



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

July/August 2020

*** Our Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 AM ***

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor:

Sue Walters
(716) 983-5760
revst88@gmail.com

Choir Director:

Bethyn Boni
(585) 396-2788
Bethyn.Boni@gmail.com

Organist:

Donna Messner
(585) 396-2788
dlmessner3169@gmail.com

Sexton

Bev Clark
(585) 657-6586

Newsletter

Marilyn R. Shafer
(585) 935-1538
mshafer5@rochester.rr.com

Web Masters

Phyllis Rehtin
(585) 657-7018
rehtin@rochester.rr.com

~ and ~

Marilyn R. Shafer
(585) 935-1538
mshafer5@rochester.rr.com

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. Amen

FROM THE PASTOR

*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”*
Genesis 8:6

It's summer! It's the time for warmth, gardens, being outside in the sunshine, taking long walks, reveling in God's creation.



And, it's a good thing it is summer, and that we enjoy doing all these things..because they involve mostly solitary pursuits. With the state of the nation at present, solitary is a good thing. But, you say, "I've been solitary since March! I'm tired of (a) being alone, or (b) being with my spouse who is REALLY getting on my nerves! I want to see my friends, have backyard picnics and barbecues, go to amusement parks, be around other people. This quarantine is for the birds, and I hate my mask! I want life to go back to normal."

As much as we want life to return to normal, it may not. There is still social distancing, and mask wearing. There is the inability to hug our friends, or even our extended family. Nothing feels the same. That's because it isn't....but, there are some things that are: the big things. That's why I quoted Genesis at the beginning of this column. God is still here. God still gives us summer, fall, winter and spring. God does not change. When all else around us changes, God is unchangeable. We can rely on God's consistency to get us through these different times. When we can't hug our friends, God still keeps us close. When we have to speak through masks, God still speaks in a still, small voice. When we have to be 6 feet apart from others, God is as near as our breath.

It is the absolute truth that we do not know what the future holds. It is equally true that God holds the future, as well as the present and the past. Please do not read into that statement that God created COVID 19, or the Spanish flu, or polio. I do not believe that we, as human beings, have been given free will...to create and destroy. We have created some terrible things that have destroyed many, many lives. But, even in the midst of those terrible things, God has been there to hold us, comfort us, inspire us, and guide us. I have no doubt that God is guiding the scientists, who are, right now, using all their abilities to create both an effective treatment for COVID 19, and also a vaccine to prevent it. I believe those things will happen; and we will look back on this time as those who survived polio and other dread diseases looked back and were grateful to God for bringing them through it and out the other side.

In the meantime:" Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5).

Blessings, in this time of COVID 19 and in all times,
Sue

Prayer Requests:

As we go through the next couple of months, please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:



Prayer Request

Cheryl Glamack * Donna Magraw * Mick Eddy * Mary Martin * The Pastor
Search Committee * Bev Clark * Wes * Val Young * Andrea & Roger Stein * Sue
Clark * Denise * Dom * Mike * Albert & Patty Gliewe * Joan * Emily * Lori *
Sandy Straub * Kay * Larry Messner * Helen * Jim Rehtin * Don Shultz *
Autumn * Denise * Joan * Carl Stewart

Pastor Search Committee News:

The committee has posted job announcements on more websites, including the NACCC website and on our website and Facebook page. They have interviewed one applicant and the results of that interview are under committee review. In addition, there are other applications the committee has to review and then conduct interviews. As always, please continue to keep the committee in your thoughts and prayers during their search.

Birthdays:

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

July: 7th - Nick Glamack, 15th - Chris Bartos, 17th - Rich Townsend

August: 9th - Diane Sickmond, 24th - Bev Clark



Church News:

● **Worship Services:** The best news is we are now holding live, in the church, worship services. On June 28, we held our 10:00 worship service in the Fellowship Hall that had been carefully arranged to comply with NYS COVID-19 rules. A good number of church members attended the service and the most common phrase heard was “it’s so good to SEE everyone again!” (masks notwithstanding).

Here’s our Fellowship Hall, all dressed up and prepared for worship:



Services will continue in the Fellowship Hall for the near future. For those who cannot attend, or who are not yet comfortable attending public services, the service is taped and then posted that Sunday afternoon on our Facebook page. The videos can be viewed at any time (as well as all the other videos) by accessing our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-Bloomfield-NY-357770224341588/>) Video section.

In addition, Sue will continue to lead a weekly prayer session. These will be live-streamed on our Facebook page on Thursdays at 8:30 am. The prayer service can be viewed live or accessed later by going to our Facebook page’s Video section.

● **Parsonage Remodel:** The parsonage remodel project is 95% complete. The only items left are the installation of the kitchen faucet, the kitchen appliances (with kudos to Call Joe Appliance Repair for the assistance with the appliance purchase and installation) and the repair of two tiles in the master bathroom. When we get our new pastor, the parsonage will be a great place for them.

● **Another Bee Swarm:** The trustees had to have another large swarm of bees (the size of a basketball!) removed from one of the front columns of the church. Thankfully, someone from

the Ontario County Beekeepers Association was able to remove the majority of the swarm for re-homing. Then, the trustees had an exterminator clean up the column in hopes of making it less attractive to another swarm of bees.

● **Measuring Party:** In partnership with Foodlink, a weekend backpack program was been initiated within the Bloomfield School district. At the cost of \$2.50 per backpack, 100 backpacks of food are being delivered each week to needy families. This has been subsidized by individual donations and Rotary.

Pastor Sue heard about this program and asked the deacons for monetary help. The deacons authorized \$750, to be divided over 3 months, to help pay for these backpacks.

However, Janice Kelly, the benevolence treasurer, said she has received very few benevolence donations in the time we have been apart; the fund was getting low.

So, the Christian Education Board thought of a unique way to raise funds to rebuild our Benevolence Fund - a Measuring Party! This has been done two times at our church. The first time was in 1900 for the purpose of making the church debt grow smaller. The second time was 1996 and the purpose was to add to the contribution of One Great Hour of Sharing. Here's the invitation that was sent to the church members:

A measuring party is given to you;
'Tis something novel – but nothing new.
As we quarantined our Deacon's fund felt a slack,
So, we ask you to fill an envelope to bring it back!
In it put a dollar for each foot you are tall.
So, measure yourself on the door or the wall,
And for each extra inch a quarter more give
And in this way show us how high you live.

Now though it may seem a nice thing to be tall,
And little folks grumble because they're so small;
The aim of this party, we want to be fair
Is solely to find a unique way to share—
So again, we invite you to join in the sharing,
And help us increase the Deacon's fund's caring.

Send your envelope now for there are school children to feed!
Send it today! Let us meet their need!

When all is said and done and we're back together,
With lunch and some song, with enjoyment and pleasure,
We will greet one and all remembering our Party of Measure.

One member even sent a poem in with their contribution:

Our quarantined Deacons have issued a call
To donate, to share, to take up the slack.
Our town has a need, there are children to feed.

They asked us to measure ourselves on a wall,
And donate a dollar for each foot that we're tall.
Then add in a quarter for each extra inch,
We've got this. We say, "Help each other? A cinch!"

As I add up my share, when all's done and told,
I need to give more, to give back tenfold.
So, thank's for the invite to join in the sharing,
Please add this to the fund and continue the caring.

And when this is over, it will be my great pleasure
To come back to church. I'm sick of this "leisure."

The absolute best part? The Measuring Party raised \$597.50 for the Benevolence Fund. I'm thinking we have a lot of tall people in this church; or at least tall in the giving spirit.

● **Continued Support for Summer School Lunch Program:** Now that school is over, where will these children receive their food? Several congregants and the pastor of the East Bloomfield United Methodist Church proposed that the community churches help feed the children. The churches would purchase food; enough for each family for 5 days, and assemble it at the United Methodist Church each Monday afternoon. The families would then come pick up their five days worth of meals beginning at 5 p.m. on Monday evening. As of earlier this week, 30 families had signed up for this program.

Menus for each week will be made up by the United Methodist Church and provided to the other churches. They will typically include sandwiches, fresh fruit, a drink and a snack. We have been assigned the weeks of **July 20** and **August 24**.

Several of members of the church have stepped up and indicated they would like to help; more volunteers are welcomed! Pastor Sue will coordinate the church's volunteers in preparing these meals. She also may be coming to the church congregation to ask for donations of food, such as jars of peanut butter and jelly, loaves of bread, prepackaged slices of cheese, or individually wrapped snacks, such as Teddy Grahams.

● **Church Fundraiser Results:** We held a BBQ fundraiser on May 31 and it was a rousing success! We sold out in 2 hours!

Many, many thanks to Nick Glamack, the coordinator, and the rest of his team: Bethyn Boni, Judd Rockcastle, Marilyn Shafer, Nancy Stewart, Ray Walters and Pastor Sue Walters. A special thanks goes to Bob & Janice Kelly and Jim & Phyllis Rehtin for volunteering for the

second shift. Not their fault the fundraiser didn't last into their shift, so many thanks for volunteering the time.

● **Church Fundraiser, Take Two:** And now we are hosting another BBQ from Gale-Wyn Catering on July 19. It will again be set up at Shivers, Shakes & Cones (6570 Rt. 5, Bloomfield; at the intersection of routes 5 & 20 and 64).

The BBQ will start at 11:00 AM and is scheduled to end at 4:00 PM (unless sold out beforehand).

NOTE: Our worship service will begin an hour earlier on this day so members can be ready to sell chicken at 11:00. Therefore, please add a reminder to your calendar that the in Fellowship Hall live worship service will begin at **9:00 AM** on July 19th.

NOTE: All events and fund raisers scheduled toward the end of July and August assume the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted/relaxed. Please see our website or Facebook page or call the church at 585-657-7755 for updates.

Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly):

NOTE: We are still hoping to re-start our reoccurring events and meetings. We are hoping to resume our regular schedule in August. Therefore, please check each item to see when is the next meeting.

● **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 **August 2nd**.

● **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. For this period, the offering is **July 5th**. 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 in the Fellowship Hall yet you wish to make a regular donation to the church's mission, you can mail your donation to Marilyn Shafer (please call 585-935-1538 for her address).

● **Church Council:** The council takes a summer hiatus. The next meeting will be in September.

● **Choir Practice:** The choir is on summer hiatus. In addition, due to NYS COVID-19 restrictions, the choir cannot sing in the live worship services. We will notify everyone when we can resume our Wednesday night rehearsals and worship service singing.

● **Men's Breakfast:** meets the last Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8:00 AM. All interested men are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the men meet **July 26th.**

July & August Specific Calendar Events:

● **Saturday, July 4:** Independence Day



● **Wednesday, July 15:** Tax Day

● **Thursday, July 16/10:00 AM:** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; they will discuss *Maid* by Stephanie Land.

Goodreads synopsis: *Stephanie Land's memoir about working as a maid; a beautiful and gritty exploration of poverty in America. Includes a foreword by Barbara Ehrenreich.*

"My daughter learned to walk in a homeless shelter."

*While the gap between upper middle-class Americans and the working poor widens, grueling low-wage domestic and service work--primarily done by women--fuels the economic success of the wealthy. Stephanie Land worked for years as a maid, pulling long hours while struggling as a single mom to keep a roof over her daughter's head. In *Maid*, she reveals the dark truth of what it takes to survive and thrive in today's inequitable society.*

While she worked hard to scratch her way out of poverty as a single parent, scrubbing the toilets of the wealthy, navigating domestic labor jobs, higher education, assisted housing, and a tangled web of government assistance, Stephanie wrote. She wrote the true stories that weren't being told. The stories of overworked and underpaid Americans.

*Written in honest, heart-rending prose and with great insight, *Maid* explores the underbelly of upper-middle class America and the reality of what it's like to be in service to them. "I'd become a nameless ghost," Stephanie writes. With this book, she gives voice to the "servant" worker, those who fight daily to scramble and scrape by for their own lives and the lives of their children.*

● **Sunday, July 19/11:00 AM - 4:00 PM:** Church-run BBQ at Shivers, Shakes & Cones

Sunday, July 19
11 am – until sold out
\$12 (bottled water
included)



Held at Shivers Shakes & Cones
6570 Rt. 5, E. Bloomfield

Sponsored by **First Congregational Church**, E. Bloomfield

NOTE : Our worship service will begin an hour earlier on this day so members can be ready to sell chicken at 11:00. Therefore, please add a reminder to your calendar that the in Fellowship Hall live worship service will begin at **9:00 AM** on July 19th.

● **Monday, July 20/11:00 AM - 5:00 PM:** The church will prepare meals for the summer lunch program at the United Methodist Church. Please note these times were not finalized as of this newsletter publication; Pastor Sue will tell the volunteers the specific start time.

● **Sunday, July 26/8:00 AM:** Men's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)

● **Sunday, August 2/8:00 AM:** Women's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)

● **Monday, July 20/11:00 AM - 5:00 PM:** Prepare meals for the summer lunch program at the United Methodist Church. Please note these times were not finalized as of this newsletter publication; Pastor Sue will tell the volunteers the specific start time.

● **Thursday, August 20/10:00 AM:** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; the book to discuss will be determined at the July club meeting. Please contact Marilyn Shafer (585-935-1538) after July 16th to find out what the club has decided.

● **Monday, August 24/11:00 AM - 5:00 PM:** The church will prepare meals for the summer lunch program at the United Methodist Church. Please note these times were not finalized as of this newsletter publication; Pastor Sue will tell the volunteers the specific start time.

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.

May the God of peace who raised Christ from the dead strengthen your inner being for every good work. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon you and dwell within you this day and evermore. Amen

Lectionary Readings:

Season after Pentecost Year A	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 5, 2020	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 <i>or</i> <i>Song of Solomon 2:8-13</i>	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 12, 2020	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
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 19, 2020	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 <i>or</i> <i>Isaiah 44:6-8</i> Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 26, 2020	Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 128</i>	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 2, 2020	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
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 9, 2020	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
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 16, 2020	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
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 23, 2020	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124	Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 30, 2020	Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28

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

First Congregational Church
of East Bloomfield
Post Office Box 5
East Bloomfield, NY 14443

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