



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

Website:
www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org
E-mail: 1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com

November/December 2025

Our Sunday worship service begins at 10:00 a.m.;
we are located at 10 South Avenue, Bloomfield, NY, 14469

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Reverend Sue Walters
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Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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*Beckoning God,
as you moved in the lives of Elijah and Elisha,
move in our lives,
inviting us to journey to unknown territory,
to listen for your voice,
and to speak your prophetic word
in a world that does not want to hear.
empowered by your Spirit,
grant us the courage we need
to journey, trust, listen, speak,
and accept your commission
to be your faithful servant people. Amen.*

✿ From the Pastor ✿

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a son is born and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)



This is my favorite advent lesson. It reflects a deep understanding of who I perceive Jesus Christ to be. That may seem strange since this comes from the book of the prophet Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet. But his prophecy pointing to the coming of the Messiah Jesus Christ the son of God couldn't have been more accurate. His words reflect who I know Jesus Christ to be; all of his attributes. There is no question that he is wonderful. All we have to do is look at all the accounts of his reaching out to those in need: both in physical need and in spiritual need. People clamored for him, so much so that

at one point in his ministry, he had to get in a boat and push out from shore in order to teach all those crowds gathered on the shoreline. They all wanted to hear him.. They were eager for his words. He spoke to their hearts. We don't know necessarily what their response was. But we know what his teaching was.

Counselor. He reached people whose needs were great. He knew them, really knew what was inside them. He listened. He gave them hope.

The Mighty God. He was indeed the reflection of his father, the mighty God . He reflected God's glory. God's mind. He embodied the love of God in physical form. He carried with him God's power to heal, to resurrect, to bring back to life. Those people who had gone so far from God that they thought there was never any return were able to return. He showed them God's forgiveness in physical form.

The Everlasting Father. Jesus also reflected the everlasting nature of God before he became Jesus the physical person, he was the second person of the Trinity. He was with God, and if you read some of the first chapter of the gospel of John, you will read that nothing was created without him. His nature is from everlasting to everlasting, just as his father's is.

The Prince of peace. There are places in the New Testament, where Jesus said he came to bring not peace, but a sword. But even in those cases, he offered people a choice. The division between families based on him was a division of those people who believed that he was who he was and those that didn't. He gave everyone a choice. They did not have to believe who he said he was. But if they did, they were given the gift of peace. Again in the gospel of John Jesus says my peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give. Belief in Jesus welcomes that peace. Does that mean that life will be easy or without tumult? No. But it does mean that the presence of Christ will abide with us and that the peace that presence brings cannot be shaken by worldly events. Why? It's simple; we know who is in charge and by that knowing we can find peace.

May Jesus Christ: Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace abide with you not just in this season where we await his birth, but throughout the year.

Blessings,

Sue

✿ Upcoming Events ✿

● **Stewardship Sunday:** Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of "tithing," which means to give back a tenth of our earnings to God (Numbers 18:26). We see stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry and mission. It's about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity.

We have begun our annual stewardship drive. If you are a church member or a friend of the church, you should have received a mailing asking for a contribution to the church, whether it be monetary or with your time. Please consider supporting the church in its mission.

The pledges from the congregation will be officially welcomed (placed in the offering plate on **Stewardship Sunday, November 9**), though you may provide your pledge to a trustee in the weeks after. If you have not received a pledge request and wish to donate, please call the church at (585) 657-7755 and the pastor or a trustee will assist you.

● **All Saints Day: Sunday, November 2**, we will observe All Souls Day, a day set aside to pray for those who have departed from this world. Please bring in a picture of your departed loved one(s) to the worship service to place on the altar. We will then have a special opportunity to include our loved ones in our thoughts and prayers during the service.

● **Council Meetings:** The church council meets the first Sunday of the month (after the worship service). For this period, the council will meet on **Sunday, November 2nd** and **Sunday, December 7th**.

● **Choir:** The choir meets in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning. They are always looking for new members so if you wish to join the choir in lifting special music to the Lord, please join us. All are welcome.

● **Church Book Club:** The church's book club meets at 9:30 on the third Thursday of every month. We are finishing our 2025 "book list" and are selecting and preparing our reading list

for 2026. As with years prior, we anticipate a very eclectic selection reflecting all sorts of genres. We are always looking for and ready to welcome new members, regardless if you are a member of our church or not. Please consider joining us in fellowship and great conversation in our Thursday sessions.

God of justice, your word is light and truth. Let your face shine on us to restore us, that we may walk in your way, seeking justice and doing good. Amen.

✿ Church News ✿

● **Pastor Sue:** Pastor Sue has decided to re-start her retirement from the pulpit. After serving as a substitute pastor for us, she came out of retirement to be our full time pastor. Her tireless work with worship, visiting the home bound, visiting the sick and needy and helping in countless other capacities have been precious to us and we will miss her. Sue will serve our congregation until the end of December and then move on to the next phase in her life. We wish her all the best wishes, prayers and luck as she fully settles back in to her “retirement.” Godspeed, Sue!

● **New Stoves:** The church has replaced the stove that is so old that no one remembers a time when the stove wasn't in its usual place. And what a dependable and marvelous stove it's been! We've prepared so many meals on this stove - pork dinners, potlucks, last Friday suppers, soup, sandwiches, etc. So many memories of the congregation gathered in the kitchen, cooking and preparing food for ourselves and the community. However, with the passage of time, it was necessary to get new appliances. Hopefully, these two new stoves will serve us well in the future as we continue to prepare nourishment for ourselves and the community.



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.

✿ Birthdays ✿



November:

29 Noah Bartos

December:

13 Jacquie Walters

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

✿ Recurring 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 **November 2nd** and **December 7th**. 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 meets the first Sunday of every month. For this period, the meetings will be **November 2nd** and **December 7th**.

● **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 **November 3rd** and **December 1st**.

● **Choir Practice:** The choir meets every Wednesday evening for choir rehearsal at **7:30 p.m.** There also is a short rehearsal every Sunday (before the worship service); this rehearsal starts at **9:15 a.m.** 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 **Nov 30th**, and **December 28th**.

✿ November and December Specific Calendar Events ✿

Saturday, November 1: All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 2: All Souls' Day

Sunday, November 2: Council Meeting

Sunday, November 2: Daylight Saving Time ends

Monday, November 3 (9:00 a.m.): Women's breakfast at Brady J's

Tuesday, November 4: Election Day

Sunday, November 9: Stewardship Sunday

Tuesday, November 11: Veterans Day

Thursday, November 20 (9:30 a.m.): The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett.

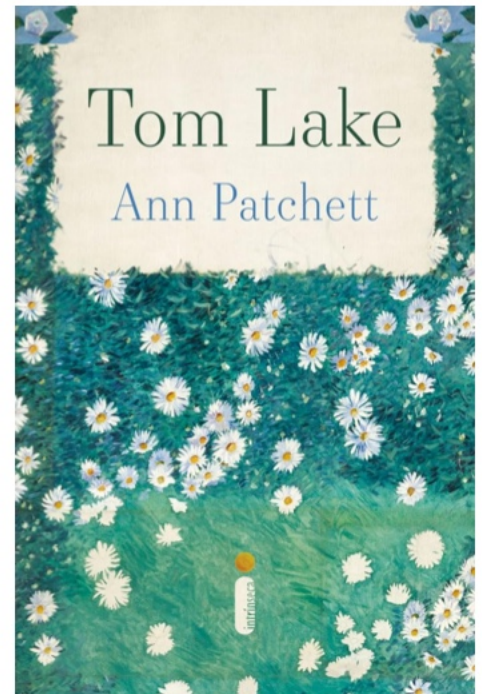
Amazon synopsis:

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today.



Thank You



Thursday, November 27: Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, November 30: First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30 (7:45 a.m.): Men's breakfast at Brady J's

Monday, December 1 (9:00 a.m.): Women's breakfast at Brady J's

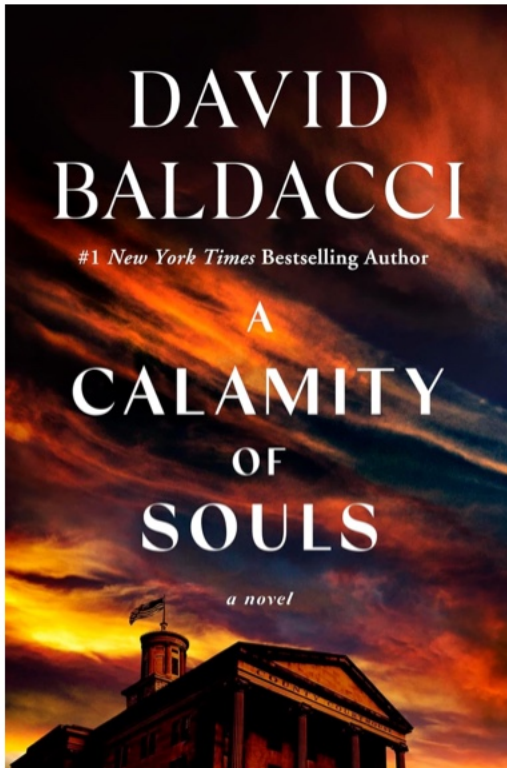
Sunday, December 7: Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Sunday, December 7: Council Meeting

Sunday, December 14: Third Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 18 (9:30 a.m.): The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *A Calamity of Souls* by David Baldacci.



Amazon synopsis:

Jack Lee is a white lawyer from Freeman County, Virginia, who has never done anything to push back against racism —until he decides to represent Jerome Washington, a black man charged with brutally killing an elderly wealthy white couple. Doubting his decision, Lee fears that his legal skills may not be enough to prevail in a case where the odds are already stacked against both him and his client. He quickly finds himself out of his depth when he realizes that what's at stake is far greater than the outcome of a murder trial.

Desiree DuBose is a black lawyer from Chicago who has devoted her life to furthering the causes of justice and equality for all. She enters a fractious and unwieldy partnership with Lee in a legal battle against the best prosecutor in the Commonwealth. Yet DuBose is also aware that powerful outside forces are at work to blunt the victories achieved by the civil rights era.

Lee and DuBose could not be more dissimilar. On their own, neither one can stop the prosecution's deliberate march towards a guilty verdict and the electric chair. But together, the pair fight for what once seemed impossible: a chance for a fair trial and true justice.

Over a decade in the making, *A Calamity of Souls* breathes richly imagined and detailed life into a bygone era, taking the reader through a world that will seem both foreign and familiar.

Sunday, December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21: December Solstice

Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day

Sunday, December 28 (7:45 a.m.): Men's breakfast at Brady J's

Wednesday, December 31: New Year's Eve



✿ 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.

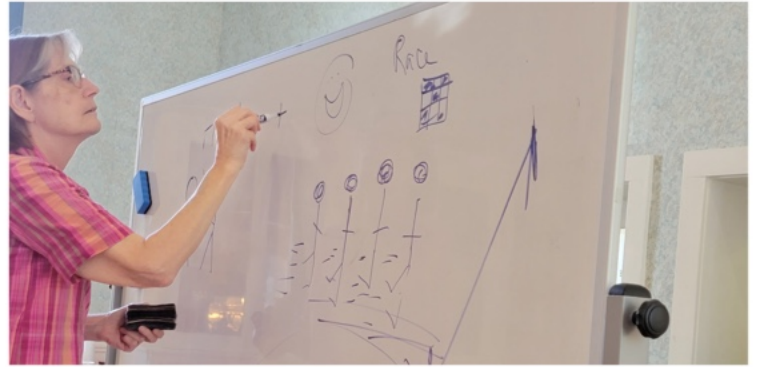
* Picture Us *

● **Jim Rechtin's 90th Birthday Celebration:** Alice McConnell threw a 90th birthday party for Jim Rechtin and invited the congregation. What a wonderful celebration for Jim! Jim's family came, including his lovely wife, Phyllis. Other guests included people who knew and loved Jim in the past, those others who had met and interacted with Jim over the years and those that were friends that wanted to help Jim celebrate. We had guests from the local area and from out of state. It was a wonderful time and we wish Jim the happiest of birthdays and thank Alice for hosting a most splendid party.



● **Choir & Puppets Join in Worship:** The choir were aided by the *From Puppets To Pew* troupe in presenting an anthem to the congregation. Here are the puppets preparing for rehearsal (and to meet the choir members) the dress rehearsal and presenting the anthem to the congregation. Everyone said they had a great time and invite the puppets to come join the choir any time.

● **Rally Day:** Christian Education hosted a potluck and fellowship time for the congregation in September to celebrate Rally Day. In addition to the [always delicious] potluck, we played Bible Pictionary. A lot of fun and laughter was had by the congregation as we tried to determine the words or phrases. A few things we absolutely learned: some members cannot draw fish, Jesus has a beard **and** spikey hair, and one member has wicked skills in drawing a moonshine still. But the biggest lesson we learned was that although we are assured we are going to the Promised Land when our time here on Earth is done, the concept of the Promised Land cannot be drawn with markers on a white board! Still, an enjoyable time was had by all as we learned more about the Bible.



Tender and precious God, from ancient times the promise of your salvation has sustained your people. With Mary and Joseph, teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus, and with shepherds and angels, lead us to praise his holy name. Amen.

✿ November/December Lectionary Reading ✿

	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
All Saints Day Nov 01, 2025	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149		Ephesians 1:11-23	Luke 6:20-31
Sunday Nov 2, 2025	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144	Isaiah 1:10-18 Psalm 32:1-7	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	Luke 19:1-10
Sunday Nov 9, 2025	Haggai 2:1-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98	Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
Sunday Nov 16, 2025	Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12	Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
Sunday Nov 23, 2025	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43
Thanksgiving Day Nov 27, 2025	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100		Philippians 4:4-9	John 6:25-35
First Sunday of Advent Nov 30, 2025	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
Second Sunday of Advent Dec 07, 2025	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Third Sunday of Advent Dec 14, 2025	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec 21, 2025	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
Christmas Eve, Morn, or Mid-Day Dec 24, 2025	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
Christmas Eve, Morn, or Mid-Day Dec 24, 2025	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
Christmas Eve, Morn, or Mid-Day Dec 24, 2025	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)	John 1:1-14
Sunday Dec 28, 2025	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23

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