



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

Website:

www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

E-mail: 1st.Cong.Church@gmail.com

July/August 2025

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

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

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

Office Hours:

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Music & Choir Director

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

Organist

Donna Messner
(585) 657-6579
dimeessner3169@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor & Web Master

Marilyn R. Shafer
(585) 935-1538
mshafer33@gmail.com

Sexton

Robin Stewart
(585) 657-7574

*God of all nations and peoples,
your Son commanded his disciples
to preach and heal throughout the world.
Grant us, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
the zeal to proclaim the good news of peace and justice,
and gather all humanity into life with you. Amen.*

✦ From the Pastor ✦

*Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, **10** you make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, **11** giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. **12** By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. **13** From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. **14** You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate, to bring forth food from the earth. **19** You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. **21** The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. **22** When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. **23** People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.*
Psalm 104: 1, 10-14, 19-23



What does it mean to be weak? It depends in who is doing the defining, and what comparison is being made. If you are an ordinary person, even an ordinary athlete, and comparing yourself to an Olympic star, you may think you are weak because you have not accomplished the same thing. Is that necessarily true? No. If you had the same opportunities as the Olympic athletes, to train over many years, to the exclusion of everything else, you might be in the same position. But, would have wanted to have given up everything else in your life to achieve that goal? Maybe not. Does that make you weak? Of course not.

Paul talks about a thorn in his flesh in this passage. It was never defined any more clearly than that. It troubled him; because he felt he couldn't do his best with it nagging at him. The answer he received from God was that through his weakness, God was made stronger.

We all have weaknesses. We are human, we are not perfect. Perhaps our weaknesses are physical. As we age, we can no longer perform the same tasks we could when we were younger. Our bodies just don't work as well as they did. We may not have the dexterity we once had, or the endurance. These limitations may make us think we are weak. We are not. We are simply aging. It is a process that cannot be halted. We will not get any younger, only older. We can accept the process, or fight it. Neither option will change what is. Aging is just simply a fact of living.

But, in that aging can come wisdom. We can learn from our experiences, all our experiences. We can ask God to help us learn from them, and to show us that His strength is made perfect in our weaknesses. We can turn to Him and listen as He reveals his strength. One of the opportunities we have in our aging is (perhaps) more time to just be...to sit and listen to God's voice. What an opportunity to grow closer to God!

Blessings in your solitude, blessings in your just being, blessings in all your living.

Sue

✦ Upcoming Events ✦

● **Joint Worship Service:** Please bring a lawn chair and join us for a joint worship service with the United Methodist Church of East Bloomfield in Elton Park on **Sunday, July 20th** at **10:00 a.m.** The service will be followed by a potluck picnic in the park. Hot dogs will be provided; please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. In case of rain, the combined service (and lunch) will be held in the Methodist church located at 2 Park Place, Bloomfield.

● **July Red Wings Game (With Fireworks!):** The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a church night out at a Rochester Red Wings baseball game at Innovative Field on **Friday, July 25th**. The game will start at **6:45 p.m.** and there will be post-game fireworks. All are invited and tickets are still available. Please let Marilyn Shafer (585-935-1538 or mshafer33@gmail.com) know by **Sunday, July 13th**, if you want tickets. There are only 30 tickets reserved and once they are gone, that's it; so get yours now!

● **Council Meetings:** The church council is on hiatus for this period; there are no meetings for July and August. Meetings will resume the first Sunday in September (September 7th) and will be held after the worship service.

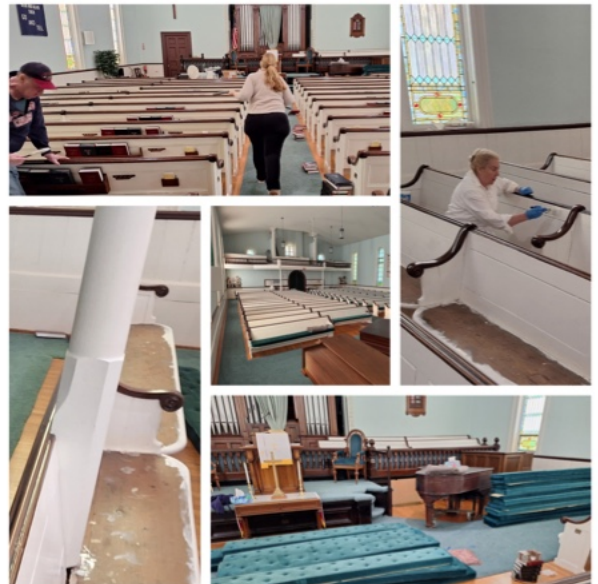
✦ Church News ✦

● **Church Maintenance:** Nick Glamack, Lynnette Loomis, Will Tyler and Lynn Tyler gave themselves a self-appointed task - refresh the sanctuary. They repainted all the pews in the sanctuary, cleaned the cushions, scrubbed the wooden floors and touched up the paint in certain areas of the narthex.



Then, a couple of weeks later, Judd Rockcastle joined the group to clean the roadside entrance - the front steps were scraped, sprayed

with deck cleaner and power washed. The new walkway was weeded and power washed also. Everything looks like new! What a fabulous job by our volunteers.



● **Recognition Sunday:** The Christian Education Committee hosted a ceremony and luncheon to recognize the graduates of 2025. They are: **Phillip Boni:** B. S. in Addictions & Behavioral Health, SUNY Brockport * **Lindsey Loomis-O'Brien:** B. S. in Public Health and Health Education, SUNY Brockport * **Amy Webster:** A.A.S. in Medical Coding and Reimbursement, Bryant & Stratton College * **Timothy Austin:** graduate of Bloomfield Central High School * **Kayla Holek:** graduate of Waccamaw High School (SC) * **Abie Messner:** graduate of Fairport High School * **Peyton Rockcastle:** graduate of Butler Area Senior High School (PA) * **Marilyn Glamack:** graduated The CE Shop & passed the exam to be a licensed NYS Real Estate Broker. Our sincere congratulations to the honorees and best wishes for their future endeavors.



In addition to our graduates, the church also highlighted two individuals whose work for the church during the past year was unparalleled. They are **Nick Glamack** and **Lujza Rockcastle**. Thank you both for your faithful service, unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions to our church. Your commitment to faith and community has been a true blessing to all.

✦ Birthdays ✦



July:

7 Nick Glamack
15 Chris Bartos
31 Joan Chase
31 Lynnette Loomis

August:

9 Diane Sickmond
19 Donna Magraw

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 **July 6th** and **August 3rd**. 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:** There will be no church council meetings during July and August. The council will reconvene on September 7th after the regular Sunday worship service.

- **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 **July 7th** and **August 4th**.

- **Choir Practice:** There will be no Wednesday evening choir rehearsal during July and August. There will be a short rehearsal every Sunday (before the worship service); this rehearsal starts at **9:00 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 **July 27th**, and **August 31st**.

✦ July and August Specific Calendar Events ✦

- **Friday, July 4:** Independence Day

- **Monday, July 7 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's

- **Thursday, July 17 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Things We Cannot Say* by Kelly Rimmer.



Amazon synopsis:

In 1942, Europe remains in the relentless grip of war. Just beyond the tents of the refugee camp she calls home, a young woman speaks her wedding vows. It's a decision that will alter her destiny...and it's a lie that will remain buried until the next century.



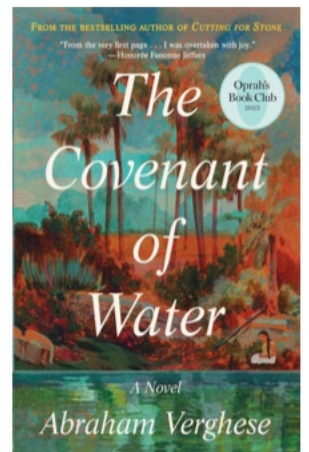
Since she was nine years old, Alina Dziak knew she would marry her best friend, Tomasz. Now fifteen and engaged, Alina is unconcerned by reports of Nazi soldiers at the Polish border, believing her neighbors that they pose no real threat, and dreams instead of the day Tomasz returns from college in Warsaw so they can be married. But little by little, injustice by brutal injustice, the Nazi occupation takes hold, and Alina's tiny rural village, its families, are divided by fear and hate.

Then, as the fabric of their lives is slowly picked apart, Tomasz disappears. Where Alina used to measure time between visits from her beloved, now she measures the spaces between hope and despair, waiting for word from Tomasz and avoiding the attentions of the soldiers who patrol her parents' farm. But for now, even deafening silence is preferable to grief.

- **Sunday, July 27:** National Parents Day
- **Sunday, July 27 (7:45 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Monday, August 4 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Thursday, August 21:** National Senior Citizens Day
- **Thursday, August 21 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese.

Amazon synopsis:

Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala's long-existing Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl—and future matriarch, known as Big Ammachi—will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants.



A shimmering evocation of a bygone India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the difficulties undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today. It is one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years..

- **Sunday, August 31 (7:45 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's

✦ **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.

*God of Abraham and Jesus, you invite your people
to contemplate heavenly things and urge us toward faith in you.
May your coming among us find our doors open,
our tables set, and all your people ready to greet you. Amen.*

✦ Picture Us ✦

● **Puppet Show:** From Puppets To Pew presented a tale based on John 21:6-8 which is about Jesus instructing his disciples to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, symbolizing the importance of following divine guidance for a bountiful harvest and emphasizing the importance of faith and obedience in following Jesus.



● **Rock Painting & Potluck:**

Christian Education spearheaded a congregational potluck and rock painting event May 25th after the worship service. The potluck was a marvel and then the congregational members let their creative juices flow! Once the rocks were painted and coated with rain-proofing, the members of the church placed them around Bloomfield and the surrounding area. Hopefully, community members will have as much fun finding these rocks as the congregation had in creating them.



✦ July/August Lectionary Reading ✦

	First* Reading and Psalm	Alternate* First Reading and Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Sunday July 6, 2025	2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30	Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9	Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Sunday July 13, 2025	Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82	Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-10	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
Sunday July 20, 2025	Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52	Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15	Colossians 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
Sunday July 27, 2025	Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85	Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138	Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)	Luke 11:1-13
Sunday August 3, 2025	Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
Sunday August 10, 2025	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23	Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
Sunday August 17, 2025	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
Sunday August 24, 2025	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
Sunday August 31, 2025	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Sirach 10:12-18 or <i>Proverbs 25:6-7</i> Psalm 112	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14
* Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.				

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Congregational Church
of East Bloomfield
Post Office Box 5
East Bloomfield, NY 14443

First Congregational Church

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