



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

Website:

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

E-mail: 1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com

July/August 2023

✽ **Our Sunday worship service begins at 10:00 a.m.** ✽

CHURCH STAFF

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Reverend Sue Walters

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Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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✦ **From the Pastor** ✦

"Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so we do not drift away from it."
Hebrews 2:1

It is officially summer! Time, perhaps, to spend more time outside. For me, it's spending time at my cottage on Silver Lake (between renters). There are many docks that sit right on the lake, rented by cottage owners based on when they added their names to the list of people who wanted a dock. It can take years for your name to reach the top of the list. But, when you are offered a dock, for many people, it's time to get a boat.



There are many different kinds of boats that reside at people's docks. There are motor boats, jet skis, party boats, canoes and the lowly kayak. For some people, tying their boat to their dock isn't a problem. A party boat is hardly going to float away. But canoes and kayaks are another story. They can often be found several dock spaces down from where they started, even if they have been tethered by a (long) rope. It is amazing to see where the current in the lake will take them. They drift on the current, and before their owners realize it, they are many spaces away from where they started.

I think we can find ourselves in the same space as those canoes and kayaks, drifting away from where we started. It's easy. We start firmly grounded in our faith, and sure that we are following God's guidance. Then, we begin to drift. Perhaps we are influenced by commentators on television (some can hardly be called news reporters, as the slants they give their reports can take them far from the facts. Talk about drifting!) We listen, nodding our heads as we find ourselves agreeing with the point of view being espoused by the 'reporter.' Soon, we find ourselves looking at the world around us, and the people who inhabit that world, with that same view. We judge others by that viewpoint. We claim that viewpoint as our own. But, wait, do we really want some commentator to influence us so much that we begin to look at things through his or her lens? What happened to looking at the world through God's eyes? We have drifted without realizing it.

Now, it's time to pay greater attention to what we have heard and read..not heard from the commentators, but heard from the church. Not read in some online blog, but read in the Bible. It's time to recenter ourselves on God, and living according to God's direction. We live in a world created by God. Our neighbors, our friends, even our enemies, are children of God. Jesus distilled all the Ten Commandments down to two: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22: 37-39).

Let us not drift away.

Blessings,

Sue

**** Faithful God: Your love stands firm from generation to generation, Your mercy is always abundant. Give us open and understanding hearts, that having heard Your word, we may seek Christ's presence in all whom we meet. Amen. ****

✦ Birthdays ✦

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

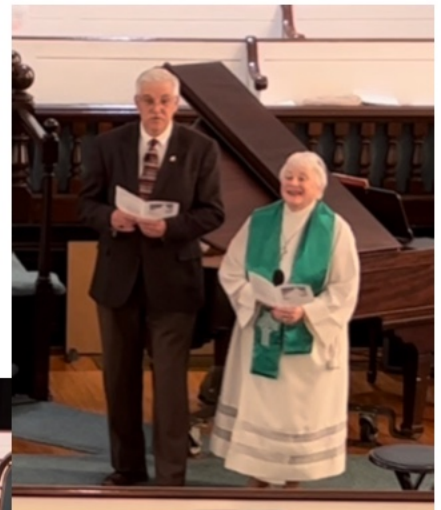


July	August
7 - Nick Glamack	9 - Diane Sickmond
15 - Chris Bartos	24 - Bev Clark
17 - Rich Townsend	

✦ Church News & Updates ✦

● **Pastor's Installation:** Sunday, June 11, 2023, was a momentous and joyful occasion for our church. After serving and shepherding us as our interim pastor throughout the Covid pandemic, the Church, by unanimous vote, called the Reverend Susan T. Walters to be our new minister. An installation service, led by the Moderator and other members of the Church Boards, along with support from church members and friends, was held to formally recognize and welcome Pastor Sue as our newest minister.

Here are some pictures from the in-service installation:



After the worship service, the church hosted a BBQ-style potluck, presented Pastor Sue with gifts, and made her feel thoroughly welcomed.



The installation and the BBQ were well attended by members of the Congregational Church and the community. To ensure as many members and friends could attend the special event as possible, the Methodist Church cancelled their 11:00 worship service so members could attend the installation ceremony across the park! It was an excellent example of community outreach and Pastor Sue was pleasantly surprised with the attendance.

- **Free Friday Suppers:** Our free Friday suppers are not being held during the summer months. We will be re-starting the dinners in September.
- **Fundraising:** Remember - our second fundraiser for the year will be another chicken BBQ on **Saturday, July 22, 2022**. We will start at 11:00 a.m. and will go until 4:00 p.m. (or until sold out). The sale venue will be in the parking lot of Runnings (3191 County Road 10, Canandaigua; off of Eastern Boulevard).

**** Glorious God, your generosity floods the world with goodness and you shower creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for food to satisfy both body and heart, that in the miracle of being fed we may be empowered to feed the hungry in Jesus' name. Amen. ****

✦ Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly) ✦

- **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Sunday of every month at **Brady J's** restaurant (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the women will meet on **Sunday, July 2nd** and **August 6th**.

- **Special Offering:** An extra offering plate is passed on the first Sunday of every month. This special offering supports church outreach to the local community and local missions and is kept in the Benevolence Fund for future distributions. The offering basket will be available at our live service. For this period, the special offerings will be on **Sunday, July 2nd** and **August 6th**. 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 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 church council meets the first Sunday of each month after regular church services. Please note the council meetings are on hiatus for the summer; meetings will resume on **Sunday, September 3rd**.

- **Choir Practice:** The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. In addition, the choir meets on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. for rehearsal. As always, they are looking for singers and all are welcome.

Please note the choir will go on summer hiatus after **Wednesday, June 28**. They will resume Wednesday night rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 6th**. Please note the choir will continue to meet at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings to rehearse for that day's service.

- **Men's Breakfast:** The men meet the last Sunday of every month at **Brady J's** restaurant (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested men are invited; being a member of the church isn't a requirement. For this period, the men will meet on **Sunday, July 30th** and **August 27th**.

✦ July and August Specific Calendar Events ✦

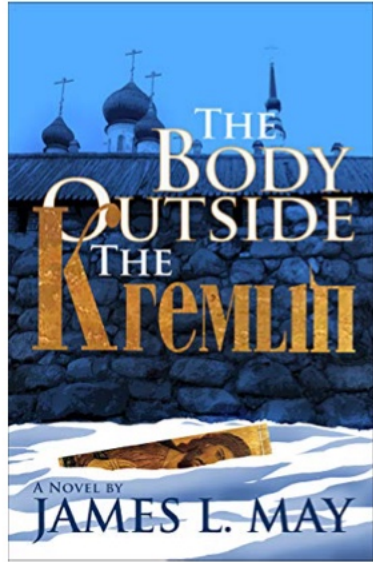
- **Sunday, July 2 (8:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's.
- **Tuesday, July 4:** Independence Day



- **Thursday, July 20, (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Body Outside the Kremlin* by James L. May.

Amazon synopsis:

In a former monastery on an island in the White Sea, now taken over by the Bolsheviks, young mathematician Tolya Bogomolov is serving a three-year sentence, watched over by a skeleton crew of secret policemen. Some prisoners are consigned to forced labor while others sit at comfortable desks. So Tolya has been cultivating an acquaintance with Gennady Antonov that he hopes will lead to a better work assignment—maybe even a little more bread in his ration—especially now, with the brutal winter fast approaching.



Gennady holds a privileged position restoring the monks' seized collection of icons. But when his body is discovered floating frozen in the bay, Tolya's connection with him is no longer advantageous—it's downright dangerous.

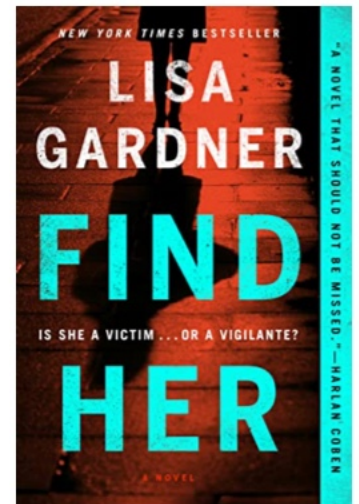
At first, the authorities question Tolya. But he's mystified when they assign him to assist the elderly detective investigating the case. While he'd rather find the real killer than have the murder pinned on him, digging into Gennady's secrets will turn up mysteries that could turn Tolya into the next victim . . .

- **Saturday, July 22 (11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.):** Chicken BBQ sale at the Runnings (Canandaigua) parking lot. Come early as we're usually sold out well before 4:00 p.m.!
- **Sunday, July 30 (8:00 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's.
- **Sunday, August 6:** Women's breakfast at Brady J's.
- **Thursday, August 17 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the book *Find Her* by Lisa Gardner.

Amazon synopsis:

Seven years ago, carefree college student Flora Dane was kidnapped while on spring break. For 472 days, Flora learned just how much one person can endure.

Miraculously alive after her ordeal, Flora has spent the past five years reacquainting herself with the rhythms of normal life, working with her FBI victim advocate, Samuel Keynes. She has a mother who's never stopped loving her, a brother who is scared of the person she's become, and a bedroom wall covered with photos of other girls who've never made it home.



When Boston detective D. D. Warren is called to the scene of a crime—a dead man and the bound, naked woman who killed him—she learns that Flora has tangled with three other suspects since her return to society. Is Flora a victim or a vigilante? And with her firsthand knowledge of criminal behavior, could she hold the key to rescuing a missing college student whose abduction has rocked Boston? When Flora herself disappears, D.D. realizes a far more sinister predator is out there. One who's determined that this time, Flora Dane will never escape. And now it is all up to D. D. Warren to *find her*.

- **Sunday, August 27 (8:00 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's.

**** Through the storms of life, O God, you are with your people in the person of Jesus your Son. Calm our fears and strengthen our faith that we may never doubt his presence among us but proclaim that he is your Son, risen from the dead, living for ever and ever. Amen. ****

✦ Picture Us ✦

- **Scripture Pot Luck:**

Christian Education hosted a pot luck lunch and asked the congregation to bring food that included an ingredient mentioned in the Bible. A wide variety of dishes were on hand as we enjoyed our lunch. In addition, there was a hidden word search of books in the Bible to be worked on as we ate. The word search was tricky and we enjoyed the puzzle as well as the food and company. Another great way to share fellowship within the church.



- **Recognition Sunday**

We recognized the special accomplishments of those in the church. Lujza Rockcastle, Judd Rockcastle and Bob Kelly were recognized for their continuing dedication to church needs. They dedicate many hours of behind-the-scene work in addition to always being the first to help with any event.





Nick and Michelle Mazzola accepted bibles on behalf of their children, Nicholas and Emma, both of whom graduated from college and are moving on to the next phase of their lives. Bethyn Boni was recognized for her unwavering support for the music program in the church, most especially the choir. From music selection and rehearsal, her unwavering dedication ensures the choir is able to sing the Lord's praises during worship services.

After the church-wide recognition ceremony and celebration, the Christian Ed committee hosted a picnic for the honorees and the rest of the church. Of course, there was cake! Our heartfelt thanks to this year's honorees.



● Pipe Organ Tuning

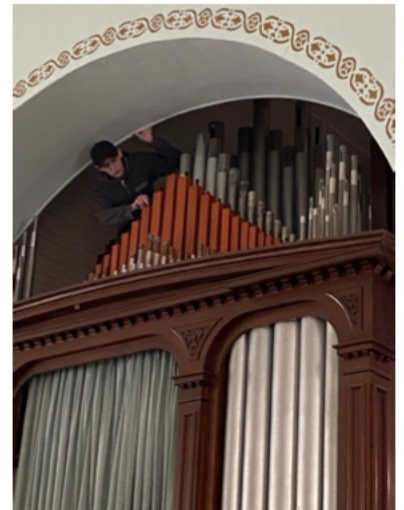
Parsons Pipe Organ Builders has been taking care of our pipe organ for many years. Twice each year they come to tune it; this year Ryett Boni and a fellow co-worker came to make sure all was well. He was gracious enough to take a few pictures and explain a bit about what they do.



“When we arrive at the church we first inspect all elements of the organ to make sure everything is functioning properly.

If we see pipes are dirty (dust, dirt, cobwebs, etc.) and it’s affecting the pipe speech, then we’ll pull the pipes and vacuum them to clean them.

Once everything is functioning properly, we then move on to each pipe. Depending on the type of pipe, some have sliders, some have metal wires, and some have metal scrolls. We may





slightly tap a metal slider on a pipe. The ones with scrolls aren't tapped- we just slightly roll or unroll them. This process for each pipe adjusts the pitch of the pipe - aka tuning it!"

Thank you, Parsons Pipe Organ Builders, and Ryett, for the work you do.

Choir Celebrates Summer:

The choir celebrated the summer's start with an ice cream venture to Shark's. It was cold, relatively speaking, but there's never a bad time to eat ice cream!



**** Glorious God, your generosity floods the world with goodness and you shower creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for food to satisfy both body and heart, that in the miracle of being fed we may be empowered to feed the hungry in Jesus' name. Amen.****

✦ Miscellaneous ✦

● **Pastor Office Hours:** Pastor Sue has open door office hours every Thursday. She leads morning prayer from her office beginning at 9:00 a.m. which is streamed live on the church's Facebook page. Pastor Sue will remain in her office until 1:00 p.m. and, as always, drop-ins for a cup of coffee or tea are welcome. She is also available at other times by appointment; please call (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) 402-5397 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.

● **Worship Services:** For those who cannot attend the in-person service, we continue to record and post portions of the worship service on our Facebook page. Please note the posts are audio only (similar to a podcast) and we are recording only the scripture readings and the sermon (and sometimes the song offering from the choir). 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, please keep the food cupboard's needs in your minds and hearts. We collect/deliver for the Food cupboard on a monthly basis, however, donations are welcome at any time.

**** Holy Shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, where we celebrate with you forever. Amen. ****

✦ Prayer Requests ✦

As we go through the next couple of months, please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers: Bev * Nick * Rich * Nancy & Carl * Richard & Bessie * Joan * Donna * Dean & Joanne * Wilma * Scott * Shannon * Autumn * Jay * Jacquie * Nancy & Rich * Ann * Chris * Connor B * Bonnie * the Schaefer family

**** God of the foreigner and outcast, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of Christ so to love the world that your name may be known throughout the earth. Amen. ****

✦ Lectionary Readings for July & August ✦

	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
July 2, 2023	Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
July 9, 2023	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 16, 2023	Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 23, 2023	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 29, 2023	Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
August 6, 2023	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
August 13, 2023	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
August 20, 2023	Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
August 27, 2023	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124	Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
<p>* "Alternate First" OT readings follow the complementary historical tradition of thematically pairing the OT reading with the Gospel reading. <i>Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.</i></p> <p>* "First" OT readings, read semi-continuously, follow major stories/themes, beginning in Year A with Genesis and ending in Year C with the later prophets. <i>Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.</i></p>				

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