



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

September/October 2020

*** Our Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 AM ***

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor:

Sue Walters
(716) 983-5760
revst88@gmail.com

Choir Director:

Bethyn Boni
(585) 396-2788
Bethyn.Boni@gmail.com

Organist:

Donna Messner
(585) 396-2788
dlmessner3169@gmail.com

Sexton

Robin Stewart
(585) 657-7574

Newsletter Editor

Marilyn R. Shafer
(585)935-1538
mshafer5@rochester.rr.com

Web Masters

Phyllis Rehtin
(585) 657-7018
rehtin@rochester.rr.com

~ and ~

Marilyn R. Shafer
(585) 935-1538
mshafer5@rochester.rr.com

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

FROM THE PASTOR

*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”*
Genesis 8:6



It's September! This is my favorite month of the year. There are days when it is still warm enough for me to swim in Silver Lake, but cool enough for me to open the windows and sleep under a blanket. And, then there are the apples! I love apples! As soon as the fresh ones are available, I'm there to pick up a bag and rush home to make applesauce. I usually purchase my apples and my cider at the Cider Mill in Castile, not far from Silver Lake. The Cider Mill has a special place in my heart. The woman who owns it was my daughter's teacher's aide when we lived at Silver Lake. She remembers her, fondly.

Then, and this is even more special, the cider mill is using one of my father's machines. My father founded Tew Manufacturing Corporation in 1954. Tew was my maiden name. He designed and built farm machinery: fruit and vegetable washers, water absorbers, packagers and sizers. The Cider Mill uses one of his machines to wash their apples. Every year, when they open in mid-September, I am there. I purchase apples, cider and their homemade doughnuts. Then I wander into the back barn and stare at my father's machine ... still washing all those apples.

We are living in a time of change. Change can undo us, for we may not know how to cope. Change brings about the necessity of looking at things from a different perspective. We may struggle to find that perspective. Change can provoke emotional reactions in us. We can rebel..stomp our feet, and cling to the "way we have always done things." These reactions do us no good. For change is inevitable. Perhaps we have seen more change in the last few months than might be common. It's unsettling. I would like to remind you that some things never change. I go to the Cider Mill to remind myself of that. There will come a day when my father's machine will no longer work. I know that. But even when that day comes, there will still be apples. And, when other things in life change: like having to wear masks when we leave our homes, the love of God remains constant. There are 330 places in the Bible where the phrase: "The steadfast love of God" is used. I would say that is meant to remind us of something! That something is the UNCHANGEABLE love of God. Just try reading Psalm 36 when you doubt that. Or, Psalm 104. Or any, or all, of the Gospels. It's there ... surrounding us ... and lifting us when we are afraid of falling.

Please do not let change be your undoing. We will get through this, because we have a rock that never changes. Peace be with you, my friends.

Sue

Prayer Requests:

As we go through the next couple of months, please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Cheryl Glamack * Donna Magraw * the Eddy family* Mary Martin * The Pastor Search Committee * Bev Clark * Doc Perkins * the Melroy family * Nick * Karen * John * Terry * Albert & Patty Gliewe * Joan * Emily * Lori * Sandy Straub * Kay * the Messner family * Helen * Don Shultz * Autumn * Denise * Joan * the Stewart family

Pastor Search Committee News:

The committee has posted job announcements on more websites, including the NACCC website and on our website and Facebook page. They have interviewed applicants, holding Zoom meetings and continuing refine their search. In addition, there are other applications the committee has to review and then conduct interviews. As always, please continue to keep the committee in your thoughts and prayers during their search.

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

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



Church News:

● **Worship Services:** Starting Sunday, September 13, 2020, worship services will be in the sanctuary. Hurray!

Of course, it will still be a little bit different in the sanctuary. Some pews will be taped off so we can maintain proper distancing. In addition, each open pew will be “assigned” to our regular churchgoers (so pew bibles and hymnals can be used each week without fear of COVID-19 cross-contamination). Families are encouraged to make their own “family sign” that will be left in “their pew” from week to week. We will also set up seating for guests so that all who visit will feel welcomed. Masks are still going to be required to be worn, but should you wish, you may [softly] sing along with the music.

For those who cannot attend, or who are not yet comfortable attending public services, we will continue to tape and post it that Sunday afternoon on our Facebook page. The videos can be viewed 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/>).

In addition, Sue will continue to lead a weekly prayer session. These will be live-streamed on our Facebook page on Thursdays at 8:30 am. The prayer service can be viewed live or accessed later by going to our Facebook page’s Video section.

● **Parsonage Remodel:** Once the appliances are installed, the parsonage remodel will be done! It’ll be such a welcoming place for a new pastor. Many, many thanks to Nick Glamack for coordinating and working this massive project.

● **Our Sexton Retires:** Bev Clark has tendered her resignation at the church sexton. Next time you see Bev, please give her a “thank you” for the many years she took care of our church. Her work as the sexton was behind the scenes but always well appreciated. When we are [finally] able to have Fellowship Hour with coffee and treats - we will have a celebration of Bev’s retirement, so stay tuned. Robin Stewart has been hired as our new sexton, so when you see Robin, tell HER thanks for taking on the sexton duties.

● **Summer School Lunch Program:** We finished up [our portion] of the lunch program on August 24. Lots of kids got lunches this summer thanks to the tireless efforts of Pastor Sue and the many volunteers who bought, collected, sorted and distributed the food. The program was well received; 50-60 kids got lunch each week!. Many thanks to all who participated.

● **Church Fundraiser Results, Take Two:** We held a second BBQ fundraiser on July 19 and it was another rousing success! While we didn’t sell out as quickly as we did for the first

fundraiser, we did sell all the chicken. Again, a lot of thanks go to Nick Glamack, our 2020 BBQ coordinator, and the rest of his team: Bethyn Boni, Judd Rockcastle, Marilyn Shafer, Nancy Stewart, Ray Walters, Pastor Sue Walters, Bob & Janice Kelly and Phyllis Rehtin. What a great set of teams!

Reoccurring Calendar Events (Monthly):

● **Woman's Breakfast:** meets the first Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8:00 AM. All interested women are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the group meets **September 6th** and **October 4th**.

● **Special Offering:** An extra offering plate is passed on the first Sunday of every month. This is a special offering to support 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, **September 6th** and **October 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 regular donation to the church's mission, you can mail your donation to Marilyn Shafer (please call 585-935-1538 for her address).

● **Church Council:** The next meeting will be **October 4th** after regular worship service. Now that the summer hiatus is over, council will meet the first Sunday of every month.

● **Choir Practice:** Due to NYS COVID-19 restrictions, the choir cannot sing in the live worship services. Therefore, the choir is not rehearsing on Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings. We will notify everyone when the choir resumes Wednesday night rehearsals and worship service singing.

● **Men's Breakfast:** meets the last Sunday of every month at Brady J's restaurant (Bloomfield) at 8:00 AM. All interested men are invited; being a member of the church is not a requirement. For this period, the men meet **September 27th** and **October 25th**.

September & October Specific Calendar Events:

● **Sunday, September 6 (8:00 AM):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)

● **Monday, September 7:** Labor Day

● **Sunday, September 13 (10:00 AM):** Worship services resume in the church sanctuary! Hope to see you there.

● **Thursday, September 17 (10:30 AM):** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; they will discuss *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.

Goodreads synopsis: After a tumble down the rabbit hole, Alice finds herself far away from home in the absurd world of Wonderland. As mind-bending as it is delightful, Lewis Carroll's 1865 novel is pure magic for young and old alike.

● **Sunday, September 27 (8:00 AM):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)

● **Sunday, October 4 (8:00 AM):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)

● **Sunday, October 4 (11:00 AM):** Church council meets in Fellowship Hall. Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, this may also be the day we re-start our Fellowship Coffee Hour.

● **Monday, October 12:** Columbus Day

● **Thursday, October 15 (10:30 AM):** Book club meets in Fellowship Hall; they will discuss *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Goodreads synopsis: For sheer storytelling delight and pure adventure, Treasure Island has never been surpassed. From the moment young Jim Hawkins first encounters the sinister Blind Pew at the Admiral Benbow Inn until the climactic battle for treasure on a tropic isle, the novel creates scenes and characters that have fired the imaginations of generations of readers.

Written by a superb prose stylist, a master of both action and atmosphere, the story centers upon the conflict between good and evil - but in this case a particularly engaging form of evil. It is the villainy of that most ambiguous rogue Long John Silver that sets the tempo of this tale of treachery, greed, and daring.

Designed to forever kindle a dream of high romance and distant horizons, Treasure Island is, in the words of G. K. Chesterton, “the realization of an ideal, that which is promised in its provocative and beckoning map; a vision not only of white skeletons but also green palm trees and sapphire seas.” G. S. Fraser terms it “an utterly original book” and goes on to write: “There will always be a place for stories like Treasure Island that can keep boys and old men happy.”

● **Monday, October 19 (1:00 - 6:00 PM):** Red Cross blood drive at the East Bloomfield-Holcomb Fire Department (105 Main Street, Bloomfield, NY, 14469).

At the last drive, the Red Cross was accepting donors with appointments only, no walk-ins. So, please be sure you book an appointment if you wish to give blood.

The next blood drive will be in December in the church’s Fellowship Hall. And, COVID-19 permitting, we’ll be staffing this blood drive. Maybe [hopefully?] even bring back our grilled cheese sandwiches and soup!

● **Sunday, October 25 (8:00 AM):** Men’s breakfast at Brady J’s (24 Maple Avenue, Bloomfield)

● **Saturday, October 31:** All Hallows’ Eve. The day after, Sunday, **November 1st**, is All Saints Day. To pay tribute to loved ones who have passed on, please bring photos of them to Sunday’s worship service to place on the front table. In addition, please e-mail Pastor Sue their names for inclusion in that day’s bulletin. We will celebrate their lives in service.

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 Your Church Event:

To advertise any church event, please contact Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; (585) 703-1449 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.

May the God of peace who raised Christ from the dead strengthen your inner being for every good work. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon you and dwell within you this day and evermore. Amen

Lectionary Readings

Season after Pentecost Year B	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
September 6	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
September 13	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 14	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 20	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
September 27	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 4	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 11	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 12	Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm 65		2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Luke 17:11-19
October 18	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 25	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

Italicized readings may be used with, or in place of readings.

Picture Us:

Pizza & Ice Cream Party: The choir celebrated the start of summer with a Pizza and Ice Cream Party (in lieu of the traditional visit to Shark's and a BBQ cook-out). A wonderful time - and lots of pizza and ice cream! - was had by all.



BBQ Fundraisers: The volunteers - ready to serve chicken to our hungry customers. Both fundraisers were a rousing success thanks to these folks.



From Puppets to Pew Photoshoot: In preparation for the grueling fall & winter schedule of rehearsals & lesson presentations, our puppets decided to take advantage of a nice day and do a photo shoot on the church grounds. It must have done them well as they've already performed one puppet lesson/show for the congregation since these pictures were taken.



A Chilly August Book Club Meeting: The book club has started back up. In nicer weather, the club meets outside. It's just that this meeting was a little cooler than expected! The club welcomes anyone who wishes to attend their monthly meetings. You don't even have to be a church member!



*May the God of peace who raised Christ from the dead
Strengthen your inner being for every good work.
And may the blessing of God Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Rest upon you and dwell within you
This day and evermore.
Amen.*

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of East Bloomfield
Post Office Box 5
East Bloomfield, NY 14443

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