



# Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.  
July-August 2016

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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## A note from the editor...

We waited a long time but summer did come. June was hot and dry! Something like 5 days of over 90-degree weather! I can't believe how burned out the grass looks!

The grass may be in a state, but things at First Congregational are moving along fine. Our first attempt at a chicken barbeque through an outside company was successful. Thank you to Robin Stewart who took the lead to make this happen. The weather was beautiful and the aroma of the chicken gave out an essence of summer fun!



Christian Education has a church picnic planned for July 10<sup>th</sup> following the church service. Bring a pot luck dish to share and stay for table games after lunch.

Looking ahead to the fall, don't forget the Roast Pork dinner on October 1.

Then the next week on October 7 we will host the Simple Gifts concert. If you haven't checked out their music yet I urge you to do so!

<http://simplegiftsmusic.com/videos.html>.

Be sure to tell your friends!

Happy Summer, Phyllis

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER, MINISTRY AND HUMOR

### Church Membership

Please contact Rev. Sandy Porrey at (585) 354-7065 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



### July Birthdays




7 Nick Glamack  
15 Chris Bartos  
17 Rich Townsend

### Aug. Birthdays

24 Bev Clark

### Upcoming Events

Choir	Summer rehearsals Sunday Mornings 9:15. Everyone is welcome to sing.
July 3	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -ice cream social
July 4	Independence Day

July 10 	Family Life church pot luck picnic. Stay for table games following the meal if you wish!
July 17 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
July 21	Book Club, 2:30- 4:00. The Sealed Letter, Emma Donaghue
July 29	-Last Friday Free Supper: 5:00-6:45
July 31	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Brady J's.
Aug 7	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering.
Aug 16	<b>Newsletter Deadline for Sept/Oct 2016</b>
Aug 21 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Aug 26	Last Friday free supper 5:00 to 7:00
Aug 28	-Men's Breakfast 8:00 at Brady J's -Supplies for Hygiene Kits due today.

## PEWPOINTS

### Lectionary Readings July/August 2016

July 3 2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30, Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20  
July 10 Amos 7:7-17, Psalm 82, Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37  
July 17 Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42  
July 24 Hosea 1:2-10, Psalm 85, Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19), Luke 11:1-13  
July 31 Hosea 11:1-11, Psalm 107:1-9, 43, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21  
Aug 7 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40  
Aug 14 Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56  
Aug 21 Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17  
Aug 28 Jeremiah 2:4-13, Psalm 81:1, 10-16, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

### 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 Rechten will handle information for the Newsletter, the website and Bloomfield Buzz. Keep in mind our issues are published every 2 months so you have to think ahead to have the event included in the correct newsletter. (Phyllis Rechten, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; [rechten@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rechten@rochester.rr.com) or 657-7018).

### The Ties That Bind



"Faith is to the soul  
what life is to *the body*.  
Prayer is to faith what  
breath is to *the body*.  
How a person can live  
and not breathe is past

*my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too."*—J.C. Ryle

During July and August, the congregation prays for Rich & Nancy Walters, the Boni Family, Larry & Donna Messner, and the Mitchell family.

Keep Larry Messner in your prayers as he deals with ongoing medical problems.

We send Rich Townsend off with all our love and best wishes as he resettles near his family in Alabama.

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

Let us also pray from Norma, Nick Glamack's mom and Kathrine, Donna Messner's mom.

### Book Club

7-21-16

The Sealed Letter, Emma Donoghue

Miss Emily "Fido" Faithfull is a "woman of business" and a spinster pioneer in the British women's movement, independent of mind but naively trusting of heart. Distracted from her cause by the sudden return of a once-dear friend, the unhappily wed Helen Codrington, Fido is swept up in the intimate details of Helen's failing marriage and obsessive affair with a young army officer. What begins as a loyal effort to help a friend explodes into an intriguing courtroom drama complete with accusations of adultery, counterclaims of rape, and a mysterious letter that could destroy more than one life. Based on a scandalous divorce case that gripped England in 1864, *The Sealed Letter* is a riveting, provocative drama of friends, lovers, and divorce, Victorian-style.

We will not have Book Club in August.

## Collecting supplies for Hygiene kits

Shared by Christian Education

During the month of August, we will be collecting supplies for Hygiene kits to be mailed to Church World Service for distribution.

Here is a list of items needed. Please be specific as to size and kind of item needed. Copies of this list are on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Supplies needed:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15"x 28" to 16"x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One finger nail or toe nail clipper removed from the package
- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each Hygiene Kit just prior to its journey. (Bags provided)

Each kit requires \$2.00 for distribution. There will be a jar on the table in Fellowship Hall to collect dollars for the fee.

The supplies collected will be assembled on September 11 which will be our Rally Day.

## Zoom out

On a computer screen, images can be magnified to show tiny details and make text easier to read. In the process, however, the "big picture" is lost. After checking various aspects of a project closely, it's a good idea to "zoom out" again to be sure everything still looks as it should.

Likewise, it's easy to fixate on the tiny details of our lives (especially flaws in ourselves and others). We tend to enlarge our problems far beyond their actual size

and totally miss problems taking a toll elsewhere. We may also forget the beautiful "big picture" of God's care encompassing us. After tending to life's details, it's important to take a broader view to see whether our up-close perceptions hold true when we gaze on the work as a whole.

"Help us 'zoom out,' oh God," prays Joshua DuBois in The President's Devotional (HarperOne). "Widen our perspective and extend our horizon, so that we can more fully know your purpose this day, and every day."

## Earthy prayers

In English translation, the Psalms often sound smooth and polished, sonorous with Elizabethan rhythms and diction. As literature, they are beyond compare. But as prayer, as the utterances of men and women passionate for God in moments of anger and praise and lament, these translations miss something. ... As prayers they are not quite right.

The Psalms in Hebrew are earthy and rough. They are not genteel. They are not the prayers of nice people, couched in cultured language. ... Only as we develop raw honesty and detailed thoroughness in our praying do we become whole, truly human in Jesus Christ, who also prayed the Psalms. —Eugene H. Peterson's introduction to Psalms, in The Message

## Destination devotions

Planning a summer trip? Take along a Scripture passage befitting your vacation to use for devotions and prayer time (all NIV below):

- In the mountains: "The mountains and hills will burst into song before you" (Isaiah 55:12).
- At a lake, perhaps on a fishing trip: "They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people'" (Matthew 4:18-19).

- Near an ocean or river: “Let the sea resound ... let the rivers clap their hands” (Psalm 98:7-8).
- In the desert: “They looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud” (Exodus 16:10).
- In the woods: “Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the law of the LORD .... That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season” (Psalm 1:1-3).
- In the flatlands: “‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me .... I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest’” (John 4:34-35).
- On a “staycation” close to home: “Love the LORD your God .... These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ... Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road .... Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

## **A good place**

This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.

—Theodore Roosevelt

## **Be a lifesaver**

About 200 people — including 100 lifeguards — attended a pool party in New Orleans in 1985 to celebrate the first summer in memory that no one had drowned at a city pool. At the end of the festivities, the four on-duty lifeguards began clearing the area and found a fully dressed man in the deep end. Despite efforts to revive him, he died.

Just as swimming with a bunch of lifeguards doesn’t guarantee safety, “swimming” with a sea of churchgoers doesn’t guarantee peace. People in the pews next to you might be struggling to stay above water physically, emotionally, financially or spiritually. Be alert to ways you can serve as a lifeguard. Extend a helping hand, a listening ear and an encouraging

reminder of Jesus’ ultimate rescue (see Romans 7:24-25).

## **The gift of grace**

Grace is something you can never get but only be given. The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don’t be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It’s for you I created the universe. I love you.

There’s only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach and take it is a gift too.

—Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

## **At the center of it all**

Psalm 118:8, the verse that falls in the middle of the Protestant Bible, reads, “It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans” (NIV).

The center of God’s Word reminds us to make God the center of our lives! No other person or possession can fulfill or save us. Only God is a safe, certain refuge, and we grow closer to him by grounding ourselves in his Word and his will.

## **A month of Sundays**

“August is like the Sunday of summer,” an online meme proclaims. But that means different things to different people.

If you see Sunday as the end of a week — a chance to sleep in, do “nothing,” relax and play — then August might be your downtime at the end of a busy summer. If Sunday feels heavy because the onslaught of the workweek is approaching, then August may carry the dread of falling leaves and falling temperatures.

But if you view Sunday as a fresh start to the week, then August, with a new school

year and new church programming around the corner, can be exciting. And if you honor Sunday as the Sabbath, indeed “August is like the Sunday of summer.” God invites us to enjoy these holy days and give thanks to him, the Creator of all seasons.

—Heidi Mann

## **The Master Puzzler**

In *Laughing in the Dark* (Howard Books), Christian comedian Chonda Pierce calls God the Master Puzzler, because “in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17). In his infinite wisdom, God “can organize the colors better than anyone (Have you seen a sunset lately?) He knows where to fit every shape and size (Have you seen a mountain range?).”

Until God places the last piece, the final picture is a mystery to us. But in the meantime, God offers order and purpose, providing his law as the puzzle’s edges.

Pierce encourages people to let the “Master Puzzler” take over when life gets messy. Like the prophet Jeremiah, we can cry, “GOD, pick up the pieces. Put me back together again. You are my praise!” (17:14, *The Message*).

## **Grace in, grace out**

The computer acronym GIGO — “garbage in, garbage out” — describes how putting wrong code into a machine will lead to faulty output. Jesus offers a similar lesson in Matthew 15: “What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person” (v. 18, ESV).

GIGO works the other way, too. If we put good things (including the good news of salvation) “in” our hearts, Jesus’ goodness will shine “out” through our lives. And when God’s grace enters and changes us, we’ll also reach out and share that good news with others.

## **Time to pause**

The Hebrew word *selah* (pronounced “say-lah”) occurs 74 times in the Bible — all but three of them in Psalms. Biblical scholars aren’t sure what it means, but a few ideas have predominated: a musical interlude, a break to ponder or “weigh” the passage just shared, an affirmation akin to “Amen.” Some scholars, noting connections in Hebrew to the word for “lift up,” suggest *selah* may indicate a place to stop and exalt the Lord.

The website [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org) advises that we combine these possible meanings: “When we see the word in a psalm or in Habakkuk 3, we should pause to carefully weigh the meaning of what we have just read or heard, lifting up our hearts in praise to God for his great truths.”

In the words of Psalm 24:10 (ESV), “Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! *Selah*.”

## **A small laugh**

“God warned a man named Lot to take his wife and flee out of the city,” said the Sunday school teacher, “but Lot’s wife looked back and was turned to salt.”

A curious boy then asked, “What happened to the flea?”

## **The greatest example**

How often we quote Leviticus 19:18: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” It’s not a bad standard to reach for; even Jesus repeated it (see Matthew 22:39 and elsewhere). But in John 13:34, as Bible scholar Dr. Harry Wendt points out, Jesus changes the wording slightly but crucially: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (ESV).

Perhaps during his time on earth, Jesus realized humans don’t actually love ourselves very much or very well. So using self-love as the bar by which to measure



neighbor-love might be ineffective. Although we may act self-enamored and self-impressed, it's often just a cover for inner feelings of self-loathing and self-doubt.

After washing his disciples' feet and before sacrificing his very life for them (and us), Jesus changes the wording — and the example that will lead us: "Love one another not as you love you, but as I love you." Unconditionally.

Unreservedly.

Wholeheartedly.

Unto death.

And into life everlasting.

## All aboard!

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.  
—Corrie ten Boom

## What's up?

Ever wonder what God is doing in your life, or what — if anything — he's accomplishing through you? You aren't alone! Many people in the Bible surely felt the same way, from Joseph as a prisoner in Egypt to Mary as a young, unwed expectant mother.

Answers may come in time ... or may need to wait until we get to heaven. Meanwhile, like missionary Elisabeth Elliot, we can take comfort in this truth: "God is God. Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience." Elliot proclaimed, "I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to."

## Things to share with you grandchildren

If you are with your grandchildren this summer perhaps you will have a chance to share some of these things with them.

10 Character Building Thoughts for Children  
By Leah Davies, M.Ed.

1. How I look is not as important as how I act.
2. I treat others the way I want them to treat me.
3. I am a good sport; I follow the rules, take turns and play fair.
4. It is okay to laugh at funny things, but not to laugh at others.
5. I do not gossip; if I cannot say anything helpful, I do not say anything at all.
6. When I am sad, I help myself feel better by thinking of things that are good in my life.
7. In order to have friends, I must act in a kind way.
8. I believe that I am someone who can do important things.
9. What I say and how I say it tells others the kind of person I am.
10. I appreciate my family, my teachers, and my school.

And some thoughts from The Power of Positive thinking:

"The day is what you make it! So why not make it a great one?" ~ Steve Schulte

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Being miserable is a habit; being happy is a habit; and the choice is yours."

~ Tom Hopkins

"You cannot tailor-make the situations in life but you can tailor-make the attitudes to fit those situations." ~ Zig Ziglar

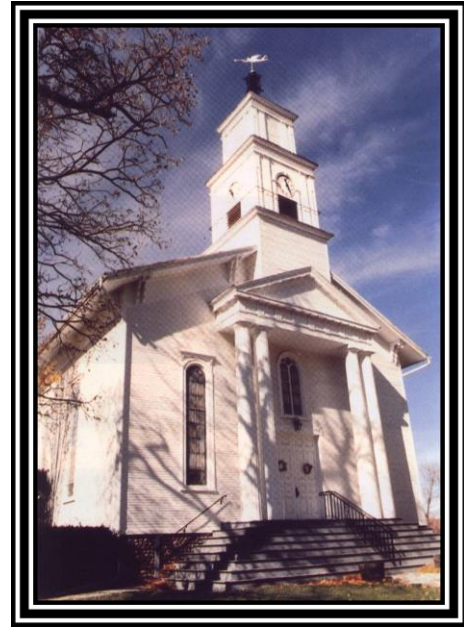
And finally all these are summed up in Psalm 118.24: "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

(And you might notice it's good advice for adults too!)





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