



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
May-June 2018

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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A note from the editor...

Thank you to all the folks who prepared and served one of the Last Friday Suppers. April's supper was the last one for 2018. They will resume on the last Friday of January 2019 and run through April 2019.

It seems that every year at this time we are yearning for sunshine and warm days! It is difficult to be patient—we are teased with a few days of lovely weather and then—snow and cold forecasted!

Lest we loose faith, God has a plan. It lies hidden in the nature all around us. He cares for each of us as he does the sparrow! This poem from Helen Steiner Rice entitled, "Finding Faith in a Flower," reminds us of His love.

"Sometimes when faith is running low
And I cannot fathom WHY THINGS
ARE SO...

I walk alone among the flowers I grow
And learn the "ANSWERS" to ALL I
WOULD KNOW!

For among my flowers I have come to see
Life's MIRACLE and its MYSTERY...
And standing in silence and reverie
MY FAITH COMES FLOODING
BACK TO ME!"

Flowers, sunshine and warmth are just
around the corner! Enjoy your Spring.
Blessings, Phyllis

PASTORS' COLUMN



Just A Thought.....

One of the requirements of a seminary education is a semester of Field Education. I did mine at the Flemington Presbyterian Church in Flemington, NJ. It was a beautiful historic church and only about a 40-minute drive from Princeton. Along with other duties, I was required to preach twice during the semester. They were a lovely and kind group of people who were very supportive of seminary students.

One weekend after arriving back on campus one of my friends asked me how the morning went. I said I thought it had gone very well and mentioned how several people shook my hand after church and told me how much they liked my sermon. Without missing a beat my friend replied, "That's nice, but next time ask them what they liked about it". In other words he was gently telling me the congregation was just being kind.

For me, one of the most satisfying things in ministry is when someone pulls me aside the week after I have preached and tells me they have been thinking about something from my sermon. That's when I know the Holy Spirit was a part of the process.

One can only describe worship service preparation as both a passion and an honor. At least that is how I feel and those feelings are intensified during Holy Week. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are two of my favorite services. This year 12 people joined together on Maundy Thursday to celebrate the Last Supper. The number was not lost on us. I thought it was a spiritual and intimate celebration and especially want to thank those who volunteered to have their feet washed.

Then there was Good Friday. When I arrived at church there was a large fire truck blocking Rt. 5 & 20 in front of our church. My heart sank as all I could think about was that

we had suffered some sort of fire. As it turned out, there had been a car accident further down 5&20 toward Rt. 64. However, we were not unscathed because as I quickly learned upon entering the building we had lost power and it was not projected to be back on until well after our service would be over.

We began our solemn Good Friday service at 7:00PM while it was still light outside but growing increasingly dimmer inside. Phyllis, Andy and Joe shared some readings while there was still a hint of light coming in the stained-glass windows, enough anyway so they could see. As it grew progressively darker inside the sanctuary many of us were equipped with cell phone flashlights to help illumine our readings.

Of course, no power meant no organ. Donna seamlessly and effortlessly moved to the piano for our hymns and anthem. I would guess it was the first time she has had to play using the light of a cell phone to see her music. Our choir didn't miss a beat. Using their cell phones to light their music they blessed us with a beautiful anthem.

When it came time for Larry, Alice and me to share the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Gospel of St. Mark, we moved the altar candles up onto the lectern. I can only say that on Good Friday.... reading the gospel by candle light.... was an in-describable spiritual experience.

But that wasn't all. No amount of preparation or planning could have foreseen God's Faithful sharing a Good Friday service while the natural light slowly faded leaving us in the dark. Wow, what irony on Good Friday and we weren't even reading from John's gospel! All in all, a Holy Week I hope many of us will reflect upon during the coming weeks and hopefully even months.

As Easter people, I hope you will continue to bask in the light of Easter morning and the Good News of an empty tomb. May God strengthen us all to share His word and teachings with others.

*See you in church,
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



May

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

June

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

Upcoming Events

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Rehearsal, Wednesday evenings: 7:30-9:00
May 3	National Day of Prayer
May 4	United Church Women, 12 noon at United Church of Bristol, 7177 Co. Rd. 2, Bloomfield. See article on page 4
May 6	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -Derby Day-wear a hat!

	-First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -council meeting
May 10	Ascension
May 13 	Mother's Day
May 17	Book Club, 2:30 – 3:30, Sister, A Novel, Rosamund Lupton
May 19 	Armed Forces Day
May 20 	-Pentecost (wear red) -Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
May 27	-Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
May 28	Memorial Day
June 3 Note: today church will be at 9:00 to allow time for the fund raiser.	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Chicken Barbecue 11:00-4:00 at Shivers. See article on page 5
June 9	Rochester Red Wings Game. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. See article on page 5.
June 10	-Council meeting -Choir Invitational at 3:00, West Bloomfield

	Congregational Church. See article page 5.
June 17  	-Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall -Father's Day
June 19	Newsletter Deadline for July/Aug 2018
June 21	Book Club 2:30-3:30, The Alice Network, Kate Quinn
June 24	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings May/June 2018

May 6 Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

May 13 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

May 20 Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 27 Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

June 3 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 2 Corinthians 4:5-12, Mark 2:23-3:6

June 10 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, Psalm 138, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, Mark 3:20-35

June 17 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13, Psalm 20, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17, Mark 4:26-34

June 24 1 Samuel 17:(1A, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49, Psalm 9:9-20, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

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 Rechten will handle information for the Newsletter, the website and Bloomfield Buzz. Keep in mind our issues are published every 2 months, so you should think ahead to have the event included in the correct newsletter. (Phyllis Rechten, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; rechten@rochester.rr.com or 657-7018).

The Ties That Bind



"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night."

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

Remember our members and friends who cannot be with us on Sunday morning: Dorothy and Bob Hodges, Richard Gladding (Mona Eddy's brother).

Lift up prayers for

Phil and Elsa Schaefer.

Bruce Walters as he recovers from a stroke.

Carol, Robin Stewart's mother

Ina, Nancy Stewart's friend

Bill Blake, Sue Walter's cousin

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

United Church Women

United Church Women will meet at The United Church of Bristol (7177 Co. Rd. 2) on May 4, 2018 at 12 Noon. The women of United Church will provide beverage and dessert. Bring your sandwich. The program will be presented by the women of the United Church.

Bring your least coin offering to this meeting. If you wish, bring a can of fruit, peanut butter or jelly for the UCB food pantry.

Chicken Barbecue

A chicken Barbecue fundraiser will take place on June 3, 2018 from 11:00 to 4:00.

We will be located at Shivers on 5 and 20. Gale-Win will be cooking for us. We will provide servers and a bake sale.

Because this is a Sunday we will hold our worship service at the church at 9:00 AM.

Sign up sheets are in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up and help make our fundraiser a success!

Join us at the Red Wings game

We are going to the Red Wings game on June 9th at 7:05. Tickets are \$10.50 each, due by May 30.

We need 20 people to be able to get premium seats.

A signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall this Sunday, or you may call Jim Rehtin at 657 7018 to let us know you are coming. Bring a friend! Your friend does not need to be a member of the church.

Come early to the game have a hot dog, burger, or any of the other goodies they offer at the ball park. (supper is on your own)

Any questions call Jim rehtin at 657 7018

PS We will not have snow, but we could always have rain ☹️.

Choir Invitational

The Choir Invitational will be at the West Bloomfield Congregational Church on Sunday afternoon, June 10th at 3:00 PM several area choirs will join together for an afternoon of enjoyable music. This program will be presented in memory of Eunice Thomas, former choir director of the United Methodist church of East Bloomfield.

Put this date in your calendar! You don't want to miss an enjoyable time!

Book Club

May 17 we are reading Sister, a Novel, Rosamund Lupton.

From Publishers Weekly: British author Lupton's unusual and searing debut is her heroine Beatrice Hemming's letter to her dead younger sister, Tess. Abandoned by their father just before their eight-year-old brother's death from cystic fibrosis and raised by their genteelly ineffectual mother, Bee and Tess have always exchanged long, intimate letters, so when Tess, an unmarried London art student, apparently commits suicide after her CF baby is born dead, Bee resigns her corporate design job in New York City and moves into Tess's shabby London flat. Convinced Tess was murdered, Bee gradually learns Tess had been spurned, like her unborn child, by her married art teacher lover; she had also been eerily pursued by a drugged-up slumming fellow student and mentally tortured by hallucinogenic drugs thrust on her by a masked stalker. Bee's self-defenses crumble as she discovers that she never returned Tess's anguished calls for help. Observing the unsettling similarities between her mother and her fiancé, Bee realizes "why no one could be my safety rope." At the harrowing conclusion, Bee's aching heart accepts that "grief is love turned into an eternal missing."

June 21 we are reading The Alice Network, Kate Quinn.
From the Back Cover:

1947. In the chaotic aftermath of World War II, American college girl Charlie St. Clair is pregnant, unmarried, and on the verge of being thrown out of her very proper family. She's also nursing a desperate hope that her beloved cousin Rose, who disappeared in Nazi-occupied France during the war, might still be alive. So when Charlie's parents banish her to Europe to have her "little problem" taken care of, Charlie breaks free and heads to London, determined to find out what happened to the cousin she loves like a sister.

1915. A year into the Great War, Eve Gardiner burns to join the fight against the Germans and unexpectedly gets her chance

when she's recruited to work as a spy. Sent into enemy-occupied France, she's trained by the mesmerizing Lili, code name Alice, the "queen of spies," who manages a vast network of secret agents right under the enemy's nose.

Thirty years later, haunted by the betrayal that ultimately tore apart the Alice Network, Eve spends her days drunk and secluded in her crumbling London house. That is until a young American barges in uttering a name Eve hasn't heard in decades, and launches them both on a mission to find the truth . . . no matter where it leads.

Thanks, Mom!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.

Surprise!

"Each day holds a surprise," wrote Henri Nouwen. "But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy."

Wait — sorrow as a surprise? And I'm not to fear it? Aren't surprises supposed to be happy things? What does Nouwen mean?

He continues: "It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity." And I remember, too, the psalmist's words: "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted" (Psalm 34:18). Maybe that's the surprise in our sorrow: that when we ache, as when we celebrate, God is there

— in new friends, in shared humanity.
Surprise!
—Heidi Mann

Just for pun!

- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- If you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- The worker who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

In good hands

based on Fearless, by Max Lucado

As Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure, they were full of questions — "Where are you going? How will we know the way there? Would you please just show us the Father?" — and not very satisfied with his answers. So Jesus promised to send them "another Helper" (John 14:16, ESV). And we can almost hear them protesting, like kids bemoaning a favorite coach's retirement or church members grieving a beloved pastor's call to serve elsewhere: "Oh, great. Someone new for us to get to know. It won't be the same. It won't be you."

Except ... the word another has two forms in Greek: "another just like this one" and "another, different version." And when the author of John translated Jesus' Aramaic into Greek, the first definition was the accurate one. Jesus was assuring his disciples they'd be in good hands, at peace and secure because the new Helper — the Holy Spirit — would be another just like him.

Cast away

God has cast our confessed sins into the depths of the sea, and he's even put a "No Fishing" sign over the spot. —D.L. Moody

A church or a club?

Rev. Theodore Wedel, a former canon of the National Cathedral, once told a parable about congregational life. It began: "On a dangerous sea coast where shipwrecks often occur, there was a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea."

Some neighbors and people who'd been rescued began donating time and money, thinking the station needed better furnishings and equipment. As the station grew as a gathering place, members hired lifeboat crews to do the dirty work of saving lives. Those who disagreed with that approach broke away to form their own stations.

The parable concluded: "If you visit that sea coast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown."

My compliments to the Creator

Dear God,

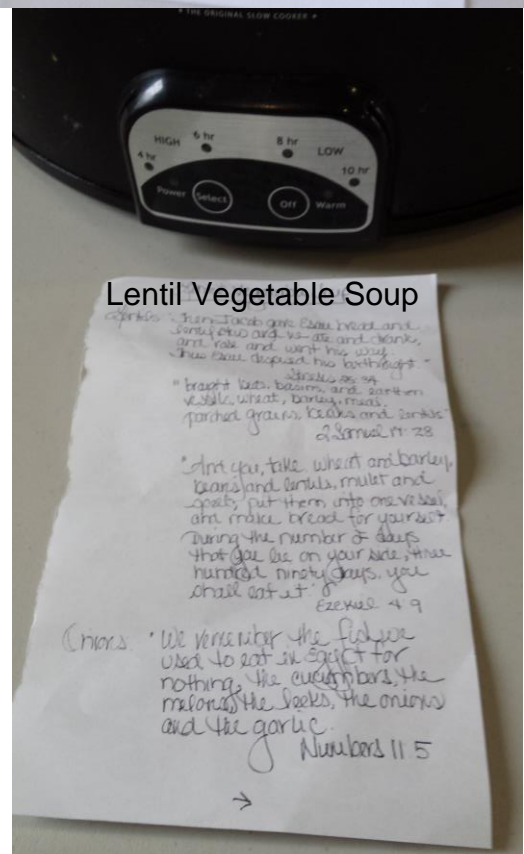
I saw the Grand Canyon this summer. Nice piece of work!

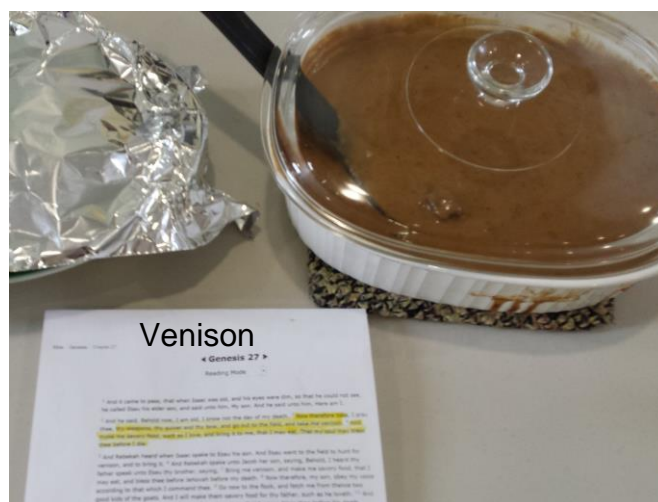
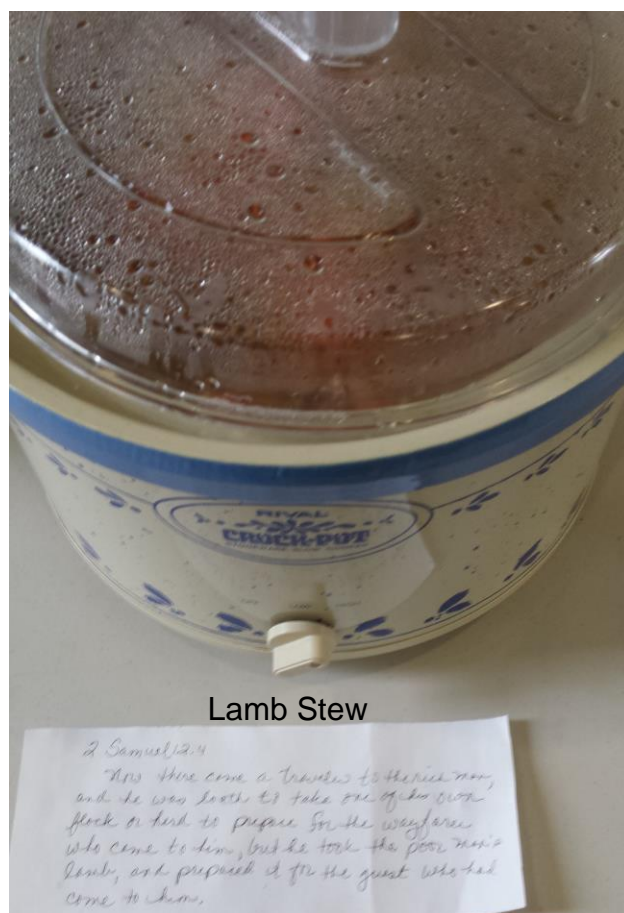
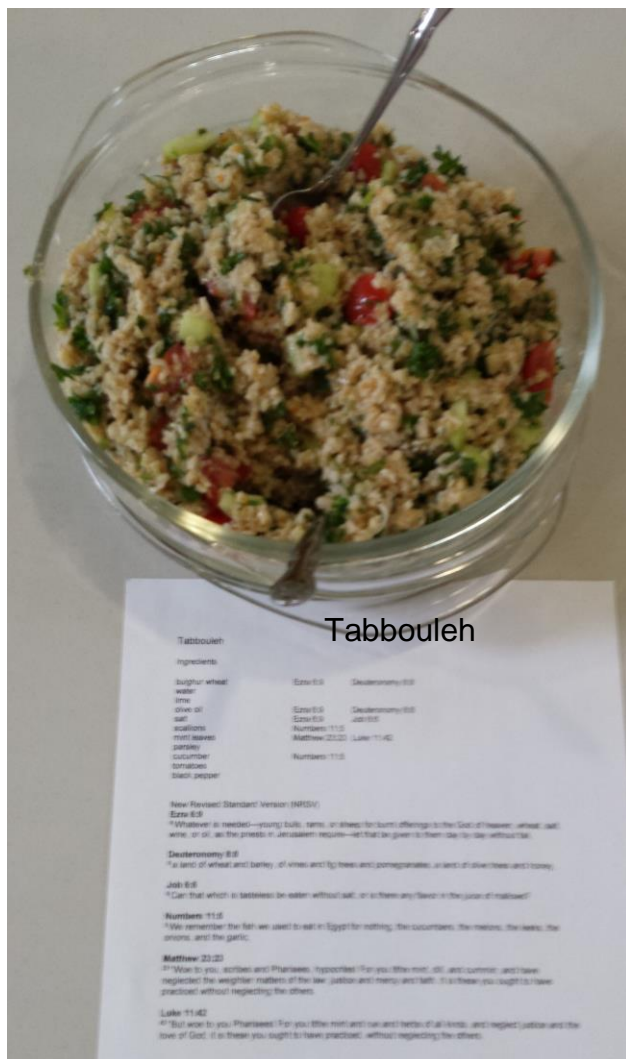
Love,
Kyle (age 9)

Picture Us

Christian Ed. sponsored a Family Life lunch on April 15. We feasted on dishes using ingredients that are listed in the Bible. For some of us it was a challenge, but we had a grand variety of dishes, all tasty! Here are the results! Thank you, Christian Education.!

Psalm 34:8 says, “Taste and see that the Lord is Good.”



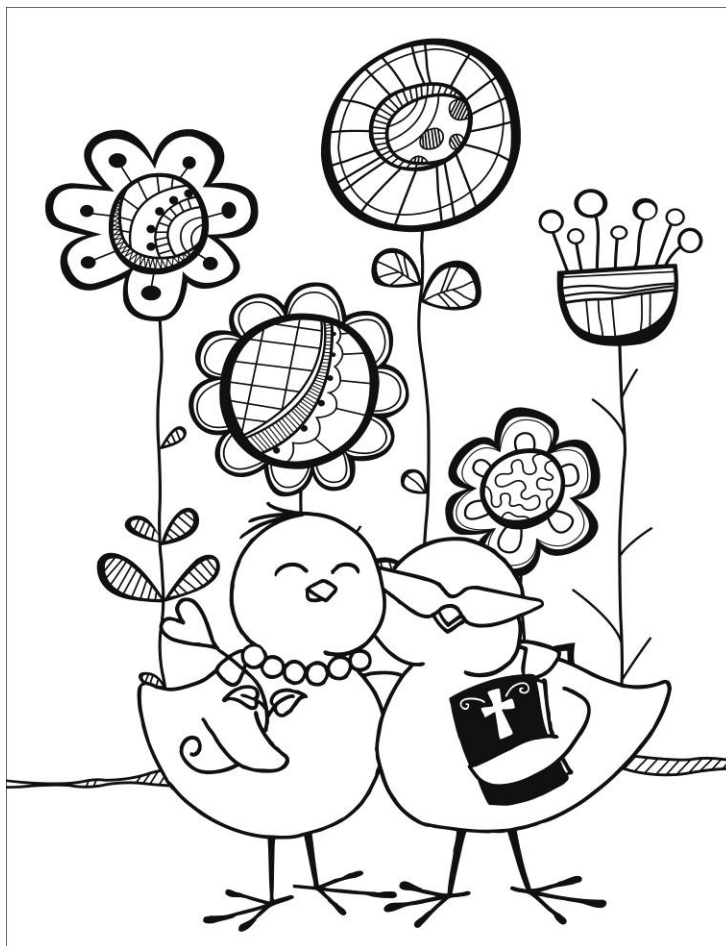


And lots of desserts!



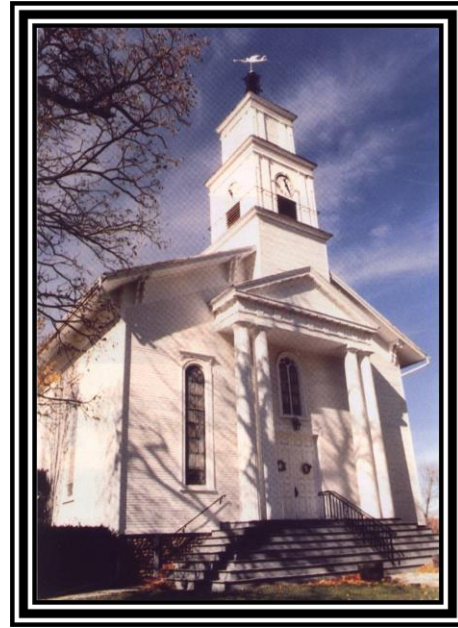


Get your crayons out and do some adult coloring!





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