



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
May-June 2016

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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A note from the editor...

I'm beginning to see green leaves on the trees! Slowly our world is awakening and we rejoice! What new awakenings can we look forward to with our church family this spring?

We have a couple of new fundraising ideas! June 4th will be our chicken Barbeque. This event requires much less energy for us! The meal will be prepared by Gale-Win and all we have to do is set up and sell tickets and give out the meals! Be sure to spread the word. Who doesn't like to eat chicken and all the fixings on a balmy summer night?

Jump ahead to October 7th and we will be hosting a wonderful group of two women who call themselves Simple Gifts. See an example of the lively folk music they play on 10 instruments at <http://simplegiftsmusic.com/videos.html>. Be sure to tell your friends!

The puppets have a new beginning too. Now named "From Puppet to Pew", we have already been treated to two great skits!

Also, there is new opportunity to join in a Bible Study series that begins April 26th and runs for 8 weeks. This is a chance to renew your personal relationship with Jesus!

That's just a start on things to come. So, happy spring and happy summer. Wake up and smell the flowers and enjoy the good things to come!

Phyllis

PASTORS' COLUMN

Just A Thought.....



(Editor's note: Sandy has been fighting a bout with the flu. We are substituting this article in place of hers this month and wish her a good recovery!)

"Ruth — a Pentecost story?

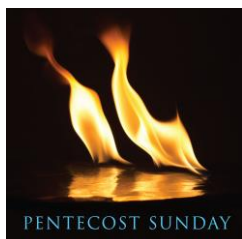
The disciples were celebrating Pentecost, originally a Jewish festival, when the Holy Spirit descended on them and birthed the church. Pentecost, which began as a harvest festival, had come to commemorate the giving of the law. The book of Ruth became integral to festival worship.

Why Ruth? This short story doesn't mention the law, let alone God giving it to Moses. Yet in Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law ("Where you go I will go Your people will be my people ..." [Ruth 1:16, NIV]), she fulfills not just the letter but the spirit of the law: lovingkindness — all the more remarkable because she's a foreigner. Boaz, too, demonstrates exorbitant kindness to Ruth.

As Christians celebrate the Spirit bridging differences in Jerusalem, uniting all nationalities by making the gospel message intelligible to all people, we too can remember Ruth's story. For in it, God unites two enemy peoples for his grand purpose: Boaz and Ruth's marriage leads to King David and, ultimately, to King Jesus. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to unite all categories of people under Christ's reign for the good of the world."

Pentecost Sunday is May 15th. Come and worship—and remember to wear red to church!

See you in church!



ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER, MINISTRY AND HUMOR

Church Membership

Please contact Rev. Sandy Porrey at (585) 354-7065 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




May Birthdays

12 Bob Hodges
26 Al Gliewe
28 Judd Rockcastle
30 Marilyn Shafer

June Birthdays

9 Andy Schaefer
14 Joshua Schaefer
16 Nancy Walters
17 Mona Eddy
19 Jackie Shultz
20 Janice Kelly
Daniel Glamack
25 Dorothy Hodges
26 Joan Hall
30 Bethyn Boni

Upcoming Events

Choir	Rehearsals Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00 Everyone is welcome to sing.
May 1	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
May 3	Bible Study 7:00
May 6	Church Women United, 12 Noon @ Honeoye United Church of Christ. The Least Coin collection will be taken at this meeting.
May 8	Mother's Day
May 10	Bible Study 7:00
May 15	Pentecost Sunday. Wear red today!
May 17	Bible Study 7:00
May 19	Book Club, 2:30-4:00. Saving Simon, Jon Katz
May 22	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall 
May 24	Bible Study 7:00
May 27	-Last Friday Free Supper: 5:00-6:45
May 29	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
May 31	Bible Study 7:00
June 4	Chicken Barbeque, 4- 7. Tickets \$10.00.
June 5	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's

	-First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Recognition Sunday -Council meeting
June 7	Bible Study 7:00
June 14	Bible Study 7:00
June 16	Book Club, 2:30-4:00. Sisters In Law, Linda Hirshman
June 19	-Father's Day -Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall 
June 20	First day of Summer
June 21	Newsletter Deadline for July/Aug. 2016
June 24	Last Friday free supper 5:00 to 7:00
June 26	Men's Breakfast 8:00 at Brady J's

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings Mar/Apr 2016

May 3 Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1
John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8
May 10 Acts 10:44-48. Psalm 98, 1 John
5:1-6, John 15:9-17
May 17 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1
John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19
Day of Pentecost
May 24 Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14,
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:22-27 or
Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Trinity Sunday
May 31 Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans
8:12-17, John 3:1-17
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
May 31 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Psalm 113,
Romans 12:9-16b, Luke 1:39-57
June 7 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20,
(11:14-15), Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4:13-
5:1, Mark 3:20-35
June 14 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13, Psalm
92:1-4, 12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-
13), 14-17, Mark 4:26-34

June 21 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49, Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

June 28 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27, Psalm 30, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15, Mark 5:21-43
Easter Day

Church Women United

Church Women United will meet May 6, 2016 at 12 noon at the Honeoye United Church of Christ. Bring your lunch. The beverage and dessert are provided.

East Bloomfield Methodist ladies have the program. The Least Coin Collection will be taken up at this meeting.

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 May and June, the congregation prays for Jim and Phyllis Rehtin, Bruce & Jacquie Walters, Donna & Ken Magraw and Anne Lincoln.

Keep in our prayers Jeremy Stewart, Mick Eddy and Terry Silvernail, and all who have lost loved one.

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.

Christian Education plans Family Life events

April 24 we began with a potluck lunch followed by making Ugly Quilts for the homeless.

June 5 is recognition Sunday. If you have grandchildren graduating this year let Janice or Phyllis know.

July 10 we will hold our church service followed by a potluck picnic at Mertensia Park.

In September we'll have our potluck lunch followed by assembling hygiene kits for Church World Service.

Finally, December 18th will be our Christmas Party with our friends from ARC.

We also offer a Bible Study on Tuesday evening from the Jesus Calling series.

Plan to be a part of these events!

Book Club

The reading for May 19, 2016 is Saving Simon, Jon Katz. [Bible Quiz answer: A (See Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:9.)]

In this heartfelt, thoughtful, and inspiring memoir, New York Times bestselling author Jon Katz tells the story of his beloved rescue donkey, Simon, and the wondrous ways that animals make us wiser and kinder people.

In the spring of 2011, Jon Katz received a phone call that would challenge every idea he ever had about mercy and compassion. An animal control officer had found a neglected donkey on a farm in upstate New York, and she hoped that Jon

and his wife, Maria, would be willing to adopt him. Jon wasn't planning to add another animal to his home on Bedlam Farm, certainly not a very sick donkey. But the moment he saw the wrenching sight of Simon, he felt a powerful connection. Simon touched something very deep inside of him. Jon and Maria decided to take him in.

Simon's recovery was far from easy. Weak and malnourished, he needed near constant care, but Jon was determined to help him heal. As Simon's health improved, Jon would feed him by hand, read to him, take him on walks, even confide in him like an old and trusted friend. Then, miraculously, as if in reciprocation, Simon began to reveal to Jon the true meaning of compassion, the ways in which it can transform our lives and inspire us to take great risks.

Our reading on June 16, 2016 is *Sisters in Law*, Linda Hirshman.

The author of the celebrated *Victory* tells the fascinating story of the intertwined lives of Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first and second women to serve as Supreme Court justices.

The relationship between Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg—Republican and Democrat, Christian and Jew, western rancher's daughter and Brooklyn girl—transcends party, religion, region, and culture. Strengthened by each other's presence, these groundbreaking judges, the first and second to serve on the highest court in the land, have transformed the Constitution and America itself, making it a more equal place for all women.

Linda Hirshman's dual biography includes revealing stories of how these trailblazers fought for their own recognition in a male-dominated profession—battles that would ultimately benefit every American woman. She also makes clear how these two justices have shaped the legal framework of modern feminism, including employment discrimination, abortion, affirmative action, sexual harassment, and many other issues crucial to women's lives.

Sisters-in-Law combines legal detail with warm personal anecdotes that bring

these very different women into focus as never before. Meticulously researched and compellingly told, it is an authoritative account of our changing law and culture, and a moving story of a remarkable friendship.

Always with us

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).

A taste of God's love

In *Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise* (Abingdon Press), John Killinger describes a mother's love — and how it offers a tiny foretaste of God's love:

"It is stronger than steel, softer than down and more resilient than a green sapling on the hillside. It closes wounds, melts disappointments and enables the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the fields of adversity. I believe that this love, even at its best, is only a shadow of the love of God, a dark reflection of all that we can expect of him, both in this life and the next."

Expanded lives

In a fascinating, kid-friendly science experiment, a bar of Ivory soap heated in a microwave writhes and expands into a unique, billowy shape. The change is due to Charles' Law, which describes how a gas, such as that contained in pockets inside a bar of Ivory, expands as its temperature increases. The soap can still be used as normal, though it's now fragile and flaky.

When the Holy Spirit enters us, we expand as well. Our Spirit-enlarged lives may seem misshapen to some, no longer conforming to the world's expectations. But our uniqueness reflects the creativity of our Triune God, who reveals himself to people in many different ways.

Our hearts expand and soften too, opening to other people's needs and concerns, while our God-created purpose remains: to be a force of love and care — of cleansing and renewal — in the world.

Life lessons

Late-night comedian Stephen Colbert, a practicing Catholic who teaches Sunday school, faced tragedy at age 10 when his father and two of his brothers died in a plane crash. As Colbert told *The New York Times*, his mom helped him avoid bitterness about the loss:

"She taught me to be grateful for my life regardless of what that entailed, and that's directly related to the image of Christ on the cross and the example of sacrifice that he gave us. What she taught me is that the deliverance God offers you from pain is not no pain; it's that the pain is actually a gift. What's the option? God doesn't really give you another choice."

Bible Quiz

Which books of the Bible include an account of Jesus' ascension?

- A. Luke and Acts
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four gospels

(Sandy and Andy know this, right? Look for the answer somewhere in this newsletter!)

So good

At the communion rail, a man held out his hand to receive the bread. His curious toddler by his side loudly asked, "Is it good, Daddy?" He smiled and nodded yes.

Indeed, communion is a good gift from Jesus, who wants us to remember his sacrifice for us. The next time you receive communion, remember to "taste and see that the LORD is good!" (Psalm 34:8, emphasis added).

Family web

Genealogy research turns up some intriguing relations; for example, Barack Obama and Sarah Palin are 10th cousins, and Britney Spears and Prince Albert of Monaco are 17th half-cousins. In the Bible, Jesus is linked to Rahab and Ruth, members of nations that were enemies of Israel.

Searches for family connections quickly reveal not only roots but also a web. Only a few generations up in the branches of each family tree are so many people that trees intersect. Scientists speculate that most people living today are related through a recent common ancestor. So there's a "web-like tapestry" rather than a "tree that fans out exponentially," according to writer Carl Zimmer.

Realizing we're all connected should affect how we treat others. After all, we're related to people with diverse backgrounds and opinions. In terms of genealogy, as well as living as Jesus' disciples, we belong to one another.

Blessings bestowed

When author Gary Smalley asked 100 people to share how they knew they'd received their parents' blessing, they offered these memories of fatherly love:

- My father put his arm around me at church and let me lay my head on his shoulder.
- When my father faced a transfer at work, he purposely took another job so I could finish my senior year in high school.
- When I wrecked my parents' car, my father's first reaction was to hug me and let me cry instead of yelling at me.
- My father went with me to the store when I had to return a purchase I regretted.

- My father let me practice pitching to him for a long time after work.
- My father cried during my wedding because he was going to miss me being at home.

Avoiding temptation

—Heidi Mann

Our 10-year-old loves playing on his father's tablet but may use only the touchscreen because he's misused the keyboard and stylus. One day, after receiving permission to play, he detached and handed over the forbidden objects. His dad said, "Just leave them there," but our son replied, "No, I might be tempted to use them."

We routinely pray, "Lead us not into temptation," hoping God will almost magically keep us out of trouble even as we stray close to enticements: We buy high-calorie treats while intending to "eat healthy." We visit big-box stores and spend money we don't have. We gather with gossipy friends, fully aware that such talk is sinful and harmful.

Perhaps we should be more proactive about removing temptations. Perhaps "Lead me not into temptation" means "God, help me keep myself away from that which tempts me toward poor choices." Amen!

Picture Us

By now everyone must know that our puppet ministry is back in swing! Under the leadership of Bethyn Boni and Marilyn Shafer we have seen creative costuming, great dialog and humor and Bible lessons all wrapped up in great skits! The ministry is now known as **"From Puppet to Pew."**

Here is the cast of puppets for the Palm Sunday skit.



Bethyn and Marilyn invite anyone interested in having fun to join them. Give it a try—you'll like it!

Comforting those who mourn

Words aren't always necessary — or even beneficial — when people are hurting. In *Killing Giants*, *Pulling Thorns* (Zondervan), Charles Swindoll tells of a girl who went to comfort the mother of a deceased playmate.

"What did you say?" the girl's parents later asked.

"Nothing," she replied. "I just climbed up on her lap and cried with her."

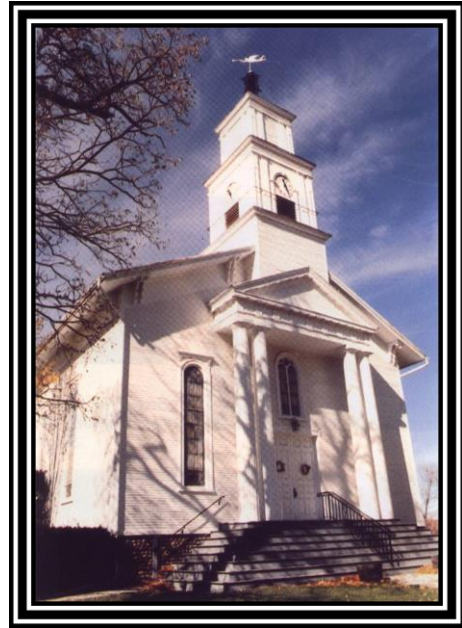
Joseph Bayly, who experienced the deaths of three children, shares a similar experience in *The View From a Hearse* (David C. Cook): "I was sitting, torn by grief. Someone came and talked to me of God's dealings, of why it happened, of hope beyond the grave. He talked constantly. He said things I knew were true. I was unmoved, except to wish he'd go away. He finally did.

"Another came and sat beside me. He didn't talk. He didn't ask me leading questions. He just sat beside me for an hour or more, listened when I said something, answered briefly, prayed simply, left. I was moved. I was comforted. I hated to see him go."





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