



## 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)

**September/October 2024**

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

### CHURCH STAFF

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### ✦ From the Pastor ✦

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love one another."*  
*John 15:16-17*



It is September! It's time for the first crisp days, the beginning of the chill in the air, sweater weather. It is also time for my favorite fruit: apples. There is a cider mill in Castile, NY. It is only open in the fall. It sells homemade sweet cider, cider donuts and apples! It also has a machine that my father designed and built. This machine sorts the

apples so they are uniform size. It washes them so they are clean. They then land at the end of the machine, where they can be gathered into baskets and sold. I wait every year to watch my father's machine at work. Each year, when I get there I ask, "Is it still working?" And the answer is always yes. My father's legacy endures.

What does this have to do with our scripture? Jesus sends his disciples to bear fruit. We have to care for the fruit from its beginning to its harvest. We might plant seeds or saplings, tend to them, prune them as they grow, then harvest the fruit. My father's machine is used at the end of the process. It takes that fruit that has been lovingly tended and prepares it for market. It presents the end product.

But we would not have an end product if we didn't have a beginning. Everything has a beginning, and an ending. The beginning, the planting of the seed, marks the beginning of what Jesus calls us to do. Then there is the tending, the pruning, the harvesting. How do we do these things? Verse 17 above spells it out: we love one another. We love those who are easy to love, and those who are difficult. Jesus didn't differentiate; neither can we. Think about someone you know who may not be easy to love. Maybe it is someone who is very vocal in expressing ideas you don't agree with. Sometimes the most vocal people are the most insecure. They figure if no one is going to love them anyway, they might as well make sure they don't. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Maybe instead of walking away (which is what they expect) you stay. When they wonder why you stayed, you just smile. You have planted the seed of love.

That is just one example. There are countless others. The seed of love is the important thing.

May you enjoy the onset of the brisk temperatures, and your first apple. Then, look at the seed inside that apple and think how you could plant it.

Blessings,

*Sue*

## ✦ Upcoming Events ✦

● **Rally Day:** Rally Day is when we celebrate ourselves as a congregation and kick-start the fall and the return from summer. These past summer months, many of our members and friends have been away on vacation, some of our ministries have been on pause or only with limited gatherings, and so Rally Day is a great way to get us excited for everything starting back up again! Therefore, the Christian Education committee is inviting all church

members and friends to a Rally Day celebration on **Sunday, Sep 22nd**. We will have a potluck luncheon after the worship service and play a game or two. So come join us for great food and fellowship.

- **Church Council:** Monthly council meetings resume in September (**September 8th**). In this first meeting, members will be discussing purchasing a new hymnal, copies of which are available for review in Fellowship Hall.

## ✦ Church News & Updates ✦

- **Chicken BBQ:** We held our second Chicken BBQ fundraiser in July and had a record turn out! We raised the highest amount of money to date for the church; money that will help our mission and community outreach. Our thanks to the community and to the volunteers, most especially Nick Glamack, who does an outstanding job of set up and coordination. See you all next year.

- **Let the Bells Ring!** Our church was proud to host two weddings in August. On August 3rd, Jo Anne Piehler married Joe Casale. Jo Anne is a sister to some of our members and always wanted to be married in our sanctuary. It was a beautiful service and the bride and groom looked amazing. Our congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple.

- **In Memorium:** Sandra L. Straub, age 65, passed away on August 11, 2024. She is survived by her son, John Straub; three siblings, William (Karen) Straub, Frederick Straub and Pat Straub; and several nieces and nephews.

Sandra was born in Bloomfield and was the daughter of William, Sr. and Carla (Metz) Straub. She loved horses and worked at Knolltop Farms in Bloomfield for many years, working as a horse groomer. Sandra was a talented artist who loved to draw.

A celebration of life was held Thursday, August 29, at the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield. Sandra will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

- **In Memorium:** H. Carl Stewart, Jr., age 84, passed away August 12, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Nancy (Robinson) Stewart; Kim (Mike) Gillem; many nephews including Chris (Robin) Stewart and Jay Stewart; many nieces including Kirstin (Gary) Ramsdell and Angela (Leonard) Barrett; several great nieces; several great nephews; sister-in-law, Judi Stewart; brother-in-law Richard (Bessie) Robinson; and many long-time friends including Michael Howe. He was predeceased by two brothers, Roger and Gary Stewart.





Carl was born in Canandaigua, raised in Bloomfield, and was the son of Harold and Lillian (Burrett) Stewart. He was a lifelong farmer with a love for tending to the earth. Carl worked for the E. Bloomfield Highway Department starting in high school and was also Highway Superintendent. He was a member of the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield, life member of the East Bloomfield Fire Department and was a 50+ year member of the Masonic Organization. He will be greatly missed.

● **Joint Service:** On August 18, our church joined with the East Bloomfield United Methodist Church for a combined service. Our choir was joined by some singers from the UMC to present the Gaither Music piece "Plenty of Room In the Family" to the joint congregation. After the service, we caught up with old friends and made new ones as we celebrated the occasion with an ice cream social.

● **Let the Bells Ring - Again!** On August 25th, church members Amy Walters-Green and Dale Webster were joined in holy matrimony. Amy invited the entire congregation to attend, along with other guests, and it was held during our morning worship service. Amy and Dale then provided a reception to the wedding guests in Fellowship Hall. It was a wonderful occasion! Our congratulations to our newlyweds.

### ✦ Birthdays ✦

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



#### September:

9 - Mary Martin  
18 - Alice McConnell  
27 - Donna Messner  
28 - Sue Walters

#### October:

5 - Rich Walters  
6 - Lynn Tyler  
14 - Phyllis Rehtin  
26 - Jim Rehtin  
30 - Bruce C. Walters

### ✦ 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 **September 1st**, and **October 6th**. 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.

- **Council Meeting:** The church council restarts its regularly monthly meetings. Normally, these meetings are the the first Sunday of the month. However, for September, the council meeting is **September 8th**; the October meeting will be the first Sunday, **October 6th**.

- **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 **September 2nd** (Labor Day) and **October 7th**.

- **Choir Practice:** The choir restarts weekly Wednesday rehearsals on **September 4th** at 7:30 p.m. For those who cannot make it Wednesday evenings, there is a short rehearsal at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays. 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 **September 29th** and **October 27th**.

### ✦ **September and October Specific Calendar Events** ✦

- **Monday, September 2 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Monday, September 2:** Labor Day
- **Sunday, September 8:** National Grandparents Day
- **Sunday, September 8:** The church council meets after the normal worship service
- **Wednesday, September 11:** Patriot Day
- **Thursday, September 19 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry.

### Amazon synopsis:

In the war-torn London of 1939, fourteen-year-old Hazel and five-year-old Flora are evacuated to a rural village to escape the horrors of the Second World War. Living with the kind Bridie Aberdeen and her teenage son, Harry, in a charming stone cottage along the River Thames, Hazel fills their days with walks and games to distract her young sister, including one that she creates for her sister and her sister alone—a fairy tale about a magical land, a secret place they can escape to that is all their own.

But the unthinkable happens when young Flora suddenly vanishes while playing near the banks of the river. Shattered, Hazel blames herself for her sister's disappearance, and she carries that guilt into adulthood as a private burden she feels she deserves.

Twenty years later, Hazel is in London, ready to move on from her job at a cozy rare bookstore to a career at Sotheby's. With a charming boyfriend and her elegantly timeworn Bloomsbury flat, Hazel's future seems determined. But her tidy life is turned upside down when she unwraps a package containing an illustrated book called *Whisperwood and the River of Stars*. Hazel never told a soul about the imaginary world she created just for Flora. Could this book hold the secrets to Flora's disappearance? Could it be a sign that her beloved sister is still alive after all these years?

As Hazel embarks on a feverish quest, revisiting long-dormant relationships and bravely opening wounds from her past, her career and future hang in the balance. An astonishing twist ultimately reveals the truth in this transporting and refreshingly original novel about the bond between sisters, the complications of conflicted love, and the enduring magic of storytelling.



- **Sunday, September 22:** Rally Day celebration with potluck luncheon after our normal worship service
- **Sunday, September 29 (7:45 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Sunday, October 6:** The church council meets after the normal worship service
- **Monday, October 7 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Monday, October 14:** Columbus Day
- **Thursday, October 17 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Echo Wife* by Sarah Gailey.



### Amazon synopsis:

*I'm embarrassed, still, by how long it took me to notice. Everything was right there in the open, right there in front of me, but it still took me so long to see the person I had married.*

*It took me so long to hate him.*

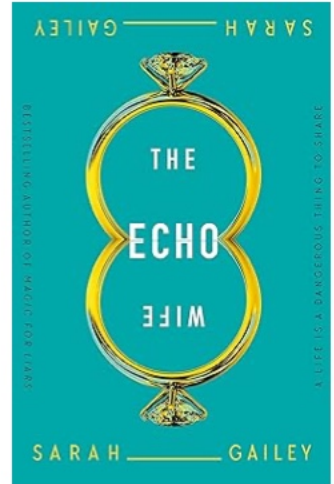
Martine is a genetically cloned replica made from Evelyn Caldwell's award-winning research. She's patient and gentle and obedient. She's everything Evelyn swore she'd never be.

And she's having an affair with Evelyn's husband.

Now, the cheating bastard is dead, and both Caldwell wives have a mess to clean up.

Good thing Evelyn Caldwell is used to getting her hands dirty.

- **Sunday, October 27 (7:45 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Thursday, October 31:** All Hallows Eve



### ✦ Picture Us ✦

● **New Church Members:** On August 11th, the church congregation welcomed eight new members into the church. We received Joan Chase, Bonnie Doles, Gloria Duffy, Amy Green, Doug Greene, Mary McClain, Rodney Tyler and Dale Webster into church membership. Welcome to the family, we are so pleased you have joined us!







● **Women's Fellowship Breakfast:** This is the women's breakfast in July; the biggest group ever! Eleven women attended and had a marvelous time. Although it was a full table, there's always room for more - they will welcome any that wish to attend. And just so you know - the cinnamon rolls at Brady J's are fabulous!







● **Choir Summer Pizza & Ice Cream Party:** The choir upheld their tradition of having a pre-summer pizza and ice cream party to celebrate the onset of summer. Much pizza and ice cream was eaten and the members enjoyed themselves. And pizza IS good with pineapple on it!



● **Take Me Out To the Ballgame:** Thirty people signed up to watch the Rochester Red Wings play the Iron Pigs. Everyone had a great time as hotdogs, ice cream, soda, popcorn and French fries were consumed in copious quantities. To top off the evening of fellowship, laughs and cheering, the Red Wings won the game! Then our night was topped off with a fabulous fireworks show. As always, this was a great way to get out and enjoy the things our community has to offer.



\*\*\* For the healing of the nations, O God, you raised up your Son on the wood of the cross and exalted him as the Lord of all creation. Grant that all who believe in him may have the gift of eternal life and share in the glory of your kingdom, where you live forever and ever. Amen.\*\*\*

## ✦ 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.

*\*\*\*O God, Wisdom of the universe,  
you bear the pain of your people.  
Grant us the gift of wisdom,  
that we may discern your way  
and live justly and graciously  
amid the struggles of this world. Amen.\*\*\**



## ✦ September/October Lectionary Reading ✦

|           | First* reading and Psalm   | Alternate* First reading and Psalm   | Second reading               | Gospel                   |
|-----------|--|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-Sep-24  | Song of Solomon 2:8-13<br>Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9                        | Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9<br>Psalm 15   | James 1:17-27                | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |
| 8-Sep-24  | Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23<br>Psalm 125                           | Isaiah 35:4-7a<br>Psalm 146  | James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 | Mark 7:24-37             |
| 14-Sep-24 | Numbers 21:4b-9<br>Psalm 98:1-5<br>or<br>Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38       |  | 1 Corinthians 1:18-24        | John 3:13-17             |
| 15-Sep-24 | Proverbs 1:20-33<br>Psalm 19<br>or<br>Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 – 8:1 | Isaiah 50:4-9a<br>Psalm 116:1-9  | James 3:1-12                 | Mark 8:27-38             |
| 22-Sep-24 | Proverbs 31:10-31<br>Psalm 1                                       | Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22<br><i>or</i><br><i>Jeremiah 11:18-20</i><br>Psalm 54 | James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a       | Mark 9:30-37             |
| 29-Sep-24 | Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22<br>Psalm 124                           | Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29<br>Psalm 19:7-14  | James 5:13-20                | Mark 9:38-50             |
| 6-Oct-24  | Job 1:1, 2:1-10<br>Psalm 26  | Genesis 2:18-24<br>Psalm 8   | Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12        | Mark 10:2-16             |
| 13-Oct-24 | Job 23:1-9, 16-17<br>Psalm 22:1-15                                 | Amos 5:6-7, 10-15<br>Psalm 90:12-17  | Hebrews 4:12-16              | Mark 10:17-31            |
| 14-Oct-24 | Joel 2:21-27<br>Psalm 126  |  | 1 Timothy 2:1-7              | Matthew 6:25-33          |
| 20-Oct-24 | Job 38:1-7, (34-41)<br>Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c                      | Isaiah 53:4-12<br>Psalm 91:9-16  | Hebrews 5:1-10               | Mark 10:35-45            |
| 27-Oct-24 | Job 42:1-6, 10-17<br>Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)                         | Jeremiah 31:7-9<br>Psalm 126   | Hebrews 7:23-28              | Mark 10:46-52            |

*Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.*

\*\*\**Eternal One, whose thoughts and ways are not ours, you alone are God, awesome, holy, and most high. School us in the ways of faith and wisdom, that we, like Job, may learn to truly see and hear, and in humility find blessing. Amen.*\*\*\*

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