



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

Website:

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

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

May/June 2024

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

CHURCH STAFF

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

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✦ From the Pastor ✦

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18



Truth. What brings you comfort? There are, of course, the “creature” comforts. For me that is sipping a hot cup of coffee in my favorite chair. Even when I was experiencing pain from my hips a few years ago, I could find comfort in that simple act. I didn’t have to move unless the coffee got cold. I could watch TV, listen to soft music or read a book from that comfortable space. It was even better when I had Duncan, my orange and white cat, on my lap. For as long as I could stay there, I was comfortable; I was at peace. I could pray from that place, and focus on listening to God’s response. There were no demands on my time, except if the dog wanted to go out. I could watch the birds out the window and listen to their amazing concert of sounds. I could thank God for all creation.

Of course, we cannot always stay in our comfortable spaces. We have requirements that need to be met. We must do work, of some kind or another. We have those who need our attention. Our time in our comfortable space is often limited. Perhaps that is why we value it so much.

But, even when we are not in our comfortable space, or perhaps when we are in uncomfortable spaces, we can find another kind of comfort. That other kind of comfort comes from our faith. It is what we believe about our lives (that we have been called to follow Christ) and what we believe about our deaths(see the passage that begins this article). This is comfort of an entirely different type. It is not relegated to an article of furniture or a beverage. It is with us wherever we go. We can never be separated from it. It resides in our hearts when we think about those who have “fallen asleep in Jesus.” As we age, the number of these beloved persons only increases. We think about them often. They are the saints who have gone on before us. It is those we will meet again, on the other side of the veil. It is those with whom we will spend eternity.

Comfort can be found in many places, many spaces. May your comfort be centered this day in our Lord Jesus Christ, who died and rose again so all who believe may spend eternity praising his holy name. Amen.

Blessings to all,

Sue

✦ Church News & Updates ✦

● **Free Friday Suppers:** The church does not host these suppers during the summer months. We will be back with the free dinners in September. Thank you to the community for supporting us; we appreciate it.

● **Fundraising 2024:** We are hosting two BBQs from Gale-Wyn Catering this year. The first one is **Sunday, May 19th**, while the second BBQ will be on Saturday, July 20th. Both will begin 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, which is off of Eastern Boulevard.

* Please note our worship service on **Sunday, May 19th**, will begin at **9:00 a.m.** so that church members will be able to get to the BBQ site in time to start sales. Hope to see you there!

● **News From the Trustees:** The trustees continue to oversee many projects that aid in the smooth running of the church. The mason has completed the project to replace the front walk (that leads to the main doors). Here's a before and some after pictures. Didn't he do a great job? Kudos to Brian Cameron Masonry; well done.



● **Reminder: Women's and Men's Breakfast Dates and Times:** Both the women's and men's breakfast gatherings are permanently changed to Mondays at 9:00 a.m. The women will meet on the first Monday while the men will meet on the last Monday. Both groups will meet at Brady J's restaurant here in Bloomfield (at 24 Maple Avenue). Please note these gatherings are not just for members of the church; all are invited.

✦ Birthdays ✦

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



May	June
28 - Judd Rockcastle	16 - Nancy Walters
30 - Marilyn Shafer	17 - Mona Eddy
	19 - Jackie Shultz
	20 - Janice Kelly
	26 - Joan Hall
	30 - Bethyn Boni

Precious love, your ascended Son promised the gift of holy power. Send your Spirit of revelation and wisdom, that in the blessed freedom of hope, we may witness to the grace of forgiveness and sing songs of joy with the peoples of earth to the One who makes us one body. Amen.

✦ Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly) ✦

- **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, May 5th**, and **Sunday, June 2nd**. 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. For this period, the council will meet on **Sunday, May 5th**, and **Sunday, June 2nd**.

- **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Monday of every month at **Brady J's** restaurant (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield) at 9:00 a.m. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the breakfasts will be on **Monday, May 6th**, and **Monday, June 3rd**.

- **Choir Practice:** The choir rehearses every Wednesday evening 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.

- **Men's Breakfast:** The men meet the last Monday of every month at **Brady J's** restaurant (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield) at 9:00 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 **Monday, May 27th**, and **Monday, June 24th**.

✦ May and June Specific Calendar Events ✦

- **Thursday, May 2:** National Day of Prayer. This year's theme is "Lift up the word - light up the world"

- **Sunday, May 5:** Church council meets after the worship service

- **Monday, May 6 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's

- **Thursday, May 9:** Ascension Day. Celebrating when Jesus ascended to heaven.

- **Sunday, May 12:** Mother's Day



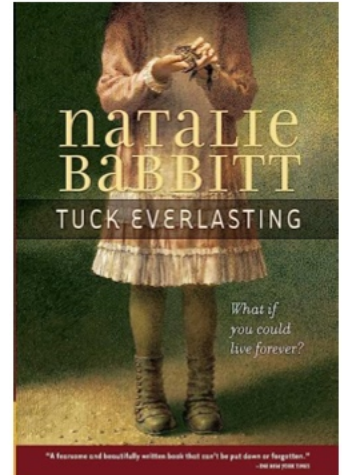
- **Wednesday, May 15:** Peace Officer's Memorial Day. Paying tribute to the brave local, state, and federal peace officers who have died or been disabled in the line of duty.
- **Thursday, May 16 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt.

Amazon synopsis:

What if you could live forever?

Is eternal life a blessing or a curse? That is what young Winnie Foster must decide when she discovers a spring on her family's property whose waters grant immortality. Members of the Tuck family, having drunk from the spring, tell Winnie of their experiences watching life go by and never growing older.

But then Winnie must decide whether or not to keep the Tucks' secret—and whether or not to join them on their never-ending journey.



- **Saturday, May 18:** Armed Forces Day. The proper day to honor all of the men and women currently serving, as well as those who have served and sacrificed to defend our freedom.



- **Sunday, May 19:** Pentecost. Celebrating the beginning of the Church.
- **Sunday, May 19 (11:00 a.m.):** Church-sponsored chicken BBQ at Runnings in Canandaigua. Remember - our worship service will start at **9:00 a.m.** on this day.
- **Sunday, May 26:** Trinity Sunday. To honor the Holy Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- **Monday, May 27:** Memorial Day. To honor and mourn the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.



- **Monday, May 27 (9:00 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Monday, June 3 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's

- **Thursday, June 6:** D-Day Observance. 2024 marks the 80th Anniversary of this historic event, and with it, a momentous occasion to celebrate peace, liberty and reconciliation.
- **Friday, June 14:** Flag Day. Commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.



- **Sunday, June 16:** Father's Day
- **Wednesday, June 19:** Juneteenth. Honors the end to slavery in the United States.
- **Thursday, June 20, 2023 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave.

Amazon synopsis:

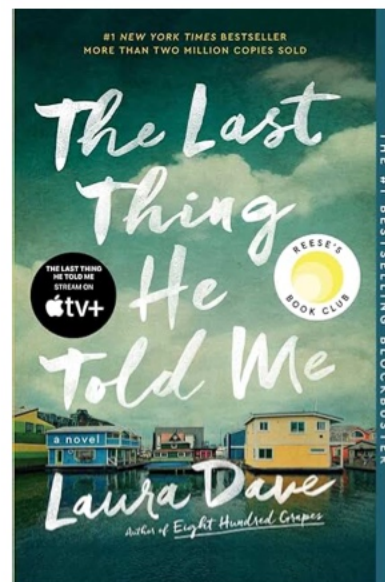
Before Owen Michaels disappears, he smuggles a note to his beloved wife of one year: Protect her. Despite her confusion and fear, Hannah Hall knows exactly to whom the note refers—Owen's sixteen-year-old daughter, Bailey. Bailey, who lost her mother tragically as a child. Bailey, who wants absolutely nothing to do with her new stepmother.

As Hannah's increasingly desperate calls to Owen go unanswered, as the FBI arrests Owen's boss, as a US marshal and federal agents arrive at her Sausalito home unannounced, Hannah quickly realizes her husband isn't who he said he was. And that Bailey just may hold the key to figuring out Owen's true identity—and why he really disappeared.

Hannah and Bailey set out to discover the truth. But as they start putting together the pieces of Owen's past, they soon realize they're also building a new future—one neither of them could have anticipated.

With its breakneck pacing, dizzying plot twists, and evocative family drama, *The Last Thing He Told Me* is a "page-turning, exhilarating, and unforgettable" (PopSugar) suspense novel.

- **Monday, June 24 (9:00 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's



Holy God, you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son, and to care for those who are our companions, not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love. Seeking to be true friends of all, we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world. Amen.

✦ Picture Us ✦

- **50th Anniversary Celebration:** Judd and Lujza Rockcastle celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The church was pleased to host the celebration as Judd and Lujza invited their family and the congregation. They renewed their vows and then hosted a beautiful reception for all. Congratulations, Judd and Lujza! Here's to many, many more years together.



- **Bible Anagramarama:** The Christian Education Committee invited the congregation to play a game of anagrams. This game involves a person listing as many words as they can from another word or phrase. The committee elected to use the phrase "Steadfast Love" because "...His steadfast love endures forever." After Pastor Sue read a few verses from Psalm 136, the players had 15 minutes to find the most words and the longest word. While many people found several six letter words, one individual found a word containing seven letters. How many words can you find; can you find one longer than seven letters?

Holy God, the earth is full of the glory of your love. May we your children, born of the Spirit, so bear witness to your Son Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, that all the world may believe and have eternal life through the One who saves, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. 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 cupboard on a monthly basis, however, donations are welcome at any time.

*Companion in life and death,
your love is steadfast and never ends;
our weeping may linger with night,
but you give joy in the morning.
Touch us with your healing grace
that, restored to wholeness,
we may live out our calling as your resurrection people. Amen.*

✦ May/June Lectionary Readings ✦

	First* Reading and Psalm	Alternate* First Reading and Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Sunday, May 5	*Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
Thursday, May 9 <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or <i>Psalm 93</i>	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Sunday, May 12	*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
Sunday, May 19 <i>Day of Pentecost</i>	*Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27 or <i>Acts 2:1-21</i>	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Sunday, May 26 <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29		Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
Sunday, June 2	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Deuteronomy 5:12-15 Psalm 81:1-10	2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Mark 2:23-3:6
Sunday, June 9	1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) Psalm 138	Genesis 3:8-15 Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
Sunday, June 16	1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 Psalm 20	Ezekiel 17:22-24 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15	2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 4:26-34
Sunday, June 23	1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 Psalm 9:9-20 or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16 Psalm 133	Job 38:1-11 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
Sunday, June 30	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Psalm 130	Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 or <i>Lamentations 3:22-33</i> Psalm 30	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43

Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.

Gracious God, in the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you have given us eternal life and glorified your name in all the world. Refresh our souls with the living streams of your truth, that in our unity, your joy may be complete. Amen.

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