



## **Gabriel's Horn Newsletter**

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

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

**July/August 2021**

**\* Our Sunday worship service is at 10:00 AM \***

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*Life-giving God, heal our lives, that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds and offer you thanks from generation to generation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen..*

## FROM THE PASTOR

*"Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*  
Matthew 6:26

The COVID state of emergency is over, at least in New York State. All restrictions have been lifted: we can go back to "normal." I don't like the new normal.



I don't like the number of teenagers accused of killing other teenagers. I don't like the number of adults accused of killing other adults. I don't like that life is viewed as having little value. I HATE it when I see hoarding situations, where animals have been abused, starved, or simply neglected. I don't like how little regard we seem to have as a society for those who are "less" than we are.

Some might say that each of these situations reflects anger from being confined during COVID. They might be right. But, whatever the reason, we cannot continue, as God's people, to view others in God's creation as being deserving of abuse, neglect, or even death. We are all, from the greatest to the least, equal in God's eyes. If God knows every feather on a sparrow's head, doesn't God also know every breath we take and every step we make? I'm not sure those who dispense what they consider to be justice understand this principle. I hope that we, as followers of Christ, do understand. Now that restrictions on our living have been lifted, we can see those we have missed, and surround them with love, we might even come into contact with those with whom we disagreed before the onset of COVID. First, we need to offer thanks that they are still alive! Then, we need to seek to rectify wrongs that might exist. All these actions stem from understanding we are all children of God. And, if we believe someone has committed a crime, it is not up to us to judge them. God is the ultimate judge. They will receive punishment for their wrongdoing.

We are free to go about our business now. We can see and greet people on the street; we can gather in restaurants, we can live again. Let all our living be done according to God's principles and purposes for our lives, and all life.

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 \* the Eddy family\* Mary Martin \* Bev Clark \* the Perkins family \* the Tyler family \* Jeremy \* Eric \* the Gliewe family \* Garret \* Kay \* the Salmon family \* Peg \* Alice \* the Messner family \* Helen \* Don Shultz \* Kathy \* Russ \* the Brien family \* the Stewart family \* Richard \* the Salmon family \* Arleen \* Lujza \* Russ \* all places & people with Covid-19 \* school teachers, students & school administration \* all those in the medical fields \* our country

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## **Birthdays:**

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

July:

7 Nick Glamack,  
15 Chris Bartos,  
17 Rich Townsend

August:

9 Diane Sickmond,  
24 Bev Clark



## **Church News:**

### **● Worship Services:**

Thanks to the CDC (and the New York state government), our sanctuary is back to normal. We are not required to wear masks, sit at a proper social distance or wave to people in greeting. Depending on each person's comfort level, we can even dispense hugs to our fellow congregation members - or accept them! There is no more special pew markings and members and visitors are welcome to sit where they wish.

We understand the hesitancy and safety concerns of some folk. Therefore, 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 Sunday afternoon on our Facebook page.



However, the tapes are audio only (similar to a podcast) and we are only recording 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/>).

In addition, Pastor Sue continues to lead a weekly prayer session. These will be live-streamed on our Facebook page on Thursdays at 8:30 am. The prayer service can be viewed live or accessed later by going to our Facebook page's Video section.

Please join us however you can!

### ● Church spring clean-up:

Thanks to the efforts of the American Heritage Girls Troop NY0024, our church grounds got a nice spring clean-up. In their own words, the troop "raked, weeded, shoveled and raked some more to spruce up the gardens" at the church. What a nice and welcome treat! Here are some members of the troop hard at work and then another pic of the whole gang:



### ● Choir:

The choir is back to rehearsing on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings (before the service). They then present their anthem to the congregation every Sunday. Wednesday, June 30, is the last Wednesday night rehearsal before the summer break (they'll continue to have an anthem on Sundays, but will only meet at 9:15 that Sunday before the service); they'll return to regular Wednesday practice after Labor Day. Singing in the choir is a lot of fun and a great way to worship and the choir is always looking for new members. Come join them!

### ● 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.

### ● **Parsonage Trees:**

We had several diseased trees on the property at the parsonage. The trustees were able to get the trees cut down and removed. The best part is the company paid us to do the work and haul off the wood. Sure looks a lot neater at the parsonage. And it'll be a lot safer with the dying trees .



● **June Blood Drive Results:** We had a successful blood drive June 14, 2021. We met our goal and collected 33 units. These units will go on to help as many as 100 patients in need of a blood transfusion. Our thanks to the volunteers and donors who donate time or blood.

The next drive is Friday, August 13, 2021, from 1:00 - 6:00 PM in the East Bloomfield-Holcomb Fire Department (105 Main Street, Bloomfield).

### ● **Fundraising:**

We will be selling BBQ chicken on Sunday, July 11th at the Roseland Park Plaza on East Lake Road in Canandaigua (in front of TJ Maxx and Mightea Boba). We will start selling at 11:00 AM and go to 4:00 PM ... or until sold out). We will charge \$12 for a dinner (chicken half, salt potatoes, roll and your choice of coleslaw or macaroni salad). The chicken is to be cooked by Gale Wyn catering.

**NOTE:** Since we have to be in Canandaigua by 10:30, our worship service for that Sunday will begin an hour earlier (at 9:00 AM) so the BBQ workers can be ready to sell chicken at 11:00 AM. Please mark your calendars for both the change in the service time and the BBQ. We will remind folk as we get closer.

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

● **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8:00 AM. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **July 4th** and **August 1st**.



● **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, **July 4th** and **August 1st**. 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 regular donation to the church's mission, you can mail your donation to Marilyn Shafer (please call 585-935-1538 for her address).

● **Church Council:** The council is on summer hiatus. They will be back for regular meetings on September 5th. Enjoy the summer!

● **Choir Practice:** The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. In addition, the choir also meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 PM. They will start their summer hiatus on July 1st and not meet on Wednesdays, although they will continue to meet on Sundays. Regular Wednesday rehearsals will start back the first Wednesday after Labor Day. Please, come join them as they are always looking for singers.

● **Men's Breakfast:** The men's breakfast is on hiatus until further notice. We will notify all when the men begin regularly meeting again.

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### **July & August Specific Calendar Events:**

- **Sunday, July 4:** Independence Day
- **Sunday, July 4 (8:00 AM):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)
- **Sunday, July 11:** Chicken BBQ at Roseland Park Plaza, Canandaigua - 11:00 'til gone
- **Thursday, July 15 (10:30 AM):** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; they will discuss the novel *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano.

***Amazon synopsis:*** *What does it mean not just to survive, but to truly live?*

One summer morning, twelve-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Among them are a Wall Street wunderkind, a young woman coming to terms with an unexpected

pregnancy, an injured veteran returning from Afghanistan, a business tycoon, and a free-spirited woman running away from her controlling husband. Halfway across the country, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor.

Edward's story captures the attention of the nation, but he struggles to find a place in a world without his family. He continues to feel that a part of himself has been left in the sky, forever tied to the plane and all of his fellow passengers. But then he makes an unexpected discovery—one that will lead him to the answers of some of life's most profound questions: When you've lost everything, how do you find the strength to put one foot in front of the other? How do you learn to feel safe again? How do you find meaning in your life?

Dear Edward is at once a transcendent coming-of-age story, a multidimensional portrait of an unforgettable cast of characters, and a breathtaking illustration of all the ways a broken heart learns to love again.

● **Sunday, August 1 (8:00 AM):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)

● **Friday, August 13 (1:00 - 6:00 PM):** Red Cross blood drive at the East Bloomfield-Holcomb Fire Department (105 Main Street, Bloomfield).

We accept donors with appointments and those who just walk-in. Please help support the Red Cross by donating this day.

● **Thursday, June 17 (10:30 AM):** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; they will discuss the book *The World That We Knew* by Alice Hoffman.

**Amazon synopsis:** *On the brink of World War II, with the Nazis tightening their grip on Berlin, a mother's act of courage and love offers her daughter a chance of survival.*

At the time when the world changed, Hanni Kohn knows she must send her twelve-year-old daughter away to save her from the Nazi regime. Her desperation leads her to Ettie, the daughter of a rabbi whose years spent eavesdropping on her father enables her to create a mystical Jewish creature, a rare and unusual golem, who is sworn to protect Hanni's daughter, Lea. Once Ava is brought to life, she and Lea and Ettie become eternally entwined, their paths fated to cross, their fortunes linked.

What does it mean to lose your mother? How much can one person sacrifice for love? In a world where evil can be found at every turn, we meet remarkable characters that take us on a stunning journey of loss and resistance, the fantastical and the mortal, in a place where all roads lead past the Angel of Death and love is never-ending.

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## **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 Your Church Event:**

To advertise any church event, please contact Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; (585) 703-1449 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.

## **Lectionary Readings for May & June:**

July 4, 2021	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48	Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
July 11, 2021	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24	Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:8-13	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
July 18, 2021	2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 25, 2021	2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14	2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-18	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21
August 1, 2021	2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a Psalm 51:1-12	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Psalm 78:23-29	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
August 8, 2021	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130	1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 34:1-8	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
August 15, 2021	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111	Proverbs 9:1-6 Psalm 34:9-14	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
August 22, 2021	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34:15-22	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
August 29, 2021	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9		

*\* Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of the suggested first readings.*



## **Picture Us**

Just had to share this view of the choir not seen in over a year: no masks!



## **Memorial Day**

We had an wonderful Memorial Day observance on May 30th during the worship service. It began when Bethyn Boni, Cheryl Glamack and Marilyn Shafer sang *Blades of Grass and Pure White Stone* as the prelude.



Then, Donna Messner played the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* on the organ as the postlude. Donna Magraw was so moved by the service and the hymn that she

was compelled to gather up the flag and present it to the congregation as they sang. The hymn and both Donna's actions were fitting tributes to those who gave their all in service to this country.



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