



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
July-August 2018

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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A note from the editor...

Our late spring flurry of activity is highlighted in the Picture Us section of the newsletter. Be sure to check out the pictures! That leads us into our summer months nicely. Perhaps the summer months will be a blessing of visits from and to family. Maybe summer will bring rest from the rush of your every day life. What ever it brings we can be assured that God is always present. He knows our needs and "has our backs"!

I love the anthem "On Eagle Wings". It is based in part on Psalm 91. It reminds us in a beautiful way of God's loving care for us!

The words "And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His Hand" are repeated throughout the anthem. Words that comfort, reassure and affirm that we are children of a loving God!

Where ever the summer takes you go in the knowledge that God always walks with you. Give Him a place of honor around your table.

Blessings,
Phyllis

PASTORS' COLUMN

Just A Thought.....



Pastor Andy Schaefer

Six days shall work be done; but the seventh day is a sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation; you shall do no work: it is a sabbath to the LORD throughout your

settlements. *Leviticus 23:3*

Friends, this is one particular commandment I personally violate on a regular basis. There is always something to be done, even on a Sunday afternoon. Currently, it is mowing the lawn that interrupts my day of "complete rest." I long for the time in the summer season when the lack of rain causes the grass to become all brown and not growing. I look with envy at other lawns that seem to be reaching that blessed state already, while the parsonage lawn, with its cursed shade, remains horribly lush and green.

Of course, I am being rather facetious, but it does seem that with all the demands on each of us, we would do anything just to have a little extra time to be still and quiet; more opportunity to have "me time" or "family time." More time to let our bodies and minds regroup from all our busyness.

God must have known it would be like this. That must be why God made it a commandment – not just a strong suggestion – that we devote a day to rest.

Then again, I might also be guilty of not really using what Sabbath time I do have to its fullest advantage. When God made the command to rest, I suspect God did not envision dozing on the couch in front of the TV. Maybe it's not so much the quantity of rest I take, but the quality that I lack.

Now it sounds like, for the Christian, even resting is yet another discipline to be mastered! Will it never end?

Calm down, Andy. Jesus has this in hand too. "Come to me, all you that are

weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)

Perhaps that is the key: to simply trust Jesus, at work and at rest. Not as easy as it sounds, I know, but he did promise to be with us and guide us through all life's tests and tasks. We should trust him as much on the sabbath as on the other six days.

I pray for rest, peace and renewal for all of us this summer.

Peace,
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.



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 rehearsal, Sunday Morning, 9:00
July 1	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering.

	-Reception for Larry and Donna Messner celebrating their 50 th Wedding anniversary! (See article below)
July 4	Happy Birthday USA
July 15	-Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
July 19	Book Club, 2:30 – 3:30, Memory Man, David Baldacci
July 29	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
August 5	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering.
August 16	Book Club 2:30-3:30, Everything here is Beautiful, Mira Lee
August 19	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
August 21	Newsletter Deadline for Sept/Oct 2018
August 26	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.

PEWPOINTS

Celebration for Larry and Donna

On Sunday, July 1st you are invited to join in a 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration for Larry and Donna Messner. Please gather in Fellowship Hall following the church service.

No gifts please, but a shower of cards will be welcomed!

Lectionary Readings July/August 2018

July 1 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15, Mark 5:21-43
 July 8 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10, Psalm 48, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13
 July 22 2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 89:20-37, Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
 July 29 2 Samuel 11:1-15, Psalm 14, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21
 August 5 2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a, Psalm 51:1-12, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35
 August 12 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51
 August 19 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14, Psalm 111, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58
 August 26 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43, Psalm 84, Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69

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 Rechten 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 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).

Lift up prayers for

Sally Mansfield and family at the death of her husband, Don

Alice McConnell's cousin, Jeff

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

Book Club

July 19 we are reading Memory Man, David Baldacci.

From #1 New York Times bestselling author David Baldacci comes a startling, original character: a man with perfect memory who must solve his own family's murder.

Amos Decker's life changed forever--twice.

The first time was on the gridiron. A big, towering athlete, he was the only person from his hometown of Burlington ever to go pro. But his career ended before it had a chance to begin. On his very first play, a violent helmet-to-helmet collision knocked him off the field for good, and left him with an improbable side effect--he can never forget anything.

The second time was at home nearly two decades later. Now a police detective, Decker returned from a stakeout one evening and entered a nightmare--his wife, young daughter, and brother-in-law had been murdered.

His family destroyed, their killer's identity as mysterious as the motive behind the crime, and unable to forget a single detail from that horrible night, Decker finds his world collapsing around him. He leaves the police force, loses his home, and winds up on the street, taking piecemeal jobs as a private investigator when he can.

But over a year later, a man turns himself in to the police and confesses to the

murders. At the same time a horrific event nearly brings Burlington to its knees, and Decker is called back in to help with this investigation. Decker also seizes his chance to learn what really happened to his family that night. To uncover the stunning truth, he must use his remarkable gifts and confront the burdens that go along with them. He must endure the memories he would much rather forget. And he may have to make the ultimate sacrifice.

MEMORY MAN will stay with you long after the turn of the final page.

August 16, 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.

Lessons from a farmer

Summer often reminds pastor Walter Wangerin Jr. of his father-in-law, a farmer. Farmers, he writes, remember “that we belong to the earth, and the earth belongs to God.” Recalling his father-in-law working the fields, he states, “Surely I don’t suppose that we shall live by the horse again, but I plead that we live on this earth with reverence.”

Because God gave people “dominion” over creation (see Genesis 1:28), we are “God’s emblem within the universe, God’s signature upon the work he had accomplished,” Wangerin writes. “We were placed here to serve God by serving the earth and so to be served by it.”

Who demonstrates that better than a farmer nurturing soil and seeds to yield abundant harvest? “By his reverential stance,” Wangerin concludes, “the farmer calls again for honor to God and kindness to creation, that we dress and till and keep it rightly.” —based on *Measuring the Days*

A prayer for the 4th

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

—Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate

Light one candle

On Good Friday 2017, Jeannie Gaffigan, a writer and producer, wife of comedian Jim Gaffigan and a mother of five, learned she had an apple-sized tumor on her brain stem. As a Christian, she knew she needed God’s help to face the ordeal — and knew she still had “a lot of work” to do for him. On Easter Monday, the benign mass was removed during a nine-hour operation.

A year earlier, the Gaffigans won a Christopher Award for positive contributions to media. The award’s inscription — “Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness” — now has new meaning for Jeannie. “There’s an urgency to do things that may be smaller, like lighting one candle, [rather] than these ambitious, huge goals of doing major shows in order to change the world,” she says. “We all want to light a thousand candles, but there’s that one candle that’s right in front of you that God is presenting for you. Open up your eyes and look at it and light it.”

“Lord, remember me”

The funeral of renowned evangelist Billy Graham was a celebration — not of the preacher’s long life and many accomplishments but of his arrival in heaven. Graham, who died at age 99 in February 2018, was confident he’d spend eternity with Jesus but knew the reason wasn’t his own status or actions.

Graham knew he was a sinner in need of forgiveness. “I still need the cross,” he said.

Graham added, “I am not going to heaven because I have preached to great crowds or read the Bible many times. I’m going to heaven just like the thief on the cross who said in that last moment: ‘Lord, remember me.’”

What spills out?

Rev. Henry Wingblade once compared the Christian personality to the unseen soup in a bowl carried high over a waiter’s head. No one knows what’s inside — unless the waiter is bumped or trips. If Jesus is truly living inside us, Wingblade said, what spills out should be the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

When you falter, what do people see? How can your “spillage” better reflect the Holy Spirit, who lives in you?

Harvest time!

With harvest underway or imminent, fields of ripe grain, tall cornstalks and soybeans turning brown recall Jesus' words to the disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38, ESV).

Nowadays farmers use fewer laborers and bigger machines than in decades past. But what about harvests of faith? Leading people to know God's love can't be done "mechanically." Studies show that newspaper ads or door-hangers left anonymously are less effective at bringing people to church than a warm personal invite.

Right after urging his disciples to pray for harvest workers — in a classic instance of "You might be God's answer to your own prayer!" — Jesus sends them out as those very laborers! How will they work the harvest? Not by guilting people into faith. Not by pronouncing judgment or biblical law. But by using Jesus' authority to counter evil, illness and brokenness among those they befriend.

Ponder and pray about where Jesus is sending you as his laborer to cultivate and reap Christian faith and assurance of God's love.

Out of mind

"When my wife and I argue, she always gets historical," a man said. "Don't you mean hysterical?" his friend asked. "No, I mean historical," the man replied. "She's always bringing up the past!"

Forgiveness is tough when you can't stop dwelling on wrongs and slights. If you have that problem, consider the 24-letter tongue-twister *issumagijoujungnainermik*.

Around 1739, Moravian missionaries faced a "lexical gap" when they tried to explain forgiveness to an Eskimo Indian tribe. Their language didn't have an adequate word for the concept, so the

missionaries had to create one using several existing Eskimo words. The result is a mouthful, but it's a perfect expression of the true meaning of forgiveness. *Issumagijoujungnainermik* translates as "not being able to think about it anymore."

A sermon on legs

I'd rather see a sermon
than hear one any day:
I'd rather one would walk with me
than merely tell the way.

The eye's a better pupil,
and more willing than the ear.
Fine council is confusing,
but example's always clear.

—Edgar A. Guest

Picture Us

A run of activity closed out the months before vacation time! June 3 was a successful Chicken Barbecue! The day was windy and a little chilly but that did not stop the crowds from coming out. Thanks to Sandy Porrey for organizing this event for our church!

Setting up





Yum!

Lots of goodies from our bake sale for dessert!



June 9th about 30 people trekked to Rochester to see the Rochester Red Wings baseball game



Some of us won't allow pictures!





Voices of Faith band, East Bloomfield Congregational church



Trio E. Bloomfield Congregational Church
"When I get Carried Away" by Phil Cross & Carolyn Cross English



On June 10th our choir participated in a choir invitational at the West Bloomfield Congregational Church. Three Bloomfield choirs and bands performed some great music. The grand finale, with all choirs singing together, was a joyful "With A Voice of Singing", by Martin Shaw. The concert was in memory of Eunice Thomas a long-time music director of the East Bloomfield United Methodist Church. Thank you to Cheryl Walters, director of music at West Bloomfield for organizing the event!

The E. Bloomfield Congregational Church choir.



Recognition Sunday was June 17, 2018

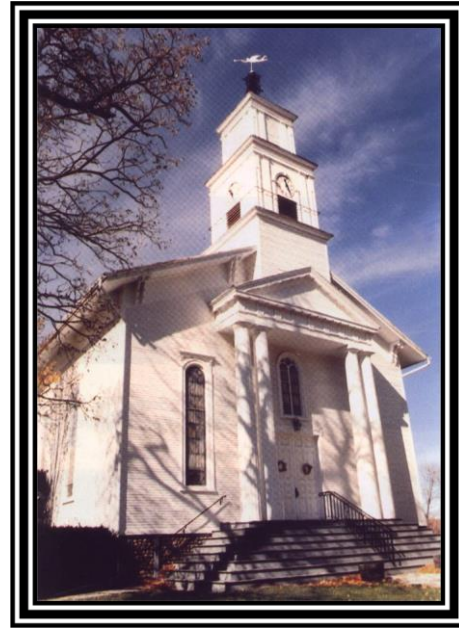


Rachel Schaefer, graduate of Bloomfield Central and her parents, Rebecca and Andy.





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