



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

January/February 2020

Sunday Service @ 10:00 AM

CHURCH STAFF

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~ and ~

Marilyn R. Shafer
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Epiphany prayer:

Bright Morning Star, your light has come, and the birth of Jesus has overwhelmed us with joy. Like the magi of long ago, may we be drawn to you and offer you such gifts as we are able. Amen

FROM THE PASTOR

Hello! I'm Reverend Susan (Sue) Walters, the new interim pastor of the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield, effective January 1, 2020.



I am a retired United Methodist pastor, living on a 25-acre farm between Bloomfield and Honeoye. On that farm, my husband of 6 years, Joe Walters, and I raise cows and chickens. The current count is 29 chickens and eight cows, but Joe has been talking about buying a bull, so that number could change significantly in the next year. We also have three dogs and two cats: a number that is also subject to change depending on if God gives us any more of either type. I phrase it that way because all of these animals are rescues and I am completely convinced that God gave each of them to us.

Between the two of us, Joe and I have five adult children and 12 grandchildren. Only one set is local, the others are scattered. My two biological daughters, Rachel and Rebekah, are located in the Midwest (way too far away!). Each of them has a son: Rebekah's son is Hudson (4) and Rachel's son is Jude (3). I keep in touch through FaceTime and try to get out and see them whenever possible.

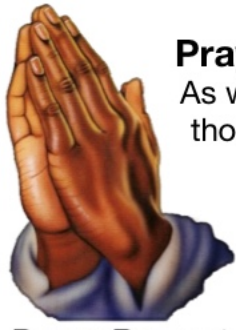
I am excited about being your interim pastor. In my interim training, I learned that in addition to leading worship, preaching, and providing pastoral care, the role of an interim is to prepare the congregation for a permanent pastor. That involves having the church honestly evaluate itself: what do you do well, and what do you wish you did better? What are your strengths and weaknesses? What is your realistic vision for the church's future? How can we move in that direction? Those are the questions I will be asking you...so be prepared! Please prayerfully consider your answers because, after all, the purpose of the church is to worship God and be God's presence in the community and the world. How is God leading this church today?

I look forward to being in ministry together with you!

Faithfully yours,
Sue

Epiphany prayer:

Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.



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 * Mick & Mona Eddy * The Pastor Search Committee

Prayer Request

Pastor Search Committee News:

The committee is hard at work finding our new pastor. You should have received a questionnaire in the mail the last week in December. In it, the committee asks for your input about your expectations for a new pastor. If you received a questionnaire, please complete it and get it back to the committee by **January 8, 2020** so they can correlate the information in time for the church's annual meeting.

Birthdays:

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

January: 11th - Isaac Barton; 28th - Don Shultz

February: 1st - Lujza Rockcastle; 14th - Mick Eddy;

17th - Bob Sickmond; 24th - June Bartos; 29th - Nancy Stewart



January & February Church Events & Happenings

Wednesday, January 1:

* New Year's Day

Sunday, January 5:

* Woman's breakfast at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) – 8:00 AM

* Special Offering during worship service – 11:00 AM

On the first Sunday of each month, two offering plates are passed. The wicker basket is a special offering for outreach to local missions.

* Church Council Meeting – 12:00 PM

* “Celebration of Retirement” gathering for the Reverend Thomas “Tim” Hamlin (United Church of Bristol, 7177 County Road 2, Bloomfield, NY) - 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Wednesday, January 8:

* Choir rehearsal – 7:30-9:00 PM

* Pastor Search Committee survey due back to church

Wednesday, January 15:

* Choir rehearsal – 7:30-9:00 PM

Thursday, January 16:

* Book club meets in the Memorial room – 10:30 AM

They will discuss *Homer’s Odyssey* by Gwen Cooper.

Goodreads synopsis: The last thing Gwen Cooper wanted was another cat. She already had two, not to mention a phenomenally underpaying job and a recently broken heart. Then Gwen’s veterinarian called with a story about a three-week-old eyeless kitten who’d been abandoned. It was love at first sight.

Everyone warned that Homer would always be an "underachiever," never as playful or independent as other cats. But the kitten nobody believed in quickly grew into a three-pound dynamo, a tiny daredevil with a giant heart who eagerly made friends with every human who crossed his path. Homer scaled seven-foot bookcases with ease and leapt five feet into the air to catch flies in mid-buzz. He survived being trapped alone for days after 9/11 in an apartment near the World Trade Center, and even saved Gwen’s life when he chased off an intruder who broke into their home in the middle of the night.

But it was Homer’s unswerving loyalty, his infinite capacity for love, and his joy in the face of all obstacles that inspired Gwen daily and transformed her life. And by the time she met the man she would marry, she realized Homer had taught her the most important lesson of all: Love isn’t something you see with your eyes.

Homer’s Odyssey is the once-in-a-lifetime story of an extraordinary cat and his human companion. It celebrates the refusal to accept limits—on love, ability, or hope against overwhelming odds. By turns jubilant and moving, it’s a memoir for anybody who’s ever fallen completely and helplessly in love with a pet.

Monday, January 20:

* Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 22:

* Choir rehearsal – 7:30-9:00 PM

Sunday, January 26:

* Men’s breakfast at Brady J’s (Bloomfield) – 7:45 AM

* Church Annual Meeting - 12:00 PM

Wednesday, January 29:

- * Choir rehearsal – 7:30-9:00 PM

Friday, January 31:

- * Free Friday Supper - 5:00-6:30 PM

We restart our community suppers today! The dinner is offered free to the community on the last Friday of the month (January through April). The meal is open to all who would like to attend; everyone is welcome. Handicap parking is available in the parking lot off of 5 & 20.

Sunday, February 2:

- * Woman's breakfast at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) – 8:00 AM
- * Special Offering during the worship service - 11:00 AM
- * Church Council Meeting – 12:00 PM

Given that we just had the church-wide annual meeting, this meeting is primarily to select a new moderator for the year (and new board members).

Monday, February 3:

- * Red Cross Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall) – 2:00-7:00 PM

In addition to the traditional snacks offered to the donors by the Red Cross, we will be serving grilled cheese sandwiches with tomato or chicken noodle soup. Always a worthwhile event.

Wednesday, February 5:

- * Choir rehearsal – 7:30-9:00 PM

Wednesday, February 12:

- * Choir rehearsal – 7:30-9:00 PM

Monday, February 17:

- * President's Day

Wednesday, February 19:

- * Choir rehearsal – 7:30-9:00 PM

Thursday, January 16:

- * Book club meets in the Memorial room – 10:30 AM

They will discuss *Professor At Large: The Cornell Years* by John Cleese.

Goodreads synopsis: And now for something completely different. *Professor at Large* features beloved English comedian and actor John Cleese in the role of ivy league professor at Cornell University. His almost twenty years as professor-at-large has led to many talks, essays, and lectures on campus. This collection of the very best moments from Cleese under his mortarboard provides a unique view of his endless pursuit of intellectual discovery across a range of topics. Since 1999,

Cleese has provided Cornell students and local citizens with his ideas on everything from scriptwriting to psychology, religion to hotel management, and wine to medicine.

His incredibly popular events and classes--including talks, workshops, and an analysis of *A Fish Called Wanda* and *The Life of Brian*--draw hundreds of people. He has given a sermon at Sage Chapel, narrated Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* with the Cornell Chamber Orchestra, conducted a class on script writing, and lectured on psychology and human development. Each time Cleese has visited the campus in Ithaca, NY, he held a public presentation, attended and or lectured in classes, and met privately with researchers. From the archives of these visits, *Professor at Large* includes an interview with screenwriter William Goldman, a lecture about creativity entitled, "Hare Brain, Tortoise Mind," talks about *Professor at Large* and *The Life of Brian*, a discussion of facial recognition, and Cleese's musings on group dynamics with business students and faculty.

Professor at Large provides a window into the workings of John Cleese's scholarly mind, showcasing the wit and intelligence that have driven his career as a comedian, while demonstrating his knack of pinpointing the essence of humans and human problems. His genius on the screen has long been lauded; now his academic chops get their moment in the spotlight, too.

Sunday, February 23:

* Men's breakfast at Brady J's (Bloomfield) – 7:45 AM

Wednesday, February 26:

* Choir rehearsal – 7:30-9:00 PM

Friday, February 28:

* Free Friday Supper - 5:00-6:30 PM

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.

Notes From the Editor:

Hi! Marilyn here, your new editor for the Gabriel's Horn. Before I continue, please have a thought of appreciation for all the work Phyllis Rehtin has put into this publication over the years! I only hope I do as nice a job as she did. Thanks, Phyllis!

As you can see, the biggest thing I've changed is the layout. Mainly because I got impatient trying to make this look neat in two columns. I don't know how Phyllis did it, but not me! Hopefully, the change is not too jarring.

If you have any news, concerns or joys you want in March/April's newsletter, please get it to me by February 18, 2020. You can e-mail or text me or tell me the details in church. Thanks.

The Church Family At Worship, Work & Play

We've had some exciting times in our church these past couple of months. Here are some photos from some of those events.

On November 3, 2019, Joe Walters joined our church family. Welcome, Joe! So glad you are with us.

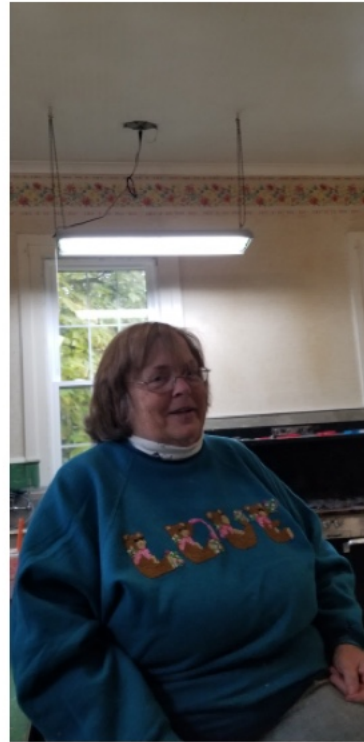


On November 10, 2019, we hosted a reception to bid farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Sandy Porrey. We wish her well in her life's journey going forward and know that God is always with her.

Bloomfield's annual Holiday Fair was held on November 23, 2019. As usual, we sold pies at the event, as well as various cookies and cakes. As a result of the hard work by all the volunteers, we sold out of everything! There was nothing to take back to the church but shelved and tables. A job well done.



The biggest contributors to our success were Lujza Rockcastle (pie baker extraordinaire!) and Donna Messner (master of details). Without these two ladies coordinating (and doing the majority of) the work since October, we would not have had such a successful sale. When you see them, please give them a heartfelt "thank you" and a 'job well done.' Here they are, hard at work:



On December 15, 2019, we bid farewell to Pastor Andy Schaefer and his family. We wish them the very best and Godspeed on their journey.

January & February Lectionary Readings (Year A)

Christmas	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Holy Name of Jesus January 1, 2020	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7 <i>or</i> <i>Philippians 2:5-11</i>	Luke 2:15-21
New Year's Day January 1, 2020	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Psalm 8	Revelation 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
Second Sunday after Christmas Day January 5, 2020	Jeremiah 31:7-14 <i>or</i> <i>Sirach 24:1-12</i>	Psalm 147:12-20 <i>or</i> <i>Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21</i>	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Epiphany	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2020	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Baptism of the Lord January 12, 2020 <i>First Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 19, 2020	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 26, 2020	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany February 2, 2020	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2020	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84 <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 24:7-10</i>	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 9, 2020	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Psalm 112:1-9 (10)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 16, 2020	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 <i>or</i> <i>Sirach 15:15-20</i>	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Transfiguration Sunday February 23, 2020 <i>(Last Sunday before Lent)</i>	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2 <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 99</i>	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
Lent	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 <i>or</i> <i>Isaiah 58:1-12</i>	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday in Lent March 1, 2020	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

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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