



## **Gabriel's Horn Newsletter**

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

Website: [www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org)

E-mail: [1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com](mailto:1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com)

**May/June 2022**

**\* Our Sunday worship service begins at 10 a.m. \***

### **CHURCH STAFF**

#### **Interim Pastor:**

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[revst88@gmail.com](mailto:revst88@gmail.com)

#### **Office Hours:**

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#### **Choir Director:**

Bethyn Boni

(585) 396-2788

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#### **Organist:**

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*Blessed God, who danced in our hearts, filling us with the knowledge of your presence: let your proclamation sing forth from us as it sang from the lips of Hannah and Elizabeth, announcing the coming of your promise and the fulfillment of your desire. Amen.*

## FROM THE PASTOR

*"I am the vine and you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in him, he it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*

*John 15:5 NRSV*

It is the growing season here in Western New York. We may be thinking about our gardens: how to arrange them, what we want to plant. Maybe your garden will feature sugar snap peas, or green beans. For others, like myself, the garden may have many different vegetables in it, but your preference is for only one thing: tomatoes! Or, perhaps, you prefer to plant flowers of different varieties. Whatever your garden is going to look like, you know that to achieve that end, it needs to be tended. Flowers need to be deadheaded...or maybe not. Weeds need to be pulled. Perhaps some vines need to be staked. Unwanted visitors need to be kept out. The soil needs to be watered if it is a dry year. The garden needs to have tender, loving care to produce optimally.



The same is true of us...plants (or flowers if you prefer) in God's garden. God absolutely wants us to grow, to mature, to bring forth fruit. If that is to happen, we need to maintain our connection to God, to God's son Jesus Christ, and to each other. Just as in a physical garden, there are impediments to our growth. Perhaps we have let the weeds of doubt, despair or uncertainty take hold. Perhaps we have not availed ourselves of the Sonshine. Perhaps the neighboring plants threaten to take over our space. Whatever the case, because we know we are just the branches, we know that we get our nourishment from the vine....the true vine. Let us not fail to retain that attachment....to turn to the Son in prayer, to worship him together, to read his word. Then, and only then, are we assured that we will grow as God intended us to....to each produce the fruit of God's love.

Blessings,

Sue

### **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 \* Mary Martin \* Bev Clark \* the Perkins family \* the Tyler family \* Jeremy \* Eric \* Al & Patty \* Garret \* Kay \* the Salmon family

\* Peg \* Alice \* Larry Messner \* Helen \* Don Shultz \* Kathy \* the Brien family \* Carl & Nancy \* Richard \* Arleen \* Lujza \* Russ \* all places & people with Covid \* school teachers, students & school administration \* all those in the medical fields \* our country

## **Birthdays:**

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

### **May**

26 Albert Gliewe,  
28 Judd Rockcastle,  
30 Marilyn Shafer

### **June**

16 Nancy Walters,  
17 Mona Eddy,  
19 Jackie Shultz  
20 Janice Kelly,  
26 Joan Hall,  
30 Bethyn Boni



## **Church News & Updates:**

### **● Red Cross Blood Drive**

April Blood Drive Results: We had a successful blood drive in April and collected 31 units. These units will go on to help as many as 93 patients in need of a blood transfusion. Our thanks to the volunteers and donors who donated time or blood.

Our next drive is Monday, June 13, 2022, from 2:00 - 7:00 PM. It will be at the East Bloomfield Holcomb Fire Hall (105 Main Street, Bloomfield). You can sign up in advance by contacting the Red Cross online. Please note that while we encourage appointments (makes for less waiting for you ... and appointments have priority), walk-ins ARE welcome. Also, please come into the fire hall with your mask already on. Thanks. Hope to see you there!

### **● Fundraising**

We held our first of two Chicken BBQs from Gale-Wyn Catering for this year. The first one was Sunday, April 24th, and it was a rousing success! We sold out in 3 1/2 hours.

Many thanks to our head coordinator, Nick Glamack. And many, many thanks to our team of volunteers who cheerfully served the chicken: Nick, Bethyn Boni, Cheryl Glamack, Bob Kelly, Janice Kelly, Donna Magraw, Phyllis Rehtin, Judd Rockcastle, Marilyn





Shafer, Robin Stewart, Joe Walters and Sue Walters.

The second chicken BBQ fundraising will be Saturday, July 23, 2022 at the Mightea Boba Plaza in Canandaigua.

### ● Deacon Molly

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Deacon Molly. She crossed the Rainbow Bridge on March 10, 2022, and we can only assume she is collecting lots of hugs and pats (and dog treats!) from the people who have gone on before her.



Molly was a registered therapy dog. She attended reading programs and gave her time to libraries, schools and nursing homes and hospitals. She also attended college to provide stress relief.

Molly was made a deacon as she was the church's unparalleled greeter every Sunday. No congregation member could walk past her and not say hello or "sneak" her a treat. Her presence at our worship services will be greatly missed. Our condolences to the family she left behind.

### ● The Morgan-Scott Project (MSP)

Since 1972, the Morgan-Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns (MSP) has formed a base from which the needs of low income families in Scott and Morgan counties in rural Tennessee can be addressed. MSP functions as both a social services agency and as a community development organization.

The church has supported the Morgan-Scott Project since 2013. We have collected and mailed seeds, sent monetary gifts through the NACC and collected and delivered used clothing for sale in their store. This year, Christian Education held a Family Life Lunch and a special "shopping" event where church members were able to buy personal care items to be given to needy families at their site. So, after another delicious potluck (complete with good fellowship), the congregation "shopped" at a store for items. After all was done, the congregation had purchased almost \$500 of personal products and also raised \$300 in cash. These items were sent to Morgan-Scott.

Our thanks to the Christian Education committee for another excellent way for us to reach outside our walls and help others in need. Thank you to all who participated!

### ● Worship Services

Remember, for those who cannot attend, or who are still not yet comfortable attending public services, we are continuing to tape and post Sunday's service that afternoon on our Facebook page. Please note the posts are audio only (similar to a podcast) and we are

recording only the scripture readings and Pastor Sue's sermon. The podcasts can be listened to at any time (along with all the other videos we've posted) by accessing the Video tab on our Facebook page (link: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-Bloomfield-NY-357770224341588/>).

### ● **Food Cupboard**

As a continuing reminder, the food cupboards most needed items right now are toilet paper, hand soap, laundry detergent, dish soap and hearty soups. Because of shopping & purchasing restrictions (rationing), these are the hardest items to keep stocked. So please, buy an extra item on your next shopping trip and leave it in the box in the church entryway. Your donations are always well appreciated.

### **Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly):**

● **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **May 1st** and **June 5th**.

● **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 and is kept in the Benevolence Fund for future distributions. For this period, the offerings are on Sunday, **May 1st** and **June 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 yet you wish to make a donation to the church (pledge, benevolence or faith), you can mail your donation to Marilyn Shafer at 12 Howard Avenue, Bloomfield, NY, 14469.

● **Church Council:** The council holds regular meetings on the first Sunday of the month. For this period, the council meets **May 1st** and **June 5th**.

● **Choir Practice:** The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. In addition, the choir also meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. Please, come join them as they are always looking for singers.

● **Men's Breakfast:** The men meet the last Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested men are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **May 29th** and **June 26th**.

## May & June Specific Calendar Events:

- **Sunday, May 1 (8 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Sunday, May 1 (approximately 11:30 a.m.):** Church Council meets after the worship service (light refreshments will be served prior)
- **Sunday, May 8:** Mother's Day
- **Thursday, May 19, (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *Hid From Our Eyes* by Julia Spencer-Fleming.

### ***Amazon synopsis:***

1952. Millers Kill Police Chief Harry McNeil is called to a crime scene where a woman in a party dress has been murdered with no obvious cause of death.

1972. Millers Kill Police Chief Jack Liddle is called to a murder scene of a woman that's very similar to one he worked as a trooper in the 50s. The only difference is this time, they have a suspect. Young Vietnam War veteran Russ van Alstyne found the body while riding his motorcycle and is quickly pegged as the prime focus of the investigation.

*Present-day.* Millers Kill Police Chief Russ van Alstyne gets a 911 call that a young woman has been found dead in a party dress, the same MO as the crime he was accused of in the 70s. The pressure is on for Russ to solve the murder before he's removed from the case.

Russ will enlist the help of his police squad and Reverend Clare Fergusson, who is already juggling the tasks of being a new mother to her and Russ's baby and running St. Alban's Church, to finally solve these crimes.

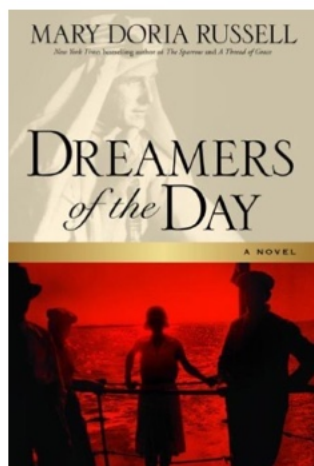
Readers have waited years for this newest book and Julia Spencer-Fleming delivers with the exquisite skill and craftsmanship that have made her such a success.



- **Thursday, May 26:** Ascension Day (Ascension of Jesus)
- **Sunday, May 29 (8 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Monday, May 30:** Memorial Day
- **Sunday, June 5:** Pentecost



- **Sunday, June 5 (8 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Sunday, June 5 (approximately 11:30 a.m.):** Church Council meets after the worship service (light refreshments will be served prior)
- **Sunday, June 12:** Trinity Sunday
- **Monday, June 13 (2 - 7 p.m.):** Red Cross blood drive at the East Bloomfield Holcomb Fire Hall
- **Thursday, June 21 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the book *Dreamers of the Day* by Mary Doria Russell.



**Amazon synopsis:**

Agnes Shanklin, a forty-year-old schoolteacher from Ohio, has come into a modest inheritance that allows her to take the trip of a lifetime to Egypt and the Holy Land. Arriving at the Semiramis Hotel just as the 1921 Cairo Peace Conference convenes, she is freed for the first time from her mother's withering influence and finds herself being wooed by a handsome, mysterious German.

At the same time, Agnes—with her plainspoken American opinions—is drawn into the company of Winston Churchill, T. E. Lawrence, and Lady Gertrude Bell, who will, in the space of a few days, redraw the world map to create the modern Middle East. As they change history,

Agnes too will find her own life transformed forever.

With prose as graceful and effortless as a seductive float down the Nile, Mary Doria Russell illuminates the long, rich history of the Middle East with a story that brilliantly elucidates today's headlines.

- **Sunday, June 26 (8 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's

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**● Pastor Morning Prayer & Office Hours**

Pastor Sue has open door office hours every Thursday. She leads morning prayer from the office beginning at 9 a.m. (which is streamed live on the church's Facebook page) and will remain in the office until 1 p.m. As always, drop-ins for a cup of coffee or tea are welcome. In addition, Sue is also available at other times by appointment; please call her on her cellphone at 716-983-5760 to make arrangements.

### ● 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 A Church Event

To advertise any church event, please contact Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; (585) 402-5397 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.

~ ~ ~ Picture Us ~ ~ ~



In preparation the Lent and the Easter season, Bob and Janice Kelly prepared a Mardi Gras-themed fellowship after Sunday's service. The tables were wonderfully decorated and everyone enjoyed both the companionship and the donuts. It was a great way to start off our Easter journey. Thank you, Bob and Janice.

*Beckoning God, as you moved in the lives of Elijah and Elisha, move in our lives, inviting us to journey to unknown territory, to listen for your voice, and to speak your prophetic word in a world that does not want to hear. Empowered by your Spirit, grant us the courage we need to journey, trust, listen, speak, and accept your commission to be your faithful servant people. Amen.*



## Lectionary Readings for November & December

	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
May 1, 2022	*Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
May 8, 2022	*Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
May 15, 2022	*Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 22, 2022	*Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29 or <i>John 5:1-9</i>
May 26, 2022 Ascension of the Lord	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or <i>Psalm 93</i>	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 29, 2022	*Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
May 31, 2022	*1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 113	Romans 12:9-16b	Luke 1:39-57
June 5, 2022 Day of Pentecost	*Acts 2:1-21 or <i>Genesis 11:1-9</i>	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17 or <i>Acts 2:1-21</i>	John 14:8-17, (25-27)
June 12, 2022	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  Psalm 8		Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
June 19, 2022	1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a  Psalm 42 and 43	Isaiah 65:1-9  Psalm 22:19-28	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
June 26, 2022	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14  Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21  Psalm 16	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62
<i>Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.</i>				

First Congregational Church  
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