



# Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.  
September/October 2016

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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

How do you define peace? Is it peace vs war? Is it an inner feeling of calm? Is it good nature between our children? Is it loving our sisters and brothers in Christ even when we have differing opinions about politics or behaviors (i.e. some of the Olympians) or beliefs?

There is an article on page 6, "A Time for Peace". It is a short article calling for expressions of peace to come from remembering 9-11 rather than divisiveness.

The words have caused me to wonder how I fare as an ambassador of peace in this world. When I am feeling self-righteous about my political view am I drawing lines in the sand with someone of opposing view? When I feel strongly that all people should be loved and included do I still put people who want to build walls on my "hate" list?

In other words, when we take a stand we are at risk of thinking we have all the answers and we feel justified to think of those who differ in opinion as "wrong." Maybe we don't hate them but we aren't showing love toward them!

We have received a clear call from Jesus to love. To love unconditionally. Our family, our friends and our neighbors—and our enemies as well.

When we pray for peace let's pray to remove the stumbling blocks from our hearts and minds that cause us to take sides or cause us to think we are right and "they" are wrong. It isn't an easy task. We need Jesus to guide us. Peace to you my friends as we begin our church year. Phyllis

## PASTORS' COLUMN



### *Just A Thought...*

I hope everyone had a relaxing and spirit renewing summer! For my vacation, I spent a week at the Jersey Shore with my family and had a wonderful time. As always, the crab cakes were delicious!!! ☺

We have some folks in our church family who love to travel. I am not one of them. I become very anxious and agonize over leaving my home, like somehow if I am not there something bad will happen. This year was no different. I have a small water issue in my basement near the panel box. The cinder blocks are damp and I have convinced myself it is a potential fire or flooding hazard. I worry if we get a soaking rain my basement will flood. I worry that the guys who installed my radon mitigation system did not correctly attach the electric. I worry about a break-in because I am not there to turn the porch light on. I could go on and on but you get the picture.

This year, instead of driving straight to the shore, I decided to stop in Princeton, N.J. and stay overnight at the seminary. I have not visited the campus since my graduation and wanted to see the new library. After I got settled in I walked into town and was disappointed because it looked dirty. I ate at Panera Bread which had been remodeled and was not how I remembered it. After eating, I stopped at Starbuck's and even Starbuck's had changed. It was crowded and messy and all I kept thinking was how one of the college students who kept brushing up against me as I waited for my iced / venti / decaf / café mocha / non fat / no whip coffee to be made, was trying to put their smart phone next to mine and steal my data!!! Even the University campus was not as pristine as I remembered. Thankfully, the seminary campus brought back some wonderful memories. Miller Chapel was

open and I was able to spend time inside all by myself. I even sent Donna a picture of the chapel organ. (gorgeous!)

After spending a week away from home, I returned to find my house just as I had left it, well almost. I soon discovered I had no water pressure. I went next door to see if they had pressure (which they did), I called the plumber (no answer), the water / sewer people (no answer), the cat sitter who had been in the house during the week, and a couple of other people. Finally I called 9-1-1 and asked what I should do. Within several minutes the head of the water/sewer department called me and told me he was sending a man out to look things over. ☺ After he explained this was not an emergency and things could wait until Monday I felt better. That is until the water pressure dropped again on Monday and the whole thing ended up costing me \$469. to replace the pressure reducing valve. ☹

As stressful as all of this was for me, these are only "things". Oh sure, we want to take care of our property and hate when something goes wrong or needs repair but that's part of home ownership, things are going to break or need replacement.

I was writing this on Saturday right before those two major thunderstorms came through. Talk about anxiety!!! I was so worried I was going to have a flooded basement. I kept trying to convince myself excessive worry is not good, nor is it productive.

At one time or another we all face unpleasant challenges and situations. There are members of our own church family who are dealing with "real" concerns like health issues that they have little or no control over. I want to share the passage from Matthew (6:26-34) which helped me prioritize and provided some piece of mind and comfort.

*26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? [a] 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor*

spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God[b] and his[c] righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

When our worries start to overcome us, Scripture is the answer! Our God is a God who is with us and for us. He wants to be in relationship with us. Me personally, I’m going to try and worry less about my basement and other material things and instead try and spend my energy on what is important, the kingdom of God and sharing the Good News of the Gospel. How about you?

Please remember to keep our farmers (whether crop or animal) in your thoughts and prayers.

*See you in church!  
Sandy*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER, MINISTRY AND HUMOR**

**Church Membership**

Please contact Rev. Sandy Porrey at (585) 354-7065 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





**Sept. Birthdays**

- 9 Mary Martin
- 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 evening: 7:30-9:00.
Sept 4	-Women’s Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J’s -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council resumes
Sept 5	Labor Day
Sept 11 	-Patriot Day -Rally Day: Family Life church pot luck lunch. Following lunch, we’ll put together the hygiene kits.
Sept 18 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Sept 22	-First day of Autumn -Book Club, 2:30-4:00. Follow the River, James Alexander Thom

Sept 25	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
Sept 30	-Last Friday Free Supper: 5:00-6:45
Oct 1	Roast Pork Dinner 5-7 PM Tickets \$10.00
Oct 2	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -World Communion Sunday -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
Oct 7	Simple Gifts concert - 7:00-Tickets \$12.00
Oct 16	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Oct 18	<b>Newsletter Deadline for Nov/Dec 2016</b>
Oct 20	Book Club 2:30-4:00. Girl Waits with Gun, Amy Stewart.
Oct 28	Last Friday free supper 5:00 to 6:45



**PEWPOINTS**

**Lectionary Readings Sept/Oct 2016**

Sept 4 Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Philemon 1:1-1:21, Luke 14:25-33  
 Sept 11 Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalm 14, Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10  
 Sept 18 Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13  
 Sept 25, Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31  
 Oct 2, Lamentations 1:1-6, Psalm 137, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10  
 Oct 9 Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, Psalm 66:1-12, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

Oct 16 Jeremiah 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-104, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8  
 Oct 23 Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14  
 Oct 30 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, Psalm 119:137-144, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
 Luke 19:1

**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 have to 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 September and October, the congregation prays for June Bartos, Chris Bartos, Noah & Isaac Bartos, Mona & Mick Eddy, Joan Hall, Bob & Dorothy Hodges, Doris Virkus and Terry Silvernail.

Bible Quiz answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.)

Let's pray for this church. Pray that God will bless us with strength and energy to meet our goals as we reach out to our community.

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 from Norma, Nick Glamack's mom and Kathrine, Donna Messner's mom.

Pray for our pastors, Sandy and Andy. Ask God to open the ears of our congregation, to guide our pastors' hearts and to bless us with His Spirit through the words shared.

## **Annual Roast Pork dinner**

The annual Roast Pork Dinner is October 1, 2016. The menu includes roast pork loin, bread dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans with mustard sauce, Black Forest Cake and Coffee, tea and cider.

Serving is from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Tickets are available at the door: \$10.00, adults and \$5.00, 12 and under. A great meal and a great deal!

## **Simple Gifts concert**

The First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield is pleased to host Simple Gifts, a concert of the finest arrangement of folk music today! The concert is October 7, 2016 at 7:00 in the sanctuary.

Two women plus ten instruments equals one good time. Karen Hirshon and Linda Littleton play a wide variety of ethnic folk music, and you'll hear selections that range from lively Irish jigs and down-home American reels to hard-driving Klezmer freilachs, haunting Gypsy melodies and exotic Balkan dance tunes.

You are in for a special treat when you hear these two talented women play with enthusiasm and gusto.

Tickets are \$12.00. Advanced sale at the church in September on Sundays from 11:30 to 1:00 and Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. There is limited seating so get your tickets early!

## **Book Club**

9-22-2016

Follow the River, James Alexander Thom (sequel Angels Along the River, same author)

"Mary Ingles was twenty-three, married, and pregnant, when Shawnee Indians invaded her peaceful Virginia settlement, killed the men and women, then took her captive. For months, she lived with them, unbroken, until she escaped, and followed a thousand mile trail to freedom--an extraordinary story of a pioneer woman who risked her life to return to her people."

Oct 20, 2016

Girl waits with Gun, Amy Stewart

"Constance Kopp, the feisty heroine of Amy Stewart's charming novel "Girl Waits with Gun," sounds like the creation of a master crime writer. At nearly 6 feet tall, Constance is a formidable character who can pack heat, deliver a zinger and catch a criminal without missing a beat. Based on the little-known story of the real Constance Kopp, one of America's first female deputy sheriffs, the novel is an entertaining and enlightening story of how far one woman will go to protect her family." —Washington Post

## **'Chariots and horses'**

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses," proclaims Psalm 20:7 (NKJV). "But we will remember the name of the LORD our God." Do these antiquated modes of transportation make this verse irrelevant to us? Not if we broaden our notion of chariots and horses.

Some trust in fancy cars, boats, bikes or snowmobiles for status or entertainment. Some trust in big houses, expensive furniture or high-end fashion to feel important. Some trust in investments or a promised inheritance for security. Some trust in food, painkillers or alcohol to feel good — for a while. Some trust in military might,

academic degrees, sports, relationships and so much more.

Let's help one another trust instead in the name — and trustworthiness — of our God. Even the psalmist didn't do so alone; verse 7 says "we." We need friends, Christian mentors and, above all, the Holy Spirit to assist us. In God we'll find our answers, our strength and our purpose.

## A time for peace



mutual respect." —Archbishop Timothy Dolan

"We must never allow September 11th to become a time for protest and division. Instead, this day must remain a time for promoting peace and

## Back-to-school humor

- Summer is over. Time to officially remember what day of the week it is!
- "Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken." (Bill Dodds)
- Receiving new textbooks, one student to another: "Psst. How do you turn this thing on?"
- Parent: "What did you learn today?" Kindergartner: "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."

## Modern miracles

At the mention of miracles, we often picture the biblical kind: a dead person brought back to life, a small amount of food feeding a crowd, sight restored to a blind man. Yet even today we look for unexpected healings or an earthquake victim found alive after days amid rubble.

But consider someone born with poor eyesight who, thanks to technology, can work as a professional proofreader or create

intricate digital paintings. Consider someone with a prosthetic leg who can run and even win races. Consider someone who, thanks to a donated heart, kidney or blood, continues to live. Consider friends in the United States and Europe who can connect in "real time," offering support during a crisis.

Technology — whose source is the human brain created by God — makes possible a new, modern-day type of miracle. When used for good, it can overcome barriers, allowing us to celebrate life and serve one another. Miracles, indeed!

## Heavenly vision

Known as the "queen of gospel song writers," Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) wrote more than 9,000 Christian hymns, including "Blessed Assurance" and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Blind from a young age, she developed a love for poetry and Scripture, memorizing about five chapters of the Bible each week. Crosby was the first woman to speak in the U.S. Senate, lobbying to support education for the blind. She also was an abolitionist who made friends with several presidents.

A well-meaning pastor once told Crosby, "It is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when he showered so many other gifts upon you."

She responded that her blindness was a blessing she wouldn't wish away. "When I get to heaven," Crosby said, "the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior."

## Bible Quiz

(Editor's note: in light of the recent Olympic Games this quiz is timely! Find the answer somewhere in this newsletter.)

Which of the following sports does Paul use metaphorically to describe the Christian life?

- A. Fishing
- B. Running a race
- C. Boxing

- D. Both B and C
- E. All of the above

## Do something

God wants our work to be meaningful and satisfying. No matter what we do, it should provide a reason to get up each day and use the talents God has given us. As Benjamin Franklin said, “The man who achieves makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all: doing nothing.”

## I shall not need

Despite the traditional wording (“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want”), Psalm 23 declares that God provides everything we need — not everything we desire.

“He makes me lie down ...”  
Sometimes our busyness is useful; other times it’s how we feel in control or superior to others. God knows we need to rest and sometimes must make us do so!

“He leads me beside still waters ...”  
Although we often prefer noisy distractions, God knows we need quiet to hear him and have our souls restored.

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.” Rather than a boast (“Ha! See how God spreads a banquet in my honor while others look on!”), this is a reminder that God wants us to dine with our enemies. We might not be able to stand those people, but God pursues reconciliation.

In the process, “goodness and mercy ... follow me all ... my life.” That’s what we need the most.

## In communion

In 1936, a group of pastors launched World-Wide Communion Day. Amid the Great Depression, they were looking for a way to meet people’s spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ.

The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the

first Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus.

## You’rx nxxdxd!

Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll— xxcxpt for onx kxy. I havx many timxs wishxd it workxd pxrxfctly. It’s trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not working makxs a hugx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs our church sxxms likx my typxwritxr — not all thx kxy pxoplx work. You may say to yoursxlf, “Wxll, I’m just onx pxrson. I don’t makx or brxak thx church.” But it doxs makx a big diffxrxncx bxcaxsx a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of vxvry pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn’t nxxcxsary, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, “I’m a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation, and I’m nxxdxd vxry much.”

## He's everywhere

A mother asked her little boy to please get the broom from the back porch. “But it’s dark out there!” he protested.

“Don’t be scared,” Mom said. “Jesus is out there. He’ll take care of you.” When the child looked skeptical, his mother continued, “Jesus is everywhere. You’ll be safe.”

After a moment, the boy went to the back door and cracked it open. Peering into the dark, he called, “Jesus, if you’re out there, will you please hand me the broom?”

## Daily tasks

When I awoke this morning, I asked, “How shall I live this day?” The answers were all around me:

The fan said, “Keep your cool.”

The ceiling said, “Aim high.”

The window said, “Look outside yourself.”

The clock said, “Every minute is precious.”

The calendar said, “Stay up to date.”

The door said, "Take advantage of opportunity."

The floor said, "Kneel down and pray."

—Unknown (adapted)

## Always valued

When Paul talks about treasure in clay jars (2 Corinthians 4:6-9), he's referring to the gospel message. The apostle compares the human carriers of the treasure, including himself, to breakable vessels that aren't impervious to outside influences and can fail. But that causes the carriers to rely on God's strength when facing afflictions.

Part of the usefulness of the image — and Paul knows this — is that broken clay jars were used as blank "pages" for writing letters, business receipts, invitations to meals and weddings, and so on. He emphasizes that even when we're broken, we're useful in God's kingdom. When we feel defeated by failure, Jesus still considers us valuable.

## Look up

Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind. ... As long as you are proud, you cannot know God. A proud [person] is always looking down on things and people. And, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you. —C.S. Lewis

## Blessed!

We are blessed by one another's presence, in friendly handshakes or hugs, in the voices that join our own in song and prayer, in coffee and conversation. Together, we are Christ's church. Welcome!

## Picture Us

The choir held their annual end of the year picnic at Marilyn Shafer's home. A lovely setting, good food and fellowship!







Family Life Pot luck lunch and games was held on July 10<sup>th</sup>.



One group played Skip Bo. You can't see her but Norma won the game!



After lunch Sandy collected "the offering"



Some of the crowd decided it was more fun to sit and talk!



Andy's head is going to explode because he is thinking too hard for his next move!



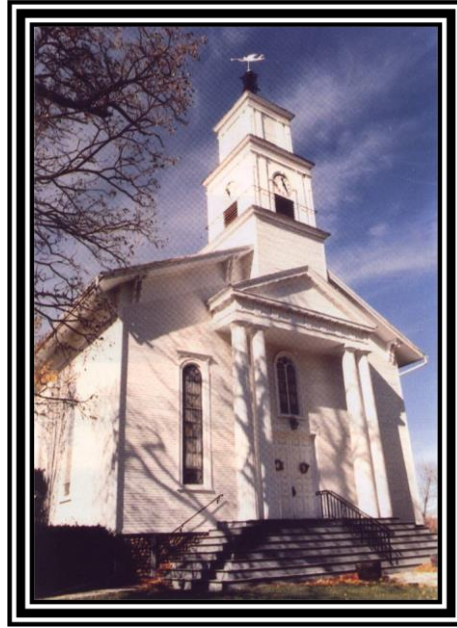
Story cubes! Each of us had to make up a story based on the pictures on the cubes! Funny and fun.



Another group is playing Yahtzee.



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