



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
March-April 2018

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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A note from the editor...

Our Last Friday Free Suppers have resumed for the year. We offer the suppers January through April. Although the numbers are not large the people are so appreciative of the meal and the fellowship they enjoy. Thank you to each person who has signed up to prepare the meal and for those who help with the cleanup after the meal!

Lent is almost midway at this publishing! How are you doing with your journey? Be sure to note the calendar for the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Let's fill the church for these services as we move closer to the day of resurrection!

Happy Easter. Let's live as Easter people every day.
Blessings, Phyllis



PASTORS' COLUMN



Just A Thought.....

As we all know by now on February 2, 2018 also known as "Groundhog Day", Punxsutanwney Phil saw his shadow which means he predicted six more weeks of winter. I thought that was kind of interesting since the weather forecast in Goobler's Knob where Phil made his prediction called for a cloudy, shadow-less morning.

If you watched Phil make his prediction you would have noticed a plethora of camera lights were shining on the shivering groundhog. I wonder if the artificial lighting had anything to do with Phil seeing his shadow?? Hmmmm, I guess sometimes we just have to be willing to accept things on faith!

When the gospels were written they were not meant to be historical documents recording every move Jesus made or every word that he spoke. No one was recording Jesus on their cell phone when he fed 5000 people, performed numerous healings, walked on water, taught the disciples...and yes...was crucified, died and was buried only to rise again on the third day!

By the time you are reading this March/April edition of Gabriel's Horn we are well into our 2018 Lenten journey. I found a nice explanation of Lent and wanted to share it with you as a reminder of the meaning of the season.

"Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection."

The Christian way of life is filled with numerous things we cannot readily explain. While it is true there are times when we cannot produce historical documentation to support our beliefs and traditions, it is in those moments when we must turn any doubts or questions over to faith. I hope you are using this season of Lent, as mentioned above, for self-examination and reflection. The goal is to honestly and fearlessly examine your life in light of God's Word and to make a commitment to change in any areas you have not submitted to the Lord. I also hope at the end of your Lenten journey you will find yourselves renewed, refreshed, and ready for the celebration of Easter. I pray your Easter morning will be a glorious one, filled with wonder, grace, and most importantly, a strong and unrelenting faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy Easter! 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



March

April

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Rebecca Schaefer | 10 Rachel Schaefer |
| 6 Robin Stewart | 12 Bob Kelly |
| 28 Will Tyler | |
| 29 Larry Messner | |
| 31 Cheryl Glamack | |

Upcoming Events

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Rehearsal, Wednesday evenings: 7:30-9:00
March 2	-World day of Prayer -United Church Women, 12 noon at St. Peter's church
March 4  THIRD SUNDAY <i>In Lent</i>	-Third Sunday in Lent -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -council meeting
March 11  FOURTH SUNDAY <i>In Lent</i>	-Fourth Sunday in Lent -Daylight Savings time begins-Spring ahead!
March 15	Book Club, 2;30 – 3:30 Fatal, John Lescroart

March 18   FIFTH SUNDAY <i>In Lent</i>	-Fifth Sunday in Lent -Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
March 20	First Day of Spring
March 25  PALM SUNDAY	-Palm Sunday -Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
March 29  MAUNDY THURSDAY	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM
March 30  GOOD FRIDAY	-Last Friday Supper 5-6:30 pm. -Good Friday Service 7:00 PM
April 1  EASTER SUNDAY	-Easter Sunday -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
April 15 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
April 17	Newsletter Deadline for May/June 2018
April 19	Book Club 2:30-3:30, Autobiography of a Face, Lucy Grealg Ewings
April 27	Last Friday Supper 5-6:30
April 29	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings Mar/Apr 2018

Third Sunday in Lent

Mar 4 Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1
Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Mar 11 Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3,
17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Mar 18 Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12,
Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

Palm Sunday

Mar 25 Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16,
Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

Monday of Holy Week

Mar 26 Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 36:5-11,
Hebrews 9:11-15, John 12:1-11

Tuesday of Holy Week

Mar 27 Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 71:1-14, 1
Corinthians 1:18-31, John 12:20-36

Wednesday of Holy Week

Mar 28 Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 70, Hebrews
12:1-3, John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday

Mar 29 Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14,
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-
26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

Mar 30 Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22,
Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday

Mar 31 Job 14:1-14, Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16, 1
Peter 4:1-8, Matthew 27:57-66

Easter

Apr 1 Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Acts 10:34-43, John
20:1-18

Apr 8 Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-
2:2,

John 20:19-31

Apr 15 Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7,
Luke 24:36b-48

Apr 22 Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-
24, John 10:11-18

Apr 29 Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1
John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

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 March and April, the congregation prays for Judd & Lujza Rockcastle, Janice & Bob Kelly, Sandy Porrey, William Bacon and Marilyn Shafer.

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

Continued prayers for Terry Silvernail and Phil and Elsa Schaefer.

Keep Jacquie Walters in your prayers at the loss of her brother, Dennis. Also pray for his wife Doris and family.

Keep Sue Walters in your prayers as she recovers from cataract surgery.

Remember Sue Walters' daughter, Rachel Huff as she deals with difficult decisions.

Prayers for Steve and Julie Sickmond (Bob and Diane's son and daughter-in-law) as they work through Julie's health issues.

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 St. Peter's Episcopal Church in East Bloomfield on March 2, 2018 at 12 Noon. The women of St. Peter's will provide beverage and dessert. Bring your sandwich. The program will be presented by the women of St. Peter's.

Book Club

March 15 we are reading *Fatal*, John Lescroart.

"Lescroart has always found a fine balance between his two favorite genres: police procedural and legal drama. *Fatal* succeeds with a new pairing: It is a psychological thriller in bed with a homicide investigation...The characters of *Fatal* may be lawyers, but their inner lives matter here, not their courtroom dramas...Lescroart wants to pick a side in this battle, but he's too good a writer to moralize. The result is a dark, disturbing, satisfying read." (San Francisco Chronicle)

"Lescroart is a master storyteller as he knows how to craft a plot and how to create fully developed characters. In both of these departments this book comes across as one of his best works."

(Huffington Post)

"Somehow Lescroart weaves this moral ambiguity into a tale that is both frustrating and gratifying. His writing is constantly surprising, and the ending is perfect. Fans will not miss his regular series characters, while those who have never read his novels will discover a true master of the craft." (Associated Press)

April 19 we are reading *Autobiography of a Face*, Lucy Grealy
Ewings
From Publishers Weekly

Diagnosed at age nine with Ewing's sarcoma, a cancer that severely disfigured her face, Grealy lost half her jaw, recovered after two and half years of chemotherapy and radiation, then underwent plastic surgery over the next 20 years to reconstruct

her jaw. This harrowing, lyrical autobiographical memoir, which grew out of an award-winning article published in *Harper's* in 1993, is a striking meditation on the distorting effects of our culture's preoccupation with physical beauty. Extremely self-conscious and shy, Grealy endured insults and ostracism as a teenager in Spring Valley, N.Y. At Sarah Lawrence College in the mid-1980s, she discovered poetry as a vehicle for her pent-up emotions. During graduate school at the University of Iowa, she had a series of unsatisfying sexual affairs, hoping to prove she was lovable. No longer eligible for medical coverage, she moved to London to take advantage of Britain's socialized medicine, and underwent a 13-hour operation in Scotland. Grealy now lives in New York City. Her discovery that true beauty lies within makes this a wise and healing book.

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Rewoven

After Jen Hatmaker's dog shredded an heirloom baby blanket, she piled up the dirty yarn and asked her mother-in-law to somehow reassemble the original. In *Of Mess and Moxie* (Nelson Books), Hatmaker explains how this is a picture of God's sovereign work.

When our lives are tattered by sin and suffering, God doesn't start from scratch or create a replica. Instead, he uses the original threads to reweave a stronger version and to restore beauty. (Interestingly, when Joseph tells his brothers in Genesis 50:20 [ESV], "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good," the word meant is Hebrew for wove.)

"Nothing bears a better witness than watching God resurrect someone's life," writes Hatmaker. "That is a God who folks want to know, a God worth his glory."

Spoiler alert

In these days of DVRs and streaming programming, it's common courtesy to warn people before discussing a show's plot or ending. How frustrating to inadvertently hear how a much-anticipated drama concludes!

Knowing how everything ends is a blessing for Christians, however. Jesus' victory over death gives us hope and confidence for this life — and for the life to come.

"The church does not pretend ... that it does not know what will happen with the crucified Jesus," writes Thomas Hopko in *The Orthodox Faith*. "It does not sorrow and mourn over the Lord as if the church itself were not the very creation which has been produced from his wounded side and from the depths of his tomb. All through [Holy Week] services, the victory of Christ is contemplated and the resurrection is proclaimed."

Indeed, Jesus' followers know how his story — and therefore our story — ends: in Easter life!

Dispelling the darkness

On Good Friday, many churches hold a Tenebrae worship service. Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness" or "shadows") is an ancient Christian tradition that re-creates the emotions of Jesus' Passion and death. The sanctuary gradually grows darker. A strepitus (Latin for "loud noise") may signify the closing of Jesus' tomb. As the service concludes, a Christ candle stands alone on the altar, reminding worshipers that victory is coming on Easter morning.

When Scottish missionary Peter Milne died in 1924, the thankful people he'd served in the South Pacific inscribed this message on his headstone: "When he came, there was no light; when he died, there was no darkness."

Death's darkness couldn't conquer Jesus, the light of the world, so it does not conquer us. "The light shines in the

darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5, ESV).

Making the common sacred

First Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) reminds us, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Author E.M. Bounds describes this mind-set as a "spirit of devotion" that "puts God in all things ... not merely in our praying and churchgoing."

He writes: "The spirit of devotion makes the common things of earth sacred and the little things great. With this spirit of devotion, we go to business on Monday directed by the very same influence, and inspired by the same influences, by which we went to church on Sunday. The spirit of devotion makes a Sabbath out of Saturday and transforms the shop and the office into a temple of God."

Easter is eternal

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that eternal truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes and seal it in a tomb. But truth crushed to earth shall rise again.

Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow ... but with an inevitable certainty, after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn.

Our true power source

The story is told of someone who plugged a power strip into itself and then couldn't understand why the system wouldn't turn on! We get a kick out of such tales, yet how often do we try to "power" our own lives? We frequently think we need to be the source of our own strength, joy, peace, energy and wisdom.

Jesus doesn't teach us to find life within ourselves — or in any human being or earthly circumstance, object or philosophy.

Rather, calling himself the good shepherd, Jesus says, “I have come that [my sheep] may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

We don’t access that abundant life by “plugging into” ourselves. Instead, Jesus invites us to plug into his power — and joy, peace, hope, truth — through prayer and Scripture, worship and service, fellowship with other Christians and the beauty of God’s world.

Why we need Easter

No one is exempt from tragedy or disappointment — even God was not exempt. Jesus offered no immunity, no way out of the unfairness, but rather a way through it to the other side. Just as Good Friday demolished the instinctive belief that this life is supposed to be fair, Easter Sunday followed with its startling clue to the riddle of the universe. Out of the darkness, a bright light shone. ...

The cross of Christ may have overcome evil, but it did not overcome unfairness. For that, Easter is required, a bright clue that someday God will restore all physical reality to its proper place.

—Philip Yancey, *Disappointment With God*

Following God’s lead

Jazz musician Thomas Dorsey traveled an unlikely road to become the “father of black gospel music.” At age 11, he dropped out of school to be a vaudeville performer and blues pianist. While Dorsey recovered from a nervous breakdown at age 21, his mother urged him to serve the Lord with his talents. It took several years, but the musician committed to composing spiritual songs — rejected by many mainstream churches as “the devil’s music.”

In 1932, after Dorsey’s wife and infant son died during childbirth, he channeled his grief into the piano, writing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.” Known to be a favorite song of Martin Luther King Jr., it ends with these lyrics: “Through the storm, through the night,

lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.”

(Editor’s note: So many of our favorite hymns have beautiful stories connected to their writing. It is good for us to know the very human emotion put on paper and to recognize the great faith in our God the author displays.)

Misery be gone!

On the Sunday after Easter, some churches celebrate “holy humor.” Laughter is a gift from God, who wants us to be joyful. A happy disposition is also an effective — and infectious — way to share our faith.

“I cannot think that when God sent us into the world, he had irreversibly decreed that we should be perpetually miserable in it,” said John Wesley. “If ... taking up the cross [implies] bidding adieu to all joy and satisfaction, how is it reconcilable with what Solomon expressly affirms of religion, that ‘her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace’?” (Proverbs 3:17, KJV)

Of pizza and sin

Whenever I’m in Chicago, I feel driven, as if by unseen forces, into a deep-dish-pizza restaurant. My recent visit was no exception. As soon as I stepped off the plane, the cravings began. Soon I was in a pizzeria, awaiting a handmade pie with giddy anticipation. It was a sad scene. I was dining alone, so there was no pretext of community; I was just there to gorge myself.

And that’s precisely what I did. After a few slices, I hit a wall but consumed one more. One too many, it turned out. While maneuvering away from the table, I realized: Deep-dish is a lot like sin. Both start with bliss but end in misery. Both take you further than you wanted to go, faster than you wanted to get there. And both require confession. So that’s what I’m doing here. I hope you’ll absolve me. Next time, I’ll try to eat less.

—Drew Dyck, Church Humor Newsletter
(October 10, 2017), CTPastors.com.
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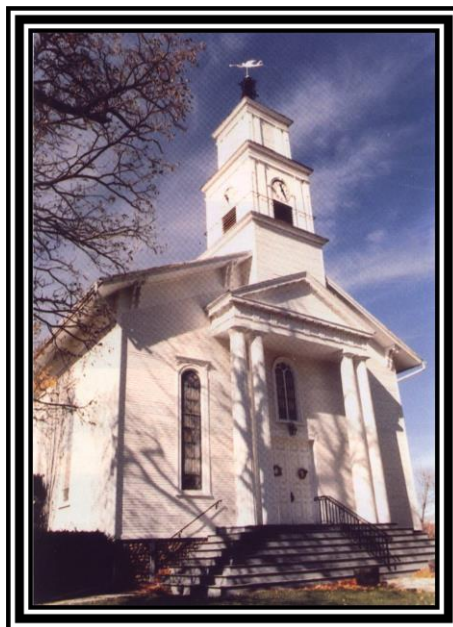
Picture Us

What a joy to celebrate Norma Glamack's 97th birthday at church. Enjoying her family at her party!





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of East Bloomfield
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