



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

Website:

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

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September/October 2023

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

CHURCH STAFF

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✦ **From the Pastor** ✦

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God."
Leviticus 23:22

It's fall! I know that assertion may make some of you grumble. There are many people who prefer the warmth and even humidity of the summer. I am not one of them. The cool, crisp air of the fall invigorates me. I seem to be able to get much more accomplished when I am surrounded by the rusts and golds of the season, and the scent of crisp fall leaves. Add cinnamon to that blend, and I am as happy as can be.



The fall also signals the start of a new school year for many. Kids are getting ready for the return to school, teachers are setting up their classrooms and preparing lessons, and young adults are heading off to college, or entering the work force. To my mind, fall provides an abundance of opportunity for learning and growth. It is because of these possibilities that I chose this particular scripture for this column.

Fall also signals the harvest where that which has been planted can be reaped. For the primarily agrarian society of Biblical times, what was harvested at this time of year had to last through until the next year. Every little bit was precious.

This common knowledge is what made God's instructions to leave some in the field so astounding. All the proceeds of the harvest were needed to ensure survival over the winter. It was unheard of to leave anything behind. And, to leave something behind for a FOREIGNER? Let him care for himself! We don't have anything to spare! Perhaps we could leave some for the poor....that might be doable. But for someone who isn't like us? Who isn't even of our same race? Who may not even believe in God? Why would we do that?

The answer is obvious: because that is God's instruction. God not only provides for the harvesters, but for those who have not done the planting. God provides for ALL, even those who do not yet know Him. Perhaps by making those provisions for the foreigner, that person may come to understand it is God's desire for them to see Him as the God of all people, and so come to believe in Him. Perhaps the poor will see the leavings in the field, and so find another meal they might not have had, and praise God for it. God is giving the harvesters the instructions to leave some behind, so ALL may be fed.

We do not routinely have the poor and the foreigner following us as we harvest our fields. But, the desire to provide for ALL those who have needs still remains in God's heart. ALL are children of God, regardless of where they were born or what their economic status is. How can we, as God's followers, provide for them?

We can start by understanding it is God's instructions that we do this. When we open our hearts to ALL, we are acting on behalf of God. When we have open hearts, we can see the opportunities that are out there to feed those who do not have enough. We can see where we are being called to be disciples in this modern world.

The harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few. Will you share your harvest?

Blessings,
Sue

**** God, you are the power of liberation, calling your servant Moses to lead your people into freedom, and giving him the wisdom to proclaim your holy law. Be our Passover from the land of injustice, be the light that leads us to the perfect rule of love, that we may be citizens of your unfettered reign; we ask this through Jesus Christ, the pioneer of our salvation. Amen.. ****

✦ Birthdays ✦

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



September	October
9 - Mary Martin	5 Rich Walters
18 - Alice McConnell	6 Lynn Tyler
27 - Donna Messner	14 Phyllis Rehtin
	26 Jim Rehtin
	30 Bruce Walters

✦ Church News & Updates ✦

● **Rally Day!** On Sunday, September 10th, Christian Education will host Rally Day. This is a time where we come back together to kick-start the fall. Throughout the summer, many members and friends have been away on vacation and some of our ministries have been on pause or only with limited gatherings. Rally Day is a great way to get us excited for everything to start back up again! The Christian Ed Committee will provide a light lunch for all, accompanied by a Bible Scavenger Hunt through the Bible. The Committee is also asking for a monetary donation to aid in supporting the weekend backpack program at the school which provides students with non-perishable food to take home at the end of each week.

● **Women's Breakfast Date and Time Change:** We begin a 3 month trial of holding the women's breakfast on the first Monday of the month [versus the first Sunday]. We will still meet at Brady J's restaurant at 9:00 a.m. The trial will start on **Monday, September 4th** and will continue through **Monday, November 6th**. At the end of the trial, we will review how this is working for everyone at that time. Please come join us; all women are welcome, not just church members and friends of the church. If you have questions, please contact Phyllis Rehtin at rehtin@rochester.rr.com or 657-7018.

● **Men's Breakfast Time Change:** Along the same note, the time for the men's breakfast is changed to **7:45 a.m.** on the last Sunday of every month. Hopefully, this will provide more time to share a relaxed breakfast and fellowship.

● **Halloween Potluck and Board Games!** On Sunday, October 29th, Christian Education is sponsoring a potluck and games afternoon. Please bring a dish to pass (mmm, food!) and

a board game! Prepare to engage in fellowship (mmm, food!) and then take part in the always entertaining and exciting challenges that await!

- **From the Trustees:** The trustees work hard to keep the church in tip-top condition. First, they arranged to have the carpets cleaned (including that big stain from the roof leak). In addition, the bushes and hedges were trimmed back from the building to make room for the stone mason repair of the foundation (this will be done within the next few months; stay tuned for updates).

- **Annual Stewardship Campaign:** The trustees will begin the work of creating the church budget for 2024 this period. Please keep your eye on the mail for literature for you to pledge to support the mission and outreach of the church.

- **Free Friday Suppers Resume:** The church will host a free dinner on the last Friday of the month. For this period, the dates are **Friday, September 29th** and **Friday, October 27th**. We will be serving from 5 - 6:30 p.m. The meal is free and open to all in the community, so come and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

God of all who wander in the wilderness, you go before us as beacon and guide. Lead us through all danger, sustain us through all desolation, and bring us home to the land you have prepared for us. Amen..

✦ Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly) ✦

- **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 women will meet on **Monday, September 4th**, and **Monday, October 2nd**.

- **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, September 3rd**, and **Sunday, October 1st**. 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 meets the first Sunday of each month after regular church services. For this period, meetings are on **Sunday, September 3rd**, and **Sunday, October 1st**.

● **Choir Practice:** The choir returns from summer hiatus on **Wednesday, September 6th**, and then rehearses every Wednesday evening 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 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, September 4th**, and **Sunday, October 29th**.

✦ September and October Specific Calendar Events ✦

● **Sunday, September 3 (after the worship service):** Council meeting

● **Monday, September 4 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's

● **Monday, September 4:** Labor Day

● **Sunday, September 10:** Rally Day

● **Monday, September 11:** Patriot Day (9/11 Remembrance)

● **Friday, September 15:** National POW/MIA Recognition Day

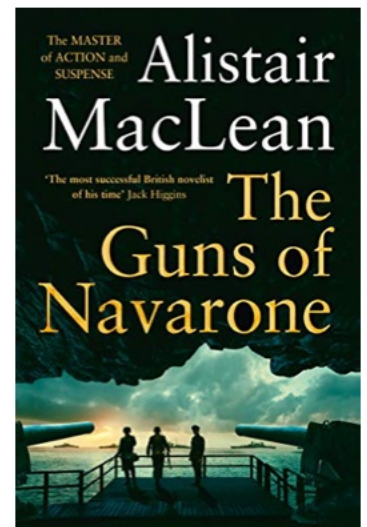
● **Sunday, September 17:** Constitution Day & Citizenship Day

● **Thursday, September 21, (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Guns of Navarone* by Alistair MacLean.

Amazon synopsis:

The guns of Navarone, huge and catastrophically accurate, embedded atop an impregnable iron fortress in the Mediterranean Sea.

Twelve hundred British soldiers trapped on a nearby island, with no hope of rescue from Allied ships, waiting to die.



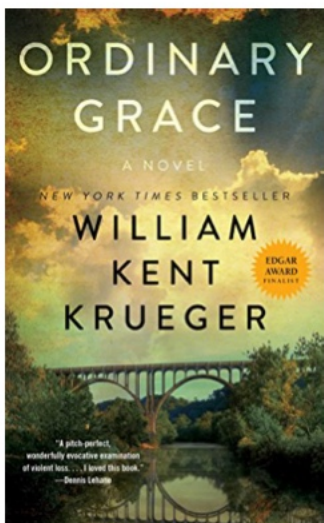
Keith Mallory, world-famous mountaineer, skilled saboteur. His mission: to lead a small team of misfits and silence the guns forever.

Reaching the island and scaling the sheer cliffs undetected will be hard enough; defeating the German forces and destroying the massive guns all but impossible. And as for getting out alive when there may be a traitor in the team...

- **Sunday, September 24 (7:45 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's.
- **Friday, September 29th (5 - 6:30 p.m.):** Free Friday Supper
- **Sunday, October 1:** World Communion Sunday. Every year on the first Sunday in October, Christians around the globe celebrate World Communion Sunday. On this day, people draw faith and inspiration from seeing that they are part of a community that boasts millions of believers and worshippers.
- **Sunday, October 1 (after the worship service):** Council meeting
- **Monday, October 2 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's.
- **Monday, October 9:** Columbus Day
- **Thursday, October 19 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the book *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger.

Amazon synopsis:

"That was it. That was all of it. A grace so ordinary there was no reason at all to remember it. Yet I have never across the forty years since it was spoken forgotten a single word."



New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family—which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery,

and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.

Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

- **Friday, Friday, October 27th** (5 - 6:30 p.m.): Free Friday Supper
- **Sunday, October 29 (7:45 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's.
- **Sunday, October 29 (after the worship service):** Halloween potluck w/games

**** Holy God, you love justice and hate oppression; you call us to righteousness and not to exploitation. Give us generous and loving hearts, and eyes to see the splendor of your reign, that we may live in truth and honor, and praise you for the transformation of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ****

✦ Picture Us ✦

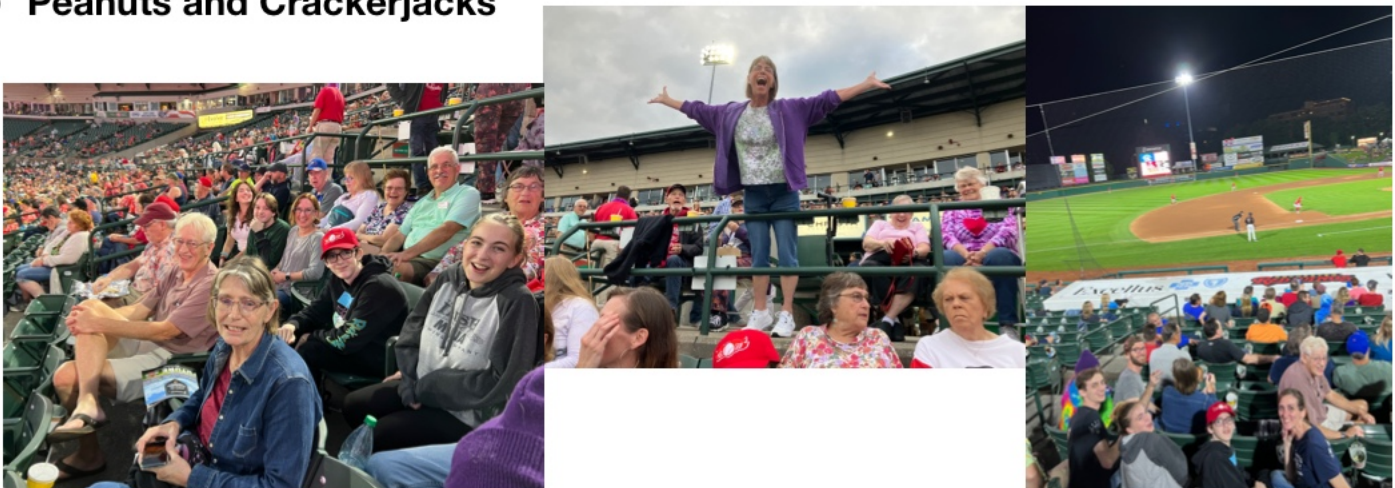
- **Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner**

Our second (and last) fundraiser of the year was another chicken BBQ sale. Thanks to Gale-Wyn's excellent chicken and reputation, we sold out again. What a great time was had! We got a chance to share fellowship and raise money to support our church's mission.



Our thanks to all those who continue to volunteer to help sell chicken. And, of course, many thanks to the community that continues to support us.

- **Peanuts and Crackerjacks**



The church sponsored another fun-filled night at Frontier Field, home of our very own Rochester Red Wings. It was a wonderful night of baseball, food, laughs and fireworks. And the Red Wings won! We had a lot of fun; if you didn't go, please think about joining us next year.

Thanks to the Christian Ed committee for another well-organized night.

✦ 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.

*Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens
and healed our spirits.*

*We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing,
those in need within the church and the world.*

*Amen. ****

✦ Lectionary Readings for September & October ✦

	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
September 3, 2023	Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
September 10, 2023	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
September 14, 2023	Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 98:1-5 <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38</i>		1 Corinthians 1:18-24	John 3:13-17
September 17, 2023	Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 <i>or</i> <i>Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21</i>	Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
September 24, 2023	Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
October 1, 2023	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32
October 8, 2023	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
October 9, 2023	Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm 65		2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Luke 17:11-19
October 15, 2023	Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
October 22, 2023	Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99	Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
October 29, 2023	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46

* "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 with the Gospel reading. *Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of it.*

We praise your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. We offer these prayers of love on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors, on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

First Congregational Church
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