



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

September/October 2021

*** Our Sunday worship service begins at 10:00 AM ***

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O God, Wisdom of the universe, you bear the pain of your people. Grant us the gift of wisdom, that we may discern your way and live justly and graciously amid the struggles of this world. Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul....Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.
Deuteronomy 11: 18a, 19

These verses come to us from the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy, and tell the people of Israel what God expects of them. That expectation is what the Jews call the Shema, and what Jesus called the first and greatest commandment: that you love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. This, and for Christians, the second commandment that Jesus gave us to love our neighbor as ourselves, is what undergirds the foundation of our faith.



I am going to be setting up a new space in the church where we will be able to discuss these commandments, and anything else you might wish to speak to me about. You may have already noticed it as you walk from the kitchen to the sanctuary. It is a beautiful bright room that currently contains a donated desk, chair, three other chairs from places inside the church, and a coat rack on which are hanging one of my robes and a couple of stoles. It is my new office!! I am thrilled with it, and will be bringing in more things to populate it as the

weeks go on. Thank you to Robin Stewart, Judd Rockcastle, Nick Glamack and the other trustees for making this happen.

It will be my home within the church, where you are welcome. There will be a coffee pot and mugs, with hot coffee always available (I will also have tea and cider if you would prefer). A listening ear, a strong shoulder, a quiet place...whatever you need; I hope you will find it there. There will be a handmade prayer shawl if you want to be wrapped in prayer. There will be books for you to read, study and borrow (just please return them). It will be a place of peace.

My plan is to transfer the location and time of my Thursday morning prayer service to "christen" the office. Beginning on Thursday morning, September 9, I will be offering morning prayer from my office, beginning at 9 a.m. Following that, I will be in the office until 1. Then I will do nursing home, hospital, home visits as the needs arise. I will always be open to lunch invitations too...or goodies that you can bring by the office, or whatever else you might want to share.

I look forward to seeing you at the door of this new chapter of ministry in the East Bloomfield. Congregational Church!

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 * the Eddy family* Mary Martin * Bev Clark * the Perkins family * the Tyler family * Jeremy * Eric * the Gliewe family * Garret * Kay * the Salmon family * Peg * Alice * the Messner family * Helen * Don Shultz * Kathy * Russ * the Brien family * the Stewart family * Richard * the Salmon family * Arleen * Lujza * Russ * all places & people with Covid-19 * 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!

September:

9 - Mary Martin
18 - Alice McConnell
27 - Donna Messner

October:

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



Church News:

● **Church Council**

With summer winding down, the church council is restarting monthly meetings. The next meeting is September 12. It will begin after the worship service; a small lunch will be provided.

● **Fall Bible Study**

Pastor Sue plans to offer the study beginning the second Sunday in October (October 10) after church for approximately an hour. The number of sessions will depend on which study she chooses. There will be more information soon...just please save the date.

● **New Office and Office Hours:**

Pastor Sue now has an office in the church and will be having office hours on Thursdays beginning September 9. She will lead morning prayer from the office beginning at 9 a.m. and will be there until 1 p.m. She is also available at other times by appointment. Please call her on her cellphone (716-983-5760) to make these arrangements. Here's her office in its initial "waiting for Pastor Sue to move in and make it hers" mode.



● **Worship Services:**

We still are not requiring 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/>).

● **Thursday Prayer Sessions:** Pastor Sue continues to lead a weekly prayer session. These will be live-streamed on our Facebook page on Thursdays at 9:00 am. Please note this is a **new time** (thanks to Pastor Sue getting an office). The prayer service can be viewed live or accessed at your leisure by going to our Facebook page's Video section.

● **Deacon Molly Returns:**

With the reopening of our church (and live services), Deacon Molly is back! You should have seen the queue of people waiting to greet her personally. We never realized how much she was missed until she came back; not sure who was happier, the congregation or Molly! Here she is, preparing for another service.



● **Choir:**

The choir will return for Wednesday night rehearsals on September 7th; it'll start at 7:30 pm. A small rehearsal is held on Sunday mornings before the worship service. Singing in the choir is a lot of fun and a great way to worship and the choir is always looking for new members. Come join them!

● **Fundraising:**

Seems it was a long time ago, but we held another successful fundraiser in July with a second chicken BBQ. We had wonderful attendance/participation and sold out again, despite the day's drizzle. Much thanks, again, to Nick Glamack for all the coordinating and also to the volunteer sellers: Bethyn Boni, Cheryl Glamack, Bob & Janice Kelly, Marilyn Shafer, Nancy Stewart, Robin Stewart and Joe & Sue Walters.

● **Sanctuary Repairs:** The trustees arranged to have repair work done to the plaster & paint in the sanctuary. We held service in Fellowship Hall until it was done (the church looked like this):



You can't even tell where the work was done. A beautifully matched and well done repair!

Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly):

● **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8:00 AM. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **September 5th** and **October 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, **September 5th** and **October 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 will be back for regular meetings on September 12th.

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

● **Men's Breakfast:** The men's breakfast is on hiatus until further notice. We will notify all when the men begin regularly meeting again.

September & October Specific Calendar Events:

● **Sunday, September 5 (8:00 AM):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield).

● **Sunday, September 5 (11:30 AM):** Church council meets after a light, church provided lunch for all.

● **Thursday, September 16 (10:30 AM):** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; they will discuss the novel *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue.

Amazon synopsis: *In Dublin, 1918, a maternity ward at the height of the Great Flu is a small world of work, risk, death, and unlooked-for love, in "Donoghue's best novel since Room" (Kirkus Reviews)*

In an Ireland doubly ravaged by war and disease, Nurse Julia Power works at an understaffed hospital in the city center, where expectant mothers who have come down with the terrible new Flu are quarantined together. Into Julia's regimented world step two outsiders -- Doctor Kathleen Lynn, a rumored Rebel on the run from the police, and a young volunteer helper, Bridie Sweeney.

In the darkness and intensity of this tiny ward, over three days, these women change each other's lives in unexpected ways. They lose patients to this baffling pandemic, but they also shepherd new life into a fearful world. With tireless tenderness and humanity, carers and mothers alike somehow do their impossible work.

In *The Pull of the Stars*, Emma Donoghue once again finds the light in the darkness in this new classic of hope and survival against all odds.

● **Sunday, October 3 (8:00 AM):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield).

● **Monday, October 11 (2:00 - 7:00 PM):** Red Cross blood drive in the Fellowship Hall at the church. We accept donors with appointments and those who just walk-in. Please help support the Red Cross by donating this day.

● **Thursday, October 21 (10:30 AM):** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; they will discuss the book *This Tender Land* by William, Kent Krueger.

Amazon synopsis: *The unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression.*

In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, Odie O'Banion is an orphan confined to the Lincoln Indian Training School, a pitiless place where his lively nature earns him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee after committing a terrible crime, he and his brother, Albert, their best friend, Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own.

Over the course of one summer, these four orphans journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, *This Tender Land* is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

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 Your 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:

Jim and Phyllis Rechten honored us by asking us to join in their 60th wedding anniversary celebration. There was a lovely cake and other wonderful treats; it was a pleasure to celebrate along with the happy couple. Happy Anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Rechten!



Lectionary Readings for September & October :

	First* Reading and Psalm	Alternate* First Reading and Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
September 5	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125	Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
September 12	Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-9 <i>or</i> <i>Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 - 8:1</i>	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
September 14	Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 98:1-5 <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38</i>		1 Corinthians 1:18-24	John 3:13-17
September 19	Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1	Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22 <i>or</i> <i>Jeremiah 11:18-20</i> Psalm 54	James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
September 26	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalm 19:7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50
October 3	Job 1:1, 2:1-10 Psalm 26	Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
October 10	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
October 11	Joel 2:21-27 Psalm 126		1 Timothy 2:1-7	Matthew 6:25-33
October 17	Job 38:1-7, (34-41) Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c	Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
October 24	Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
October 31	Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146	Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Psalm 119:1-8	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34

" OT readings, read semi-continuously, follow major stories/themes, beginning in Year A with Genesis and ending in Year C with the later prophets. Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.

* "Alternate First" OT readings follow the complementary historical tradition of thematically pairing the OT reading with the Gospel reading. Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.

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