24,955

Income: \$52,157.00 Individuals - 34%; Religious - 28%; Grants - 13%; Business - 10%; United Way - 8%; Fundraising 5%; Civic - 2%

Expenses: \$47,165.00 Salaries & tax - 49%; Rent - 20%; Food - 14%; Misc. - 8%; Insurance - 4%; Office Supply - 3%; Utilities 2%

Baptist Peace Camp - some scholarships available

KEUKA COLLEGE - WEEK LONG AND DAY TRIPS POSSIBLE

*Decentering Power & Privilege: Becoming a Peculiar People
July 2 - 7, 2018*



Register now for this informative Summer Conference. This week-long conference is just around the corner from us. You can register for a day, a couple of days, or a full week. We have one voucher for a first time attendee to receive free conference registration. Meals and lodging are extra (or you can make it a day trip.)

Please sign up on the Vitality Table if you would like to attend. We will see if there is available church funding for part of the conference once we know the interested attendees. Through the theme, we will challenge the status quo and traditional/systemic holders and wielders of power. As witnessed through history, speaking truth to power and creating change is not easy. We will look at how to be peculiar people for the work to be done.

Daily Themes are: July 2 - Unity vs uniformity; July 3 - No limits, no boundaries, no one left out; July 4 - Decolonizing the Americas; July 5 - I'm coming out; July 6 - Let's go back to the water; July 7 - What you gonna do when you get out of jail?

Sign up on the Vitality Table today or contact Gene Tiesler if you are interested in attending or if you might qualify for the first time attendee voucher. **Registration needed by June 8.**

OUR COMMUNITY

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS



Through your support!

We couldn't do this without you!

June item needed is 1 pound jars Peanut Butter.



One Great Hour
OF SHARING

OGHS supports disaster relief, development projects, and refugee ministries of the American Baptist Churches and its partners. June is One Great Hour of Sharing Offering month.

WHAT IF

Please send your ideas or plans for your "What If" Project to Marge Forth, mforth@rochester.rr.com. The list is growing and there may be projects that you may wish to join or that others may wish to join with you.

Several "What If" projects ideas:

Name	Project	Description	Contact by
Anna B.	I Believe You → Read more	Cards and Letters showing survivors that we believe them.	amvbowden@gmail.com
Janet R.	Center 4Youth - Owen's House Beechwood	Crisis Nursery - Emergency Nursery Care	fbcrjanet@gmail.com
Barbara D. Barbara W. Sally L. JoAnn T.	Diapers for Cameron	Pack diapers and children's books for parents in need at Cameron	bdinse@rochester.rr.com
Lynn Mc Hargarthers, Marge R. Frances R.	Hydroponic Gardens in Beechwood	Seek out ways to have hydroponic gardens in the Beechwood area for food/work	marilyn.g.mcclellan@gmail.com
Marian M Jean G. Flora H. Marge F., Sally L.	Cameron Snack Packs	Pack snack treats for Cameron kids - 1x per month through summer	marism@frontiernet.net
Ann T.	Girl Scout Flowers	Delivery to people at Friendly Home	dtrolley1@frontiernet.net
Rose W. Chuck S.	Center 4Youth New Shelter House Clothing	Ask Student Gay Orgs. to gather age appropriate clothing	sio2hands@yahoo.com casparnecht@yahoo.com
Carol S.	St. Matthews Closet	Bay St. Clothing distribution	carolstahl153@gmail.com
Pensgens, Wiens, Oaks	Compassion Care	CD, Cards, Books other care ideas	bob.judy.oaks@gmail.com

I Believe You, Anna Bowden

In our world, survivors of sexual assault (and reporters of sexual harassment) are frequently required to recount their stories of harassment/violence in an effort to garner support. We force *them* to make *us* believers. For my "What If" project, I want to change this. I want survivors to know that I (and we) believe them with or without their story. If you'd like to join me, here is how you can help.

I am collecting cards, letters, notes that simply say "I believe you" from as many people as possible. You don't need to wax eloquent, they simply need to be from your heart. A sample might read, "My name is Anna Bowden. I am a biblical scholar from Rochester, NY, and I want you to know that I believe you."

I am looking for people who are willing to write cards (about 6-12). I will collect the cards and distribute them to survivors along with a candle that reads "When you burn this candle, may it be a reminder that we believe you." If you are willing to write, write as many cards as you like and I can collect them from you at church. Additionally, feel free to share this message and/or collect cards from your friends, family, etc. I'd love to have as many voices as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at amvbowden@gmail.com.

The #metoo movement has been a powerful movement that has helped victims to know that they are not alone, but I want to do more. I want them to hear "I Believe you"!



Bob Oaks has graciously invited the FBC family to visit him in Albany on June 11. Pastor Brent plans to join him and will help coordinate the trip with any who are interested. For more information or to express interest – brent@fbcrochester.net or bob.judy.oaks@gmail.com.

GOINGS ON

OCCURRENCES OF INTEREST

Sunday, June 3

Worship, Youth Service, 10:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM

Tuesday, June 5

Faith in Action Banquet (GRCC), 5:30 PM
Burgundy Basin Inn

Wednesday, June 6

Mission Meeting, 4:30 PM

Thursday, June 7

Worship Committee, 10:30 AM

Saturday, June 9

Jubilee Block Party 4:00 – 8:00 PM

Sunday, June 10

Worship, "Under the Tent", 10:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM

Monday, June 11

Road Trip to Albany to visit Rep. Bob Oaks
Trustees Meeting, 6:00 PM, Library
Welcome & Affirm Meeting, 7:00 PM

Friday, June 15

Office closed

Sunday, June 17

Worship, Father's Day, 10:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM

Monday, June 18

Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

Friday, June 22

OUR 200th ANNIVERSARY
Office Closed



Sunday, June 24

Worship, Graduates Sunday 10:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM

Monday, June 25

Library Meeting, 9:30 AM
Jubilee Planning Team, 4:30 PM

Tuesday, June 26

FBC Book Club, 11:30 AM

Saturday, June 30

OGHS Offering Ends



JUNE 9th
4 to 8 PM

Save the Date
THE ROCHESTER PRIDE PARADE
July 21, 2018

INFORMATION SOUGHT

Send to: casparnecht@yahoo.com

For our anniversary year we are requesting your answers to:

1. How long have you been a member of FBCR?
2. What is your favorite memory connected to your membership?
3. Can you provide a name and a short bio of a person or people that you think have been most important to the church.

Chuck Sparnecht, historian
casparnecht@yahoo.com

FBCR BOOK CLUB

XXXXX



The FBC Book Club will meet on the fourth Tuesday, June 26, at 11:30 AM in the church library. The book chosen for discussion is *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George. Everyone is invited to bring a sandwich and join the group.

FAITH IN ACTION

FBC NOMINEE GENE TIESLER



Gene working in Depot.

Gene Tiesler will be honored at the Faith in Action Banquet on June 5, at the Burgundy Basin Inn. The information provided to GRCC on behalf of Gene's contributions follows:

Gene Tiesler is a shining example to First Baptist Rochester in his service to the community. As the chairperson of the Missions Committee, Gene leads our church in sharing our resources and time with various partners. Additionally, he serves as head of our Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committee, on the Worship Committee, and Church Council. He is tirelessly dedicated. If he isn't delivering food for our Brighton Food Depot, supporting our staff, preparing for communion, or heading out to visit one of our missions partners, he's checking in with the office to see if he can help proofread upcoming publications. Gene wears many hats at FBC and he leads by example and with a spirit of love.

