



# Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.  
November-December 2017

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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*A note from the editor...*

Peace, Love and Joy! It's the blessing we want to give and to receive now, especially during the Thanksgiving and Christmas time of year! Do you sometimes feel discouraged? Do you wonder how to grab on to those blessings? Me too! It is so difficult when we are blasted with negative news constantly!

Let's remember that we have been blasted by such great news that stands firm in the face of the world's negativity. News that decries the discouragement and confusion of the world. You know what that news is! God has a plan for us. He always has! He came down to earth to live among us, to teach and love us on our level, in our world! He became God and man. A baby is born who brings us all the peace, love and joy that we need. Despite the fallible world we live in.

This is the message we need to take to heart again and again. We need to remember whose we are and whom we serve. Put aside the negativity of the world and rejoice in the Good News proclaimed by the angels, "...Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2 10-11) And the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2: 14)

May you have hearts full of Thanksgiving and know the peace, love and joy of Christ,  
Phyllis

## PASTORS' COLUMN



### ***Just A Thought...***

It is the morning of Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> as I sit down to write this message. Our Annual Fall Roast Pork Dinner or Harvest Dinner as it is now sometimes called is this afternoon. Thank you to

everyone who organized the dinner and to the many volunteers who will make it a success! The forecast is for a high temperature today of 81\* and in the 70's the rest of the week. Needless to say it doesn't feel very "fall" like. Although I haven't bought any pumpkins yet, I did bring my Halloween decorations up from the cellar thinking that would help me get more in the mood of the harvest season and the holidays that are to come in the next two months. But it didn't. I can't explain this kind of restlessness almost an agitation I am feeling.

Of course the NY Yankees losing the ballgame last night didn't help. They are now trailing the Cleveland Indians by 2 games in their playoff series. What will the future hold I wonder? Will the Yanks make a miraculous comeback and win the next 3 games to advance or will they lose this playoff series. ☹ Probably by the time Gabriel's Horn is printed we will all know the answer.

After staring at the computer screen, out the window and even getting up to do something else, it finally occurred to me what is bothering me. I guess I should have realized it earlier because it is certainly nothing new or even that insightful. While flipping tv channels the other night I came across an episode of "Leave It To Beaver". It took me back to what many of us might consider a *better time*. Children respected their parents and authority figures. Mothers were able to stay home (if they wanted to) and take care of their families. Fathers provided for their family. I realize these are generalities and not everyone's family

mirrored the Cleavers. *By the way, unlike being in church, if you don't like what I am saying you don't have to read on.*

Call me "old fashioned" or "conservative" but I miss those days especially when I compare them to today and what is happening in our country and around the world.

- The U.S. has been at war since 2001! To put that in prospective, we were at war with Vietnam for almost 20 years, and who knows what is going to happen with N. Korea. How many more lives will be lost?
- It is hard to ignore the social and political unrest in our nation. No one has a right to damage another person's property or impede their ability to travel freely from one place to another. Yet this is a common occurrence for protestors.
- I believe in the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment but it is difficult to watch the American Flag being burned and desecrated. And talking about free speech, how can protestors possibly defend their position when they shout down someone who expresses a different opinion from their own or they interrupt a speech with violence so the event is cancelled. "Free Speech Week" on the campus of UC Berkeley had to be cancelled because of the violent protests. For me, seeing football players kneeling during the playing of our National Anthem has taken much of the enjoyment out of watching games on Sunday afternoon.
- There is just no explanation or justification for the senseless taking of another person's life, yet over and over with greater frequency we are seeing acts of terrorism in our country and around the world. 911, Isis, Boston, England, Paris, numerous mass shootings, including the recent one in Las Vegas and many more.

If you continued to read on to this point you might be asking yourself, "Why is Pastor

Sandy writing about all this in our newsletter, it sounds more like an op ed piece for the Daily Messenger". Well, my answer is simple. This is a wake-up call!!! Surely all of the things I have mentioned above along with many other evil acts man has and is perpetrating against his fellow man (including Jesus) has convinced you the time to turn to Christ Jesus is now more than ever!!!!

Even in dark and troubled times we must continue to have hope and faith! And the best place to find those things is in the promises of scripture! Matthew 28 says, "16Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

We have all been commissioned to take the word of God out from our sanctuary and share the promises of the Good News with those we meet at the grocery store, the post office, the doctor's office or wherever. And of course, all of this is possible because Jesus was born to us on Christmas Day.

God bless you all with the courage to share his Word, and may you and your families have a very blessed Christmas!

*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](mailto: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

**Upcoming Events**

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Rehearsal, Wednesday evenings: 7:30-9:00
Nov 3	United Church Women, 12 Noon, Allen's Hill Methodist Church (see p. 5)
Nov 5   <b>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b>	-Daylight savings time ends-Fall back! -Stewardship Sunday. Bring your pledge cards to church! -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -council meeting
Nov 11 	Veteran's Day
Nov 16	Book Club, 2;30 – 4:00 Polio: An American Story, David Oshinsky
Nov 18	Holiday Fair at Bloomfield elementary school
Nov 19 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day

Nov 26	-Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's. -The Hanging of the Greens with pot luck lunch
Dec 3 	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
Dec 10 	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent
Dec 17 	-Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall -3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent
Dec 19	<b>Newsletter Deadline for Jan/Feb 2018</b>
Dec 21	-First day of winter -Book Club 2:30-4:00 Gwendy's Button Box, Stephen King
Dec 24 	-Christmas Eve -4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

Dec 25 	Christmas Day
Dec 31	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.

## PEWPOINTS

### Lectionary Readings Nov/Dec 2017

Nov 5 Joshua 3:7-17, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12

Nov 12 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

Nov 19 Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

Nov 23, 2017 Thanksgiving Day, Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Psalm 65, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Luke 17:11-19

Nov 26 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46 (Year B)

Dec 3 First Sunday in Advent, Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

Dec 10 Second Sunday of Advent, Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

Dec 17 Third Sunday of Advent, Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent, 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Dec 31 Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

## 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](mailto: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 should think ahead to have the event included in the correct newsletter. (Phyllis Rehtin, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; [rehtin@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rehtin@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 November and December, the congregation prays for Lynn & Will Tyler, the Schaefer family, Alice McConnell, Mary Martin, Carl & Nancy Stewart, and the Robin Stewart family.

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: 8301 Gomez Avenue, Tampa, FL 33614. She would appreciate cards and notes letting her know she is in our thoughts and prayers.

Prayers for Phil and Elsa Schaefer as they deal with difficult health matters.

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 Allen's Hill Methodist Church on November 3, 2017 at 12 noon. The program will be presented

by the women of the East Bloomfield Congregational Church. The annual "White Elephant Auction" will follow. Wrap up something to auction off, and be sure to bid on a treasure to take home! The money from this sale is used for the work of the organization. All church women are invited to attend.

## Book Club

November 16: Polio: An American Story, David Oshinsky

Here David Oshinsky tells the gripping story of the polio terror and of the intense effort to find a cure, from the March of Dimes to the discovery of the Salk and Sabin vaccines--and beyond. Drawing on newly available papers of Jonas Salk, Albert Sabin and other key players, Oshinsky paints a suspenseful portrait of the race for the cure, weaving a dramatic tale centered on the furious rivalry between Salk and Sabin. He also tells the story of Isabel Morgan, perhaps the most talented of all polio researchers, who might have beaten Salk to the prize if she had not retired to raise a family. Oshinsky offers an insightful look at the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which was founded in the 1930s by FDR and Basil O'Connor, it revolutionized fundraising and the perception of disease in America. Oshinsky also shows how the polio experience revolutionized the way in which the government licensed and tested new drugs before allowing them on the market, and the way in which the legal system dealt with manufacturers' liability for unsafe products. Finally, and perhaps most tellingly, Oshinsky reveals that polio was never the raging epidemic portrayed by the media, but in truth a relatively uncommon disease. But in baby-booming America--increasingly suburban, family-oriented, and hygiene-obsessed--the specter of polio, like the specter of the atomic bomb, soon became a cloud of terror over daily life. Both a gripping scientific suspense story and a provocative social and cultural history, Polio opens a fresh window onto postwar America.

December 21: Gwendy's Button Box, Stephen King

The little town of Castle Rock, Maine has witnessed some strange events and unusual visitors over the years, but there is one story that has never been told... until now.

There are three ways up to Castle View from the town of Castle Rock: Route 117, Pleasant Road, and the Suicide Stairs. Every day in the summer of 1974 twelve-year-old Gwendy Peterson has taken the stairs, which are held by strong (if time-rusted) iron bolts and zig-zag up the cliffside.

At the top of the stairs, Gwendy catches her breath and listens to the shouts of the kids on the playground. From a bit farther away comes the chink of an aluminum bat hitting a baseball as the Senior League kids practice for the Labor Day charity game.

One day, a stranger calls to Gwendy: "Hey, girl. Come on over here for a bit. We ought to palaver, you and me."

On a bench in the shade sits a man in black jeans, a black coat like for a suit, and a white shirt unbuttoned at the top. On his head is a small neat black hat. The time will come when Gwendy has nightmares about that hat...

Journey back to Castle Rock again in this chilling new novella by Stephen King, bestselling author of *The Bazaar of Bad Dreams*, and Richard Chizmar, award-winning author of *A Long December*. This book will be a Cemetery Dance Publications exclusive with no other editions currently planned anywhere in the world!

## Everyday saints

Everyday things, relationships with other people, daily work, love of our family — all these may breed saints.

Jesus of Nazareth taught us to live every hour of the day as saints. Every hour of the day is useful and may lead to divine inspiration, the will of the Father, the prayer of contemplation — holiness. Every hour of

the day is holy. What matters is to live it as Jesus taught us.

And for this, one does not have to shut oneself in a monastery or fix strange and inhumane [regimens] for one's life. It is enough to accept the realities of life. Work is one of these realities; motherhood, the rearing of children, family life with all its obligations are others.

—Carlo Carretto, *Letters From the Desert*

## Exercising our gratitude muscles

Expressing gratitude isn't just a good thing to do; it also appears to be good for us! Indiana University researchers found that participants who performed gratitude-focused writing exercises felt uplifted, and were more likely to express gratefulness through generosity, even weeks later.

Furthermore, brain scans revealed increased gratitude-related activity even months down the road (*New York Magazine*).

Though the study was small, we seem to have a "gratitude muscle" that can be strengthened through exercise. If so, there may be more than we thought to the popularity of gratitude journals and Mom's insistence that we write thank-you notes. Not to mention the biblical call to "give thanks to the LORD, for he is good" (1 Chronicles 16:34, for example).

Might God have hardwired us for gratitude — not only at Thanksgiving but year round — because it's good for us as well as for those we thank? To that, we respond, "Thanks be to God!"

## Thank you, veterans!

On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of

that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or “truce” day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country’s quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when “nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4, NIV).

## **Prayers of thanks**

The Bible’s close connection between prayer and praise caused 19th-century preacher J.C. Ryle to proclaim, “I dare not call that true prayer in which thankfulness has no part.” He points, for example, to Paul’s words in Philippians 4:6 (“By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”) and Colossians 4:2 (“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful”), both NIV.

Whenever we speak to God, Ryle adds, thoughts of his mercy and the hope of heaven should be at the forefront of our minds. “Surely,” he writes, “we should never open our lips in prayer without blessing God for that free grace by which we live, and for that lovingkindness which endures forever.”

## **What’s your rule?**

J. Wilbur Chapman, a traveling evangelist in the late 19th century, practiced what he called a rule for Christian living: “Anything that dims my vision of Christ, or takes away my taste for Bible study, or cramps my prayer life, or makes Christian work difficult is wrong for me, and I must, as a Christian, turn away from it.”

St. Paul offers similar advice — presented in positive terms — for Christians: “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy

of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8, ESV).

What guidelines do you follow in your daily walk with Jesus?

## **A holiness invasion**

“Advent” means “coming,” of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so — a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.

—Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*

## **“As good as done”**

Upon the birth of the one who’d become known as John the Baptist, his father, Zechariah, praised God. Zechariah broke his nine-month inability to speak with these words: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old” (Luke 1:68-70, NRSV).

Notice how Zechariah describes God’s actions as if they had already happened! In *Good News of Great Joy*, John Piper writes, “Nine months earlier, Zechariah could not believe his wife would have a child. Now, filled with the Holy Spirit, he is so confident of God’s redeeming work in the coming Messiah that he puts it in the past tense. For the mind of faith, a promised act of God is as good as done.”

## **The great date debate**

In *Lessons of Christmas* (Xulon Press), Daniel Armah notes that ancient scholars expressed more than 130 opinions about Jesus’ actual birthdate, covering every

month of the year. “Even with a debatable date,” he concludes, “the blessing of Christmas is obvious.”

Likewise, our Christmas celebrations aren’t diminished by the possible timing of Jesus’ birthday with secular festivals. “If December 25th was chosen to rival other pagan worship activities ... for want of a real date,” Armah writes, “then that decision has been successful. Indeed those ancient pagan festivals have all been swallowed up, and Christianity has been growing since.”

## The giver

Many Christian families struggle with what role — if any — Santa Claus should play in their Christmas celebrations. No matter what you decide, it’s fascinating to know the history of the real-life St. Nicholas.

Born about 270 A.D., Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, or modern-day Turkey. In the year 325, he was part of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed.

Nicholas, known for his generosity, often gave away his money anonymously. According to tradition, he secretly provided dowries for the three daughters of a bankrupt merchant. Nicholas threw two bags of gold through open windows and placed the third in a stocking hanging by the fireplace to dry. Thus began the Christmas tradition of placing gifts in stockings.

St. Nicholas is quoted as saying, “The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God’s giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves.”

## Our greatest need

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness and acceptance, so God sent us a Savior.

—Author unknown



REMEMBER  
THE CHILD

## Picture Us

A Potluck lunch brought us together after the summer. Rally Day was September 10<sup>th</sup>.







The annual Roast Pork dinner was held October 7, 2017. Thank you to Bob and Jan Kelly, Robin Stewart and Cheryl Glamack for organizing the event. Thank you to Lujza Rockcastle for providing the delicious desserts. And all the rest of the faithful workers who helped make this dinner a success!

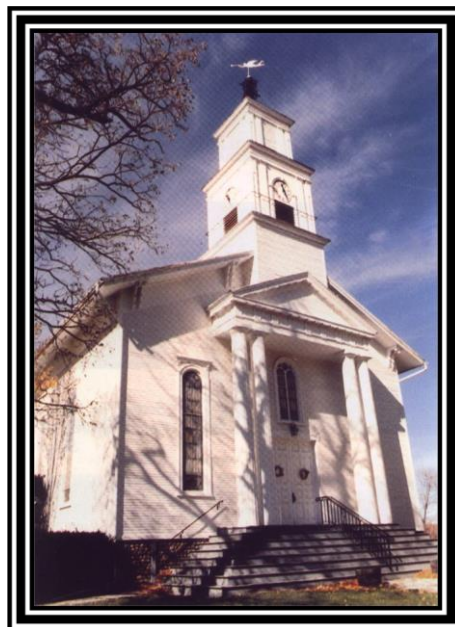




We're  
**ThankFUL**  
for  
**YOU!**



*Gabriel's Horn Newsletter*



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