



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

Website:

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

E-mail: 1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com

July/August 2024

✽ **Our Sunday worship service begins at 10:00 a.m.** ✽

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Reverend Sue Walters

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Office Hours:

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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✦ **From the Pastor** ✦

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment, the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."

Matthew 27:50-51

Have you ever wondered what the tearing of the Temple curtain meant? To understand, we must look at the layout of the Temple. Behind the curtain was the Holy of Holies. It was the abode of God, and the only one allowed into that chamber was the ritually cleansed High Priest, who brought sacrifices to atone for the sin of the people. No other person was ever allowed to part the curtain and enter that sacred space.



Until.....there was no more curtain. By the tearing of the curtain, there was no longer any division between God and humanity. There was no longer a boundary there, that had been caused by human sin. With the death of Christ on the cross, humanity had clear access to our God. Our sins had been forgiven. Death was conquered. There was no longer any distance between ourselves and God. The bridge had been crossed, the boundary torn down. We could enter God's presence without fear.

In the last several weeks, I have had the honor of commending four people to their God: my cousin, Charlie Blake, Wilma Spike, Bob Sickmond and Rich Townsend. Before the end of the week, I will also commend Joanne Salmon to that same eternal space. I can do this without any reservation, because I know there is no longer anything separating us from God.

The sins of each of these persons (and ours) were nailed to the cross. We bear them no more. What a joy that is!

But, you say, it is not a joy. To commend these people to God means they have ended their earthly journeys. They no longer share this space with us. We miss them! Of course you do, and you will. That is the essence of loving someone. You want them with you; you want to continue to share your life with them. But, there is never any guarantee how long we will have anyone we love. Those of you that attended Rich's service remember the gentleman from the Masons who spoke about sharing the all-too-brief life of Rich's first daughter. Time together carries no promises. We can only take what we have, and be grateful for it. Grateful. More than grateful.

Blessings to all,

Sue

✦ Church News & Updates ✦

● **Richard S. Townsend:** Our Beloved, Richard Saville Townsend of Palmyra, aged 76, passed away peacefully on June 9th, 2024. He is survived by his love, Valorie W. Young, son Adam Stephens (Megan) Townsend, daughters Marta Elizabeth (Grant) Edgeworth, Alicia Marie (Drew) Smith and Casie Rose Whitney, son Taylor Whitney (Krista). Grandchildren; Lucas, Ari Marie, Ali, Stephens, Morgan, Vander, Juniper and Baby Smith.



A memorial service to celebrate his life was held Sunday, June 23rd, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., at the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield, 10 South Ave, Bloomfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wilmot Cancer Center, the First Congregational Church of E. Bloomfield and The Richmond Fire Department. To share a memory or a condolence, please visit: www.doughertyfuneralhomes.com



- **July Communion Service:** July's communion, normally scheduled for the second Sunday of the month, will be presented by Pastor Sue on **Sunday, July 7th**. All are welcome to partake and it is a gluten-free service.
- **Pastor Vacation:** : Pastor Sue will be on vacation from July 10-17. Our speaker for Sunday, July 14th, is Mr. Todd Bernhardt, the director of Family Promise.
- **Rochester Red Wings:** The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a church night out at a Rochester Red Wings baseball game on **Friday, July 26th**. The game will start at 6:45 p.m. and there will be fireworks after the game. All are invited and tickets are still available.
- **Chicken BBQ:** We are hosting a BBQ from Gale-Wyn Catering on **Saturday, July 20th**. It will start at **11:00 a.m.** and we will sell BBQ chicken dinners with all the fixings (macaroni salad or coleslaw and salted potatoes) until **4:00 p.m.** (or until sold out). The sale venue will be in the parking lot of Runnings (3191 County Road 10, Canandaigua), which is off of Eastern Boulevard.
- **Men's Breakfast Date and Time (CHANGE):** The men's breakfast meeting time has reverted back to the last Sunday of the month. They will meet at 7:45 a.m. at Brady J's restaurant here in Bloomfield (at 24 Maple Avenue). Please note these gatherings are not just for members of the church; all are invited.
- **Choir Practice:** The choir is on its regularly scheduled summer hiatus; they will not meet for rehearsal every Wednesday evening. However, they will continue meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. to rehearse for Sunday worship. They will re-start Wednesday rehearsals the first Wednesday after Labor Day in September (September 4th). As always, they are looking for singers and all are welcome.

✦ Birthdays ✦

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



July	August
7 - Nick Glamack	9 - Diane Sickmond
15 - Chris Bartos	

✦ Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly) ✦

- **Special Offering:** An extra offering plate is passed on the first Sunday of every month. This special offering supports church outreach to the local community and local missions and is kept in the Benevolence Fund for future distributions. The offering basket will be available at our live service. For this period, the special offerings will be on **Sunday, July 7th**, and **Sunday, August 4th**. 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 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 church council is on summer hiatus for July and August. Council meetings will resume the first Sunday in September (September 1st).

- **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Monday of every month at **Brady J's** restaurant (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield) at **9:00 a.m.** All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the breakfasts will be on **Monday, July 1st**, and **Monday, August 5th**.

- **Choir Practice:** The choir is on summer hiatus and will not meet on Wednesdays until the first Wednesday after Labor Day in September (September 4th). However, they will continue to meet at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday for rehearsal.

- **Men's Breakfast (CHANGED):** The men meet the last Sunday of every month at **Brady J's** restaurant (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield) at **7:45 a.m.** All interested men are invited; being a member of the church isn't a requirement. For this period, the men will meet on **Sunday, July 28th**, and **Sunday, August 25th**.

✦ July and August Specific Calendar Events ✦

- **Monday, July 1 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Thursday, July 4:** Independence Day
- **Thursday, July 18 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Family Across the Street* by Nicole Trope.

Amazon synopsis:

Everybody wants to live on Hogarth Street, the pretty, tree-lined avenue with its white houses. The new family, The Wests, are a perfect fit. Katherine and Josh seem so in love and their gorgeous five-year-old twins race screeching around their beautiful emerald-green lawn.

But soon people start to notice: why don't they join backyard barbecues? Why do they brush away offers to babysit? Why, when you knock at the door, do they shut you out, rather than inviting you in?

Every family has secrets, and on the hottest day of the year, the truth is about to come out. As a tragedy unfolds behind closed doors, the dawn chorus is split by the wail of sirens. And one by one the families who tried so hard to welcome the Wests begin to realize: Hogarth Street will never be the same again.

- **Saturday, July 20 (11:00 a.m.):** Church-sponsored chicken BBQ at Runnings in Canandaigua. Sale starts at 11:00 a.m. and goes to 4:00 p.m. (or until sold out)
- **Sunday, July 28 (7:45 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Monday, August 5 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's

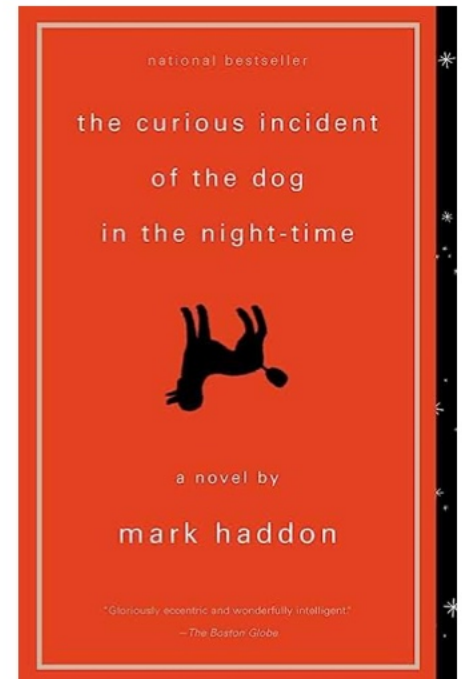


- **Thursday, August 15, 2023 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Hadden.

Amazon synopsis:

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.



- **Sunday, August 25 (7:45 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's

✦ **Picture Us** ✦

- **Pentecost:** The choir brought the spirit of Pentecost to the congregation both in dress and rousing song.



● **BBQ:** The church held the first of its two BBQ chicken fund raisers on May 26. Many thanks to the coordinator, Nick Glamack, and the rest of the volunteers. Our next BBQ (and our last for the year) will be Saturday, July 20th.



● **Bible Bingo:** The Christian Education committee hosted a Bible Bingo game. Members used words from the Bible to create bingo cards and then played several games. It was a fun time for all involved.

● **Choir Summer Break Ice Cream:** The choir celebrated the start of their summer break with an annual visit to Shark's Custard and Candy, Inc. As always, the choir members, and their families, enjoyed themselves.



● **Recognition Sunday :** We celebrated the accomplishments of several high school and college graduates: Aiden Begeal, Joseph Casale, Jonathan Mazzola, Abby Rockcastle, Caleb Rockcastle, Kyle Santi, Katelyn Stern, Ciera Stewart and Joseph E. Walters (pictured). Congratulations!

We also recognized the always-willing spirit of our sexton, Robin Stewart, and celebrated Alice McConnell for her many years of service to the church as treasurer, among many other duties. Both Robin and Alice are priceless and tireless “behind the scenes” workers who ensure events for the church occur with grace and competence. Their commitment is inspiring. Thank you!



✦ July/August Lectionary Readings ✦

	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Sun, Jul 7, 2024	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48	Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
Sun, Jul 14, 2024	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
Sun, Jul 21, 2024	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
Sun, Jul 28, 2024	2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14	2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-18	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21
Sun, Aug 4, 2024	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
Sun, Aug 11, 2024	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
Sun, Aug 18, 2024	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
Sun, Aug 25, 2024	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

First* OT readings, read semi-continuously, follow major stories/themes, beginning in Year A with Genesis and ending in Year C with the later prophets. *Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.*

* "Alternate First" OT readings follow the complementary historical tradition of thematically pairing the OT reading



✦ Miscellaneous ✦

- **Pastor Office Hours:** Pastor Sue has open door office hours every Thursday. She leads morning prayer from her office beginning at 9:00 a.m. which is streamed live on the church's Facebook page. Pastor Sue will remain in her office until 1:00 p.m. and, as always, drop-ins for a cup of coffee or tea are welcome. She is also available at other times by appointment; please call (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.
- **Worship Services:** For those who cannot attend the in-person service, we continue to record and post portions of the worship service on our Facebook page. Please note the posts are audio only (similar to a podcast) and we are recording only the scripture readings and the sermon (and sometimes the song offering from the choir). 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, please keep the food cupboard's needs in your minds and hearts. We collect/deliver for the cupboard on a monthly basis, however, donations are welcome at any time.



First Congregational Church
of East Bloomfield
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