



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
March/April 2017

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

STAFF

Pastor: Sandy Porrey
(585) 773-8512
Sanders74@juno.com

Associate Pastor: Andy Schaefer
(585) 657-4679
ajschaefer1@live.com

Choir Director: Bethyn Boni
(585) 396-2788
Bethyn.Boni@gmail.com

Organist: Donna Messner
(585) 657-6579
dlmessner3169@gmail.com

Sexton: Bev Clark
(585) 657-6586

Newsletter: Phyllis Rehtin
(585) 657-7018
rehtin@rochester.rr.com

Web Masters: Phyllis Rehtin
(585) 657-7018
rehtin@rochester.rr.com
Marilyn Shafer
(585) 935-1538
mshafer5@rochester.rr.com

A note from the editor...

I was reading articles recently that talked about visions, ministries and thoughts about why people are leaving churches. Much of what was said we have heard before, but some of the thoughts were worth putting some mental activity to!

What is your vision for this church? Do you know what our mission statement says? It states, "The First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield seeks to be faithfully serving God through Christ by honoring His Word and by joyfully loving, caring for, and preparing all people for His service." So how are we doing with all this?

Can our vision for example see past our building? Do we try to bring people into our building or do we reach out to where they are? Jesus looks like love—do we look like Him?

Two questions might be, "what are we doing that we need to stop doing?" and "what are we not doing that we need to begin?"

Let's not answer questions with questions. If anyone is interested in expanding on these thoughts talk to me.

In the meantime, pay attention to the calendar of events on page three so you won't miss any of the Lenten and Easter services!

Happy Easter all you Easter people!

Phyllis



PASTORS' COLUMN



Rev. Sandy Porrey

Just A Thought...

Ash Wednesday is March 1st. Have you given any thought to how you will participate in the Lenten season this year? If you are wondering what I mean by that, it's simple. During this time in the Christian year we are called to emulate Christ's 40 day journey in the wilderness when he was tempted by Satan. We are called to prayer, almsgiving and sacrifice in order to become closer to God.

Through the years I've heard people jest that they will be giving up spinach or Brussel sprouts during Lent. Well the joke is on them because they are missing the point of sacrifice. Another thing, we are not exhorted to share what we give up or choose to sacrifice, or how we serve others during this time. Our actions are not meant to be worn as a badge of honor on our sleeve.

Here is an excerpt of Matthew chapter 6. I invite you to read the complete chapter found on pages 5-6 in the New Testament.

6 "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in Heaven. 2 "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.[a]

5 "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 6 But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is

in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.[b]

7 "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

The 40 days of Lent can be a spiritual blessing if an individual is willing to set their eyes upon Christ Jesus and make the journey. It is my prayer you will set aside some time before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of this year's Lenten season to discern how God is calling you to prayer, almsgiving and sacrifice. On Transfiguration Sunday, we spoke about transformation and metamorphosis. I promise if you are conscientious, faithful and attentive to your Lenten journey, you will experience a spiritual transformation.

*May God, bless you on the journey ahead and
Happy Easter!*

Sandy

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 sign up sheets
in Fellowship Hall



Mar. Birthdays




2 Rebecca Schaefer
 6 Robin Stewart
 28 Will Tyler
 29 Larry Messner
 31 Cheryl Glamack

Apr. Birthdays

10 Rachel Schaefer
 12 Bob Kelly

Upcoming Events

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Rehearsal, Wednesday evenings: 7:30-9:00.
Mar 1 	Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM
Mar 3	-World Day of Prayer -Church Women United 12 Noon (see article p. 5)
Mar 5 	-First Sunday in Lent -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -council meeting
Mar 12 	-Second Sunday in Lent -Daylight Savings time begins -Choir Invitational at 4:00 PM (see article p. 5)
Mar 16	Book Club, 2:30-4:00. Brooklyn, Colm Toibin
Mar 19 	-Third Sunday in Lent -Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall

Mar 20	First day of Spring
Mar 26 	-Fourth Sunday in Lent -Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
Mar 31	Last Friday Free Supper 5-6:30
Apr 2	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
Apr 9 	Palm Sunday
Apr 13	Maundy Thursday. Service at 7:00 PM
Apr 14	Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM
Apr 16 	-Easter Day -Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Apr 18	Newsletter Deadline for May/June 2017
April 20	Book Club 2:30-4:00 Lock In, John Scalzi
Apr 28	Last Friday Free Supper, 5-6:30
Apr 30	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings Mar/Apr 2017

First Sunday in Lent-March 5 Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

Second Sunday in Lent- March 12 Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Third Sunday in Lent -March 19 Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

Fourth Sunday in Lent-March 26 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

Fifth Sunday in Lent-April 2, 2017 Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

Sixth Sunday in Lent-April 9 Palm Sunday Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Holy Week

April 10 Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 36:5-11, Hebrews 9:11-15, John 12:1-11

April 11 Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 71:1-14, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, John 12:20-36

April 12 Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 70, Hebrews 12:1-3, John 13:21-32

April 13 Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 14 Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42

April 15 Holy Saturday Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24, Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16, 1 Peter 4:1-8, Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Easter day April 16 Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

April 23 Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

April 30 Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

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. 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 March and April, the congregation prays for Judd & Lujza Rockcastle, Janice & Bob Kelly, Sandy Porrey, William Bacon and Marilyn Shafer.

Prayers for Nancy Stewart who is now home and recuperating from her recent surgery.

Continued prayers for Trish Gliewe and Albert Gliewe for stable health for each of them in the months to come.

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

Let us also pray for Norma, Nick Glamack's mom and Kathrine, Donna Messner's mom. We offer thanks that Kathrine is recuperating well following hip surgery. We wish her happiness in her new apartment!

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!

Church Women United

Mary Martin

Church Women United will meet March 3, 2017 at noon at the Ionia UMC. St. Peter's women have the program. Bring your sandwich and beverage. Desert will be provided. There will be important business to discuss in the business meeting following the program. Plan to be there!

2017 Choir Invitational

Grace Choir is hosting the 5th Annual Community Christian Choral Festival on Sunday, March 12, 2017, 4:00 p.m. It is a wonderful time for individual church choirs from around the area to come together and share music. Our Choir and the Voices of Faith Band will be among the choirs participating. The Festival is at the Elim Gospel Church, 1679 Dalton Rd., Lima, NY 14485, and is free and open to the public. There will be a free will offering for a selected ministry or mission to be determined.

Book Club

March 16 Brooklyn, Colm Toibin

Booklist: "In his latest novel, following *The Master* (2004), a celebrated and highly imaginative re-creation of the life of American novelist Henry James, Toibin maintains his focus on the past. Keeping the pace relatively slow and stressing the wealth of authoritative detail, he contrasts small-town Ireland and big-city Brooklyn in the early 1950s, highlighting the vast differences between the two in customs and opportunity. Eilis Lacey, a smart young woman unafraid of hard work, must leave employment-poor Ireland to find a more lucrative existence in booming New York City. Under the auspices of an Irish priest, Eilis secures employment at a department store and residence in a rooming house for young women. She meets a handsome, charming Italian man, and their relationship quickly flowers into love. When her outgoing sister dies in Ireland, Eilis returns home and

must face the decision to stay put or go back to the more exciting life she had begun to create in Brooklyn." --Brad Hooper

April 20 Lock In, John Scalzi

A blazingly inventive near-future thriller from the best-selling, Hugo Award-winning John Scalzi.

Not too long from today, a new, highly contagious virus makes its way across the globe. Most who get sick experience nothing worse than flu, fever and headaches. But for the unlucky one percent - and nearly five million souls in the United States alone - the disease causes "Lock In": Victims fully awake and aware, but unable to move or respond to stimulus. The disease affects young, old, rich, poor, people of every color and creed. The world changes to meet the challenge. (Page 9 answers, a-3, b-5, c-4, d-6, e-2, f-1.)

A quarter of a century later, in a world shaped by what's now known as "Haden's syndrome," rookie FBI agent Chris Shane is paired with veteran agent Leslie Vann. The two of them are assigned what appears to be a Haden-related murder at the Watergate Hotel, with a suspect who is an "integrator" - someone who can let the locked in borrow their bodies for a time. If the Integrator was carrying a Haden client, then naming the suspect for the murder becomes that much more complicated.

But "complicated" doesn't begin to describe it. As Shane and Vann began to unravel the threads of the murder, it becomes clear that the real mystery - and the real crime - is bigger than anyone could have imagined. The world of the locked in is changing, and with the change comes opportunities that the ambitious will seize at any cost. The investigation that began as a murder case takes Shane and Vann from the halls of corporate power to the virtual spaces of the locked in, and to the very heart of an emerging, surprising new human culture. It's nothing you could have expected.

Giving up guilt

Rev. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest who ministers to high-risk youth in Los Angeles, once quipped, “I ... don’t do guilt. I gave it up for Lent years ago.” Many Christians give up something for Lent but usually not guilt! Rather, Lent is seen as a time to somberly examine our sinful nature.

Having witnessed sin’s tragic effects through addiction, violence and gang warfare, Father Boyle realizes that dwelling on guilt doesn’t lead to hope or healing. Instead, he helps young people discover their God-given strengths and their ability to make life-affirming choices. His nonprofit Homeboy Industries provides positive alternatives for teenagers, who are reminded not of their guilt but of their identity as God’s beloved children.

On Good Friday Jesus conquered sin and death so we don’t have to wallow in guilt. Giving our lives to God frees us to live in the joy of forgiveness.

Relentless prayers

Are you reluctant to bring the same prayers to your heavenly Father over and over? Maybe you don’t want to trouble God; after all, he already knows what you’re going to say. Plus, you’re not worthy to ask for anything!

If those thoughts surround you, think about Patrick, Ireland’s patron saint. At 16, he was dragged from his home to be a slave. Patrick tended sheep in the cold. Hungry and miserable, he begged God for mercy and deliverance.

In his Confessio, Patrick recalls praying “a hundred times in the day and almost as many at night.” Without ceasing, he told God of his needs, wants, thanksgiving and confession. And God heard his prayers.

Pray relentlessly. God is always listening!
—MaryAnn Sundby

Wonder of wonders

The world is filled with wonders, writes Nathaniel Olson. Consider chemistry: Salt is formed by two poisonous substances (sodium and chlorine). The alnico magnet, the world’s strongest, contains three nonmagnetic substances (aluminum, nickel and cobalt). And water consists of oxygen (which is flammable) and hydrogen (which burns easily); yet water puts out fires!

That pales in comparison to the wonder of salvation through Jesus. Every day, Olson writes, Jesus transforms filthy, hopeless sinners into new, forgiven creations. “On the skid rows of our cities, in wealthy and poor homes, in jungles ... whenever any soul wants Christ, the wonder of the new birth is taking place.”

Our God is the true Wonder of wonders. “None can compare” (Psalm 40:5).

‘From great to good’

Jim Collins’ 2001 book *Good to Great* featured companies that had “made the leap” to greatness. Years later, many of them are no longer great; some aren’t even around.

Should Christians seek greatness? After all, our attempts to be great — wealthy, powerful, successful, famous — often become the “enemies” of our doing the good God commands.

God’s Word flips on its head the saying “good is the enemy of great.” The meek, Jesus teaches, will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). “Whoever would be great among you,” he says, “must be your servant” (Mark 10:43, ESV). One of Jesus’ most famous parables is called the Good Samaritan, not the Great Samaritan. And goodness, not greatness, is a fruit of the Spirit.

Christians and churches are called not to greatness but to doing good for the sake of the world. Let’s shift our focus “from great to good.” —Based on “From Great to Good,” *Homiletics*, January-February 2017

When we can't find Easter

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's wrong with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. You're okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too. —Heidi Mann

The role of the cross

If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony. ...

To be "saved" requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death — death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. ... This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

—Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*

Lacquered with love

Japanese artisans practice a 500-year-old Japanese art called kintsugi, or "golden joinery," to reassemble broken pieces of pottery using a lacquer mixed with gold, silver or platinum. The premise is that

brokenness doesn't render something useless or ugly. Indeed, another Japanese term, wabi-sabi, means "to find beauty in broken or old things."

We come to Jesus broken, but he doesn't discard us. He heals us, though our scars do often remain visible — just as the spear and nail prints remained in his own body when God raised him from death. The Holy Spirit coats our wounds and fractures with the lacquer of divine love, and we become uniquely beautiful, appealing to others so they can find support for their own healing. Our scars tell them they aren't alone, while the brokenness that's part of another's faith journey assures us that we, too, have companionship along the way.

Curing vs. healing

In *We Know How This Ends* (Univ. of Minnesota Press), Bruce Kramer writes about "living while dying" from Lou Gehrig's disease. While not denying his impending death, Kramer focuses on getting as much out of life as possible. Part of that involves the following distinction:

"Know the difference between curing and healing," he writes. "Curing implies that things will be brought back to the way they were. ... Expecting a cure will only result in frustration and disappointment. But healing can take place."

In Scripture, curing and healing are generally used interchangeably, yet one can happen without the other. We know people with disease or disability whose spirits are vibrant and faithful. Though they haven't been cured, their lives are marked by God's healing touch. Even in the Gospels, Jesus' curing of ailments was often a sign of his greater healing: sins forgiven, community restored, faith embraced.

For what have you prayed for a cure? Might healing be the greater need?

Picture Us

On January 15, 2017 we celebrated with Norma Glamack for her 90th birthday. What a wonderful way to begin a new year! Happy birthday Norma!



On February 19, 2017 Bob Kelly shared a slide show of pictures he put together from an old church directory. It was fun trying to guess who these folks are! We shared many good memories of these people who were/are a part of the Saints of the church! Thank you, Bob!
 Test your memories with some of these pictures.

1



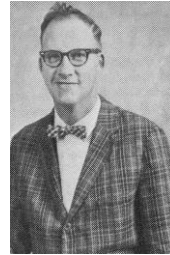
5



2



6



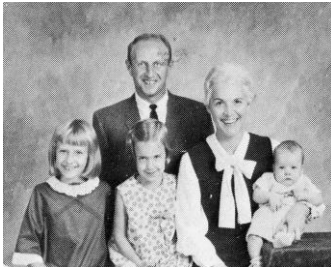
3



Match the numbers with the letters

- a. ___ Russell & Mary Gliewe & family
- b. ___ Donald & Mona Eddy & family
- c. ___ William & Bill Hall & family
- d. ___ Roger Silvernail (you'll get this one!)
- e. ___ Harold & Dorothy Chapman & family
- f. ___ Richard & Nancy Walters & family

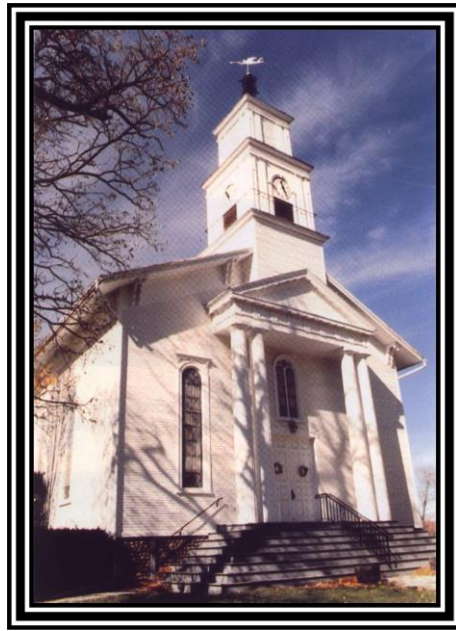
4



(Answers found somewhere in this newsletter)



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter



First Congregational Church
of East Bloomfield
Post Office Box 5
East Bloomfield, NY 14443