



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
May/June 2019

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

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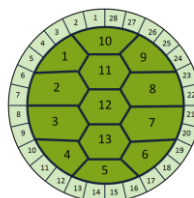
Reminder!!

A note from the editor...



Friday, the day before we got snowy again, we had our garage door open while we were working in the yard. This morning we opened the door and found this American snapping turtle in the garage just outside the breezeway door! His nose is right on the door! He is all covered in mud. In the winter these turtles bury themselves in mud in a stream to keep warm. We researched a little and learned some interesting facts. They can hold their breath for up to four months in 37-degree weather! They can freeze solid and survive.

Native Americans have long used the turtle shell as a lunar calendar. There are about 28 days in the lunar cycle. Therefore, in one year the moon goes around 13 times giving us 13 lunar months, 28 days each.



Examine the back of a turtle and find 28 sections around the edge of the shell and 13 larger sections showing the lunar months!

Amazing that God created this fascinating creature! *Amazing* too that God created people who could look at a turtle's back and make the connection to the lunar cycle! *How great is our God! Praise Him and thank him for His marvelous acts!*

Peace, love and joy!
Phyllis

PASTORS' COLUMN

From the pen of Rev. Sandy Porrey



He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!!! Happy Easter everyone! I do hope you were able to attend our services during Holy Week and your Easter Day celebrations were glorious just like the news of Christ's resurrection. As we bask in the glory of Easter morning we should pause and reflect on what had to happen for us to get to this moment.

First a scared teenage girl had to say "yes" to God. Then her fiancé had to accept that she was pregnant and not by him. Had it been different, Joseph could have had Mary stoned. Thank goodness for angels and the divine messages they brought to both Mary and Joseph. Finally, let us not forget the life, albeit a short one, that Jesus of Nazareth lived. God sent his only Son to take on our humanity, to experience all we experience, good and bad. Jesus was like us in every way but sin.

Simply put, Christ Jesus was born to repair the alienation that existed between us and God the Father Almighty. He accomplished that when he went willingly to the cross and atoned for our sinfulness. Our sin debt was paid in full. How do we know that? Because God the Father accepted Christ's sacrifice and showed that acceptance through the resurrection. The crucifixion of Jesus was a one-time offering. It does not need to, nor can it be repeated. In one action, Jesus atoned for the sins of the entire human race of all time which includes those who came before us and those who are not yet born.

All we have to do is acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and we share in God's grace. Awesome!!!

Enjoy the remainder of the Easter season!

*See you in church,
Sandy*

From the pen of Pastor Andy Schaefer



"Let everything that breathes praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6)

This verse from Psalm 150 is fascinating. Everything that breathes – not just humans, but

cats and dogs, insects, fish, even plants – are invited to praise the Lord. It reminds me of a Sunday when I was a youth, a fine spring morning when we had the church windows open. As we sang our opening hymn, a bird flew in, perched on the window sill, and chirped away. It seemed that this animal was responding to the sound of our music and participating in the worship of God.

I am also reminded of this verse from Luke which we heard, not too long ago, on Palm Sunday:

"I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." (19:40)

As you will remember, the Pharisees admonished Jesus to get the crowd under control. Jesus answered, more or less saying that there was no way that anyone could stifle a movement of the Holy Spirit.

As our earth finally comes to life from the doldrums of late winter/ early spring, and we take advantage of warmer, sunny weather, I invite you to keep these verses in mind. Look, listen, smell. Feel breeze on your face and know it as a friend who is calling you to prayer and praise. Hear the birds and other creatures and imagine them to be calling you to join them in worship. Listen to the rustling of the leaves and know what Isaiah meant when he wrote "all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." (Clap, clap!) Even pick up a small rock, feel its heft, rub its roughness, and know that this too was made by God, who saw it as "good."

I want to make some great, profound spiritual point here, but all I can really come up with is the words of St. Francis that we often sing:

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 and praise the Spirit, three in one.
 O praise him, O praise him,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 Let's all try to remember to praise God as
 often as possible!
 Peace,
 Andy

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER, MINISTRY
 AND HUMOR**





Church Membership
 Please contact Rev. Sandy Porrey at
 (585) 773-8512 or Sanders74@juno.com
 for information on joining the First
 Congregational Church of East Bloomfield or
 arranging for Home Communion for a shut-
 in.

Help Needed—Help Needed
 Check out the signup sheets
 in Fellowship Hall



- | May | June |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 12 Bob Hodges | 9 Andy Schaefer |
| 26 Albert Gliewe | 14 Josh Schaefer |
| 28 Judd Rockcastle | 16 Nancy Walters |
| 30 Marilyn Shafer | 17 Mona Eddy |
| | 19 Jackie Schultz |
| | 20 Janice Kelly |
| | Daniel Glamack |
| | 25 Dorothy Hodges |
| | 26 Joan Hall |

Upcoming Events

Choir Everyone is welcome to sing.	Wednesday night rehearsals resume at 7:30-9:00
May 2 	National Day of Prayer
May 4 & 5	Finger Lakes Choral Concerts. See page 6 for details
May 5	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -Derby Day. Wear your hats! -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
May 10	United Church Women see page 6 for details
May 12 	Mother's Day
May 19 	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
May 16	Book Club, 2;30 – 3:30, The Bartender's Tale, Ivan Doig
May 26	Men's Breakfast 7:45 @ Brady J's.
May 27 	Memorial Day

June 2	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
June 9  Pentecost	Pentecost
June 14  FLAG DAY	Flag Day
June 16  DADS ARE A GIFT!	-Father's Day -Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
June 18	Newsletter Deadline for July/Aug 2019
June 20	Book Club 2:30-3:30, Thunder Dog, Michael Hingson
June 21	First day of Summer
June 30	Men's Breakfast 7:45 @ Brady J's.

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings May/June 2019

May 5, Acts 9:1-6, Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

May 12, Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

May 19, Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

May 26, Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29

June 2, Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, John 17:20-26

June 9, Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:14-17, John 14:8-17, (25-27)

June 16, Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

June 23, 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a, Psalm 42 and 43, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

June 30, 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14, Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20, Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62

How to advertise your church event

To advertise any church event contact Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; 703-1449 or beehive270@gmail.com. Please give the written details to Alice 4 weeks before the date of the event.

Phyllis Rehtin will handle information for the Newsletter, the website and Bloomfield Buzz. Keep in mind our issues are published every 2 months, so you should think ahead to have the event included in the correct newsletter. (Phyllis Rehtin, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; rehtin@rochester.rr.com or 657-7018).

The Ties That Bind



"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night."

During May and June, the congregation prays for Judd & Lujza Rockcastle, Janice & Bob Kelly, Sandy Porrey, William Bacon and Marilyn Shafer.

Remember our members and friends who cannot be with us on Sunday morning:

Dorothy and Bob Hodges, Richard Gladding, Mona Eddy's brother, Norma, Nick Glamack's mom and Kathrine, Donna Messner's mom.

Pray for Rachel Schaefer, Logan Clark, Bev Clark's grandson, Lujza Rockcastle, Mick Eddy and Cheryl Glamack and family.

Book Club

May 16, 2019, *The Bartender's Tale*, Ivan Doig. Tom Harry has a streak of frost in his black pompadour and a venerable bar called The Medicine Lodge, the chief watering hole and last refuge of the town of Gros Ventre, in northern Montana. Tom also has a son named Rusty, an "accident between the sheets" whose mother deserted them both years ago. The pair make an odd kind of family, with the bar their true home, but they manage just fine.

Until the summer of 1960, that is, when Rusty turns twelve. Change arrives with gale force, in the person of Proxy, a taxi dancer Tom knew back when, and her beatnik daughter, Francine. Is Francine, as Proxy claims, the unsuspected legacy of her and Tom's past? Without a doubt she is an unsettling gust of the future, upending every certainty in Rusty's life and generating a mist of passion and pretense that seems to obscure everyone's vision but his own. As Rusty struggles to decipher the oddities of adult behavior and the mysteries build toward a reckoning, Ivan Doig wonderfully captures how the world becomes bigger and the past becomes more complex in the last moments of childhood.

June 20, 2019, *Thunder Dog*, Michael Hingson "I'm sorry," the doctor said. "He is permanently and totally blind. There is nothing we can do for him."

George and Sarah Hingson looked at each other, devastated. Their six-month-old son, Michael was a happy, strawberry blond baby boy, healthy and normal in every way except one. When the Hingsons switched on a light or made silly faces, Michael did not react. Ever. "My best suggestion is that you send him to a home for the blind," the doctor

continued. "He will never be able to do anything for himself."

Forty-seven years later, a yellow Labrador retriever puppy was born in the whelping unit of Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael, California. The puppy's name was Roselle. On September 11, 2001, she saved Michael's life. This is Roselle's story too.

—From the Introduction

Every moment in Michael Hingson's and Roselle's lives seemed to lead up to this day. When one of four hijacked planes flew into the World Trade Center's north tower on September 11, 2001, Michael Hingson, a district sales manager for a data protection and network security systems company, was sitting down for a meeting. His guide dog, Roselle, was at his feet. Paired for twenty-one months, man and dog spent that time forging a bond of trust, much like police partners who trust their lives to each other.

Michael couldn't see a thing, but he could hear the sounds of shattering glass, falling debris, and terrified people flooding around him and Roselle. However, Roselle sat calmly beside him. In that moment, Michael chose to trust Roselle's judgment and not to panic. They were a team.

Thunder Dog is a story that will forever change your spirit and your perspective. It illuminates Hingson's lifelong determination to achieve parity in a sighted world and how the rare trust between a man and his guide dog can inspire an unshakable faith in each one of us.

United Church Women

United Church Women will meet May 10, 2019 at First Congregational Church, East Bloomfield. The meeting starts at 12:00 noon. Bring your sandwich. Coffee and tea and dessert will be provided.

The theme for this meeting is "friendship".

It was decided at the last meeting that a brown bag auction will be held at every meeting. Bring 1 to 3 items wrapped separately to auction. The proceeds from these auctions will be used for our outreach to community programs in our area. This is

fun for everyone and you may just go home with a new treasure!

The Finger Lakes Chorale Concert

Remembered in song: The Finger Lakes Chorale will perform John Rutter's "Requiem" in two concerts, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. and May 5 at 3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 10 South Ave., Bloomfield.

The concerts are in memory of the late Dr. A. John Walker, professor emeritus, who died in August 2018. Dr. Walker led the Lincoln Hill Singers and directed the Finger Lakes Chorale for 30 years and was instrumental in developing CCFL's music program.

These concerts are free; donations will be accepted for student scholarships. For more information, call (585) 396-0027.

Echoes of Easter

The Resurrection wasn't a "one-off"; it was a spark that lit a flame that continues burning even today, especially where people minister in the Risen One's name. One such outreach, Camp Noah, serves children traumatized by disaster. Nationwide, volunteers offer week-long experiences of kindness, love, listening and safety to kids who've recently survived a tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire or shooting. Kids often open up for the first time to share their "storm stories" and begin a journey of healing.

Leaders at Camp Noah attest to God's power to bring joy out of sorrow, trust out of fear and life out of death. A boy who initially was aloof dances with another camper at the closing worship; kids who arrived with uncertain expressions leave with smiles and regained confidence. Mental health counselors are part of camp teams, and referrals are made to continue care afterward.

Resurrection often happens in steps, not overnight. But wherever "ordinary" daily ministry takes place in Christ's name,

extraordinary echoes of the first Easter are evident.

—Heidi Mann

Healing hospitality

Repeated headlines about violence can make us "feel like locking our doors and never entering society again," writes pastor and author Max Lucado. After another mass shooting, he penned an online opinion piece that urged people to do the exact opposite by opening their doors, their hearts and their circles.

"It's no accident that hospitality and hospital come from the same Latin word," Lucado writes, "for they both lead to the same result: healing. When you open your door to someone, you are sending this message: 'You matter.'"

Because daily life is filled with rejections, extending an invitation — even to a simple meal — can be life-altering, Lucado contends. What you think is a messy house might be a sanctuary to someone else, "and to those who eat alone every night, pork and beans on paper plates tastes like filet mignon." Our kitchen tables are "God's secret weapons in the war on fear," Lucado says. "We never know what one meal will do."

Happy Mother's Day

Celebrate the joys of motherhood:

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.

- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.
—Unknown

Floating on faith

As a man and his young daughter were boating one day, their vessel sprang a leak. The father knew he'd have to swim to shore but couldn't with the child in tow. She hadn't gotten far in swimming lessons but could float on her back, so he told her to do so and promised to return.

Coast Guard personnel were skeptical that a child could survive so long in the water. But hours later, as the sun set and they considered halting the search, someone spied a red dress amid the waves. The girl, still floating, was singing a hymn. Astounded, rescuers asked how she held on so long. "My daddy said he'd come back for me," she said, "and he never breaks his promises."

Prayer rests on just such trust. We can't know when God will answer or act, but we know he promises never to abandon us and that God keeps his promises. So we can lie back and float — on faith.

Swaddled in God's law of love

Pastor John Edgerton tells of swaddling his 2-week-old baby to help her feel secure. She loved being wrapped tightly in a soft blanket and would lie quietly — until she managed to work a tiny arm loose. Then she'd scream until someone rewrapped her.

Edgerton likens that behavior to his own connection with God's law, given so people can live in peace. "I know that I'm supposed to do the right thing, but I'm always wiggling out of it," he writes. "And very quickly my life falls into a state of disarray."

We've all experienced this. We know we are to love our neighbors as ourselves,

yet we often ignore their needs. Jesus says to love our enemies, but we wiggle around it: "That's too naïve for this day and age." But then relationships crumble, life feels crazy and we recognize that, in large part, we've done it to ourselves. Over and over, we wiggle out of the soft swaddle of God's law of love, only to flail. Thankfully, like a loving parent, God wraps us up anew, holds us close and saves us from ourselves — again.

A father's legacy—Happy Father's Day

For Joseph Dodson, the pressures and responsibilities of parenthood felt compounded when he and his wife adopted a son. Dodson, a Bible professor, wonders if Jesus' earthly father also struggled with doubts and fears.

Scripture doesn't say much about Joseph, but he clearly left Jesus "a significant legacy," Dodson writes in Bible Study Magazine. Joseph obeyed God — despite the risk to his reputation — by marrying a pregnant woman. Joseph, a son of David, raised the Son of David as his very own. To protect his family he fled to Egypt, foreshadowing the "new exodus" of Jesus' saving ministry. And Joseph heard neighbors mock Jesus as "the carpenter's son."

"Joseph taught Jesus much more than woodworking," Dodson writes. "He modeled for his adopted son how, for God's glory, he must drink the Father's cup no matter the cost."

The living Word

Many know of teacher Annie Sullivan helping young Helen Keller break through barriers of blindness and deafness to discover language: how Sullivan placed one of Helen's hands under running water, spelling water in sign language over and over into the other. In Keller's words: "Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten — a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of

language was revealed to me. I knew that w-a-t-e-r meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free.”

God’s living Word, working through the waters of baptism, also awakens us — to a life of faith anchored in God’s unconditional love. Baptism revives in us a “misty consciousness” that we are safe in God and reveals “the mystery of language” that is prayer. In baptism, as water washes over our bodies, the living Word gives us light, hope, joy and true freedom.

Who ya gonna call?

Being “self-made” may be admirable in the world’s eyes, but as numerous people have quipped, self-made people often worship their creator — themselves. As actor Roland Young observed, “I’m a self-made man, but I think if I had it to do over again, I’d call in someone else.”

St. Paul knows just whom to call. Reflecting on his sinfulness, the apostle writes, “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?” Paul immediately answers his own question: “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (See Romans 7:24-25, NIV.)

Fun in the sun

Enjoy some summer-themed laughter while you lounge!

Seen on a church sign (and appropriate for grilling season): “God doesn’t make mistakes.”

Person approaching a shoreline: “Is this river any good for fish?” Response: “It must be. I can’t get any of them to leave it.”

Q: Why do people go to church in the summer?

A: It’s prayer-conditioned!

Q: Why was it so hot in the stadium after the game?

A: All the fans left.

Q: While hiking, how can you identify a dogwood tree?

A: By its bark.

Q: What do sheep have on sunny days?

A: A baa-baa-cue!

Picture Us

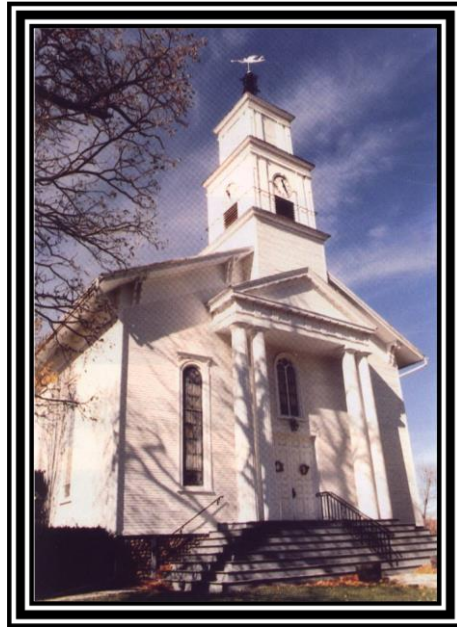
We celebrated Cheryl Glamack’s birthday on March 31st. Happy Birthday Cheryl!



A better picture of our snapping turtle!



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter



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