



## **Gabriel's Horn Newsletter**

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

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

**May/June 2021**

**\* Our Sunday worship service is at 10:00 AM \***

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*Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.*

## FROM THE PASTOR

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem the city that kills prophets and stones those who are sent to you! How often I have desired to gather your children together as a (mother) hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing.!”*

Luke 13:34 (NRSV)

There are very few Scripture references to Jesus in feminine terms. This passage is one of them. There are other translations where mother is included before the word hen. This passage points to Jesus' protective instinct towards us, God's children. He wished to protect the people of Jerusalem from the evils of the Roman Empire. He wanted them to know they did not have to acquiesce to the terms of that Empire, or its faithless practices. There was another option. The option of following him, and in doing so, following the Father who sent him. But, as the last part of the passage states, they were not willing. We know what happened after that.



I point to this passage this morning because this month is Mother's Day. It is a time for remembering our mothers, and their influence over us. It is a time for those of us who are mothers to be grateful and thankful for our own children. It is a

time to reflect on whether we have followed the directions of our mothers, or chosen another path if those directions did not point us towards God. It is a time to look at the directions we have given to our own children, and maybe adjust them a little. It is a time for those of us who are mother figures (maybe aunts, maybe friends of mothers, maybe teachers) to think about the influence we exert over children. We always have room for improvement. We don't want to be like Jerusalem, and have Jesus lament over us because we have turned away from his protection, his guidance, his love.

What would it mean to improve? It means we continue to look at our interactions with our children (and others) and evaluate whether our actions are those of Jesus. Do we point to God with our words and actions? Do we embody the Spirit as we love our children? Are we judgmental, or accepting? Do we listen, really listen to them? Do you give them a safe place to be themselves?

In this time of COVID, there have been so many changes. The things we used to take for granted have been called into question. Is it safe? As mothers, mother figures, examples, let us remind those who look up to us that we are always safe, and there is always a place for them.

Happy Mother's Day!

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 \* the Eddy family\* Mary Martin \* Bev Clark \* the Perkins family \* the Tyler family \* Jennifer \* Terry \* the Gliewe family \* Lori \* the Sickmond family \* Kay \* \* Peg \* Alice \* the Messner family \* Helen \* Don Shultz \* Kathy \* the Walters family \* Autumn \* Catherine \* the Brien family \* the Stewart family \* Richard \* the Salmon family \* Arleen \* the Spike family \* all places & people with Covid-19 \* school teachers, students & school administration \* all those in the medical fields \* our country

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## **Birthdays:**

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

May:

26 Albert Gliewe,  
28 Judd Rockcastle,  
30 Marilyn Shafer

June:

16 Nancy Walters,  
17 Mona Eddy,  
19 Jackie Shultz,  
20 Janice Kelly,  
25 Dorothy Hodges,  
26 Joan Hall,  
30 Bethyn Boni



## **Church News:**

### **● Worship Services:**

We continue to be in the sanctuary for our Sunday worship service! It has been going well (we've been worshipping in the sanctuary since the beginning of September). Such a comfort to be back in our familiar surroundings. We're still wearing masks and keeping social distancing. But, we're here! Please consider joining us. All are welcome.

For those who cannot attend, or who are still not yet comfortable attending public services, we continue to tape and post Sunday's service that Sunday afternoon on our Facebook page. The videos can be viewed 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/>).

In addition, Pastor Sue continues to lead a weekly prayer session. These will be live-streamed on our Facebook page on Thursdays at 8:30 am. The prayer service can be viewed live or accessed later by going to our Facebook page's Video section.

### ● **Choir:**

The choir continues to sing every Sunday. That means that Wednesday night choir rehearsals are back on! The choir, appropriately masked and seated at a proper social distance, now meets at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come join them!

### ● **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.

● **April Blood Drive Results:** We had a successful blood drive April 12, 2021. We met our goal and collected 32 units. These units will go on to help as many as 100 patients in need of a blood transfusion. Our thanks to the volunteers and donors who donate time or blood. Our next drive is Monday, June 14, 2021, from 2:00 - 7:00 PM in the East Bloomfield-Holcomb Fire Department (105 Main Street, Bloomfield).

### ● **Fundraising:**

We held our first of two 2021 fundraising BBQs (with Gale-Wyn Catering) on April 25 and it was a rousing success! We sold out early, selling 325 chickens in 3 hours! It sure was a good thing we were done early because it was a pretty cold day. Still, the customers didn't seem to mind and, as always, the chicken tasted delicious.

Our next fundraiser is Sunday, July 11th at Shivers, Shakes & Cones (6570 Rt. 5, Bloomfield; at the intersection of routes 5 & 20 and 64). It will start at 11:00 AM and go to 4:00 PM (unless we sell out). Here's hoping weather is much warmer!

As with the first BBQ, our worship service for that Sunday will begin an hour earlier (at 9:00 AM) so the BBQ workers can be ready to sell chicken at 11:00 AM. So, mark your calendars for both the change in the service time and the BBQ. We will remind folk as we get closer,

## **Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly):**

● **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8:00 AM. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **May 2nd** and **June 6th**.

● **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, **May 2nd** and **June 6th**. 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 regular donation to the church's mission, you can mail your donation to Marilyn Shafer (please call 585-935-1538 for her address).

● **Church Council:** The council will continue to meet the first Sunday of every month. The next two meetings will be **May 2nd** and **June 6th** after regular worship service.

● **Choir Practice:** The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. They are masked and, with the practice now held in Fellowship Hall, appropriately distanced. In addition, the choir also meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 PM. Please, come join them as they are always looking for singers.

● **Men's Breakfast:** The men's breakfast is on hiatus until further notice. We will notify all when the men begin regularly meeting again.

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## **May & June Specific Calendar Events:**

● **Sunday, May 2 (8:00 AM):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)

● **Sunday, May 2 (11:30 AM):** Church council meeting (Fellowship Hall)

● **Sunday, May 9:** Mother's Day

● **Wednesday, May 13:** Ascension Thursday - the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven

● **Friday, May 15:** Armed Forces Day

● **Thursday, May 20 (10:30 AM):** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; they will discuss the novel *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman.

**Amazon synopsis:** In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club.

When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

● **Sunday, May 23:** Pentecost, the birthday of the church. It marks the beginning of Christianity as a purposeful movement and a new community. Remember to wear red this day to remind of the fire of the Spirit.

● **Monday, May 31:** Memorial Day

● **Sunday, June 6:** D-Day

● **Sunday, June 6 (8:00 AM):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)

● **Sunday, June 6 (11:30 AM):** Church council meeting (Fellowship Hall)

● **Monday, June 14:** Flag Day

● **Monday, June 14 (2:00 - 7:00 PM):** Red Cross blood drive (Fellowship Hall)

We accept donors with appointments and those who just walk-in. Please help support the Red Cross by donating this day.

● **Thursday, June 17 (10:30 AM):** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; they will discuss the book *The Scent Keeper* by Erica Bauermeister.

**Amazon synopsis:** Erica Bauermeister, the national bestselling author of *The School of Essential Ingredients*, presents a moving and evocative coming-of-age novel about childhood stories, families lost and found, and how a fragrance conjures memories capable of shaping the course of our lives.

Emmeline lives an enchanted childhood on a remote island with her father, who teaches her about the natural world through her senses. What he won't explain are the mysterious

scents stored in the drawers that line the walls of their cabin, or the origin of the machine that creates them. As Emmeline grows, however, so too does her curiosity, until one day the unforeseen happens, and Emmeline is vaulted out into the real world--a place of love, betrayal, ambition, and revenge. To understand her past, Emmeline must unlock the clues to her identity, a quest that challenges the limits of her heart and imagination.

Lyrical and immersive, *The Scent Keeper* explores the provocative beauty of scent, the way it can reveal hidden truths, lead us to the person we seek, and even help us find our way back home.

● **Sunday, June 20:** Father's Day

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**Church Membership:**

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

**Advertising Your Church Event:**

To advertise any church event, please contact Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; (585) 703-1449 or e-mail her at [beehive270@gmail.com](mailto:beehive270@gmail.com). Please ensure you get the written details of the event to Alice 4 weeks before the date of the event.

*Your hand is upon your people, O God,  
to guide and protect them through the ages.  
Keep in your service  
those you have called and anointed,  
that the powers of this world may not overwhelm us,  
but that, secure in your love,  
we may carry out your will  
in the face of all adversity. Amen.*

## Picture Us

Here are the hardy souls braving the cold to sell BBQ chicken. Again, it was a rousing success and so much thanks is given to our organizer, Nick Glamack. In addition, our thanks to the volunteers: Bethyn Boni, Cheryl Glamack, Bob & Janice Kelly, Phyllis Rechtin, Judd Rockcastle, Marilyn Shafer, Nancy Stewart, Robin Stewart and Joe & Sue Walters.





## Lectionary Readings for May & June:

Season after Pentecost Year B	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
April 25, 2021	*Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
May 2, 2021	*Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
May 9, 2021	*Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 13, 2021 <b>Ascension of the Lord</b>	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 <b>or</b> <i>Psalm 93</i>	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 16, 2021	*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
5/23/2021 <b>Day of Pentecost</b>	*Acts 2:1-21 <b>or</b> <i>Ezekiel 37:1-14</i>	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27 <b>or</b> <i>Acts 2:1-21</i>	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
<i>* During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible. On the Day of Pentecost, if the Old Testament passage from Ezekiel is chosen for the first reading, the passage from Acts is used as the second reading.</i>				
May 30, 2021 <b>Trinity Sunday</b>	Isaiah 6:1-8  Psalm 29		Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
June 6, 2021	1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)  Psalm 138	Genesis 3:8-15  Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
June 13, 2021	1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13  Psalm 20	Ezekiel 17:22-24  Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15	2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 4:26-34
June 20, 2021	1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49  Psalm 9:9-20  <b>or</b> <i>1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16</i>  <i>Psalm 133</i>	Job 38:1-11  Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
June 27, 2021	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27  Psalm 130	Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 <b>or</b> <i>Lamentations 3:22-33</i>  Psalm 30	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43
<i>Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.</i>				

First Congregational Church  
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