



## The Jubilee has begun!

In the summer and into the fall of 1818 a small, but determined group of Baptists were busy lending their hands and their feet, their minds and their hearts, to a work they felt God was calling them to do. That work came to be known as First Baptist Church of Rochester and it is now the work God has called us to do. As we approach the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of this beloved congregation it is fitting that we celebrate and so we have declared a year of Jubilee!

On Sunday, September 24 our Jubilee got its start and will run throughout the year taking the form of special events, missional emphases and projects, opportunities to learn and grow, and not a few moments of celebration culminating with "Welcome Home Weekend", October 5-7, 2018.

I would like to invite you to join in the festivities of this year, but this invitation is to more than just a great party. Jubilee means to celebrate, yes, but the source of the celebration is renewal – renewal of self, renewal of others, and indeed renewal of all the world around us. So my invitation is certainly to join us for a myriad of events and moments of celebration, yes, but first my invitation is to begin to encounter our theme with your mind and heart. Jubilee is a biblical concept found in the dusty pages of Leviticus, yes, Leviticus. I admit it isn't the most exciting thing to read, but the ideas within just might change the world. So let me help you get a start on Jubilee:

On September 24, the topic of my message was Jubilee, the ideas within, and why we've made it our theme for our bicentennial. If you weren't able to make it that Sunday consider giving it a listen at [www.fbcrochester.net/sermons/092417.htm](http://www.fbcrochester.net/sermons/092417.htm) or you can request a hard copy from the church office.

For a more in-depth look at the specifics of Jubilee, I've put together a self-guided study that can be undertaken in a day, a month, or through the course of the year. It is included here below.

The excitement at First Baptist is real and not merely because we have survived 2 centuries. We are planning to use a year of looking back as a way of also looking ahead. Won't you join us in our year of Jubilee!?

*Pastor Brent*