



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
September-October 2017

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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A note from the editor...

Lots of rainfall, sunshine, hot and humid days and a full eclipse of the sun (at least in some parts of the country)! Summer is a wonderful time of refreshing of our bodies and souls! Now, as it ends let's bring our new energy home as we strive to understand God's charge to us and to act upon that call!

Welcome back to the busy year of our church. Rally day is September 10th. This a joyful "kick-off" for our year. Plan on joining us for church at 10:00 and bring a dish to share and stay for the potluck lunch. Let's fill the room!

I want to call you attention to an article, A Prayer for Neighborliness, on page 11. Written by Peter Marshall, his words are so meaningful to us today. These are difficult times, but no more so than times in the past. Let's pray for the strength to put away our fears and to reach out to each other in love, compassion and understanding. Listen, speak, react in respect and love for one another.

And the following articles carry out the theme that we are all in this together. October is Pastor appreciation month. It is important to appreciate our pastors but we also should stand ready to do our part. Please read the articles. I think they have a lot to say to us.

So, welcome home, come and celebrate with us,
Phyllis



PASTORS' COLUMN



Just A Thought...

Once again I was blessed with the opportunity to take my summer vacation at the Jersey Shore. This year was especially meaningful because I got to see my 3 year old great nephew who I hadn't seen since last year, and I met my great niece for the first time. It was just another reminder to me about how precious family is.

I think it was 2 or 3 years ago during my time at the shore I was inspired to write a sermon about the similarities between broken and chipped seashells and our lives. I really liked that message and might share it again at some point. This year I went to the shore with the same anticipation and hope of being inspired. *But alas*, nothing! Although that's not to say I didn't try. When I watched the sandpipers run down to the water's edge in the hope of finding a tasty morsel and then miraculously scurry back to safety when a wave rolled in, I thought there's got to be a message in there somewhere. *But alas*, nothing came to mind.

During my daily morning bike ride I was hoping for inspiration to strike. Instead, most other bikers just passed me by without so much as a, "On your left". It made my day when finally a man passed me and as he was going by said, "Good morning ". I immediately replied with same. *But alas*...nothing to inspire a sermon.

The drive to the shore was horrendous. Did you know the speed limit in Pennsylvania is now 70 miles per hour?! Which really means people are driving between 80 - 85 MPH. Let me tell you, not only did I not receive any spiritual inspiration during my drive *but alas*... I had to pray for forgiveness because of some of my thoughts toward other drivers!!!

It wasn't until I was saying my morning prayer when I ask God to please let someone I meet during the day know and feel His presence through my words or deeds that I realized just recognizing and feeling God's presence in our lives no matter where we are or what we are doing is inspiration enough.

My invitation to you is to take some time out of your daily schedules, no matter how busy you are, and invite God into your life. You won't be sorry.

I pray you experienced a refreshing and spirit renewing summer.

See you in church,
Sandy



*Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew
their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like
eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
- Isaiah 40:30-31*

I find this to be one of the most comforting passages in all the Bible. Isaiah acknowledges the inevitability of loss and failure, "Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted," but he also promises that loss and failure are not the end, "but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength." Isaiah promises miracles, "they shall mount up with wings like eagles," but the ultimate miracle is one that is rather common place and ordinary, "they shall walk and not faint." The real miracle is not soaring into the sky like a majestic bird, but being able to carry on with the life which God has given us, with the quite ordinary skills and tools with which we have always been blessed.

This passage has been especially on my mind, as you may guess, because of my father's medical issues. The fleeting nature of youth and strength has become forefront in my mind; yet this reality has been answered by the constancy of God's love and care. There has been, and (God forgive me if this is lack of faith) I do not expect there to be, a sudden, miraculous recovery of my dad's previous physical and mental state. He may well recover, but the process will be long and difficult.

Yet, I do see a miracle each time I visit Dad and Mom. I see the miracle of two people, partners for almost sixty years, taking on yet another challenge. I see the two people who have implanted faith in my heart, living that faith in the autumn of their life. I see vibrancy and determination where I would expect to see despair and surrender.

I see the same thing when I consider our church. Conventional wisdom tells us that we do not have much of a future. But the vibrancy and determination that is evident in each of you speaks of the presence of a God who has not given up on us; indicative of the fact that conventional wisdom does not always get it right.

I find the confirmation of this every time I convey your thoughts and prayers to Mom and Dad. The gratitude and comfort they experience in response is visible and inarguable. I want to thank you, on behalf of my family, thanks for your love and support. I also want you to know how blessed Rebecca and I are to be part of such a humble, yet dedicated body of believers.

God is not done with us yet! I look forward to the day when we will, indeed, mount up with wings like eagles. More though, I am grateful to walk alongside you, and not faint.

Peace,
Andy

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER, MINISTRY AND HUMOR

Church Membership

Please contact Rev. Sandy Porrey at (585) 773-8512 or Sanders74@juno.com for information on joining the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield or arranging for Home Communion for a shut-in.

Help Needed—Help Needed
Check out the signup sheets
in Fellowship Hall



Sept. Birthdays

9 Mary Marin
18 Alice McConnell
20 Sandy Porrey
27 Donna Messner


Oct. Birthdays

5 Rich Walters
6 Lynn Tyler
14 Phyllis Rehtin
22 Lydia Schaefer
26 Jim Rehtin
30 Bruce C. Walters



Upcoming Events

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Rehearsal, Wednesday evenings: 7:30-9:00 resumes on Sept. 6.
Sept 3	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -council meeting
Sept 4	Labor Day
Sept 10 	-Rally Day -Potluck lunch after church. Bring a dish to share. -National Grandparents Day.
Sept 11 	Patriot Day
Sept 17 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Sept 21	Book Club, 2:30 – 4:00 Dragon Teeth, Michael Crichton,
Sept 22	First day of Autumn
Sept 24	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
Oct 1 	- World Communion Sunday -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting

Oct 15 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Oct 17	Newsletter Deadline for Nov/Dec 2017
Oct 19	Book Club 2:30-4:00 Zero Day, David Baldacci
Oct 29	-Reformation Sunday -Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
Oct 31	Reformation Day

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings Sept/Oct 2017

Sept 3 Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

Sept 10 Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

Sept 14 Numbers 21:4b-9, Psalm 98:1-5 or Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38, 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, John 3:13-17

Sept 17 Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

Sept 24 Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Oct 1 Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

Oct 8 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

Oct 15 Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

Oct 22 Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

Oct 29 Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46

How to advertise your church event

To advertise any church event contact Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; 703-1449 or beehive270@gmail.com. (Answer to Bible Quiz: D, Revelation 3:16.) Please give the written details to Alice 4 weeks before the date of the event.

Phyllis Rechten will handle information for the Newsletter, the website and Bloomfield Buzz. Keep in mind our issues are published every 2 months so you should think ahead to have the event included in the correct newsletter. (Phyllis Rechten, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; rechten@rochester.rr.com or 657-7018).

The Ties That Bind



"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night."

During September and October, the congregation prays for Doris Virkus, Terry Silvernail, the Schaefer family and Alice McConnell.

Remember our members and friends who cannot be with us on Sunday morning: Terry Silvernail, Dorothy and Bob Hodges and Doris Virkus.

Prayers for Phil and Elsa Schaefer as they deal with difficult health matters.

Pray for Sue Walters as she recovers from recent hip surgery.

Remember Cory Keyes and family at the recent loss of his brother.

Let us also pray for Norma, Nick Glamack's mom and Kathrine, Donna Messner's mom.

Pray for our nation as we seek to find ways to come together in our political views. Remember that God is always at the head and always has a plan. God is our guide!

Beatitude in action

After a renowned career in academia, priest and author Henri Nouwen devoted his final years to living in community with and caring for adults with severe developmental disabilities. A friend once asked Nouwen if it might make more sense to spend his remaining time writing.

"I am not giving up anything," Nouwen answered. "It is I, not Adam [the man he helped with the most basic needs], who gets the main benefit from our friendship."

Nouwen didn't merely read Jesus' beatitude "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matthew 5:7). He lived it. —Based on I Am in Here by Elizabeth Bonker and Virginia Breen

God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

Names that bear witness

Nigerian couple Sam and Mary Ayeni gave their three girls names that reflect God's wondrous ways. The firstborn is named Marvelous to declare that God blessed the couple with a daughter as well as a much-needed job.

Next to arrive were conjoined twins Miracle and Testimony. "When I first saw them the way they were, I said it is a miracle that they are alive," recounts their mother. "When God did that miracle, I would surely give testimony." Indeed, God continued to work wonders.

The family was flown to Tennessee, where the twins were successfully separated just shy of their first birthday. Local groups, churches and countless individuals have supported the family with material goods, living space, groceries, friendship and prayer. As of this writing, the girls are making strong progress. One is nearly walking, and the other talks nonstop. Her favorite words, learned from big sister Marvelous, are “Amen!” and “Hallelujah!”

Why God watches

An English bishop recalled a childhood visit to an elderly woman, who showed him a framed text that read “Thou God seest me.”

The woman told him, “When you’re older, people will tell you that God is always watching you to see when you do wrong, in order to punish you. I don’t want you to think of it that way. Instead, take the text home and remember all your life that God loves you so much he can’t take his eyes off you.”

Bible Quiz

In memorable language in Revelation, God tells the church in Laodicea, “I am about to spit you out of my mouth,” because it is metaphorically _____ (fill in the blank).

- A. too hot
- B. too cold
- C. tasteless
- D. lukewarm

(The answer is somewhere in this newsletter.)

Book Club

September 21st
Dragon Teeth, Michael Chrichton

Michael Crichton, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Jurassic Park, returns to the world of paleontology in this recently discovered novel—a thrilling adventure set

in the Wild West during the golden age of fossil hunting.

The year is 1876. Warring Indian tribes still populate America’s western territories even as lawless gold-rush towns begin to mark the landscape. In much of the country it is still illegal to espouse evolution. Against this backdrop two monomaniacal paleontologists pillage the Wild West, hunting for dinosaur fossils, while surveilling, deceiving and sabotaging each other in a rivalry that will come to be known as the Bone Wars.

Into this treacherous territory plunges the arrogant and entitled William Johnson, a Yale student with more privilege than sense. Determined to survive a summer in the west to win a bet against his arch-rival, William has joined world-renowned paleontologist Othniel Charles Marsh on his latest expedition. But when the paranoid and secretive Marsh becomes convinced that William is spying for his nemesis, Edwin Drinker Cope, he abandons him in Cheyenne, Wyoming, a locus of crime and vice. William is forced to join forces with Cope and soon stumbles upon a discovery of historic proportions. With this extraordinary treasure, however, comes exceptional danger, and William’s newfound resilience will be tested in his struggle to protect his cache, which pits him against some of the West’s most notorious characters.

A page-turner that draws on both meticulously researched history and an exuberant imagination, Dragon Teeth is based on the rivalry between real-life paleontologists Cope and Marsh; in William Johnson readers will find an inspiring hero only Michael Crichton could have imagined. Perfectly paced and brilliantly plotted, this enormously winning adventure is destined to become another Crichton classic.

October 19th
Zero Day, David Baldacci

From David Baldacci--the modern master of the thriller and #1 worldwide bestselling novelist--comes a new hero: a lone Army

Special Agent taking on the toughest crimes facing the nation.

And Zero Day is where it all begins....

John Puller is a combat veteran and the best military investigator in the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Division. His father was an Army fighting legend, and his brother is serving a life sentence for treason in a federal military prison. Puller has an indomitable spirit and an unstoppable drive to find the truth.

Now, Puller is called out on a case in a remote, rural area in West Virginia coal country far from any military outpost. Someone has stumbled onto a brutal crime scene, a family slaughtered. The local homicide detective, a headstrong woman with personal demons of her own, joins forces with Puller in the investigation. As Puller digs through deception after deception, he realizes that absolutely nothing he's seen in this small town, and no one in it, are what they seem. Facing a potential conspiracy that reaches far beyond the hills of West Virginia, he is one man on the hunt for justice against an overwhelming force.

David Baldacci is one of the world's favorite storytellers. His books are published in over 45 languages and in more than 80 countries, with over 110 million copies in print. David Baldacci is also the cofounder, along with his wife, of the Wish You Well Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting literacy efforts across America.

Reformation milestone: celebration and repentance

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" on a church door in Germany. This wasn't an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain

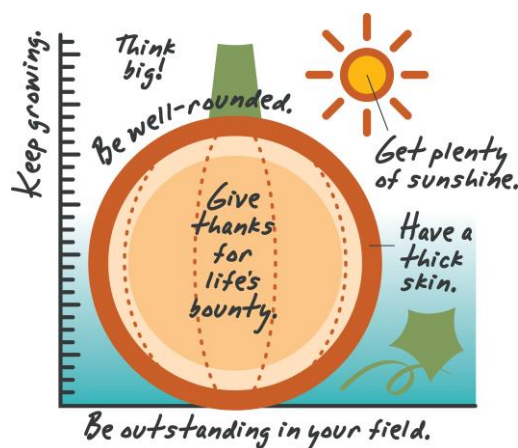
teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ ("the priesthood of all believers"), so there's no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults "with the best of them"; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: "In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years."

Advice from a pumpkin



Be well-rounded.
Get plenty of sunshine.

Give thanks for life's bounty.
Have a thick skin.
Keep growing.
Be outstanding in your field.
Think big! —Ilan Shamir

A prayer for neighborliness

O God, we pray for a broader vision of the needs of humanity, and a deeper compassion to fill those needs; for a planting of the seeds of concern for all humanity in our hearts; for a tapping of the wells of generosity. May we live together as people who have been forgiven a great debt. May we be gentle, walking softly with one another. May we be understanding, lest we shall add to the world's sorrow or cause to flow needless tears. May we be as anxious for the rights of others as we are for our own. May we be as eager to forgive as we are to seek forgiveness. May we know no barriers of creed or race or sex, that our love may be like Yours — a love that sees all people as Your children and our kin. May we be ministers of humanity. —Peter Marshall

Appreciate — and act

October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month, reminding church members to thank their hardworking ministry leaders. But the people in the pews — though they might lack official church titles — also play important roles in doing God's work.

In *User Friendly Churches* (Regal Books), researcher George Barna compares the behavior of people in growing vs. stagnant or declining churches. Members of growing churches actively participate in the church's ministry. "They did not divorce their faith from their lifestyle; their faith was their lifestyle," Barna writes. "They took seriously the classical Reformation doctrine of the priesthood of all believers."

By contrast, laypeople in stagnant churches tend to observe rather than participate. "They perceived their role as being in the audience in the stands," Barna

notes, "nodding approvingly in efforts to demonstrate religious behavior as the clergy went through their paces."

Appreciate your pastors, but then follow their example by living out your beliefs!

Just show up!

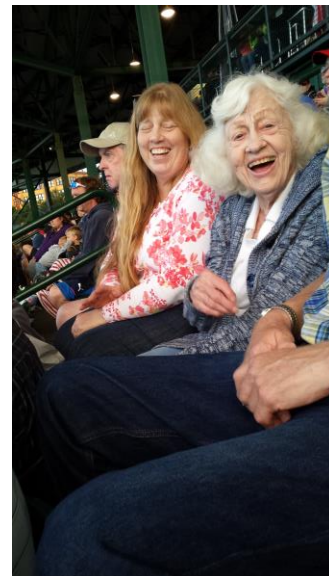
In *A Million Little Ways* (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to "show up as you are with what you've been given," we must confront these statements:

- I'm not cut out for this.
- Someone else can do it better.
- People might not like it.
- I have nothing to offer.
- I hate my calling.
- It's a waste of time.
- It's too much work.
- Who do you think you are?

"A million loud voices ... keep us from the million little ways [Jesus] wants to show up through us to the world," Freeman writes.

Picture Us

On June 24th, Christian Ed. organized a Family Life outing to a Rochester Red Wings game. The evening started out with a torrential down pour but the weather improved and the night was enjoyed by all. The Red Wings won their game!





On June 27th we shared in the joy of receiving Diane and Bob Sickmond into the membership of the church.



Welcome Diane and Bob!
 (l to r: Nick Glamack, church moderator,
 Diane Sickmond, Bob Sickmond,
 Reverend Sandy Porrey)

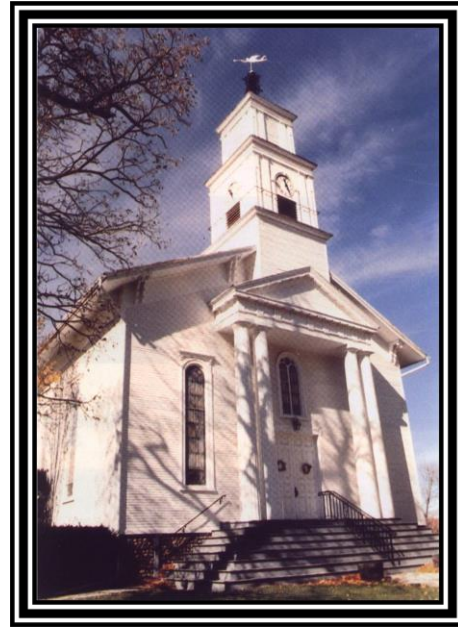


June 29th was the final Wednesday night rehearsal for our choir for the summer. It has become a tradition to celebrate the year at Scoops!





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