



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
November/December 2016

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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A note from the editor...

We held two fund raising events in October. On October 1st we held our annual roast pork dinner. A profit of \$928 was made.

On October 7th we enjoyed Simple Gifts. I think it is fair to say that everyone was pleased with the entire evening. This was a new adventure for us. As most of you know the concert was a huge success but we were not able to make a profit. (-\$188)

However, we are not discouraged! We are learning things as we go along and expect to find the right balance for events in the future. One thing is evident! No adventure is labor-free. We will all always need to be a part of the whole process doing what we can to bring success.

As the Thanksgiving season approaches let's thank God for His faithfulness to us. In November we have our pledge Sunday for the following year. The Trustees are looking at the budget and continue to be creative in managing the church's financial needs. As you fill out your pledge card do so full of thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

And here is another thought: remember "Faith Expectations"? It is an item in the budget and is a way that each of us can dig into our pockets a little deeper. We can offer an extra financial gift to the work of the church. If you do this put your gift in an envelope and mark it "Faith Expectations" and place it in the offering. May you have wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays! Phyllis



Set your clocks *back*
on November 6

Daylight-Saving
Time Ends

PASTORS' COLUMN



Rev. Sandy Porrey

Just A Thought...

Back in October, Jim and Phyllis had planned on visiting their daughter, Jenny, in South Carolina. That is until Hurricane Matthew decided to visit Jenny first! Because they had to change their travel plans, Phyllis needed the information for the newsletter a little earlier than usual. I tell you this because I am writing for the Nov/Dec newsletter in early October. We haven't even had Halloween yet and I must turn my thoughts to Thanksgiving and Christmas....and snow!

But before we talk about what is to come, let us pray that everyone who was affected by Matthew have been able to return to their homes and all are safe. Let us remind ourselves that people living in places like Haiti and Cuba do not always have the luxury of well-constructed dwellings that so many of us take for granted. We continue to ask God's grace and peace be with them. Amen.

I have always loved Thanksgiving because my mom, grandmother and aunts always put on great dinners.... feasts really with no shortage of plenty. It may sound corny but even though we enjoyed wonderful meals as part of our holiday celebrations, the best part of Thanksgiving was giving thanks. So often we take things for granted. Many of us live lives of abundance. We do things or purchase things without thought. For instance, some of us take our families on vacation to resort areas or even other countries, or we buy new electronics because ours was not the newest or latest gadget on the market even though our "old" equipment was working just fine. My personal favorite is.... some of us ☺ don't give any thought to stopping by Starbucks and paying \$5.32 for a venti iced decaf café mocha with skim milk!! Think about that

one....2 cups a week adds up to \$520 in a year!!!

The point is this and it is very simple. There is nothing wrong with the things I've just mentioned as long as we prioritize and put our family and friends first. I use the word "friend" here in the global sense.

As we approach the holidays, I'd like to ask 5 random questions meant for personal reflection.

1. How often do you give thanks to God for the blessings in your life?
2. Except for the Easter season, do you remember to give thanks that Jesus willingly died on a cross for us so we might have new life with our Father in Heaven?
3. Ladies only: Have you ever wondered what it was like to be Mary? Do you think you would have the strength and courage to follow God's command?
4. Gentlemen only: Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be in Joseph's shoes? Would you have stayed the course?
5. Except at Christmas time, do you ever give thanks to God that He sent His only Son to take on our humanness so we could know God and have a personal relationship with and to Him?

If you take anything away from this message, let it be this. No matter what time of year it is, let us always remember to give thanks and praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and let us pray that we be guided by his word and example.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas and holiday season, always remembering, Jesus is the Reason for the season.

Merry Christmas!

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.

Help Needed—Help Needed
Check out the signup sheets in Fellowship Hall




Nov. Birthdays






- 29 Noah Bartos
- 30 Terry Silvernail



Dec. Birthdays

- 13 Jacquie Walters

Upcoming Events

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Rehearsal, Wednesday evenings: 7:30-9:00.
Nov 4	Church Women United, 12 noon @ First Congregational Church, East Bloomfield (P.5)
Nov 6 	-Daylight savings time ends -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's

		-First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
Nov 8 		Election Day
Nov 11		Veteran's Day
Nov 17		Book Club, 2:30-4:00. East of Eden, John Steinbeck
Nov 19		Holiday Fair (p. 5)
Nov 20 		-Christ the King Sunday -Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Nov 22		First day of Autumn
Nov 24		Thanksgiving Day
Nov 25		NO Friday supper this month
Nov 27 		-First Sunday in Advent -Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's. -Hanging of the Greens followed by a pot luck lunch.
Dec 4 		-Second Sunday in Advent. -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
Dec 11 		Third Sunday in Advent

Dec 15	Book Club 2:30-4:00., The Whistling Season, Ivan Doig
Dec 18 	-Fourth Sunday in Advent -Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall -Family Life pot luck lunch and ARC Christmas party
Dec 20	Newsletter Deadline for Jan/Feb 2017
Dec 21	First Day of Winter
Dec 24	Christmas Eve service 5:30 . Bring your candle in remembrance!
Dec 25 	-Christmas Day -Men's breakfast at Brady J's Worship service at 10:00 AM
Dec 30	NO Friday supper this month
Dec 31	New Year's Eve.

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings Nov/Dec 2016

Nov 6 Haggai 1:15b-2:9, Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17, Luke 20:27-38

Nov 13 Isaiah 65:17-25, Isaiah 12, (alternate first readings) Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalm 98, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

Nov 20 Jeremiah 23:1-6, Luke 1:68-79, (alternate first readings) Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46, Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

Nov 24-Thanksgiving Day Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 100, Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35
(Begin Year A Nov 27, 2016)

Nov 27-First Sunday in Advent Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

Dec 4-Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 11-Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, or Luke 1:46b-55, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 18-Fourth Sunday of Advent Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 24 & 25 Christmas Eve, Christmas Day (I) Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
(II) Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
(III) Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) John 1:1-14

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 have to think ahead to have the event included in the correct newsletter. (Phyllis Rehtin, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; rehtin@rochester.rr.com or 657-7018).

The Ties That Bind



“Faith is to the soul what life is to *the body*. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too.” —J.C. Ryle

During November and December, the congregation prays for The Glamack family, Beverley Clark, Albert & Patty Gliewe, and Don & Jackie Shultz.

Prayers for Jackie Shultz as she recovers from her back surgery.

Continued prayers for Trish Gliewe and Albert Gliewe for stable health for each of them in the months to come.

Let's pray for this church. Pray that God will bless us with strength and energy to meet our goals as we reach out to our community.

Remember our members and friends who cannot be with us on Sunday morning: Terry Silvernail, Dorothy and Bob Hodges and Doris Virkus.

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

Pray for our pastors, Sandy and Andy. Ask God to open the ears of our congregation, to guide our pastors' hearts and to bless us with His Spirit through the words shared.

Holiday Fair is November 19, 2016

Reported by Bev Clark

This year we are starting early—making pies at home and freezing them unbaked. If you would like to help, see Alice McConnell, Lujza Rockcastle or Bev Clark for additional information, recipes or suggestions. Also the usual quick breads, small cakes, cookies, jams, jellies, etc. are do-ahead items that sell well. Pie pans are available at the church. Call Bev Clark (657-6585) for information on when we will bake the pies—or see us in church.

Church Women United

Church Women United will meet on November 4, 2016 at Noon at First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and coffee are provided. The program will be led by the women from the Allen's Hill Church.

The brownbag auction will take place at this meeting. Wrap up something to be auctioned off and then bid on another gift for you to take home. It is a lot of fun! This event brings money into the treasury for the year's work.

Also at this meeting a vote will take place to decide if this group will remain with the national organization or continue independently.

This is an important meeting. Please plan to attend

Bloomfield has a Dedicated Timekeeper

Old Daily Messenger article shared by Mary Martin

The trustees have been looking into the possibility of having our historic four-faced clock repaired. No decisions have been made at this time. Mary Martin shared an old article from the Daily Messenger. Unfortunately, we don't have the date for that article. The picture is scanned directly from the article. The article itself did not scan in a readable format so it is copied here. It's very interesting reading. If you want to know a little more about our clock you can go to the website on the "About Us" page and read about the history. Thank you for sharing this article with us Mary.

Bloomfield Has Dedicated Timekeeper

By STEVE SZKOTAK
EAST BLOOMFIELD



SPRINGS AND GEARS surround Jean Mason as he winds the mechanism to the clock in the steeple in the East Bloomfield Congregational Church. For the past 32

years, Mason has faithfully maintained the historic four-faced clock for a tidy sum of \$100 yearly. (Messenger photo by Steve Szkotak)

Time and Jean Mason are old friends.

Like clockwork, Mason leaves his Michigan Sheet home here early every Monday evening and makes his way to East Bloomfield's Congregational Church to wind and set the steeple clock.

It's a task he has done faithfully since the fall of 1946, he recollects.

Last night was no exception. Moving as smoothly as the gears in a Swiss-made watch, Mason made his way through the historic church, winding his way up a rickety ladder and a narrow set of steps to the tiny room that houses the four-faced clock's ancient mechanism.

Cranking Up

Here, in the dimly lit room 40 feet above the steps of the church, he grabs a hand-wrought crank and winds the cable for the church's bell around a drum 55 turns; the timekeeping drum, which drives the gears of the clock, requires 27 turns.

Mason then gives a quick but thorough check of the toothy gears, flywheels and springs, and finally tunes in a Rochester radio station on his 50s vintage tuner to get the correct time. About 20 seconds late, he figures.

The whole process takes about 20 to 30 minutes, when everything is running smoothly and no major adjustments are required he says. More often than not, that is the case.

"The amazing thing," he says, "is that it runs so well even though it's so crude."

Long Attachment

Mason's long, almost uninterrupted attachment to the landmark clock began 32 years ago. A friend, Robert Wheeler Jr., asked if Mason was interested in maintaining the clock while he went away to college.

Mason, then about 24 and fresh out of the Air Force, where he was an aircraft mechanic, said yes. And he's been at it ever since.

The clock, like Mason, has its roots deep in the history of this community.

Bruce Kelley, director of the Bloomfield Academy Museum, possesses a faded clipping from the Dec. 24, 1921, edition of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (submitted to the Bloomfield Historical Society by Margaret Buell) which relates the history of the clock.

At a meeting of the Congregational Society in March, 1854, a resolution was passed, which stated:

"That E. M. Bradley be permitted to put up a town clock in the steeple of our meeting house, and that Thayer Gauss and Josiah Porter have the superintendence of the putting up of the same, the clock to be the property of the society and under its control."

About 1891, the clock required repairing and was removed from the steeple. Eventually, it was repaired and put back in place, overlooking Elton Park.

The clock has been running continuously since 1921.

Mason estimates that he has missed his weekly duties only eight times in the span he has been the timekeeper.

He usually times his vacations so he isn't away longer than seven days, since the clock can be kept running for eight days.

"As far as I know, I've never willfully let the clock run down," he proudly states. That includes times when he's had to drag himself out of the warm confines of his home during the long winter months to climb into the drafty steeple.

When his children were younger, he'd enlist them to stand outside the church and shout up the time so he could get the correct setting.

Shouts for Time

"They'd sit out there and shout up, 'ahead a little, back a little.'" They felt awfully self-conscious," he recalled with a laugh. At times he's had his wife shout out the directions. "Oh she's getting used to it," he said.

When Mason isn't tending time for the community, he works at the Canandaigua Veterans Hospital. He says he'll probably

move south after he retires in three or four years.

He'd like to see Russell Chaaple continue his work when he leaves, since Chaaple has filled in the few times when he was on vacation.

Modest Pay

It's hardly a well-paying job (\$100 a year, half from the village and half from the church), and Mason often has to dip into his own pocket to maintain the clock.

"It's just a bigger bother putting in for the bill than just taking it out of my own pocket," he says.

He's stuck with it over the years because of his fascination with clocks and his pride of being "a native of the village.

"I'm proud of that fact," he says. And he's reminded of his work every time the church's bell rings, every hour on the hour.

Book Club

November 17th reading is *East of Eden*, John Steinbeck.

A masterpiece of Biblical scope, and the magnum opus of one of America's most enduring authors, in a commemorative hardcover edition

In his journal, Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck called *East of Eden* "the first book," and indeed it has the primordial power and simplicity of myth. Set in the rich farmland of California's Salinas Valley, this sprawling and often brutal novel follows the intertwined destinies of two families—the Trasks and the Hamiltons—whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel.

The masterpiece of Steinbeck's later years, *East of Eden* is a work in which Steinbeck created his most mesmerizing characters and explored his most enduring themes: the mystery of identity, the inexplicability of love, and the murderous consequences of love's absence. Adapted for the 1955 film directed by Elia Kazan introducing James Dean, and read by thousands as the book that brought Oprah's Book Club back, *East of Eden* has remained

vitaly present in American culture for over half a century.

Dec 15th reading is *The Whistling Season*, Ivan Doig

From the Inside Flap

"Can't cook but doesn't bite." So begins the newspaper ad offering the services of an "A-1 housekeeper, sound morals, exceptional disposition" that draws the hungry attention of widower Oliver Milliron in the fall of 1909. And so begins the unforgettable season that deposits the noncooking, nonbiting, ever-whistling Rose Llewellyn and her font-of-knowledge brother, Morris Morgan, in Marias Coulee along with a stampede of homesteaders drawn by the promise of the Big Ditch—a gargantuan irrigation project intended to make the Montana prairie bloom. When the schoolmarm runs off with an itinerant preacher, Morris is pressed into service, setting the stage for the "several kinds of education"—none of them of the textbook variety—Morris and Rose will bring to Oliver, his three sons, and the rambunctious students in the region's one-room schoolhouse.

A paean to a vanished way of life and the eccentric individuals and idiosyncratic institutions that made it fertile, *The Whistling Season* is Ivan Doig at his evocative best.

Fueled by thankfulness

John Henry Jowett

Thankfulness is not a minor virtue. It is not one of the elementary virtues [that] may be left behind as we become more mature. I believe that thankfulness is essential to the strength of every virtue, and that without it every other branch is starved and lean.

Life without thankfulness is devoid of love and passion. Hope without thankfulness is lacking in fine perception. Faith without thankfulness lacks strength and fortitude. Every virtue divorced from thankfulness is maimed and limps along the spiritual road.

Use it all up

About two-thirds of Americans say eating Thanksgiving leftovers is more important than eating the actual holiday meal. That's one of the few times people hope food is left on the table.

When it comes to giving out blessings, God doesn't want any leftovers to remain. In Genesis 12:2, God blesses Abraham so he will be a blessing to others.

Charles Stanley writes: "A hoarded blessing is never enjoyed as richly as a shared one. Using your gift to meet someone else's need glorifies God by demonstrating his grace at work in your life. Don't let his generous provisions end with you. Pass them on and discover the joy of a never-ending cycle of blessings."

Everyday miracles

When Joan Luise Hill's son survived a dire medical diagnosis, two friends recognized that divine intervention had occurred. Hill wasn't so sure, though. "How could I have experienced a personal miracle in today's world?" she writes in *The Miracle Chase* (Sterling Ethos). "Wasn't that something that only happened in the Bible or to someone else?"

Then one day, during a visit to the park, Hill learned a lesson about everyday miracles. "There's a white rainbow!" shouted her 5-year-old son. She told him it was just a jet trail, but the boy replied, "Not to me. It's beautiful."

That was an "aha!" moment for Hill. "Why couldn't a rainbow be white?" she asks. "Maybe it was time to shift my thinking. Perhaps there are 'rainbows' all around us; but since we only see them a piece at a time, we mistake them for something else. Miracles happen. We may not always notice them, but they exist, and the choice to recognize a miracle is up to each of us."

Love in action

Fiddler on the Roof, the 1964 musical about an Orthodox Jewish family navigating cultural change, includes a duet by the main character, Tevye, and his wife, Golde. As they watch their daughters marry for love, they contemplate their own arranged marriage.

"Do you love me?" Tevye sings. After first deflecting the question, Golde recounts the many things she's done for or with him during 25 years together — cooked, cleaned, endured hardships, raised a family. She concludes, "If that's not love, what is?"

When Jesus speaks of love, he uses a word that might be better translated as "serve." Above all, love is an action. Sometimes we feel loving; sometimes not. But Jesus calls us always to act lovingly. And in the end, serving is the best way to show our love.

Always thankful

Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran minister, wrote the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" in 1636. At the time, the Thirty Years' War was ravaging central Europe, claiming millions of lives. Rinkart served as pastor in Eilenburg, a walled town that became a crowded refuge for starving fugitives. Although Rinkart was struggling to provide for his own family, he opened his own home to people in need.

After the plague entered Eilenburg, Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day — including services for his wife and the only other two pastors in town. Amid the despair, he wrote many hymns, including "Now Thank We All Our God." Originally intended as a table prayer, it's now sung at Thanksgiving to remember God's "countless gifts of love" — even during hardships.

The long view of Advent

Advent is about preparing not only for Christmas but also for Jesus' return. According to Scripture, that won't be the calm, silent scene described in Christmas carols.

In 1928, Dietrich Bonhoeffer preached: "It is very remarkable that we face the thought that God is coming so calmly, whereas previously peoples trembled at the day of God We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us. We ... [forget] the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us."

God is love; we'll be in good hands at the end of time. But during Advent, also be in awe of God. Embrace a reverent fear of the Lord that reminds you how profound it is that God chooses again and again to draw near and lay claim to you.

Wise women

If there had been three wise women instead of three wise men, the story would've been a bit different.

- The women would have asked for directions instead of trying to follow a light in the sky.
- The three women would have arrived in time for the birth, assisted Mary and congratulated Joseph.
- They would have cleaned the stable, found bedding for the manger, shopped for whatever was needed and prepared food and drink for all.
- And when the Baby cried, they would have taken turns to lovingly hold, sing and talk to the baby born to be a King.

A lesson learned during Advent

Julie Reynolds of Snohomish, Washington, tells of one Advent season when all her young children came down with chicken pox. Everything planned was put on hold or forgotten altogether. They missed

many church and community activities as well as get-togethers with family and friends.

But Julie discovered something during her forced hiatus. She had time to do things with her children. The children were well enough to engage in some family activities that the normal Christmas rush might have prevented.

She read Christmas stories to the children. The kids used blankets, walking sticks and other objects to reenact the story of the holy family traveling to Bethlehem. They had time together to discover the joy of family fellowship and to think seriously about the meaning of Christmas.

Julie recalled other Christmases when she had been so busy shopping, decorating, cooking and running about that she missed Jesus. She said, "I completely missed celebrating the joy of His birth in my own heart. And the emptiness I have felt at those times brought a sorrow and regret deep in my soul."

No more! Now she deliberately schedules "open days" on her calendar, especially during Advent. They are days for waiting upon God, praying, listening and enjoying the peace of God. And they are days of truly being with her family, keeping the bond strong, and the relationships in good repair. Now, she recalls with gratitude the lesson she learned during that Advent years ago.

More than a wreath and candles

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Lighting its candles is a common practice on the four Sundays leading to Christmas.

Different color combinations for the candles are used depending upon the church or denomination. Some churches use four blue candles around the wreath with one white candle in the center, while some use all white candles. Many denominations light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth

Sunday and a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The wreath, the candles and the colors all have symbolic significance. Here are just a few of the many and various interpretations:

- The circular green wreath symbolizes the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. Green represents eternal life.
- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents one thousand years. They total 4,000 years — the time from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ.
- Purple, in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence.
- Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- The first purple candle signifies Hope.
- The second purple candle stands for Peace.
- The pink candle for the third Sunday symbolizes Joy and signifies the halfway point of Advent.
- The final purple candle is for Love.

- The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — “the light of the world.”
- The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5, NRSV).

Picture us

Display at the West Bloomfield Market:

Marilyn Shafer organized 3 times this summer to display information about our

church at the Farmer's market in West Bloomfield. Thank you Marilyn!



The puppets were eager to show off our events on the display board!



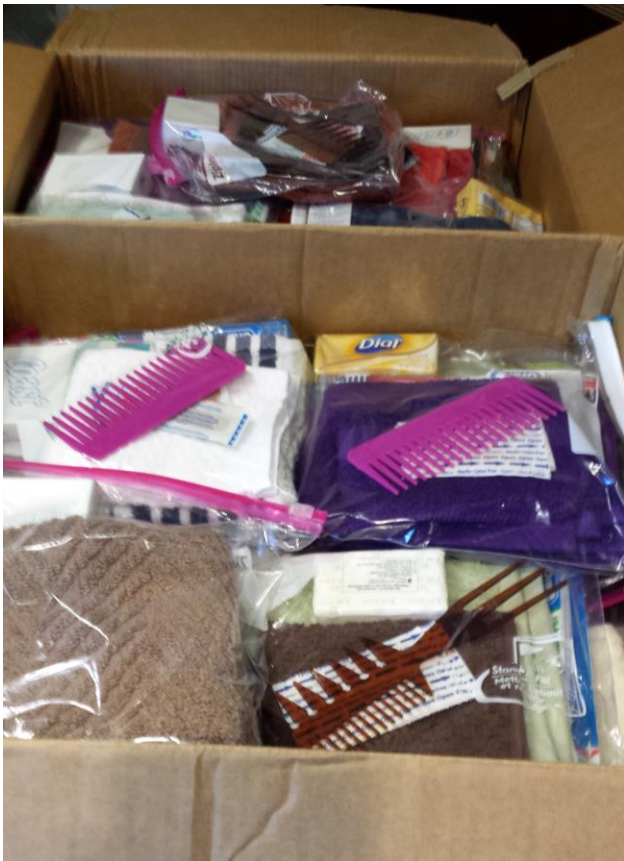
As you can tell it was a nice day but a little cool!

Family Life hygiene kits

September 11th was Rally Day. We celebrated with a pot luck lunch and put together 49 hygiene kits for Church World Service.



All ready to pack them up!



And there they go!

Alice's birthday party

On September 18th Alice McConnell's family surprised her after church with an 80th birthday party. She was happy to celebrate with so many of her family members and church friends. Happy Birthday Alice!



A time for visiting and celebrating.



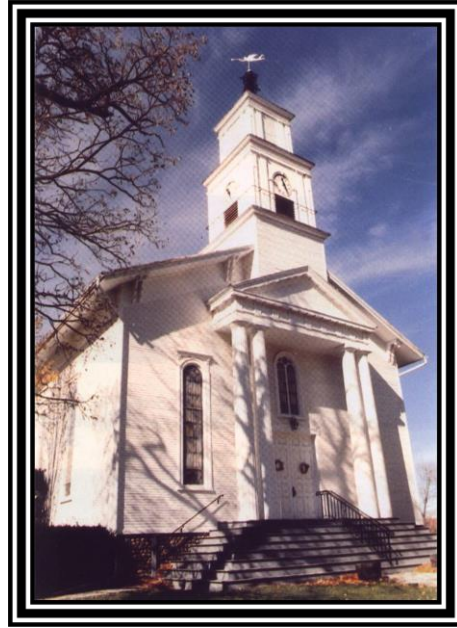
Family gathers around!



With a little help from the kids the candles are blown out. Yay!



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