



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
May/June 2017

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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A note from the editor...

Pop quiz: Do you know all the words to the beatitudes? Do you know the ten commandments? Do you think it matters? The following story, posted on Facebook, shows us a very important test of faith. Do you think you can pass?

A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"

"Three points?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."

"Terrific!" says St. Peter. "That's certainly worth a point."

"One point?!!" "I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says. "Two points?!!" Exasperated, the man cries, "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God."

"Bingo, 100 points! Come on in!"

Jim found this and read it to me. I thought it was good! Did you pass the test?
Peace, Phyllis

PASTORS' COLUMN



Rev. Sandy Porrey

Just A Thought...

For me, the season of Lent, Holy Week and the celebration of Easter morning have surpassed the joy I feel at Christmas time (in a different way), which is kind of

interesting because my family always has had memorable Christmas celebrations. When I think about it, my change of heart began after I switched my college major from Sociology to Religious Studies. It was also around that time my interest in attending church was rekindled.

That was an awesome time for me. I really enjoyed studying Scripture and then going to church and hearing the word proclaimed. It was always such a neat feeling to hear a familiar passage. It gave me a sense of belonging and involvement. Like somehow on Sunday morning I wasn't just warming the pew cushion!

I remember one of the first Holy Weeks I spent as a parishioner at St. Louis Church in Pittsford. Someone asked me if I would volunteer to have my feet washed at one of the stations they were setting up. Without hesitation....my answer was a resounding, "No way". After all, how embarrassing to sit there and have a complete stranger come up and wash my feet in front of church full of people. Yuk!

In one of my first years here at First Congregational, I remember during one of our Maundy Thursday services offering the feet washing experience. I don't recall how it went exactly other than to say, awkwardly. For many years since that time I have left the example of Jesus washing the disciple's feet out of our Maundy Thursday service. I now realize that was a mistake.

As I was preparing this year's service it seemed like the readings and prayers were pointing or leading me to Jesus' wonderful

example of humility when he washed the disciple's feet. Please enjoy the following passage from John 13:12-20.

12 After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants[d] are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

f]20 Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

I decided it was time to include this symbolic act back into our Maundy Thursday service. I asked Bev Clark if she would be willing to have me wash her feet and graciously she said yes. When I splashed water over Bev's feet and then dried them, I felt no embarrassment. There were no awkward giggles, only a sense of peace. And why not? When Jesus washed the disciple's feet he was displaying His humility and servanthood. For us, washing feet is symbolic of our role in the body of Christ. Jesus came to earth not as a King or Conqueror, but as the suffering Servant. Matthew 20:28 says, He came "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many". The act of humility Jesus displayed when he washed the disciple's feet foreshadowed his ultimate act of humility and love on the cross.

As we continue our journey throughout the Easter season and beyond, the invitation I would like to extend to all of you is this. Let Jesus' acts of humility and servanthood resonate with you. Then let us ask ourselves, "What can I be doing daily to emulate Christ to those I meet?"

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 Birthdays



5-12 Bob Hodges
5-26 Albert Gliewe
5-28 Judd Rockcastle
5-30 Marilyn Shafer


June Birthdays

6-9 Andy Schaefer
6-14 Josh Schaefer
6-16 Nancy Walters
6-17 Mona Eddy
6-19 Jackie Shultz
6-20 Janice Kelly
Daniel Glamack
6-25 Dorothy Hodges
6-26 Joan Hall
6-30 Bethyn Boni



Upcoming Events

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|---|--|
| Choir Everyone is welcome to sing. | Rehearsal, Wednesday evenings: 7:30-9:00. |
| May 4 | National Day of Prayer |
| May 5 | United Church Women 12 Noon (see article p. 5) |
| May 7  | -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -Derby Day. Wear your hats to church! -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -council meeting |
| May 14 | Mother's Day |
| May 18 | Book Club, 2:30-4:00. Lock In, John Scalzi |
| May 20 | Armed Forces Day |
| May 21  | Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall |
| May 25 | Ascension |
| May 28 | Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's. |
| May 29 | Memorial Day |
| June 3 | Rummage sale 9 AM – 3 PM; Bag sale 3 – 5 PM See article p 5 |
| June 4 | -Day of Pentecost -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting |
| June 14 | Flag Day |
| June 15 | Book Club 2:30-4:00 Bellevue, David Oshinsky |

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| June 18 |  | -Father's Day -Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall |
| June 20 | | -First day of Summer -Newsletter Deadline for July/Aug 2017 |
| June 24 | | Red Wings game (see article on p. 5) |
| June 25 | | Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's. |

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings May/June 2017

May 7 Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10
May 14 Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14
May 21 Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21
May 28 Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11
June 4 (Day of Pentecost) Acts 2:1-21, or Numbers 11:24-30, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
June 11 Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20
June 18 Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7), Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
June 25 Genesis 21:8-21, Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17, Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

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.

Please keep the family of Jon Edgcomb in your prayers. Jon is the son of Wanda and Lee Edgcomb. Wanda is the daughter of Gene and Mary Burlingham. He died April 21st at the young age of 35. As stated in his obituary, "He died too young."

Nancy Stewart is continuing to recuperate from her recent surgery. Your prayers are appreciated.

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

Rebecca Schaffer and Don Shultz are recuperating from recent hip surgery. Please keep each of them in your prayers.

Pray for Mary Martin as she deals with recent health issues.

Alice McConnell is undergoing some tests to determine what is causing her health problems. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

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

Terry Silvernail has a new address: Terry Silvernail, Savannah Court, 824 N Parsons Avenue, Apt 135, Brandon, FL

33510. Her phone number is (813) 571-9659. She would love to hear from you!

Doris Virkus has a new address: Doris Virkus, 5224 Providence Cr, Rochester, NY 14616-4355.

Let us also pray for Norma, Nick Glamack's mom and Kathrine, Donna Messner's mom. We offer thanks that Kathrine is happy in her new apartment!

Morgan-Scott Back Pack project

The Deacons are sponsoring a collection of school supplies for the Morgan-Scott Program in Tennessee. Please purchase your donations and bring them to Fellowship Hall by June 25th. A list of needed items is in Fellowship Hall.

United Church Women

Mary Martin

United Church Women will meet May 5, 2017 at noon at the East Bloomfield Methodist Church. Honeoye UCC women have the program. Bring your sandwich and beverage. Desert will be provided. Bring one paper product for the collection that will be donated to a local hospice house.

Rummage Sale and Bake Sale

Bev Clark

Rummage Sale and Bake Sale
First Congregational Church
Corner South Ave and Rt. 5 & 20
Saturday June 3rd
9 AM - 3 PM
Bag Sale 3 - 5 PM

(All items except clothing and shoes joyfully accepted! Contact Bev (657-6586) if you need assistance or have questions.)

Join us at a Red Wings game

Jim Rehtin

We are planning to go a Red Wings game on June 24th. The tickets are \$7.00 each. We must have at least 20 people signed up to receive this price. A signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall. **Deadline to sign up and pay your money is June 16th.**

Bring your friends and family. We have lots of fun together while cheering the Red Wings to victory!

Book Club

May 18 Lock In, John Scalzi

A blazingly inventive near-future thriller from the best-selling, Hugo Award-winning John Scalzi.

Not too long from today, a new, highly contagious virus makes its way across the globe. Most who get sick experience nothing worse than flu, fever and headaches. But for the unlucky one percent - and nearly five million souls in the United States alone - the disease causes "Lock In": Victims fully awake and aware, but unable to move or respond to stimulus. The disease affects young, old, rich, poor, people of every color and creed. The world changes to meet the challenge. (Page 9 answers, a-3, b-5, c-4, d-6, e-2, f-1.)

A quarter of a century later, in a world shaped by what's now known as "Haden's syndrome," rookie FBI agent Chris Shane is paired with veteran agent Leslie Vann. The two of them are assigned what appears to be a Haden-related murder at the Watergate Hotel, with a suspect who is an "integrator" - someone who can let the locked in borrow their bodies for a time. If the Integrator was carrying a Haden client, then naming the suspect for the murder becomes that much more complicated.

But "complicated" doesn't begin to describe it. As Shane and Vann began to unravel the threads of the murder, it becomes clear that the real mystery - and the real crime - is bigger than anyone could have imagined. The world of the locked in is changing, and

with the change comes opportunities that the ambitious will seize at any cost. The investigation that began as a murder case takes Shane and Vann from the halls of corporate power to the virtual spaces of the locked in, and to the very heart of an emerging, surprising new human culture. It's nothing you could have expected.

June 15 Bellevue, David Oshinsky

Bellevue Hospital, on New York City's East Side, occupies a colorful and horrifying place in the public imagination: a den of mangled crime victims, vicious psychopaths, assorted derelicts, lunatics, and exotic-disease sufferers. In its two and a half centuries of service, there was hardly an epidemic or social catastrophe—or groundbreaking scientific advance—that did not touch Bellevue.

David Oshinsky, whose last book, *Polio: An American Story*, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize, chronicles the history of America's oldest hospital and in so doing also charts the rise of New York to the nation's preeminent city, the path of American medicine from butchery and quackery to a professional and scientific endeavor, and the growth of a civic institution. From its origins in 1738 as an almshouse and pesthouse, Bellevue today is a revered public hospital bringing first-class care to anyone in need. With its diverse, ailing, and unprotesting patient population, the hospital was a natural laboratory for the nation's first clinical research. It treated tens of thousands of Civil War soldiers, launched the first civilian ambulance corps and the first nursing school for women, pioneered medical photography and psychiatric treatment, and spurred New York City to establish the country's first official Board of Health.

As medical technology advanced, "voluntary" hospitals began to seek out patients willing to pay for their care. For charity cases, it was left to Bellevue to fill the void. The latter decades of the twentieth century brought rampant crime, drug addiction, and homelessness to the nation's struggling cities—problems that called a

public hospital's very survival into question. It took the AIDS crisis to cement Bellevue's enduring place as New York's ultimate safety net, the iconic hospital of last resort. Lively, page-turning, fascinating, Bellevue is essential American history.

Area Events

Weds., May 3, 3-7pm - Country & Blue GrassJam! E. Bloomfield UMC - great music & food.

free! Meal - \$6, children under 5 free. For more info, email ebumc@frontiernet.net

Sat., May 6, 9am-3pm "Holy Crap" Rummage Sale, West Bloomfield UCC. Early Bird special entrance at 8am \$5. Vendor tables \$15. Call 624-1313 or email wbccofice@rochester.rr.com

Sat., May 6, 4pm until sold out Chicken BBQ St. Mark Lutheran Church, 18 Rt 251, just east of Rt. 64. 1/2 BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Macaroni Salad, Coleslaw, Pie. Adults - \$10, Kids under 12 - \$5, Kids under 5 - free

Sat., May 13, 2-10 p.m. American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Harry Allen Park, Honeoye Falls. Set-up beginning at 9a.m.

Sat., May 13, 8 - 10AM 'Rise & Shine' Pancake Breakfast, United Church of Pittsford., 123 South Main St. In support of Cameron Community Ministries - the proceeds are donated to a different local charity each month. \$5 per person. For info, call 586-6870.

May 19 & 20, Ionia United Methodist Church Rummage/Garage Sale, 8:30AM-2:30PM, at the church 2120 Elton Rd. Something for everyone! Find a treasure!

May 20, 4:30 PM to 7 PM Annual Pulled Pork Dinner United Church of Bristol featuring pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, potatoes, copper pennies carrots, and desserts.

June 1 & 2, 9am-2pm Annual Heavenly Treasures Rummage Sale E. Bloomfield UMC bag sale June 3 from 9am-noon

Sat., June 3, 9AM-3PM Yard Sale & Bake Sale. Bag sale 3-5PM First Congregational Church of Bloomfield

the books of the Old Testament!

Since we are fast approaching the summer months perhaps you need some fun things to do! Here is a word search to test your Bible knowledge and your level of concentration! The answer key is on the next page. Don't cheat! (But you can look at the Bible index to get all the names!)



Puzzle!

Locate the names of all the Old Testament books, using your Bible's table of contents for reference. Numbered books, such as 1 Samuel, appear only once — without numbers.

S E T S A I S E L C C E D H T
O E J D R I N Y G L E I N A D
N J O S E E S T H E R G A I M
G E S E E U B A H O S E A D U
O R H Z S L T M I J O N I A H
F E U E O E C E U A A E H B A
S M A K M V H I R N H S C O N
O I C I A I H A N O J I A A R
L A M E N T A T I O N S L R U
O H H L N I G H B N R O A Z T
M I A Z E C H A R I A H M E H
O D C G K U K K A B A H C Y O
N K I N G S B R E V O R P R T
K V M P S A L M S U D O X E U
J U D G E S I S A M U E L U Z



A hymn's long journey

The beloved hymn “How Great Thou Art” came together across many years and miles. In 1885, when Swedish preacher Carl Boberg wrote a poem titled “O, Great God,” he probably never dreamed he’d hear it performed years later to an old Swedish tune. Or that a Russian version would impact Stuart Hine, an English missionary to Poland, several decades later. Hine penned his own English version, resulting in the now-familiar lyrics.

From “the rolling thunder” echoing off the Carpathian Mountains, to the “woods and forest glades” of Romania, to powerful conversions to Christianity, Hine was inspired to craft each verse. Sometimes the Holy Spirit takes time to complete a work, and that journey is as important as the destination.

The wooden shoe of worry

The word sabotage has a fascinating history. Sabot is the French word for a wooden shoe. Sabotage was the act of throwing a shoe into machinery to stop work. Now it means any attempt to hinder production or spoil a product.

Satan tries to cast a wooden shoe into our souls to prevent us from accomplishing God's plan. That shoe is worry, which can crush the spirit, sour our disposition and interfere with Christian service. That's why Jesus instructs: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself” (Matthew 6:34, NIV). Jesus isn't promoting laziness or indifference; instead, he encourages us to trust our Father, who provides for all our needs.

Be on guard, and don't let worry sabotage your faith!

{ Don't worry about anything,
instead pray about everything...
Then you will experience God's
peace, which exceeds anything
we can understand. - Philippians 4:6 }

Puzzle Answer

Puzzle!

Locate the names of all the Old Testament books, using your Bible's table of contents for reference. Numbered books, such as 1 Samuel, appear only once — without numbers.



The best Father

Unlike an earthly prince, God didn't take a high-and-mighty title, notes 17th-century British preacher Thomas Watson. Instead, God calls himself Father to encourage us to pray to him.

But God isn't just any father. Watson offers these reasons why God is "the best Father":

- He is the most ancient (Daniel 7:9).
- He is perfect (Matthew 5:48).
- He is the wisest (Romans 16:27).
- He is the most loving (Zephaniah 3:17; 1 John 4:16).
- He has unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8).
- He can reform his children (Acts 9:11).

- He never dies (1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 1:8).

Restoring the balance

In Springs in the Valley (Zondervan), pioneer missionary Lettie Cowman tells of a traveler making a trek through an African jungle. Native tribesmen who helped carry loads walked rapidly on day one, covering a great distance. Yet the next morning they refused to move. When the frustrated traveler asked the tribesmen why they were just sitting, they said they'd gone too fast on the first day and "were now waiting for their souls to catch up to their bodies."

Cowman writes, "This whirling rushing life which so many of us live does for us what that march did for those tribesmen. The difference: They knew they needed to restore life's balance; too often we do not."

God promises rest for our soul and body, so don't overlook the importance of physical restoration. Only by taking time to recharge can you be an effective laborer in God's kingdom.

A mother's prayer

A.T. Pierson writes that "all true prayer trusts [God] to give his own answer, not in our way or time, or even to our own expressed desire, but rather to his own unutterable groaning within us which he can interpret better than we."

As an example, Pierson points to Monica, the mother of the man who came to be known as Saint Augustine. Although Monica "pleaded with God that her dissolute son might not go to Rome, that sink of iniquity," he went anyway. While there, he met Ambrose, bishop of Milan, who led him to the Christian faith. Saint Augustine is considered one of the most important church fathers.

"God fulfilled the mother's desire while denying her request," Pierson writes. How might God be meeting your desires, even amid what appear to be unanswered prayers?

You'll never miss it

Frustrated that income never covered expenses, a longtime church treasurer resigned. Another member, who owned the town's grain elevator, volunteered to take over with one stipulation: He wouldn't submit a report for the first year.

The puzzled board members agreed because they knew he was an honest man. After all, they trusted him to process their grain.

By year's end, the new treasurer gave a glowing report. The church's building debt had been erased. Staff salaries had increased 15 percent. And the budget showed a healthy balance.

When the shocked but delighted congregation asked for an explanation, the treasurer said, "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. When I paid you, I simply withheld 10 percent on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You never missed it!"

Imagine what we could do for God if we willingly returned the first tenth of his gifts back to him.

Doing faith

Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going, but going anyway. A journey without maps. [As theologian] Paul Tillich said ... doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith. —Frederick Buechner

Strength for life's bites

The day was fresh, and I jumped into my work with an attitude of praise. Then those bothersome mosquito bites started itching again. I rubbed lotion on them and tried to cope with the pain and distraction.

Most days are like that. We intend to honor God in all things, but irritating itches or overwhelming problems develop. Worry

leads our minds away from God's love and promises.

We can't avoid life's little — or big — "bites." Yet we look to Jesus as our salve and salvation. He covers us and empowers us for each day's tasks. As Isaiah 40:29 (NIV) says, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

—MaryAnn Sundby

Picture Us

April 16, Easter Sunday we enjoyed beautiful music, the joy of our risen Lord and hearing the message.



And we heard from our puppets about the true meaning of Easter!



Thank you, puppeteers: Marilyn Shafer, Bethyn Boni and Andy Schafer!

He is risen, He is risen indeed!

The Board of Christian Education treated us to an Easter egg hunt on April 23rd. We began with a potluck lunch and then divided into teams. We moved to the sanctuary where many eggs were hidden. Each team had a certain color egg to find. Many of the eggs had numbers on them. Back in Fellowship Hall the numbered eggs were placed in a basket together. Slips of paper were given to each of us.



Lining up in order, each person opened their egg and showed the group what was inside. Then they read their portion of the Easter story to the group. Through these resurrection eggs we heard the entire story of Jesus' betrayal, trial, death and resurrection.

Hearing the story!



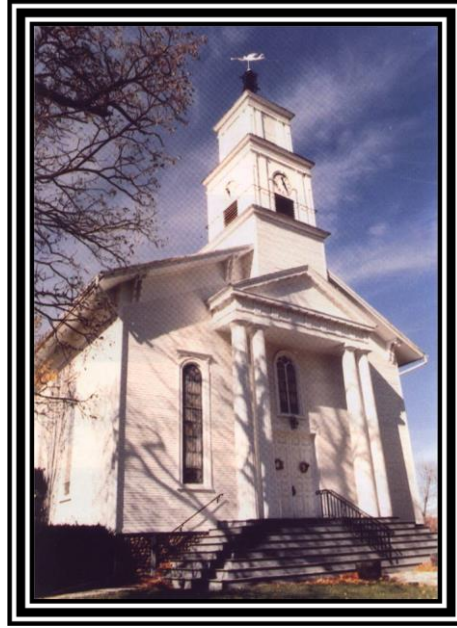
Enjoying fellowship after the "hunt"



Thank you, Christian Education, for a meaningful program!



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter



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