



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
July/August 2019

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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Reminder!!

A note from the editor...

Such a surprise to be called up in front of the church on Sunday! Thank you for all the nice words of appreciation for the work on the newsletter. I am humbled by this experience! I enjoyed putting the newsletter together! There were times that getting started was hard but once started it always happened. 😊

Thank you for the card and flowers. Aren't they beautiful? And thank you for the gift card! I will be buying books for my Kindle. It's such fun read that way!



You made the job easy! Keep up the good work.

Marilyn Shafer has agreed to publish a newsletter for you beginning in January. I know you will support her in her efforts!

Peace, love and joy!

Phyllis

PASTORS' COLUMN

From the pen of Pastor Andy Schaefer



In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul tells us of the “gifts of the spirit,” a variety of ways in which each believer can serve God, and the variety of talents and skills by which each

believer can carry out service.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

Paul, I’m sure many of you will remember, then goes on to talk about how we are all gifted differently and carry out different functions but, as members of one body, we all have gifts and functions to be valued.

I couldn’t help but be reminded of this as I read through the Galatians lectionary reading for June 30th, which includes one of my favorite passages from Paul:

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.”

Galatians 5:22-23

Paul tells us about both the *gifts* of the Spirit, and of the *fruit* of the Spirit. On one hand, the talents by which, and functions in which, believers operate in the Kingdom of God. On the other, the end product that results when those gifts are employed to perform those functions.

There is a curious distinction which I noticed many years ago and which intrigues me still. Whereas, in Corinthians, Paul speaks of “gifts” in the plural, in Galatians he uses the singular form when referring to the “fruit” of the Spirit. I am no scholar of biblical Greek, but I checked over several different translations, and they all translate the word in verse 22 as singular, “fruit.”

What does this mean? We all have different abilities and different jobs to do,

but the outcome for each should be the same. Within our own hearts, within our small community, and spreading out beyond the walls of our church and from our small circle of disciples, the Fruit of the Spirit will be experienced; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control will *all* be evident and powerful. If we all are as faithful as we are able in the employment of our gifts and talents, God will give the growth and produce the fruit.

Grace and peace to us all,
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




July

7 Nick Glamack
15 Chris Bartos
17 Rich Townsend

August

9 Diane Sickmond
24 Bev Clark

Upcoming Events

| | |
|---|---|
| Choir Everyone is welcome to sing. | Summer rehearsals Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM |
| July 4  | Independence Day |
| July 7 | -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. |
| July 21  | Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall |
| July 28 | Men's Breakfast 7:45 @ Brady J's. |
| Aug 4 | -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. |
| Aug 18  | Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall |
| Aug 20 | Newsletter Deadline for Sept/Oct 2019 |
| Aug 25 | -Men's Breakfast 7:45 @ Brady J's. - Council Meeting |

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings July/ Aug 2019

July 7 2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30, Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
 July 14, Amos 7:7-17, Psalm 82, Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37
 July 21, Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42
 July 28, Hosea 1:2-10, Psalm 85, Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19), Luke 11:1-13
 August 4, Hosea 11:1-11, Psalm 107:1-9, 43, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21
 August 11, Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40
 August 18, Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56
 August 25, Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

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 Rehtin 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 Rehtin, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; rehtin@rochester.rr.com or 657-7018).

The Ties That Bind



“You don’t know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, ‘Lord, I don’t know how to pray!’ you can be sure you have already begun.”

—St. Josemaría Escrivá

During July and August, the congregation prays for Rich & Nancy Walters, the Boni Family, Larry & Donna Messner, the Mitchell family, and Diane & Bob Sickmond. Remember our members and friends who cannot be with us on Sunday morning: Dorothy and Bob Hodges, Richard Gladding, Mona Eddy’s brother, Norma, Nick Glamack’s mom and Kathrine, Donna Messner’s mom.

Pray for Rachel Schaefer, Lujza Rockcastle, Mick Eddy, John and Anne Lincoln and Cheryl Glamack and family.

Book Club

The Book Club has decided to have a summer break! There is no book club for the months of July and August! We will resume in September with the reading of *The Reckoning* by John Grisham. Enjoy your summer!

A Prayer for July 4th

Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that “this is our Father’s world” and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, “O let [us] ne’er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.” Amen.

—Sandy Hyland

Weighed down

Many people dream of having the “right stuff” to fly to space. Recently, 18,300 people applied for just 12 astronaut spots at NASA! Fanfare over the moon landing’s 50th anniversary is sure to spark even more interest.

Leaving behind earthly troubles and floating in zero gravity must be amazing, right? Not, it turns out, for one’s body. Weightlessness takes a heavy physical toll in space. Without resistance, muscles waste away and bones weaken. Bodily systems we take for granted are disrupted, causing disorientation. To counteract these effects, astronauts wear resistance suits while exercising. Ironically, after escaping Earth’s gravity, they must replace it.

Similarly, we long for trouble-free days and pray for an end to earthly burdens, not recognizing that exertion, whether physical or spiritual, builds strength. “He who knows no hardships will know no hardihood,” said Harry Emerson Fosdick. “He who faces no calamity will need no courage. ... The characteristics in human nature which we love best grow in a soil with a strong mixture of troubles.”

Every weighty challenge is a reason to “rejoice ... knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope” (Romans 5:3-4, ESV).

—Stephanie Martin

A guide for giving

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them.

—C.S. Lewis

Self-fulfilling prophecies

“Children have this amazing way of becoming exactly who we tell them they are,” writes Amy Weatherly. “If we tell them they are strong, they become strong. If we tell them they are kind, they become kind.”

Perhaps Jesus knows this when he tells his disciples, “You are the salt of the earth [and] the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). Clearly they haven’t already mastered sharing Jesus’ goodness with everyone! They are works in progress, as are we. But Jesus, teacher that he is, seems to set the bar high so his followers will strive to meet his expectations.

“You are Peter,” Jesus tells Simon, “and on this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). We can hear Weatherly: “If we tell them they’re faithful, they become faithful.” And when Jesus declares, “You are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31), we believe in our worth and live it out. We become what Jesus tells us we are. —Heidi Mann

Love made flesh

The whole concept of God taking human shape had never made much sense to me. That was because, I realized one wonderful day, it was so simple. For people with bodies, important things like love have to be embodied. That’s all. God had to be embodied, or else people with bodies would never in a trillion years understand about love. —Jane Vonnegut Yarmolinsky

Our approachable Lord

There is not a hint of one person who was afraid to draw near [Jesus]. There were those who mocked him. There were those who were envious of him. There were those who misunderstood him. There were those who revered him. But there was not one person who considered him too holy, too divine or too celestial to touch. There was not one person who was reluctant to

approach him for fear of being rejected. Remember that.

—Max Lucado, *God Came Near*

Don’t carry two days at once

“Worrying is carrying tomorrow’s load with today’s strength — carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time.” This wise counsel is attributed to Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian whose family in Amsterdam sheltered some 800 Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, suffering imprisonment as a result. Her father and sister died in captivity, but Corrie was freed and later set up a rehabilitation center for concentration camp victims and supporters of the Germans alike.

Surely ten Boom couldn’t have survived and achieved what she did without laying aside her worries and trusting God. Indeed, her wisdom closely echoes Jesus’ teaching: “Do not worry about your life. ... Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ... Your heavenly Father knows [what] you need. ... Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:25-34, NIV).

Grooving for God

Fifty years ago this summer, as the Woodstock Festival in upstate New York became a symbol of the countercultural movement, another groundswell was occurring: the Jesus Movement. In 1970, teenager Greg Laurie was baptized after a bunch of “Jesus freaks” introduced him to the Savior. The lost kid whose mom had been divorced seven times finally felt part of a family.

Laurie, now pastor of a megachurch and author of *Jesus Revolution* (Baker Books), says the Millennial generation is ripe for another major faith movement. During a time of division and unrest that mirrors the late ’60s, people are longing for what’s “real” and relational, he writes. Our “weary, chaotic, selfie-saturated culture” needs “a

big, ravishing, transcendent, and transformational vision of who God really is,” adds Laurie. “That’s what happened fifty years ago. It can happen again today.”

Kingdom on wheels

“If you love what you do, you’re going to talk about it,” says Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz. “I love Jesus ... so I’m going to talk about [him]. But I’m not going to force [Christianity] down your throat, either.” That’s why the pro athlete tries to show his faith by “how I live and what I’m about.”

Wentz started the foundation AO1 (Audience of One) to make a tangible impact beyond the gridiron. With a local church, he sponsors Thy Kingdom Crumb, a food truck that offers free meals to people in the community. The motto painted on the mobile restaurant sums up the message Wentz wants to share with his neighbors: “It’s on us ... ’cause he loves you!”

Summer fruit basket

Taste some fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) — perfect for summer, and all year round!

- Love: “There is always an ‘again’ with love.” —Unknown
- Joy: “I don’t think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains.” —Anne Frank
- Peace: “Peace begins with a smile.” —Mother Teresa
- Patience: “The purposes of God may sometimes seem delayed, but they are never abandoned.” —H.C. Mears
- Kindness: “Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” —Mark Twain
- Goodness: “Goodness means to do things for the glory of God.” —Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- Faithfulness: “Do small things as if they were great because of the majesty of Christ, who does them in us.” —Blaise Pascal
- Gentleness: “There is nothing stronger in the world than gentleness.” —Han Suyin

- Self-control: “God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” —2 Tim. 1:7 (ESV)

A day away in a quiet place

Maya Angelou said, “Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us.” Similarly, when Jesus’ disciples were consumed with ministry, he urged them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mark 6:31, NIV).

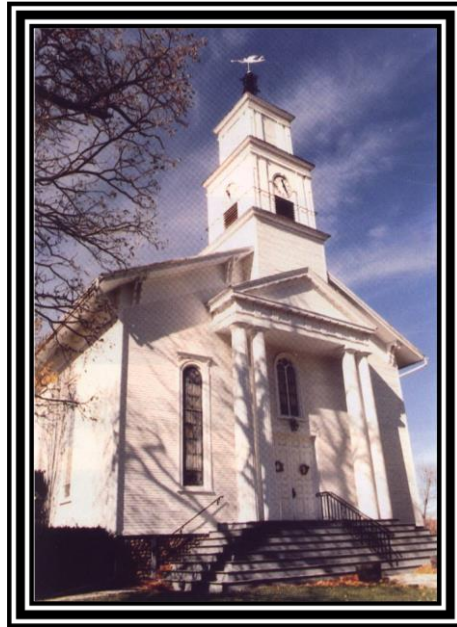
The late days of summer might be just the time to seek “a day away” not only from problems but even from ministry. While serving God and others can be energizing, we must balance work with rest. God set that example, resting after creating the world; Jesus set that example, calling his disciples away — not just alone, but with him — to be refreshed.

Spend a relaxing day at a lake. Go on a scrapbooking retreat or a leisurely hike with a friend. Find a monastery that welcomes guests, and experience 48 hours of prayer and silence there. Invite Jesus into that time and space. And remember another message he shared: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28, NIV)





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