



## **Gabriel's Horn Newsletter**

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

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

**May/June 2020**

**\* Our Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 AM**

### **CHURCH STAFF**

#### **Interim Pastor:**

Sue Walters  
(716) 983-5760  
[revst88@gmail.com](mailto:revst88@gmail.com)

#### **Choir Director:**

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

#### **Organist:**

Donna Messner  
(585) 396-2788  
[dlmessner3169@gmail.com](mailto:dlmessner3169@gmail.com)

#### **Sexton**

Bev Clark  
(585) 657-6586

#### **Newsletter**

Marilyn R. Shafer  
(585) 935-1538  
[mshafer5@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mshafer5@rochester.rr.com)

#### **Web Masters**

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

~ and ~

Marilyn R. Shafer  
(585) 935-1538  
[mshafer5@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mshafer5@rochester.rr.com)

*Holy Shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, where we celebrate with you forever. Amen.*

## FROM THE PASTOR

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

1 Peter 2:9-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)



This Old Testament passage may sound familiar. It is the passage appointed in the daily lectionary for Thursday, April 30, 2020. But, I think it bears repeating, because it defines who we are.

This passage comes from I Peter, and its intended audience is Gentile Christians. Gentile Christians are those who came to believe in Jesus based on his words and actions. They did not have a Jewish background. They were not aware of the prophecies about the coming of a Messiah. They had no corporate identity. They heard Jesus, followed him and believed he was who he said he was, The Son of God.

Once these Christians accepted and believed in Jesus, I Peter says they received an identity. They went from not having a spiritual identity to receiving one: they were now God's people. By leaving behind their darkness, and entering into God's marvelous light, they were given this identity that they would carry with them all the days of their lives. They were claimed by God as God's people, and they received God's mercy. This was a cause for celebration!

We would like to have a cause for celebration. We would like to be able leave the confines of our homes and venture back into society. For some of us, we would like to get back to work! We would like to resume our normal lives. The truth here is that these things will happen, but what will remain in the past. Even when we begin to get out again, there will still be restrictions. We may have to wear masks for some time yet. We may not be able to go out to dinner until restaurants rearrange their spaces to reflect the required social distancing space of 6 feet. This may also apply to returning to our church building. We will have to wait and see how these things play out. We will be living in a new time, and we will need to adjust to those realities.

But, as we look back at the passage from I Peter, we realize we already have cause for celebration. We have been claimed by God. We are God's people! No virus can tamper with that reality. It defines us. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. As such, we have responsibilities. We are to live out the example of Jesus. We

are to love one another. We are to care for the poor and the needy (please see the note of thanks for our donation to the school's backpack program on the bulletin board when we return to our building.) We are to leave our darkness behind and live into God's marvelous light.

Whatever happens, these are our truths. They will not change...not ever. Let us celebrate!

Blessings,

Sue

### **Prayer Requests:**

As we go through the next couple of months, please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:



Prayer Request

Cheryl Glamack \* Donna Magraw \* Mick Eddy \* Mary Martin \* The Pastor  
Search Committee \* Bev Clark \* Wes \* Val Young \* Andrea & Roger Stein  
\* Sue Clark \* Denise \* Dom \* Mike \* Albert & Patty Gliewe \* Joan \* Emily \*  
Lori \* Sandy Straub \* Kay \* Larry Messner \* Helen \* Jim Rehtin \* Don  
Shultz \* Autumn \* Denise \* Joan \* Carl Stewart

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### **Pastor Search Committee News:**

The committee has posted a job announcement on the NACCC website and on our website. They continue to revise and refine the requirements for our new pastor. Right now, they are on pause due to Covid-19 restrictions but are eager to get back into their work. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers in their search.

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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:** 26th - Albert Gliewe, 28th - Judd Rockcastle,  
30th - Marilyn Shafer

**June:** 16th - Nancy Walters, 17th - Mona Eddy,  
19th - Jackie Shultz, 20th - Janice Kelly, 26th -  
Joan Hall, 30th - Bethyn Boni

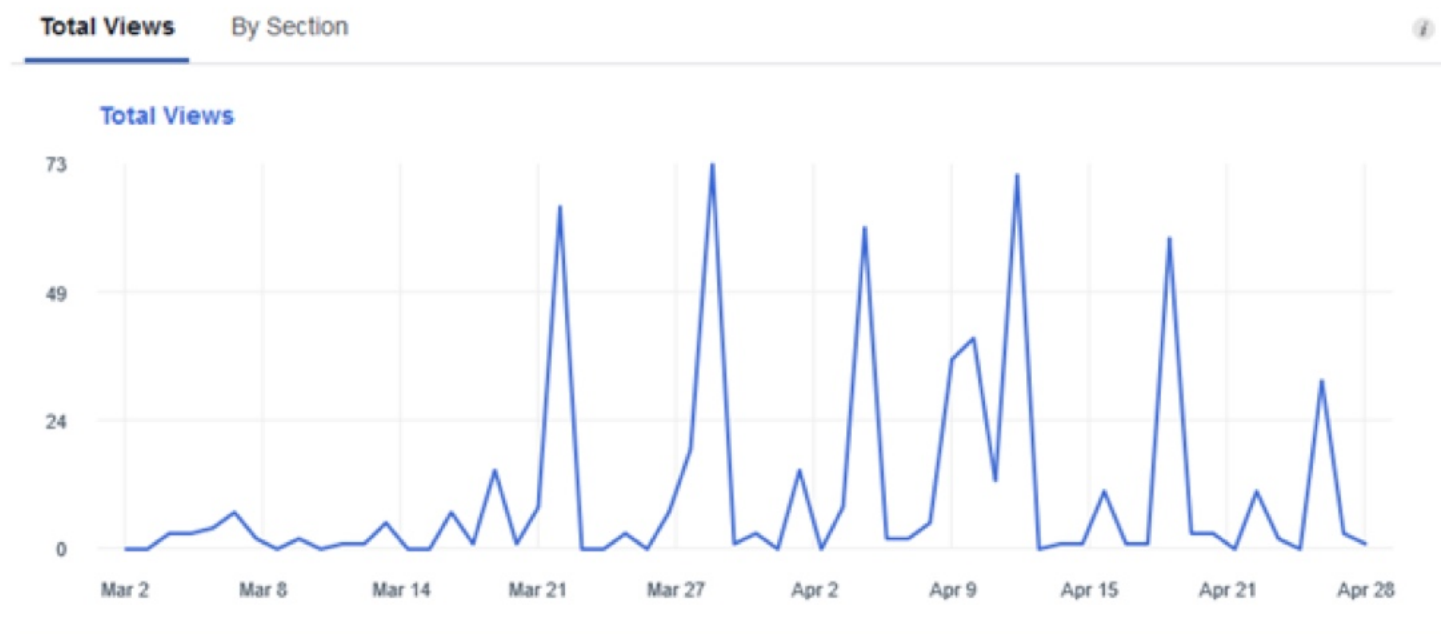


### **Church News:**

\* **Worship Services:** The biggest news is that our worship services haven't been held in the sanctuary since March 16 when the COVID-19 virus forced us (and the rest of the country) to temporarily suspend in-person worship.

Fortunately, Pastor Sue, with the help of her husband, Joe, has been able to conduct live services via streaming on our Facebook page. Sue continues to conduct **live** services every Sunday at 10:00 AM on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-Bloomfield-NY-357770224341588/>). All the videos are saved in the page's Video section and can be accessed at any time.

These live services are well attended, as evidenced by this graphic:



We are so pleased with this attendance that the church is exploring ways to continue to stream the service after we open up the sanctuary for in-person worship. This will help our community shut-ins or those who don't feel comfortable attending in-person events at this time. Stay tuned for more!

\* **Parsonage Remodel:** The trustees are continuing work on the parsonage. All the updates, repairs and painting have been done. All that remains are the install of the kitchen cabinets and bath vanities. Once the cabinet ships re-open, they'll be installed. In addition to the interior work, the exterior trim and porch were painted, the deck was cleaned and stained, the front of the foundation was repaired and the gutters were power-washed. Nick Glamack and Judd Rockcastle donated many hours cleaning and preparing the yard for mowing.

As a side note, the trustees had the lower west wall of the clock tower repaired after a storm blew off some siding that allowed in water. The same crew that is working on the parsonage did these repairs.

\* **Church Fundraiser:** We are hosting a BBQ from Gale-Wyn Catering on May 31. It will be set up at Shivers, Shakes & Cones (6570 Rt. 5, Bloomfield; at the intersection of routes 5 & 20 and 64).

The BBQ will start at 11:00 AM and is scheduled to end at 4:00 PM (unless sold out beforehand). We will run a bake sale at the same time/place and will also have water available for sale.

Our worship service will begin an hour earlier on this day so members can be ready to sell chicken at 11:00. Therefore, please add a reminder to your calendar that worship service will begin at **9:00 AM** on May 31st.

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**NOTE: All events and fund raisers scheduled toward the end of May and June assume the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. Please see our website or Facebook page or call the church at 585-657-7755 for updates.**

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

**NOTE:** No reoccurring events will be held in May because of the Covid-19 shutdown. However, if we are able to begin meeting in person in the middle of May, the men's breakfast will meet at the end of May and the choir will resume Wednesday rehearsals. Please check with Pastor Sue, Bethyn Boni, Marilyn Shafer or check our website or Facebook page for updates on when we are resuming in-person meetings.

\* **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 **June 7**.

\* **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. For this period, the offering is **June 7**.

\* **Church Council:** The council meets the first Sunday of every month after the worship service (generally around 11:30/12:00 PM). All are welcome to attend. For this period, the meeting is **June 7**.

\* **Choir Practice:** The choir meets at 7:30 PM every Wednesday at the church. All are welcome to come sing. The choir also meets at 9:15 AM every Sunday, so if you can't make Wednesdays, you are more than welcome to come to the Sunday practices. A great way to worship!

\* **Men's Breakfast:** meets the last Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8:00 AM. All interested men are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the men meet **May 31** (assuming shutdown has ended) & **June 28**.

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## **March & April Specific Calendar Events:**

**Sunday, May 8:**

\* Mother's Day

**Sunday, May 8:**

\* Memorial Day

**Sunday, May 31:**

\* Pentecost Sunday - wear **RED** this day to remind yourself, and others, of the fire of the Spirit!

\* Church BBQ at Shivers, Shakes & Cones: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (or until sold out)

**Monday, June 15:**

\* Church-sponsored blood drive at the East Bloomfield Holcomb Fire Department: 2:00 - 7:00 PM.

At our last drive (April), the Red Cross was accepting donors with appointments only, no walk-ins. So, please be sure you book an appointment if you wish to give blood. If you don't have, or don't wish to use the Red Cross app to complete a Rapid Pass/ appointment, please contact Marilyn Shafer at 585-935-1538 to schedule an appointment.

**Thursday, June 18:**

\* Book club meets in Fellowship Hall – 10:30 AM; they will discuss *Maid* by Stephanie Land.

**Goodreads synopsis:** Stephanie Land's memoir about working as a maid; a beautiful and gritty exploration of poverty in America. Includes a foreword by Barbara Ehrenreich.

"My daughter learned to walk in a homeless shelter."

While the gap between upper middle-class Americans and the working poor widens, grueling low-wage domestic and service work--primarily done by women--fuels the economic success of the wealthy. Stephanie Land worked for years as a maid, pulling long hours while struggling as a single mom to keep a roof over her daughter's head. In *Maid*, she reveals the dark truth of what it takes to survive and thrive in today's inequitable society.

While she worked hard to scratch her way out of poverty as a single parent, scrubbing the toilets of the wealthy, navigating domestic labor jobs, higher education, assisted housing, and a tangled web of government assistance, Stephanie wrote. She wrote the true stories that weren't being told. The stories of overworked and underpaid Americans.

Written in honest, heart-rending prose and with great insight, *Maid* explores the underbelly of upper-middle class America and the reality of what it's like to be in service to them. "I'd become a nameless ghost," Stephanie writes. With this book, she

gives voice to the "servant" worker, those who fight daily to scramble and scrape by for their own lives and the lives of their children.

**Sunday, June 21:**

\* 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 for information on joining the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield or to arrange Home Communion for a shut in.

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**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. Please ensure you get the written details of the event to Alice 4 weeks before the date of the event.

*Perplexing, Pentecostal God,  
you infuse us with your Spirit,  
urging us to vision and dream.  
May the gift of your presence  
find voice in our lives,  
that our babbling may be transformed into discernment  
and the flickering of many tongues  
light an unquenchable fire of compassion and justice.*

*Amen.*



## Lectionary Readings:

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Fourth Sunday of Easter <b>May 3, 2020</b>	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
Fifth Sunday of Easter <b>May 10, 2020</b>	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
Sixth Sunday of Easter <b>May 17, 2020</b>	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
Ascension of the Lord <b>May 21, 2020</b>	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 93</i>	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Seventh Sunday of Easter <b>May 24, 2020</b>	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth <b>May 31, 2020</b>	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 113	Romans 12:9-16b	Luke 1:39-57
Day of Pentecost <b>May 31, 2020</b>	Acts 2:1-21 <i>or</i> <i>Numbers 11:24-30</i>	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 <i>or</i> <i>Acts 2:1-21</i>	John 20:19-23 <i>or</i> <i>John 7:37-39</i>
Trinity Sunday <b>June 7, 2020</b> First Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 1:1-2:4a  Psalm 8		2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
Proper 6 (11) Second Sunday after Pentecost <b>June 14, 2020</b>	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)  Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Exodus 19:2-8a  Psalm 100	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
Proper 7 (12) Third Sunday after Pentecost <b>June 21, 2020</b>	Genesis 21:8-21  Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17	Jeremiah 20:7-13  Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
Proper 8 (13) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost <b>June 28, 2020</b>	Genesis 22:1-14  Psalm 13	Jeremiah 28:5-9		

*\* Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.*

*May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

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



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