



## Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

Website: [www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org)  
E-mail: [1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com](mailto:1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com)

**November/December 2022**

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

### **CHURCH STAFF**

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Sue Walters  
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#### **Office Hours:**

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#### **Choir Director:**

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[Bethyn.Boni@gmail.com](mailto:Bethyn.Boni@gmail.com)

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*God of unfailing light, in your realm of glory the poor are blessed, the hungry filled, and every tear is wiped away. Strengthened by this vision, may we follow in the way of holiness that your Son made known in life and death. Amen.*

## ✦ From the Pastor ✦

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6 KJV*



Now, wait a minute, you might be thinking. It is barely November, why is she quoting a Christmas scripture? The answer is twofold. First, this is my all-time favorite scripture. Secondly, it describes Jesus...who is more than just the reason for the season. There are at least two other days that we will celebrate before we hear this scripture read. The first is All Saint's Day. Traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in November, it recognizes those who have gone on before us. If it were not for the child described in Isaiah, there would be no place for these saints to go. Heaven would still exist, but human beings would have no way to enter it. We would be dead in our sins. There would be no redemption. There would be no one who died so our sins would be forgiven. There would be no hope of heaven.

This child made entrance to heaven possible.

The second is Thanksgiving. While this is a not necessarily a sacred day, certainly we who profess the Christian faith look at it as a holy day. It is the day we give thanks for all things: the very air we breathe, our surroundings, our families and their safety, our friends, our church family, our God and His Son Jesus Christ. Yes, that child also fits into Thanksgiving. We would not see God's love as clearly if it were not for the Incarnation: the birth of God's son as a human being into our human world. God tried to show us His love in other ways: through Abraham, Moses, the prophets. Human beings did not heed the words and the actions of any of these people. In fact human beings actually killed some of them, so resistant were they to the message being proclaimed. It was after all these events that God sent His Son, so we could not refuse His message of love. Yes, there are some people who still do ignore it, slam the door on it, and run away from it. Those are the people who need to hear about the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The season matters not, the message matters most.

We are about to enter the most commercialized season of the year. When you read this, there will probably already be Christmas decorations up in various places. There will certainly be aisles and aisles of Christmas gifts waiting to be purchased. Christmas commercials will already be airing. Please do not succumb to these pressures. This again is where the child comes into play. Here he is the reason not just for the season, but the framework for all of life.

Blessings,

*Sue*

## ✦ Prayer Requests ✦

As we go through the next couple of months, please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers: Nick \* Bev \* Patty \* Nancy & Carl \* Richard & Bessie \* Donna \* Dean & Joanne \* Wilma \* Phyllis & Jim \* Scott \* Shannon \* Autumn \* Jay \* Jacquie \* Nancy & Rich \* Ann \* Chris \* Connor B \* Bonnie

## ✦ Birthdays ✦

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



### **November**

29 Noah Barton's

### **December**

13 Jacquie Walters

## ✦ Church News & Updates ✦

### ● **In Memorium: Larry E. Messner**



Larry E. Messner, 76, of Bloomfield, NY passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Monday, September 5, 2022.

Larry was a devout son, remarkable father and dedicated grandfather; there is nothing he wouldn't do for his family. He enjoyed golfing, sailing, spending time at his lake house on beautiful Peck Lake as well as his Therapy Dog work. He was actively involved in community service which included Meals on Wheels, was a past-president of Bloomfield Youth Soccer and served many years as a trustee and the head deacon of his church.

He was a very proud father and took great pride in the accomplishments of his sons. He absolutely cherished time with his grandchildren and adored watching them play soccer and compete in horseback riding. He was so grateful to his wife Donna for her patience and support during his illness and would regularly tell people how fortunate he was to have her. He will be missed by his family and his faithful companion and yellow Labrador, "Misty".

## ● In Memorium: Albert J. Gliewe

Albert J. Gliewe, 61, of Canandaigua, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, September 25, 2022, of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, brought on by Covid-19.

A long-time member of the church, Albert formerly worked at F.F. Thompson Hospital, Crest Manor, Regal Cinema and Hampton Inn & Suites. He created many life-long friends along the way. After he retired, Albert continued to enjoy his trips and outings with his beloved wife, Patricia.

His favorite hobbies included photography, nature walks, tinkering with his electronic devices and doting on their cats, Smokey and Tigger. He will be missed.



## ● Roof Repair (Finished!)

The new roof involved a complete tear-off of the old roof to include having all layers of the clock tower replaced (the top dome was also silver coated). In addition, the roofing company, Cameron Roofing, placed a new roof on our storage shed roof - complimentary! A quarter of the cost was paid with the money from the NY Landmarks Conservancy's Sacred Sites Grant Program with another quarter of the funding from donations from the church's members and friends. The remainder of our payment came from the church's Endowment fund. The work was done quickly and very professionally with the head of trustees, Nick Glamack, stating, "We were very pleased with Cameron Roofing!"

## ● Handicap Lot

The upper parking lot (off of Routes 5 & 20) that contains our handicapped parking was expanded and new curbs were added. The majority of this project was funded by a memorial gift from Norma Glamack's estate; the reminder came from the church's Memorial Gifts fund. Once the paving was done by the construction company, the curbs were installed by Nick Glamack, Bob Kelly and Judd Rockcastle, an arduous task for which we are very grateful. This labor intensive job also included trimming the overgrown bushes that lined the south wall of the church. The church extends its deepest gratitude to the men who dedicated their afternoon.

## ● Stewardship Campaign

This is the time of year that the trustees plan our church finances for the next year. Part of the process is our stewardship campaign to ask members for support. Pledge cards have been mailed to church members and friends of the church. If you received a pledge request, please keep these words in mind: *"It's not always about how much we have but how we use what we have to serve God. As Christian stewards, we are expected to give back to the Lord our time, money and talent in order to expand His work."* Please prayerfully reflect on how you can give back to God a portion of what you have received.

Please have any pledges to the church by November 13, so the trustees can finalize the 2023 budget. If you have not received a letter from the church trustees and wish to contribute to the mission and outreach of the church, please contact the church at (585) 657-7755 to make arrangements.

- **All Saints Day (Observed Sunday, November 6)**

We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 6th, with a special service. All Saints Day is a day to honoring departed members of the Church and local congregations. To personalize the service, please bring photos of your loved ones who have gone on to their heavenly home. If you do not have a photo of your loved one(s), please bring a candle that can be lit at the beginning of the service.

- **Preparing for Advent and Christmas**

The church will have a potluck after the service on Sunday, November 20th. After the dinner, we will decorate the church with Advent and Christmas decorations. Please come join us in food and fellowship as well as in the preparation of the church for the Christmas season.

- **Christmas Eve Service**

There will be a Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

- **Worship Services**

Remember, for those who cannot attend the in-person service, we continue to tape and post Sunday's service that afternoon 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. 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/>).

- **Thursday Prayer Sessions**

Pastor Sue continues to lead a weekly prayer session. These will be live-streamed on our Facebook page on Thursdays at 9:00 am. The prayer service can be viewed live on our Facebook page or accessed at your leisure by going to our page's Video section.

- **Food Cupboard**

As a continuing reminder, the food cupboard's most needed items are toilet paper, hand soap, detergent, dish soap and hearty soups. Please buy extra items on your next shopping trip and leave it in the box in the church entryway. Donations are welcome at any time.

*God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvelous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

## ✦ Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly) ✦

- **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Sunday of every month at **Brady Js** restaurant (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **November 6th** and **December 4th**.

- **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. For this period, the offerings are on Sunday, **November 6th** and **December 4th**. 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 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 meets the first Sunday of each month after regular church services. For this time, council meetings are **November 6th** and **December 4th**.

- **Choir Practice:** The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. In addition, the choir meets on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. for rehearsal. As always, they are looking for singers and all are welcome.

- **Men's Breakfast:** The men meet the last Sunday of every month at **Brady Js** restaurant (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield) at 8 a.m. All interested men are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **November 27th** only.

## ✦ November & December Specific Calendar Events ✦

- **Tuesday, November 1:** All Saints Day
- **Sunday, November 6:** All Saints Day (observed)
- **Sunday, November 6 (8 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady Js
- **Sunday, November 6:** Daylight Saving Time ends (set your clocks back 1 hour)
- **Friday, November 11:** Veterans Day



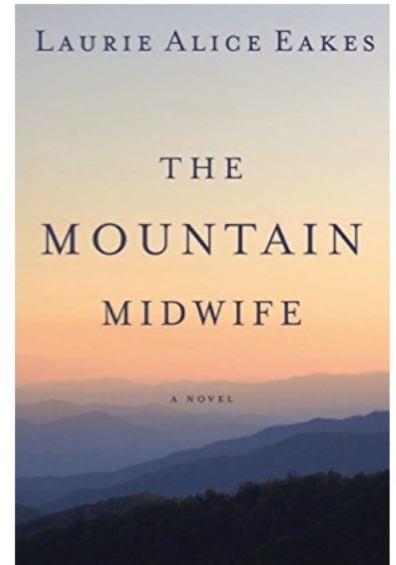
- **Thursday, November 17, (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Mountain Midwife* by Laurie Alice Eakes.

**Amazon synopsis**

Ashley Tolliver has tended the women of her small Appalachian community for years. As their midwife, she thinks she has seen it all. Until a young woman gives birth at Ashley's home and is abducted when Ashley tries to take the dangerously bleeding mother to the nearest hospital. Now Ashley is on a mission to find the woman and her newborn baby before it's too late.

Hunter McDermott is on a quest to track down his birth mother. After receiving more media attention than he could ever want for being in the right place at the right time, he receives a mysterious call from a woman claiming to be his mother. Hunter seeks out the aid of the local midwife in the mountain town where the call originated. He believes she is the only person who can help him discover his family background.

Ashley isn't prepared for Hunter's entrance into her world or how he affects her heart and her future. He reignites dreams of starting her own family—dreams she cast aside in favor of earning her medical degree and helping her community. But is it commitment to her calling or fear of the unknown that keeps her feet firmly planted in the Appalachian soil? Or is it something else—fear of her growing feelings for Hunter—that makes her hesitant to explore the world beyond the mountains?



- **Thursday, November 24:** Thanksgiving Day



- **Sunday, November 27:** First Sunday in Advent
- **Sunday, November 27 (8 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady Js
- **Sunday, December 4:** Second Sunday in Advent
- **Sunday, December 4 (8 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Sunday, December 11:** Third Sunday in Advent

- **Thursday, December 15 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the book *A Spark of Light* by Jodie Picoult.

**Amazon synopsis:**

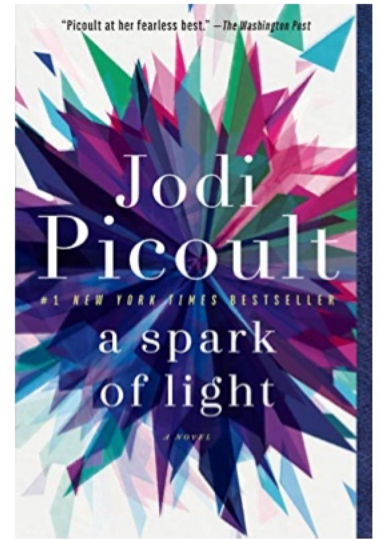
The warm fall day starts like any other at the Center—a women's reproductive health services clinic—its staff offering care to anyone who passes through its doors. Then, in late morning, a desperate and distraught gunman bursts in and opens fire, taking all inside hostage.

After rushing to the scene, Hugh McElroy, a police hostage negotiator, sets up a perimeter and begins making a plan to communicate with the gunman. As his phone vibrates with incoming text messages he glances at it and, to his horror, finds out that his fifteen-year-old daughter, Wren, is inside the clinic.

But Wren is not alone. She will share the next and tensest few hours of her young life with a cast of unforgettable characters: A nurse who calms her own panic in order to save the life of a wounded woman. A doctor who does his work not in spite of his faith but because of it, and who will find that faith tested as never before. A pro-life protester, disguised as a patient, who now stands in the crosshairs of the same rage she herself has felt. A young woman who has come to terminate her pregnancy. And the disturbed individual himself, vowing to be heard.

Told in a daring and enthralling narrative structure that counts backward through the hours of the standoff, this is a story that traces its way back to what brought each of these very different individuals to the same place on this fateful day.

One of the most fearless writers of our time, Jodie Picoult tackles a complicated issue in this gripping and nuanced novel. How do we balance the rights of pregnant women with the rights of the unborn they carry? What does it mean to be a good parent? *A Spark of Light* will inspire debate, conversation . . . and, hopefully, understanding.



- **Sunday, December 18:** Fourth Sunday in Advent
- **Saturday, December 24:** Christmas Eve.
- **Sunday, December 25:** Christmas Day



- **Saturday, December 31:** New Year's Eve



## ✦ Miscellaneous ✦

### ● **Pastor Office Hours**

Pastor Sue has open door office hours every Thursday. She leads morning prayer from the office beginning at 9:00 a.m. (which is streamed live on the church's Facebook page) and will remain in the office until 1:00 p.m. As always, drop-ins for a cup of coffee or tea are welcome. In addition, Sue is also available at other times by appointment; please call her on her cellphone at (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](mailto: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](mailto:beehive270@gmail.com). Please ensure you get the written details of the event to Alice 4 weeks before the date of the event.

## ✦ Picture Us ✦

### ● **From Puppets to Pew**

The puppets shared one of their favorite songs, "Inside Out" where we heard the message that God knows who we are, through and through, knows what we're all about, both inside and outside out, and still loves us entirely, for ever and ever.



● **Rally Day**

The Christian Education committee hosted this year's Rally Day celebrations. First, we started with an in-service celebration of one coming together to be many in the service of the Lord. After the service, we had a delicious potluck which was followed by family games. The event was a lot of fun and we thank Mona Eddy, Phyllis Rehtin and Valerie Young for their hard work. A job well done!



✦ Lectionary Readings for November & December ✦

	<b>First* reading and Psalm</b>	<b>Alternate* First reading and Psalm</b>	<b>Second reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
November 6, 2022 <i>(All Saints Day observed)</i>	Haggai 1:15b-2:9  Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 <b>or</b> <i>Psalm 98</i>	Job 19:23-27a  Psalm 17:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
November 13, 2022	Isaiah 65:17-25  Isaiah 12 **	Malachi 4:1-2a  Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
November 20, 2022	Jeremiah 23:1-6  Luke 1:68-79 **	Jeremiah 23:1-6  Psalm 46	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43
November 27, 2022 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i>	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
December 4, 2022 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
December 11, 2022 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10 <b>or</b> <i>Luke 1:46b-55</i>	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
December 18, 2022 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i>	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24 & 25, 2022 <i>Christmas Eve &amp; Christmas Day</i>	Isaiah 9:2-7 <b>and</b> Isaiah 62:6-12 <b>and</b> Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 96 <b>and</b> Psalm 97 <b>and</b> Psalm 98	Titus 2:11-14 <b>and</b> Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20) <b>and</b> Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
* "Alternate First" OT readings follow the complementary historical tradition of thematically pairing the OT reading with the Gospel reading. <i>Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.</i>				

O Holy One,  
*heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds  
and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem.  
Through the telling of the Christmas story,  
let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal  
in that same child,  
that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host  
in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

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