



# Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.  
September/October 2019

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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

Greetings from the great state of Minnesota. We have taken a brake from the stress and confusion of buying and selling a house. With the help of so many wonderful friends and family we moved everything into the new house. Boxes are stacked everywhere as we try to determine where everything should be. Downsizing can be humorous! Our new living room has four reclining chairs in it. (Used to be two in the living room and two in the family room!) We were sitting there, and it occurred to us that our living room could be the living room of a senior center! So, we left and are now with our son in Minnesota. It is a good brake and before long we'll be back to solve the senior sitting room problem.

In the meantime, we send you our love and our heartfelt thanks for helping us through this stressful time. There are still challenges ahead but we know God is good, all the time. I am reminded that Jesus tells me He will never leave me—even when I am weak and forget His powerful promises to me! Praise God from whom all blessings flow...

Peace, love and joy!  
Phyllis

# PASTORS' COLUMN

*From the pen of Pastor Andy Schaefer*



And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the

proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.

Luke 12:42-43

I just love being home alone. Of course, I enjoy the company of my wife and whichever of our children might be around, but I also like the experience of solitude, of having no one in the immediate area expecting me to do or say something, to fulfill some obligation. It happens so rarely that I try to savor the experience for as long as I can.

Ah, but therein is the trap: I want to keep it going, and it doesn't take very long to slip into "too much of a good thing" territory. Too soon I am in danger of a healthy rest becoming an unhealthy inertia. I've been at rest so long that I want to do nothing but rest.

Though the scripture above has universal and cosmic implications, I was also thinking of it in a deeply personal way this morning. I was considering it as an reminder that I may feel alone, but really, I am never alone. God is ever present and ever speaking to me, if I would only attune my spiritual ears. God is ever presenting me with opportunities to give and serve in the name of Jesus. God values when I take opportunities to recharge, but also knows it does no one, least of all me, any good to vegetate.

If you read the wider context of the scripture, you will find it includes some grisly imagery as to the fate of the unfaithful manager. I think this is due, in part to the fact that God knows we need a little "scare tactic" once in a while, just to let us know how important it is to God that we do our best and become the best we can be.

As we enter fall, may we all be faithful managers of the ministries God has given us!

Peace, Andy

## 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



### Sept.

9 Mary Martin  
18 Alice McConnell  
20 Sandy Porrey  
27 Donna Messner

### Oct.

5 Rich Walters  
6 Lynn Tyler  
14 Phyllis Rechten  
22 Lydia Schaffer  
26 Jim Rechten  
30 Bruce C. Walters

## Upcoming Events

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Wednesday evening 7:30-9:00
Sept. 1	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering.

Sept 2	Labor Day
Sept 11	Patriot Day
Sept. 15	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Sept. 19	Book Club, 2:30-3:30, Reckoning by John Grisham
Sept. 29	Men's Breakfast 7:45 @ Brady J's.
Oct. 6	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
Oct 8	World Communion Sunday
Oct 15	<b>Newsletter Deadline for Nov/Dec 2019</b>
Oct. 17	Book Club, Maybe You Should Talk to Someone, Lori Gottlieb, 2:30-3:30,
Oct. 20	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Sept 23	First day of Autumn
Oct. 27	-Men's Breakfast 7:45 @ Brady J's. -Reformation Sunday



## PEWPOINTS

### Lectionary Readings Sept/Oct 2019

Sept 1 Jeremiah 2:4-13, Psalm 81:1, 10-16, Proverbs 25:6-7, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sept 8 Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Philemon 1:1-21, Luke 14:25-33  
 Sept 15 Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10  
 Sept 22 Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13  
 Sept 29 Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31  
 Oct 6 Lamentations 1:1-6, Psalm 137, Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10  
 Oct 13 Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, Psalm 66:1-12, 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19  
 Oct 20 Jeremiah 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-104, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8  
 Oct 27 Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65, 19-22, 1-7, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

### 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 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, 7453 State Route 5 & 20., Bloomfield, NY 14469; [rehtin@rochester.rr.com](mailto: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 September and October, the congregation prays for June Bartos, Chris Bartos, Noah & Isaac Bartos, Mona & Mick Eddy, Joan Hall, Richard Gladding and Bob & Dorothy Hodges.

Remember our members and friends who cannot be with us on Sunday morning: Dorothy and Bob Hodges, Richard Gladding, Mona Eddy's brother, and Kathrine, Donna Messner's mom.

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

## Book Club

The September reading is *The Reckoning* by John Grisham.

John Grisham is well known around the world as an author of popular courtroom dramas and other legal thrillers. Now, in 2018, he has ventured into new territory with an extraordinary historical novel. Although some of the action takes place in the courtroom, the central elements of the story are a shocking murder, the dynamics of a well-to-do Mississippi family, and the horrific experience of American soldiers forced into the Bataan Death March.

In *The Reckoning*, the action unfolds over an eight-year period in the 1940s. Grisham tells the backstory in flashbacks that begin in 1925. War overshadows the events in both periods. The central character is Pete Banning, a West Point graduate. Banning joined the US Army as a lieutenant in 1925, left to take over the family cotton farm during the Depression, and returned to the service in 1942. His experiences in the Philippines during World War II dominate the story.

From the Bataan Death March to murder in Mississippi Banning's cold-blooded murder of his hometown preacher in 1946 is the hinge on which the tale turns. Clearly, his wartime experiences on the Bataan Death March and later as a guerrilla fighter with the Philippine Resistance help to explain why he committed murder so soon after returning home. But his attorney is unable to enter any

evidence of those experiences into the record, since Banning resolutely refuses to explain why he did what he did and will not cooperate in his defense.

John Grisham becomes deadly serious in an excellent WWII novel Grisham's popularity rests largely on his ability to write entertaining stories. They can be deadly serious at times, exposing corporate greed, judicial misconduct, or corruption of other sorts. But his books are breezily written, suspenseful from beginning to end, and generally shy away from lurid displays of violence. *The Reckoning* departs from this pattern, and it couldn't be otherwise. The Bataan Death March is one of the most horrific examples of sadistic cruelty and wanton murder to emerge from the Second World War. Grisham has researched the topic well, and it shows.

About the author: John Grisham has written 39 novels since 1989. (Yes, that's more than one per year. And that doesn't include his many short stories and articles and the numerous films and television adaptations on which he no doubt played a role.) As is well known, Grisham is an attorney and is an advocate of prison and legal reform. He lives with his family in Oxford, Mississippi, a city that is featured in *The Reckoning*, his latest work.

In October we will read *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*, Lori Gottlieb

I didn't quite know how to take it when a publishing friend excitedly thrust a copy of celebrated psychotherapist Lori Gottlieb's *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* into my hands and exclaimed: "Erin, this is a book for you!" (Did I mention a couple colleagues were present and did not receive the same recommendation? The same colleagues who were just then nodding?). But I'm so glad he did. Giving the reader a behind-the-scenes peek from both sides of the couch, it's a witty, relatable, moving homage to therapy—and just being human. While therapists are required to see a counselor themselves as part of their training, Gottlieb enlists an experienced ear when an unexpected breakup lays her flat. Working through her issues with the enigmatic

“Wendell” helps Gottlieb process her pain, but it also hones her professional skills; after all, a good therapist possesses the ability to empathize with their patients (four of whom she chronicles in funny, frustrating, heartbreaking and profoundly inspiring detail). Like Gottlieb, you will see yourselves in them--in all their self-sabotaging, misunderstood, unlucky, and evolutionary glory. So, for those of you thinking: self-help books are just not my jam...They aren't mine either (trust me, my woo-woo detector is very sensitive). But *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* is so much more expansive than that. Everybody, this is a book for you. --Erin Kodicek, Amazon Book Review

## Labors of love

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, “It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God.” As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer's end but in celebrating the ways nearly all “duties and labors of life” can empower ministry and faith.

Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they'll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in “spiritual union with God”: cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!

## Stop the hopping

A church is an imperfect mix of imperfect believers, so it's easy for members to find faults or feel disappointed. That, in turn, may tempt us to shop around.

C.S. Lewis addresses that in *The Screwtape Letters*. “If a man can't be cured

of churchgoing,” *Screwtape* advises his demon protégé, “the next best thing is to send him all over the neighborhood looking for the church that ‘suits’ him until he becomes a taster or connoisseur of churches.” How Satan must hate when Christians maintain long-term commitment to one church!

The urge to church-hop harms congregations as well as believers. “Spiritual depth isn't fostered by satiating your sense of felt needs,” writes James Emery White. “It's receiving a balanced diet of teaching and challenge, investing in service and mission, living in community and diversity that you probably would not select for yourself.”

## The heart of worship

The worship to which we are called in our renewed state is far too important to be left to personal preferences, to whims or to marketing strategies. It is the pleasing of God that is at the heart of worship. Therefore, our worship must be informed at every point by the Word of God as we seek God's own instructions for worship that is pleasing to him. —R.C. Sproul

## Back-to-school humor

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...  
... an ice cream man? Sundae school  
... a giant? High school  
... a surfer? Boarding school  
... King Arthur? Knight school

Teacher: What's the chemical formula for water?

Student: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Student: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

Math teacher: A person from LA drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour as a person from New York drove toward LA at 150 miles per hour. Where did they meet?

Student: In jail!

## A look at beauty

Remember kaleidoscopes — those tubes you hold up to your eye and point toward the light to see colorful shapes? When the far end of the optical instrument is turned, fragments of material inside an “object cell” shift and mirrors set at angles reflect light through the pieces, forming ever-changing patterns. A multi-hued flower might become sunlight through a round stained-glass window or fireworks on a clear night.

Various materials can be placed in the cell — tiny figures, twisted bits of metal, lace, viscous liquid — but often broken bits of glass are used, to beautiful effect! In fact, David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope in 1817, named it after the Greek word kalos, for “beauty.”

Everyone feels broken, twisted or shattered at times. But when God’s perfect light shines in and through us, reflecting among the fragments of our imperfect lives, we, too, become beautiful. Out of our sinfulness and brokenness shines the beauty of compassion, kindness, perseverance, hope, love — delightful patterns to brighten this hurting world.

## A prayer for peace

St. Francis of Assisi, an Italian Catholic friar, is commemorated on October 4. Though it’s unclear whether this famous “peace prayer” was his, it reflects his gentle spirit as an ardent Christ-follower:

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is error, truth;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.  
O, Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek to be  
consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying to ourselves that we are  
born to eternal life. Amen.

## Aw-fall!

Share some laughs — or groans — with these autumn-themed jokes:

- What did the tree say to autumn? “Leaf me alone!”
- What did one autumn leaf say to another? “I’m falling for you.”
- How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch.
- Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the fall they “let it go” and in the spring they “turn over a new leaf.”
- How do leaves get from place to place? With autumn-mobiles.
- What’s the ratio of a pumpkin’s circumference to its diameter? Pumpkin pi.

## Picture Us

Celebrating Nick Glamack’s birthday

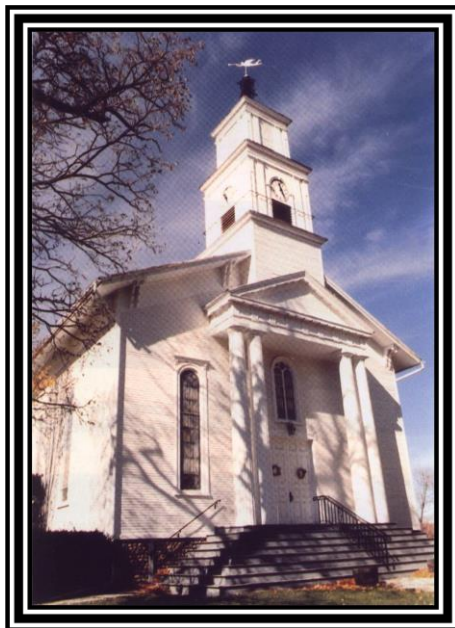


The choir celebrated the end of a great year on July 7, 2019 with a picnic at Marilyn Shafer's house.





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