



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

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

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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A note from the editor...

We want to sell our house and downsize to a ranch style home. It is a complicated process! Thank God for our good friend and realtor, Nick!

It's amazing how complacent we became over the years, just living with things the way they were! One example: years ago we made two closets into pantrys. One has homemade sliding shelves and the other stationary shelves. They worked well for us and we learned not to notice that the insides of the closets were never painted! So, over the last few weeks, during the 90 plus degree days the closets were sanded and painted, and the shelves covered with white contact paper. They look so nice. It is hard to believe we were okay with the unfinished job all those years!

Putting our house in order is a daunting task! I think it is a lot like putting my spiritual life in order. I used to be very disciplined in having morning devotions. My day wasn't complete unless I spent that time with God. Then I got lazy and skipped devotions for several days and before long that became a habit and I no longer noticed my life was lacking that special time with God. My relationship with God was overlooked just like my unfinished closets. It takes commitment and desire to put things in order again! So, as I enter the fall of our church year I hope that I can live the words of psalm 105:1-5, and I invite you all to join me! (continued page 4)

PASTORS' COLUMN

Just A Thought.....



Rev. Sandy Porrey

So far we have had a very hot and dry summer. My thoughts and prayers have been with all of our farmers as the extreme weather conditions present them with difficult challenges. Because it has been so warm, it is hard for me to think ahead to the upcoming Fall season and the cool weather that will eventually come our way. Unfortunately, because of the hot weather and lack of rain, most of our lawns are brown and dormant and look dead.

Did you know lawns naturally go into a state of dormancy to protect themselves when there is not enough rain to keep them green and growing? In a way I wonder if we can compare our faith journeys to this sort of self-protective behavior. After all, if we are honest with ourselves we must be able to admit there are times in our lives when we all experience a spiritual drought. The times when we feel our prayers aren't being heard or answered. The times when we question why certain things have happened or are happening. And just like a good prolonged soaking rain will bring a lawn back to life, God gives us the Eucharist. It is through His body and blood we given the gift of new life.

In the next few weeks many of the sermons you will hear will be talking about topics such as the feeding of the 5000 and Jesus proclaiming himself as the "Bread of Life". Because Mark and John were writing at different times and for different communities, we will be discussing how each evangelist treated these parables and themes differently. I'm looking forward to these messages and hope you all enjoy them.

I hope your summer so far has been an enjoyable and safe one. Don't forget September 9th is Rally Day!!!

*See you in church!
Sandy*

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.



September




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


October

5 Rich Walters
6 Lynn Tyler
14 Phyllis Rehtin
26 Jim Rehtin
30 Bruce C. Walters

Upcoming Events

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Wednesday night rehearsals resume at 7:30-9:00
Sept 2	-Labor Day -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council Meeting
Sept 3	Labor Day

Sept 9 	-Rally Day. Pot Luck lunch followed by a scavenger hunt. Bring your whole family! -National Grandparents Day
Sept 11 	Patriot Day
Sept 16 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Sept 20	Book Club, 2:30 – 3:30, Everything here is beautiful, Mira Lee
Sept 22	First day of autumn
Sept 30	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
Oct 7	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -World Communion Sunday -Council meeting
Oct 16	Newsletter Deadline for Nov/Dec 2018
Oct 18	Book Club 2:30-3:30, The Magician's Assistant,
Oct 20 	Pulled pork fundraiser. 11:00-4:00 at Shivers. Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Oct 21 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Oct 28	-Reformation Sunday -Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings Sept/Oct 2018

Sept 2 Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
 Sept 9 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Psalm 125, James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17, Mark 7:24-37
 Sept 16 Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38
 Sept 23 Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1, James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37
 Sept 30 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22, Psalm 124, James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50
 Oct 7 Job 1:1, 2:1-10, Psalm 26, Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16
 Oct 14 Job 23:1-9, 16-17, Psalm 22:1-15, Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31
 Oct 21 Job 38:1-7, (34-41), Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45
 Oct 28 Job 42:1-6, 10-17, Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22), Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

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

The Ties That Bind



"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night."

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 and Richard Gladding (Mona Eddy's brother).

Let us also pray for Norma, Nick Glamack's mom and Kathrine, Donna Messner's mom.

Editor's note (continued)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered...

Blessings,
Phyllis

Pulled Pork dinner October 20, 2018

This year our traditional roast pork dinner fund raiser will be on October 20th from 11:00 to 4:00. We are having Gale-Win cook for us. The meal will consist of a pulled pork sandwich, salt potatoes, baked beans and cole slaw. Once again, we'll have a bake sale available for those who wish to have dessert! The site will be at Shivers on 5 and 20.

This promises to be a delicious dinner. Be sure and spread the word! See you there!

Book Club

Book club was canceled in July. Therefore, we moved all selections up one month.

September 20, Everything Here is Beautiful, Mira Lee

This novel is a work of art. Her book is lush with thought. In it, she covers such a wide range of topics, all extremely touching and each one generating intense feelings from immigration to mental illness to family.

Two sisters, Chinese American, raised in New York by a single mother, the eldest, Miranda, whose self-appointed role is to look out for her younger sibling. Lucia, the younger, marries a man, who couldn't be more her opposite, and there was something about him that I found him to be one of the highlights of the story. Several other characters cross her path who are so colorful and add such depth and warmth. One, in particular, was really striking.

While Lucia's state of mind is challenging to contend with, Miranda does everything in her power to help maintain a relationship with her sister.

Always on the move, Lucia meets Manny. Life for each of them is never going to be as it was.

When a story leads you down paths you never would have conjured, introduces you to people you probably would not meet in real life, languages you didn't know you

wanted to know, opens your eyes to different kinds of love, shows you compassion for things that you might not have understood before, this is beautiful. This is EVERYTHING HERE IS BEAUTIFUL.

October 18, The Magician's Assistant, Ann Patchett.

--twenty years a magician's assistant to her handsome, charming husband—is suddenly a widow. In the wake of his death, she finds he has left a final trick; a false identity and a family allegedly lost in a tragic accident but now revealed as very much alive and well. Named as heirs in his will, they enter Sabine's life and set her on an adventure of unraveling his secrets, from sunny Los Angeles to the windswept plains of Nebraska, that will work its own sort of magic on her.

Will heaven be boring?

As a youngster, I imagined heaven as a big, dim room with thick carpet and worried that filling an eternity of days would be boring. I never dreamed anyone shared that concern until I read Sam Storms' words: "Heaven is not one grand, momentary flash of excitement followed by an eternity of boredom" (One Thing).

So, what is heaven like? Scripture offers only a few intriguing glimpses: Ezekiel's vision of four fiery creatures and the hem of God's garment gleaming in rainbow light; Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus, depicting heaven within shouting distance of Hades; Jesus' mention of many rooms in his Father's house; Stephen seeing Jesus at God's right hand; John of Patmos' view of the new Jerusalem, descending from God.

We can't know exactly what heaven looks like — or how we'll fill all our "free time"! (Doubtless, worship around God's throne will be a big and joyous part.) But we know there will be no hunger, thirst, tears, death or pain (see Revelation 7, 21 and 22). All peoples and languages will be included, with healing for all nations. "There will be a new episode of divine grace every day!" Storms writes. Most importantly, Jesus will

be there — the Lamb of God, our Shepherd, sheltering us with his presence. For now, that's all we need to know. —Heidi Mann

Keeping score

Baseball purists often delight in keeping detailed scorecards. So do many Christians — often unknowingly. Do you give yourself "credit" for your years in the faith? for the number of services or studies you attend? for the good deeds you perform? for the Bible verses and creeds you know by heart?

In Philippians 3:4-6, Paul recites his impressive scorecard, yet despite those credentials, he couldn't earn God's favor. Neither can we. Our tallies are all "loss" (v. 7) when compared to the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ (v. 9).

Attending church, serving and memorizing Scripture are good things. But we do them not to get right with God but because we are right with God — through Jesus.

Our firm foundation

During his childhood on the Atlantic Coast, Gregory Elder devoted much time to creating elaborate sandcastles. "Whole cities would appear beneath my hands," he writes. One year, when bullies repeatedly crushed his handiwork, Elder finally placed large rocks and concrete chunks at the base of his kingdoms. The returning bare-footed thugs soon learned a lesson.

Many people consider today's church under attack from secularism, heresies and sin, Elder writes. "They forget that the church is built upon a Rock (Matthew 16:18), over which the gates of hell itself shall not prevail."

A legacy of faith

National Grandparents Day became an official observance in 1978, thanks largely to the lobbying efforts of Marian McQuade, a West Virginian who had 15

children and 43 grandchildren during 60 years of marriage.

The purpose of National Grandparents Day, celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day, is threefold: to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and to help children become aware of strength, information and guidance older people can offer.

Grandparents — and, in this mobile society, surrogate grandparents — also serve as examples of how to endure challenges with God's help. Elders describe how God remains present, faithful and steadfast throughout the years. As Psalm 145:4 (NIV) says, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

The challenge of Scripture

GQ magazine recently included the Bible on a list of 21 books not worth reading, calling the text "repetitive" and "foolish" (among other things). Pushback came from both secular and religious folks. Writing in USA Today, Tim Swarens argued that even if you don't believe in God, the Bible helps you understand Western culture, history, current events and your neighbors.

For Christians, the Bible — God's inspired Word — reveals God's love and will. It isn't always easy to read or process, but no other book contains such good news.

As Danielle Shroyer writes in *Original Blessing*, "Scripture is a sacred book meant to provoke us in ways that will move us toward God. And often, that is the very last thing we are looking for. We would rather have an answer, a simple plan, even a nicely tidy moral story. But Scripture gives us none of these things, because the holy is anything but domestic. We go looking to find a plan and instead are sent on a treasure hunt."

"Surely he has borne our griefs ..."

When veteran Joe Serna confessed that he'd been drinking — behavior

prohibited in the Veterans Treatment Court program — Judge Lou Olivera sentenced him to one night in jail. That might not seem like much, but while deployed, Serna had been trapped underwater when his truck toppled into a canal. A buddy managed to move him to an air pocket, saving his life, but the buddy and two others died. Years later, even the thought of confinement triggered flashbacks.

As Serna arrived for his jail stay, Olivera, also a vet, saw his anxiety, entered the cell with Serna and spent the night. His kind act nearly brought Serna to tears, but the judge believes any vet would have done the same. "These are our brothers," Olivera says. "We never leave each other behind."

Similarly, Jesus entered our troubled story alongside us, sharing in our suffering, brokenness and even death. As a comrade unlike any other, Jesus calls us his brothers and sisters, refusing to leave us behind with our self-imposed burdens. Above all, Jesus does what only God can: redeems us for the joy of new life.

A well-shaken tree

For several years I have read the Bible through twice in 12 months. It is a great and powerful tree, each word of which is a mighty branch. Each of these branches have I well shaken, so desirous was I to know what each one bore and what it would give me. And the shaking of them has never disappointed me. —Martin Luther

16th-century guidance for today

How can we know whether we're following God's will? Sometimes we act, only to see in hindsight that we caused harm. Or self-righteousness blinds us to the good guidance of others.

St. Ignatius of Loyola pondered the difficulty of aligning our actions to God's ways. He taught the need for "discernment of spirits" — examining internal thoughts and emotions to see if they originate with and lead to God. Ignatius called it "consolation"

when he felt loved by God and eager to care for people in need, and “desolation” when something left him full of darkness and fear that moved him away from God and neighbor.

Think of a time you made a decision and then felt peaceful, full of light, convinced it was “right.” And when have you done something despite feeling tangled in knots about it, and perhaps later felt worse? Life isn’t always so clear-cut, but the more we practice discernment, the better we will recognize and follow God’s will.

Stick with it!

“If I’ve learned anything about friendship, it’s to hang in, stay connected,” says journalist Jon Katz. “Don’t walk away, don’t be distracted, don’t be too busy or tired, don’t take them for granted. Friends are part of the glue that holds life and faith together.”

This applies to church life too. When we’re annoyed by some aspect of congregational life or caught in conflict with other members, it’s tempting to drift away to another church — or no church. Even when all is fine, we sometimes let church take a back seat. But our bonds with the family of God are “part of the glue that holds life and faith together.” For the sake of the benefits we gain and give, may we “hang in [and] stay connected” with our church family. May we not “walk away [or] be distracted, ... be too busy or tired.” May we not take one another for granted but thank God for this “glue” — even when things get a bit sticky!

Minister to your ministers

Accept them as people.

Build them up. Say “thank you.”

Communicate with them.

Defend them when someone tries to run them down.

Entertain them. They like to have fun, too!

Family. Allow them to have a family life.

Genuine. Be honest with them. Be yourself around them.

Honor them. Don’t put them on a pedestal,

but respect them.

Income. Pay them enough so money isn’t a concern.

Judge not! Avoid being critical.

Kind. Treat pastors as you want to be treated.

Love. See 1 Corinthians 13.

Maintain. Their families have the same needs as other families.

Nurture. Help them grow in grace.

Offer to help. The list of things you can do is endless.

Pray for them. Lift up their names to God daily.

Quelch not. Encourage instead!

Rejoice in and with them.

Surprise them — in little and big ways.

Trust them. Believe in them.

Understand them. Put yourself in their place.

Vacation. They need time away.

Welcome them into your home. Don’t wait for an invitation.

eXpend yourself, not them.

Yoke. Help them bear their burdens with grace and dignity.

Zap all gossip!

Finding our range

While visiting a church, Robert Neff learned a lesson about the body of Christ. As he listened to a tenor’s faltering voice, he noticed worshipers pulling out hymnals to locate the soloist’s song.

“By the second verse, the congregation had joined the soloist in the hymn,” Neff says. “By the third verse, the tenor was beginning to find the range. By the fourth verse, it was beautiful. And on the fifth verse, the congregation was absolutely silent, and the tenor sang the most beautiful solo of his life.”

Neff concludes: “This is life in the body of Christ, enabling one another to sing the tune Christ has given us.”

—from *Witnesses of a Third Way*

Picture Us

On July 1, 2018 we enjoyed sharing a celebration of 50 years of marriage for Larry and Donna Messner.



Larry shares his thoughts on their 50th anniversary!



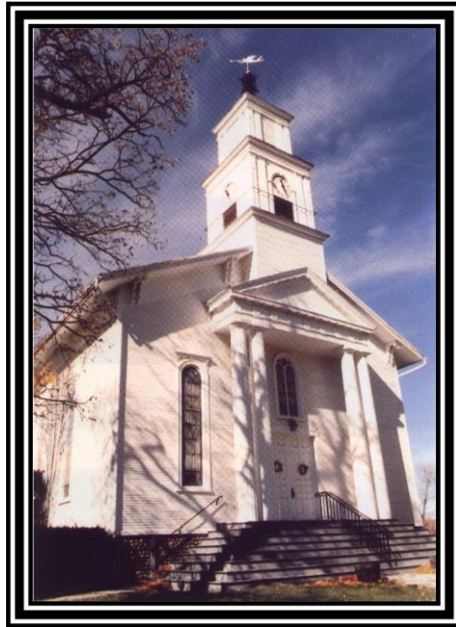
Donna has her memories and thoughts to share.



Congratulations Larry and Donna



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