



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

March/April 2022

*** Our Sunday worship service begins at 10 a.m. ***

CHURCH STAFF

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Gracious and merciful God, you see into the secret places of our hearts, where we mourn our sins. Look with mercy on our contrite hearts, wash from us the stain of iniquity, and create a new and right spirit in us, that we may declare your praise and offer an acceptable sacrifice in these Lenten days; through Christ Jesus, who bore our sins on the cross. Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR

² My brothers and sisters,^[b] whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; ⁴ and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4 NRSV



This column comes in the time of Lent and Easter. You cannot have Easter without Lent. It is essential that we, the faithful, see what that last period of Jesus' life was like. We need to visualize his raising of Lazarus, but also see how he dealt with Martha and Mary. We need to walk into the Garden of Gethsemane with him, as he agonized over what would come. We need to see him endure.

For that is what Jesus did; he endured. He understood that his home synagogue would reject him, because they could not get past their image of him. He endured their rejection. He heard the words from His Father: "This Is My Son, my Chosen; Listen to him!", but knew those gathered who heard the same words didn't understand. He endured their ignorance. He healed ten lepers; only one stayed to praise God. He endured their lack of gratitude. He went to the cross, and the only disciples who followed him there were Peter and the disciple whom he loved. He endured the absence of the others and Peter's betrayal. He endured a hideous, excruciating death. He did all of this so that we might live.

We do not have the same set of circumstances that Jesus did. But, we still have circumstances that we need to face. Perhaps, we have experienced the betrayal of someone we love. Perhaps we are suffering from a painful illness. Perhaps we struggle with depression, or other forms of mental illness. Perhaps we are grieving. These are all things we must endure. They are events or circumstances that we meet head on. We do not run from them, or try to find someone on whom to place the blame. We look them squarely in the face, and get through them. How? With the strength that Jesus showed when he faced his own obstacles. All we need to do is ask for it. When Jesus became human, he took on all of our humanity. Therefore, he knows what it is like to struggle, to feel discouraged or depleted. He understands hitting a brick wall, and not being sure where to turn. He knows what it is like to be alone. And, he says, "I'm right there with you. I endured for your sake. I came to defeat death and bring you new life. I will never leave you or forsake you."

This is Lent....and Easter. We cannot fully grasp the joy of Easter without understanding the travails of Lent. Let us walk with him, and see his endurance. Then, let us celebrate his victory, and know that all of it was done for us.

Blessings,

Sue

Prayer Requests:

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

*The Glamack family * Donna Magraw * Mary Martin * Bev Clark * the Perkins family * the Tyler family * Jeremy * Eric * Al & Patty * Garret * Kay * the Salmon family * Peg * Alice * Larry Messner * Helen * Don Shultz * Kathy * the Brien family * Carl & Nancy * Richard * Arleen * Lujza * Russ * all places & people with Covid * school teachers, students & school administration * all those in the medical fields * our country*

Birthdays:

These people are celebrating birthdays during these two months. When you see them, please wish them a Happy Birthday!

March

6 Robin Stewart,
12 Joe Walters,
28 Will Tyler,
29 Larry Messner,
31 Cheryl Glamack,

April

12 Bob Kelly



*God of wilderness and water,
your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
Guide us through this season,
that we may not avoid struggle,
but open ourselves to blessing,
through the cleansing depths of repentance
and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.*

Church News & Updates:

● Red Cross Blood Drive

February Blood Drive Results: We had a successful blood drive in February. We collected 33 units. These units will go on to help as many as 105 patients in need of a blood transfusion. Our thanks to the volunteers and donors who donate time or blood.

Our next drive is Monday, April 11, 2022, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. It will be in the Fellowship Hall of the church. You can sign up in advance by contacting the Red Cross online. Please note that while we encourage appointments (makes for less waiting for you ... and appointments have priority), walk-ins ARE welcome. Also, please come into the church with your mask already on. Thanks. Hope to see you there!

● New Roof (Update)

Although the present roof is in no immediate need of repair, it **is** 35-40 years old. The trustees have submitted the grant application to help with the roof repair. And now the wait begins. Moving ahead with roof replacement next year would be contingent on obtaining a grant. We will continue keep all informed of the results of this grant.

● Fundraising

We are hosting two BBQs from Gale-Wyn Catering this year. The first one is Sunday, April 24th. The second will be Saturday, July 23, 2022.

● Worship Services

We continue to not require the wearing of masks. Depending on each person's comfort level, we even dispense hugs to our fellow congregation members - or accept them! There is no more special pew markings and members and visitors are welcome to sit where they wish. There are masks available should you choose to wear one (and have forgotten yours). We understand the hesitancy and safety concerns of some folk. Therefore, for those who cannot attend, or who are still not yet comfortable attending public services, we are continuing to tape and post Sunday's service that Sunday afternoon on our Facebook page. However, the tapes are audio only (similar to a podcast) and we are recording only the scripture readings and Pastor Sue's sermon. The podcasts can be listened to at any time (along with all the other videos we've posted) by accessing the Video tab on our Facebook page (link: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-Bloomfield-NY-357770224341588/>).

● Food Cupboard

As a continuing reminder, the food cupboards most needed items right now are toilet paper, hand soap, laundry detergent, dish soap and hearty soups. Because of shopping & purchasing restrictions (rationing), these are the hardest items to keep stocked. So please, buy an extra item on your next shopping trip and leave it in the box in the church entryway. Your donations are always well appreciated.

Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly):

● **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **March 6th** and **April 3rd**.

● **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 and is kept in the Benevolence Fund for future distributions. For this period, the offerings are on Sunday, **March 6th** and **April 3rd**. The offering basket will be available at our live service. However, if you are unable to attend, please contact Janice Kelly, our Benevolence Secretary, to make arrangements for your gift.

Please note that if you are unable to attend worship service yet you wish to make a donation to the church (pledge, benevolence or faith), you can mail your donation to Marilyn Shafer at 12 Howard Avenue, Bloomfield, NY, 14469.

● **Church Council:** The council holds regular meetings on the first Sunday of the month. For this period, the council meets **March 6th** and **April 3rd**.

● **Choir Practice:** The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. In addition, the choir also meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. Please, come join them as they are always looking for singers.

● **Men's Breakfast:** After a long hiatus, the men will meet the last Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested men are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **March 27th** and **April 24th**.

March & April Specific Calendar Events:

● **Tuesday, March 1:** Shrove Tuesday

● **Wednesday, March 2:** Ash Wednesday; Lent begins. A special Ash Wednesday service will be held in the sanctuary starting at 7:00 PM.

● **Sunday, March 6:** Women's breakfast at Brady J's

● **Sunday, March 6:** Church Council meeting (meets after the worship service)

● **Sunday, March 13:** Daylight Saving Time begins (set your clocks ahead 1 hour).

● **Thursday, March 17:** St. Patrick's Day

● **Thursday, March 17, (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Rules of Magic* by Alice Hoffman.

Amazon synopsis:

For the Owens family, love is a curse that began in 1620, when Maria Owens was charged with witchery for loving the wrong man.

Hundreds of years later, in New York City at the cusp of the sixties, when the whole world is about to change, Susanna Owens knows that her three children are dangerously unique. Difficult Franny, with skin as pale as milk and blood red hair, shy and beautiful Jet, who can read other people's thoughts, and charismatic Vincent, who began looking for trouble on the day he could walk.

From the start Susanna sets down rules for her children: No walking in the moonlight, no red shoes, no wearing black, no cats, no crows, no candles, no books about magic. And most importantly, never, ever, fall in love. But when her children visit their Aunt Isabelle, in the small Massachusetts town where the Owens family has been blamed for everything that has ever gone wrong, they uncover family secrets and begin to understand the truth of who they are. Yet, the children cannot escape love even if they try, just as they cannot escape the pains of the human heart. The two beautiful sisters will grow up to be the memorable aunts in *Practical Magic*, while Vincent, their beloved brother, will leave an unexpected legacy.



Alice Hoffman delivers “fairy-tale promise with real-life struggle” (The New York Times Book Review) in a story how the only remedy for being human is to be true to yourself. Thrilling and exquisite, real and fantastical, *The Rules of Magic* is “irresistible...the kind of book you race through, then pause at the last forty pages, savoring your final moments with the characters” (USA TODAY, 4/4 stars).

● **Sunday, March 27:** Men's breakfast at Brady J's

● **Sunday, April 3 (8 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's

● **Sunday, April 3:** Church Council meeting (meets after the worship service)

● **Sunday, April 10:** Palm Sunday

● **Monday, April 11 (2 - 7 p.m.):** Red Cross blood drive; free T-shirts for donors

● **Thursday, April 14:** Maundy Thursday

● **Friday, April 15:** Good Friday. There will be a Good Friday service in the sanctuary; it will start at 7:00 PM

● **Sunday, April 17:** Easter

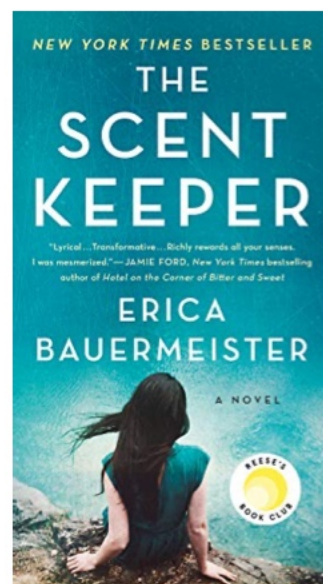


● **Thursday, April 21 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the book *The Scent Keeper* by Erica Bauermeister.

Amazon synopsis:

Emmeline lives an enchanted childhood on a remote island with her father, who teaches her about the natural world through her senses. What he won't explain are the mysterious scents stored in the drawers that line the walls of their cabin, or the origin of the machine that creates them. As Emmeline grows, however, so too does her curiosity, until one day the unforeseen happens, and Emmeline is vaulted out into the real world--a place of love, betrayal, ambition, and revenge. To understand her past, Emmeline must unlock the clues to her identity, a quest that challenges the limits of her heart and imagination.

Lyrical and immersive, *The Scent Keeper* explores the provocative beauty of scent, the way it can reveal hidden truths, lead us to the person we seek, and even help us find our way back home.



● **Sunday, April 24:** Men's breakfast at Brady J's

● **Sunday, April 24:** Chicken BBQ in Canandaigua (at Roseland Plaza on Eastern Boulevard) from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM (or until sold out)

● Pastor Morning Prayer & Office Hours

Pastor Sue has open door office hours every Thursday. She leads morning prayer from the office beginning at 9 a.m. (which is streamed live on the church's Facebook page) and will remain in the office until 1 p.m. As always, drop-ins for a cup of coffee or tea are welcome. In addition, Sue is also available at other times by appointment; please call her on her cellphone at 716-983-5760 to make arrangements.

● 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.

● Advertising A 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.

~ ~ ~ Picture Us ~ ~ ~

Choir Director's Surprise Retirement Party

Our choir director, Bethyn, retired from the Library Director position at the New York Chiropractor College. So, the church threw her a surprise retirement party with a potluck and other treats. In addition to church members, Bethyn had childhood friends and family members there. It was a good-sized crowd and a great time was had by all; she was definitely surprised! Congratulations, Bethyn.



Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen

Lectionary Readings for November & December

	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or <i>Isaiah</i> <i>58:1-12</i>	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday in Lent March 6, 2022	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Second Sunday in Lent March 13, 2022	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35 or <i>Luke</i> <i>9:28-36,</i> <i>(37-43a)</i>
Third Sunday in Lent March 20, 2022	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 27, 2022	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Fifth Sunday in Lent April 3, 2022	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Sixth Sunday in Lent April 10, 2022 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56 or <i>Luke 23:1-49</i>
Maundy Thursday April 14, 2022	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday April 15, 2022	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or <i>Hebrews</i> <i>4:14-16;</i> <i>5:7-9</i>	John 18:1-19:42
Easter Day April 17, 2022	*Acts 10:34-43 or <i>Isaiah</i> <i>65:17-25</i>	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or <i>Acts</i> <i>10:34-43</i>	John 20:1-18 or <i>Luke 24:1-12</i>
April 24, 2022	*Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29 or <i>Psalm 150</i>	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
<i>Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.</i>				

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