



## **Gabriel's Horn Newsletter**

...Heralding the Good News to our neighbors...

Website: [www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org)

E-mail: [1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com](mailto:1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com)

**July/August 2022**

**\* Our Sunday worship service begins at 10 a.m. \***

### **CHURCH STAFF**

#### **Interim Pastor:**

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*God of justice, your word is light and truth. Let your face shine on us to restore us, that we may walk in your way, seeking justice and doing good. Amen.*

## From the Pastor

*"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4*

At the Bloomfield library's ice cream social last night, I was talking with a man. He was expounding on how ridiculous all the Covid restrictions were, and how much they had affected his daily life. He went on and on, and I listened politely. Then he said something that clicked with me. He was referencing another pandemic in the early 1900s, where nothing shut down. He said, "People lived and they died, and it was just part of life."



It occurred to me that death is not a part of our lives. We do not embrace it; in fact, we do everything we can to stave it off. We effectively run from it. We have all kinds of medical knowledge that will hold death at bay for an inordinate amount of time. People whose brains are no longer functioning can be put on life support. Prescriptions are available that will prolong life. The question is, why are we so afraid of death? It is meant to happen, to all of us. Our bodies are not designed to last forever. We will all die. It is a fact of life. But it is also a fact to all who believe that death is not the end. It is simply a transition from this life to eternal life. Our loved ones, when their bodies are no longer capable of sustaining mortal life, will go on to live eternal life with our God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Could we ever want them in a better place? Especially if we have watched them suffer, or if their minds have already left, is there really anywhere else we would have them be? They are whole again in that heavenly realm. They are at peace in God's presence. There isn't any better place!

Our society runs from death. We have learned to control it. We think we will be the ones to decide when death will be allowed in. We forget, and need to be reminded, that death is part of God's plan for us. By sending His own Son, Jesus Christ to earth, He overcame death. It is no longer something to be feared, but to be accepted. Everyone will walk through the valley of the shadow of death. But, we do not make that journey alone. As God has accompanied us all the days of our lives, so He will accompany us in our deaths. We have nothing to fear. Nothing can separate us from God.

Amen.

Blessings,  
Sue

## **Prayer Requests**

As we go through the next couple of months, please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers: The Glamack family \* Donna Magraw \* Mary Martin \* Bev Clark \* the Perkins family \* the Tyler family \* Jeremy \* Eric \* Al & Patty \* Garret \* Kay \* the Salmon family \* Peg \* Alice \* Larry Messner \* Helen \* Don Shultz \* Kathy \* the Brien family \* Carl & Nancy \* Richard \* Arleen \* Lujza \* Russ \* all places & people with Covid \* school teachers, students & school administration \* all those in the medical fields \* our country

## **Birthdays**

These people are celebrating birthdays during these two months. When you see them, please wish them a Happy Birthday!



### **July**

7 Nick Glamack,  
15 Chris Bartos,  
17 Rich Townsend

### **August**

9 Diane Sickmond  
24 Bev Clark

## **Church News & Updates**

### **● Red Cross Blood Drive**

June Blood Drive Results: We had a successful blood drive in June and met 106.45% of our goal. These units will go on to help as many as 99 patients in need of a blood transfusion. Our thanks to the volunteers and donors who donated time or blood.

This blood drive was the last one the church will sponsor. Our membership cannot staff all the volunteer slots required for a successful blood drive. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the Red Cross, our volunteers and all the donors over the years who have worked so hard to provide this lifesaving service.



### ● Fundraising

Our next Chicken BBQ fundraising event is Saturday, July 23, 2022 at the MighTea Boba Plaza in Canandaigua. We will start selling chicken at 11:00 a.m. and go until 4:00 p.m. ... or until we are sold out, whichever comes sooner.



Saturday, July 23  
\$12/dinner  
Serving 11 am until gone

Roseland Center, Canandaigua  
(Parking lot in front of MighTea Boba)  
3225 NY-364 Canandaigua, NY 14424

Sponsored by First Congregational Church, E. Bloomfield  
Provided by Gale-Wyn Catering

### ● Grant for Roof Repair

Our grant request was approved! We are among the 18 historic religious properties throughout the state to receive Sacred Sites Grants from the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Sacred Sites Program provides congregations with matching grants for planning and implementing exterior restoration projects, along with technical assistance, and workshops. The trustees now begin the needed coordinations to get our roof replaced.

### ● Rochester Redwings Ballgame

We have an opportunity to attend a Red Wing ball game on Friday, July 29 at 7:05 p.m. There will be fireworks after the game. Tickets are \$10 and you do not need to be a member (or friend) of the church to go. Please join us!

### ● Worship Services

Remember, for those who cannot attend, or who are still not yet comfortable attending public services, we are continuing to tape and post Sunday's service that afternoon on our Facebook page. Please note the posts are audio only (similar to a podcast) and we are recording only the scripture readings and Pastor Sue's sermon. The podcasts can be listened to at any time (along with all the other videos we've posted) by accessing the Video tab on our Facebook page (link: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-Bloomfield-NY-357770224341588/>).

### ● Food Cupboard

As a continuing reminder, the food cupboards most needed items right now are toilet paper, hand soap, laundry detergent, dish soap and hearty soups. Because of shopping & purchasing restrictions (rationing), these are the hardest items to keep stocked. So please, buy an extra item on your next shopping trip and leave it in the box in the church entryway. Your donations are always well appreciated.

## Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly)

● **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **July 3rd** and **August 7th**.

● **Special Offering:** An extra offering plate is passed on the first Sunday of every month. This is a special offering to support church outreach to the local community and local

missions and is kept in the Benevolence Fund for future distributions. For this period, the offerings are on Sunday, **July 3rd** and **August 7th**. The offering basket will be available at our live service. However, if you are unable to attend, please contact Janice Kelly, our Benevolence Secretary, to make arrangements for your gift.

Please note that if you are unable to attend worship service yet you wish to make a donation to the church (pledge, benevolence or faith), you can mail your donation to Marilyn Shafer at 12 Howard Avenue, Bloomfield, NY, 14469.

- **Church Council:** The council is on summer break and will re-start regular meetings the first Sunday in September.

- **Choir Practice:** The choir is on summer break and will re-start Wednesday evening rehearsals on September 7th (the first Wednesday after Labor Day) at 7:30 p.m. However, the choir continues to sing in our worship services during the summer and so meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. for rehearsal. As always, they are looking for singers and all are welcome.

- **Men's Breakfast:** The men meet the last Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested men are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **July 31st** and **August 28th**.

### **July & August Specific Calendar Events**

- **Sunday, July 3 (8 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's

- **Monday, July 4:** Independence Day



- **Thursday, July 21, (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Flight of the Sparrow* by Amy Belding Brown.



### Amazon synopsis

*Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1676.* Even before Mary Rowlandson was captured by Indians on a winter day of violence and terror, she sometimes found herself in conflict with her rigid Puritan community. Now, her home destroyed, her children lost to her, she has been sold into the service of a powerful woman tribal leader, made a pawn in the ongoing bloody struggle between English settlers and native people.



Battling cold, hunger, and exhaustion, Mary witnesses harrowing brutality but also unexpected kindness. To her confused surprise, she is drawn to her captors' open and straightforward way of life, a feeling further complicated by her attraction to a generous, protective English-speaking native known as James Printer. All her life, Mary has been taught to fear God, submit to her husband, and abhor Indians. Now, having lived on the other side of the forest, she begins to question the edicts that have guided her, torn between the life she knew and the wisdom the natives have shown her.

Based on the compelling true narrative of Mary Rowlandson, *Flight of the Sparrow* is an evocative tale that transports the reader to a little-known time in early America and explores the real meanings of freedom, faith, and acceptance.

- **Saturday, July 23 (11 a.m. - 4 p.m.):** Chicken BBQ; Mightea Boba Plaza in Canandaigua
- **Friday, July 29 (7:05 p.m.):** Red Wing ball game & fireworks
- **Sunday, July 31 (8 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Sunday, August 7 (8 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Friday, August 12 (2 - 7 p.m.):** Red Cross-sponsored blood drive at the East Bloomfield Holcomb Fire Hall
- **Thursday, August 18 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the book *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn.

### Amazon synopsis:

*1947.* In the chaotic aftermath of World War II, American college girl Charlie St. Clair is pregnant, unmarried, and on the verge of being thrown out of her very proper family. She's also nursing a desperate hope that her beloved cousin Rose, who disappeared in Nazi-occupied France during the war, might still be alive. So when Charlie's parents banish her to Europe to have her "little problem" taken care of, Charlie breaks free and heads to London,



determined to find out what happened to the cousin she loves like a sister.

1915. A year into the Great War, Eve Gardiner burns to join the fight against the Germans and unexpectedly gets her chance when she's recruited to work as a spy. Sent into enemy-occupied France, she's trained by the mesmerizing Lili, code name Alice, the "queen of spies," who manages a vast network of secret agents right under the enemy's nose.

Thirty years later, haunted by the betrayal that ultimately tore apart the Alice Network, Eve spends her days drunk and secluded in her crumbling London house. That is until a young American barges in uttering a name Eve hasn't heard in decades, and launches them both on a mission to find the truth . . . no matter where it leads.

- **Sunday, August 28 (8 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's

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- **Pastor Morning Prayer & Office Hours**

Pastor Sue has open door office hours every Thursday. She leads morning prayer from the office beginning at 9 a.m. (which is streamed live on the church's Facebook page) and will remain in the office until 1 p.m. As always, drop-ins for a cup of coffee or tea are welcome. In addition, Sue is also available at other times by appointment; please call her on her cellphone at 716-983-5760 to make arrangements.

- **Church Membership**

Please call Pastor Sue Walters at (716) 983-5760 or e-mail her at revst88@gmail.com for information on joining the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield or to arrange Home Communion for a shut in.

- **Advertising A Church Event**

To advertise any church event, please contact Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; (585) 402-5397 or e-mail her at beehive270@gmail.com. Please ensure you get the written details of the event to Alice 4 weeks before the date of the event.

*God of power and justice, like Jeremiah you weep over those who wander from you, turn aside to other gods, and enter into chaos and destruction. By your tears and through your mercy, teach us your ways and write them on our hearts so that we may follow faithfully the path you show us. Amen.*



~ ~ ~ Picture Us ~ ~ ~



- **Pentecost Sunday**  
The church truly gets - and gets into - the spirit of Pentecost!

- **Recognition Sunday**

The church recognized Bethyn Boni, Nick Glamack, Alice McConnell, Rich Townsend, Marilyn Shafer and Robin Stewart for all their “behind the scenes” work for the church. Afterwards, we had a potluck BBQ to celebrate these individuals.





## Lectionary Readings for November & December

	First* Reading and Psalm	Alternate* First Reading and Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
July 3, 2022	2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30	Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9	Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 10, 2022	Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82	Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-10	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
July 17, 2022	Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52	Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15	Colossians 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
July 24, 2022	Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85	Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138	Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)	Luke 11:1-13
July 31, 2022	Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
August 7, 2022	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23	Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
August 14, 2022	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
August 21, 2022	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
August 28, 2022	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Sirach 10:12-18 <i>or</i> <i>Proverbs 25:6-7</i> Psalm 112	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14

\* "First" OT readings, read semi-continuously, follow major stories/themes, beginning in Year A with Genesis and ending in Year C with the later prophets. *Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.*

\* "Alternate First" OT readings follow the complementary historical tradition of thematically pairing the OT reading with the Gospel reading. *Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.*

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