



# Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.  
January/February 2017

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

## STAFF

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

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

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

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

Sexton: Bev Clark  
(585) 657-6586

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

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

## *A note from the editor...*

I came across a poem for the new year. I'm sharing it with you (with the author's permission) because it has the right things to say to us as we move into 2017!

## A New Year With The Lord

© By M.S.Lowndes

"A new year is about to unfold  
With new opportunities to explore  
Doors will open for new experiences,  
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,  
The things of this past year,  
The Lord will do new things in us,  
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us  
As we put our trust in Him  
And He will guide our every step  
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,  
We find we'll be able to do  
If we look for the opportunities,  
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back  
But rise up and take our place

And be all that God wants us to be  
With a fresh touch of His grace"  
Happy New Year!  
Phyllis

## PASTORS' COLUMN



### *Just A Thought...*

The following is actually taken from my 2016 Pastor's Annual Report. I didn't think it would hurt to share the message via the newsletter.

Our devoted church family may be small in number, but we are mighty in deed as regularly demonstrated by our continued financial support of the church and our active, enthusiastic participation in service to others and spreading the Gospel message.

We all recognize the money necessary to support these different causes just doesn't fall from the sky. We consistently work hard to organize and host several successful fundraisers throughout the year. I have always been impressed at the willingness and unselfishness of our church family when it comes to sharing their time, talents, and financial gifts in an effort to spread the Gospel message.

I hope the majority of our church family understands we must be willing to step out of our comfort zone and try new ways to raise funds in order to remain an active and dynamic congregation. As difficult as it may be, we must objectively face facts. As we all continue to grow older, it is becoming increasingly difficult to sponsor the labor intensive dinners that have historically been a mainstay of our fundraising efforts. That means we must be willing to break out of our current mold and try new strategies. As with any new venture, it takes time, courage, and perseverance to work out the bugs and the kinks on the road to success. At least twice in 2016 thought outside the box and tried different ways to raise money. The noise you hear is my clapping as I applaud those efforts! ☺ We must continue to have faith God will be with us as we try new things.

As we enter 2017, my invitation to everyone is to begin thinking about what a proactive and positive five-year plan for our church would look like. Where will we be as a congregation in 5 years? As a church family? What do we need to be doing now, and how should we be doing it? If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. Also, ALL are welcome to attend the Church Council meetings held on the first Sunday of each month. Come share your time, talents, and idea(s).

May God bless you in 2017 with a vibrant faith, health and happiness.

*See you in church,  
Sandy*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER, MINISTRY AND HUMOR

### Church Membership

Please contact Rev. Sandy Porrey at (585) 773-8512 or [Sanders74@juno.com](mailto: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

## Congregational Meeting



January 22, 2017 with light lunch.  
All reports due to Alice McConnell  
January 8, 2017  
Plan to attend!

Happy Birthday!




**Jan. Birthdays**


11 Isaac Bartos  
28 Don Shultz

**Feb. Birthdays**

1 Lujza Rockcastle  
14 Mick Eddy  
24 June Bartos  
29 Nancy Stewart

**Upcoming Events**

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Rehearsal, Wednesday evenings: 7:30-9:00.
Jan 1	-New Year's Day -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -No council meeting
Jan 6	Epiphany
Jan 8	-Baptism of the Lord -Reports for the annual meeting are due to Alice McConnell today.
Jan 15 	-Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Jan 18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Jan 19	Book Club, 2:30-4:00. The woman in cabin 10, Ruth Ware.
Jan 22	Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church will follow our church service. A light lunch will be available.

Jan 27	Last Friday Free Suppers resume, 5-6:30
Jan 29	-Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
Feb 5	-Boy Scout Sunday -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 16	Book Club 2:30-4:00. I don't like where this is going, John Dufresne.
Feb 19 	-Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Feb 20	President's Day
Feb 21	<b>Newsletter Deadline for Mar/Apr 2017</b>
Feb 24	Last Friday Free Supper, 5-6:30
Feb 26	Transfiguration of Our Lord

**PEWPOINTS**

**Lectionary Readings Jan/Feb 2017**

Jan 1 Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23  
 Jan 8 Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17  
 Jan 15 Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42  
 Jan 22 Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23  
 Jan 29 Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12  
 Feb 5 Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9 (10), 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16), Matthew 5:13-20

Feb 12 Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

Feb 19 Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, Psalm 119:33-40, 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23, Matthew 5:38-48

Feb 26 Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:rechten@rochester.rr.com) or 657-7018).

## The Ties That Bind



“Faith is to the soul what life is to *the body*. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past

*my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too.*”—J.C. Ryle

During January and February, the congregation prays for The Glamack family, Beverley Clark, Albert & Patty Gliewe, and Don & Jackie Shultz. (Note: The Nov-Dec prayers were omitted last month. They are Lynn & Will Tyler, the Schaefer family, Alice McConnell, Mary Martin, Carl & Nancy Stewart, and the Robin Stewart family.)

Prayers for Nancy Stewart as she deals with health issues.

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.

Pray for our nation as we embark on a new level of uncertainty in our political scene. Remember that God is always at the head and always has a plan. God is our guide!

## Holiday Fair 2016

Beverley Clark and Lujza Rockcastle

In September, Alice McConnell suggested we make (at home) a few pies a week, freeze them unbaked and bake them 2 days before the fair. So bakers put on their aprons and got the job done. We received cash and product donations—fillings can be expensive. Our sign had a broken leg. It got repaired. In addition to pastry items there were a variety of sweet treats prepared “just in time” for a very successful sale. To all of you who did so much to make the sale a success—Thank you. Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

## Lessons from a snowman

- It’s okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don’t have to be fancy or expensive.
- We’re all made mostly of water.
- You know you’ve “arrived” when a song is written about you.
- So what if you’re a little bottom-heavy?
- Don’t get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!

## Taking a stand

Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Expediency asks the question: Is it politic?

Vanity asks the question: Is it popular? But conscience asks the question: Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular — but one must take it simply because it is right. —Martin Luther King Jr.

## Undaunted

The year just past was wracked with violence, racism and political rancor. We long to fix these problems, but how? We may feel as frustrated as the church board member who spouted, “We’ve already tried prayer. It didn’t work!”

Those words might resonate today, yet things aren’t always what they seem. We can’t see God behind the scenes crafting a new reality, but Scripture promises it. And though our prayers won’t undo earthly death, they surround the grieving with strength and love. We can’t “solve” sin, but our prayers can bring communities together and spur us to look out for one another.

Jewish Talmud states, “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.” In this new year, may we be undaunted in doing what we can. It might not seem like much, but things aren’t always what they seem.

“The Wise May Bring Their Learning”  
The wise may bring their learning, the rich may bring their wealth,  
And some may bring their greatness, and some bring strength and health;  
We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the King;  
We have no wealth or learning; what shall we children bring?  
We’ll bring him hearts that love him; we’ll bring him thankful praise,  
And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways;  
And these shall be the treasures we offer to the King,  
And these are gifts that even the poorest child may bring.

We’ll bring the little duties we have to do each day;  
We’ll try our best to please him, at home, at school, at play;  
And better are these treasures to offer to our King;  
Than richest gifts without them — yet these a child may bring. —Anonymous

## Giving credit where due?

Running late for a meeting, a man circled the block, looking for a place to park. Desperately, he raised his eyes toward heaven and prayed, “Lord, if you’ll find me a parking spot, I promise I’ll start going to church again.”

Just then, a car pulled out of a space right in front of the man. “Never mind,” he said to God. “I found one!”

## Take care

In Jimmy Fallon’s first monologue as host of NBC’s *The Tonight Show*, he expressed thanks to all past hosts. On an occasion when he might have said, “And now this stage is mine!” or “I’m delighted to be counted among such greats,” instead he stated with deep humility, “I just want to do the best I can and take care of this show for a while.”

Take care of. That’s language not of ownership but of stewardship. That’s the language of Genesis 2:15 (NIV) — “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

What have we been called to “take care of for a little while”? The earth, surely. Perhaps a congregation, a business, a neighbor in need, a volunteer or an employee. A child, who may need less care — or different forms of it — as time goes on. We don’t own these people and things. God invites us to be stewards of them, to care for them, to use wisely and value these precious gifts ... and someday, to pass them on to others.

## Start digging!

Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, “Make this valley full of ditches” (verse 16, KJV) and promises to fill them with water — even though it won’t rain.

Before the people’s need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!

## You are cherished

We must understand that God does not “love” us without liking us — through gritted teeth — as “Christian” love is sometimes thought to do. Rather, out of the eternal freshness of his perpetually self-renewed being, the heavenly Father cherishes the earth and each human being upon it. The fondness, the endearment, the unstintingly affectionate regard of God toward all his creatures is the natural outflow of what he is to the core — which we vainly try to capture with our tired but indispensable old word “love.” —Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

## Extravagant love

The love St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 is “no mild, tepid thing,” writes Mark Buchanan in *Your Church Is Too Safe* (Zondervan). “It is no flight of fancy, no frisson of giddiness, no mere ruffle of sensation. This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable. It is sublime and subversive. It is indefatigable and undefeatable. It is nothing less than the love God has for you, to bind you and to loose you, to take you captive and then set you free. This love is extravagant.”

## In all his glory

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, many Christian churches celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. After telling his shocked, uncomprehending disciples that he would die and rise again, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain. Suddenly Jesus appeared to be glowing! “He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light” (Matthew 17:2, ESV).

Moses and Elijah appeared, and a voice said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (verse 5). Jesus’ disciples fell to the ground, overcome by fear. But Jesus touched them, told them not to be afraid and led them down the mountain.

The disciples witnessed firsthand the glory and Godhood of Jesus, who would soon die for the sins of the world and rise again to give us life.

## God’s conversation hearts

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you — or to teach a child — of the greatest love of all: God’s love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

- TRUE LOVE: What love is truer than giving up one’s only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).
- MINE: Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
- FOREVER: God loves us with an “everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3).
- LOVE ME: The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).
- TRUST ME: “Let not your hearts be troubled.” We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
- SWEET TALK: God’s words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).

- **BE GOOD:** We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
- **CALL ME:** God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
- **FRIENDS:** The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) — precisely what Jesus did.
- **#1:** “We love because [God] first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

## The cost of hiding our light

A Los Angeles restaurant owner recently discovered that a neon light had been covered — without being disconnected first — during a construction project 77 years prior. The calculated electricity cost to run the hidden light all that time was \$17,000!

People don't intentionally hide light; that would be counterproductive, not to mention wasteful. Yet when we shrink back from sharing Jesus' good news, we do indeed hide “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14) that is in us. When we're too modest to use God-given talents such as singing, playing piano or reading to bring others joy, we hide our light. When we put our own wants ahead of meeting someone else's needs through giving and serving, we hide the light of God's love. And at what cost?

“Let your light shine before others,” Jesus says, “that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (verse 16).

## Book Club

The reading for January 19, 2017 is *The woman in cabin 10*, Ruth Ware. “A classic “paranoid woman” story with a modern twist in this tense, claustrophobic mystery...The cast of characters, their conversations, and the luxurious but confining setting all echo classic Agatha Christie; in fact, the structure of the mystery itself is an old one: a woman insists murder has occurred, everyone else says she's crazy. But Lo is no wallflower; she is a strong and determined modern heroine

who refuses to doubt the evidence of her own instincts.” (Kirkus Reviews)

On February 16, 2017 we will discuss *I don't like where this is going*, John Dufresne.

John Dufresne's second Wiley “Coyote” Melville novel is a good one. Dufresne writes gritty novels--“Louisiana Power and Light” and “Love Warps the Mind a Little” are both terrific, and his *How to “The Lie That Tells a Truth”* is far and away the best book written about how to write fiction and a worthy read even if you're not interested in writing anything at all.

Dufresne jumped into Carl Hiaasen and John D. MacDonald territory with his first slacker turned private eye/fixer/equalizer novel - “No Regrets, Coyote” in 2013. While it was entertaining, it didn't quite live up to expectations (primary complaints: lack of believability, boredom, humorless). Well, the second Coyote novel “I Don't Like Where This is Going” more than makes up for those complaints and restores the promise. Dufresne (and Coyote) hits his stride in what reads as well as any crime noir novel I've read (to include MacDonald, Hiaasen, White, or Leonard) and I have high hopes for any follow-up Coyote novels and the series as a whole.

“I Don't Like Where This is Going” picks up with Coyote and Bay (as well as Open Mike) on the run from their Florida troubles (see “No Regrets, Coyote”) in Vegas. The novel kicks off with a murder/suicide that Bay and Coyote witness and is propelled by Coyote's attempts to get at the truth behind what they saw that others seem to want to cover up. It's a character driven novel and Dufresne continues to develop the Coyote story (and his surroundings) with good humor and humanity. I found this novel much more entertaining and enjoyable than the disappointing first novel in this series and I have very high hopes for the series as a whole--one I will definitely continue to follow. Dufresne is a great read and he's definitely succeeded in his second attempt at mystery noir with an engaging and interesting cast.

Certainly recommended. And there is no real need to read the first Coyote novel before this one (other than completeness--this reads fine as a standalone).

## Picture Us

There are several year-end events that haven't been shared yet! On November 4, 2016 Church Women United met at our church.



On November 19, 2016 we participated in the annual Christmas Fair held at the Elementary School. (See the article on page 4.) Thank you to all who worked to make this a success and thank you to all who bought our goods!



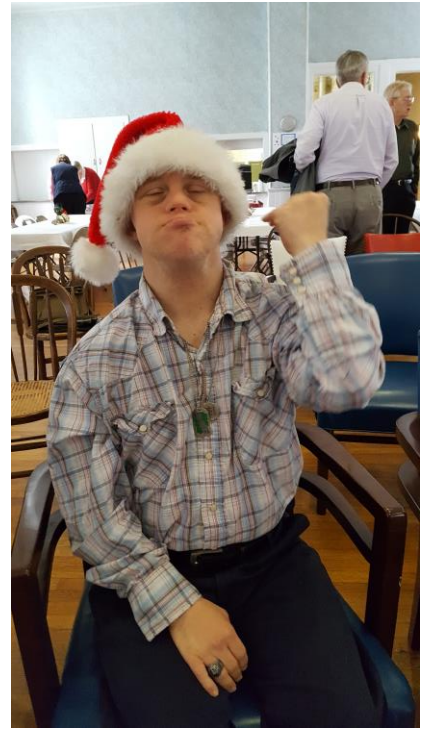


We opened our church to the community on December 10th for a light lunch and a Christmas sing-a-long.



On December 18, 2016, we held a Christmas party for our friends at the ARC home in Bloomfield. Following the church service, we enjoyed a Christmas sing-a-long, a potluck lunch and presents for our guests!

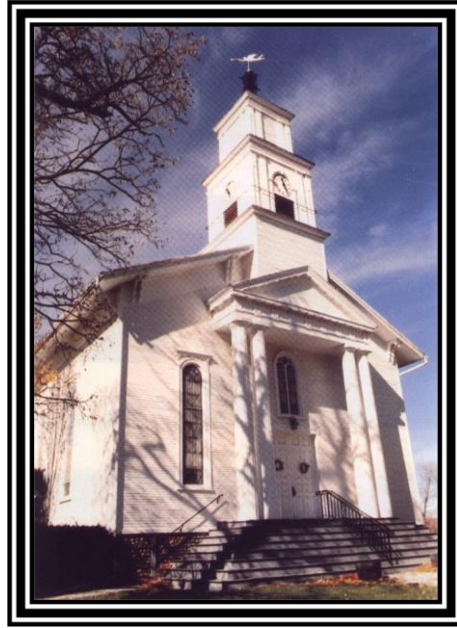




happy  
NEW  
Year!



*Gabriel's Horn Newsletter*



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