



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

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

March/April 2026

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

* We are located at 10 South Avenue, Bloomfield, NY, 14469

CHURCH STAFF

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*God of wilderness and water,
your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
Guide us through this season,
that we may not avoid struggle,
but open ourselves to blessing,
through the cleansing depths of repentance
and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.*

*** From the Pastor ***

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



As we enter the sacred season of Lent, we step into a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent invites us to slow down, examine our hearts, and draw closer to Christ as we journey toward the cross and the hope of resurrection. My prayer is that this season will be one of deep spiritual growth for each of us.

As part of our Lenten focus, we are launching a Food Pantry Challenge that will carry us through the entire season. This is a tangible way for us to practice generosity and compassion, remembering those in our community who are in need. I encourage every household to participate in whatever way you are able. Together, even small offerings can make a significant difference.

During Lent, we will also begin a daily Facebook devotional, which will replace our Thursday prayer service for this season. These short daily reflections are designed to keep us centered in Scripture and prayer throughout the week. Social media can often be filled with noise, but my hope is that this devotional space becomes a quiet moment of encouragement and spiritual grounding each day.

In addition, I am currently working on several potential ministry opportunities that I look forward to sharing and discussing with you at a later date. I am prayerfully discerning how we can continue to grow as a church — not only in attendance, but in discipleship, outreach, and faithful service to Christ.

Pastoral visits continue to be a priority for me. It is a privilege to sit with you, pray with you, and walk alongside you in both celebration and struggle. Please reach out if you would like a visit — I am always glad to connect.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your commitment to our shared mission. As we begin Lent together, may we seek the Lord with renewed hearts and open hands.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Angela

* Upcoming Events *

- **Good Friday Potluck and Service:** We will have a potluck on **Friday, April 3rd** starting at 6:00 p.m. It will be a great opportunity to emulate Jesus' last meal with his disciples as we join together in love and fellowship. Following dinner, we will have a Good Friday service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

* Birthdays *



March:

6 - Robin Stewart
12 - Joe Walters, Jr.
20 - Dale Webster
28 - Will Tyler

April:

12 - Bob Kelly

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 **March 1st** and **April 5th**. 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.

- **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 **March 2nd** and **April 6th**.

- **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 **March 29th**, and **April 26th**.

- **Book Club:** The church book club meets every third Thursday at **9:30 a.m.** in the Memorial Room. For this period, the club meets on **March 19th** to discuss the book *Mirror Image* by Sandra Brown and on **April 16th** to discuss the book *September* by Rosamund Pilcher. Please join us.

- **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.

* March and April Specific Calendar Events *

Monday, March 2: Read Across America Day

Monday, March 2 (9:00 a.m.): Women's breakfast at Brady J's

Sunday, March 8: Daylight Saving Time begins (set clocks forward 1 hour)

Tuesday, March 17: Saint Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 19 (9:30 a.m.): The church book club meets in the Memorial Room; they will discuss the novel *Mirror Image* by Sandra Brown.

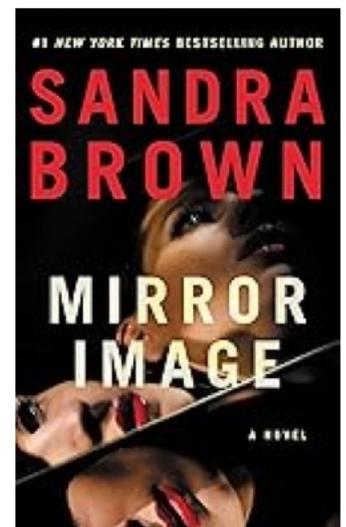
Amazon synopsis:

From a New York Times bestselling author, a jet crash throws a TV reporter into a world of mistaken identity and political intrigue in this novel full of romance and suspense. After plastic surgery transforms her face following a tragic accident, TV reporter Avery is mistaken for the glamorous wife of Texas dynasty member Tate Rutledge. As she lays helpless in the hospital, Avery makes a shattering discovery: someone close to Tate planned to assassinate him. Now, to save him, she must live another woman's life—and risk her own.

Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29 (7:45 a.m.): Men's breakfast at Brady J's

Wednesday, April 1: April Fools' Day



Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3: Good Friday

Sunday, April 5: Easter; He is risen indeed!

Monday, April 6 (9:00 a.m.): Women's breakfast at Brady J's

Tuesday, April 14: National Library Workers Day

Wednesday, April 15: Tax Day

Thursday, April 16 (9:30 a.m.): The church book club meets in the Memorial Room; they will discuss the novel *September* by Rosamund Pilcher.

Amazon synopsis:

Rosamunde Pilcher's *September*, a story of homecomings and heartbreaks, friendships, betrayals, forgiveness, and love.

The basis for the TV mini-series of the same name, now available on streaming platforms.

A place you will never forget.

Rosamunde Pilcher's Scotland...where the fields flourish with greenery, the hills bloom with purple, and the lochs glitter with the bright blue of the sky.

A time you will never forget.

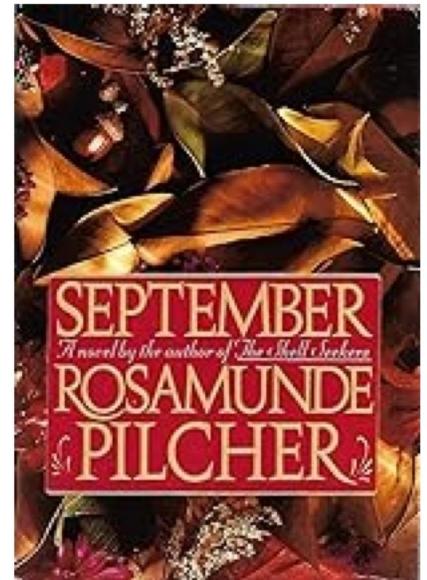
September...when the heather is in full flower, the first chill of autumn cools the air, and the countryside stirs with the hunt, balls, dinner parties, and dance.

A novel you will never forget.

Wednesday, April 22: Earth Day

Friday, April 24: Arbor Day

Sunday, April 26 (7:45 a.m.): Men's breakfast at Brady J's



* Miscellaneous *

● **Church Membership:** Please e-mail Pastor Angela at Pastor.FCCEB@outlook.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 will livestream the gospel readings and the sermon every Sunday morning during the regular worship service. Usually, the stream will begin around 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning. If you should miss the start of the live service, we will keep the videos on our Facebook page. They can be viewed 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 *

● **Welcome to Pastor Angela:** We welcomed our new interim pastor, Pastor Angela Barrett during a recent Fellowship & Coffee Hour. We are excited to see what the future brings us. When you see her, please wish Pastor Angela a rousing "welcome"!



● **Food Cupboard:** During this season of Lent, Pastor Angela has challenged the congregation to a friendly competition for the Food Cupboard. Each Sunday, we bring in donation items for the pantry and the side of the church that brings in the most "wins" for that week. We all know the real winners are the ones who get the donated goods, and it is nice to win that week's "contest." However, the benefit of almsgiving reminds us of the need to look beyond ourselves and extend our hands to those in need.

✿ March/April Lectionary

	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Sunday March 1, 2026	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 or <i>Matthew 17:1-9</i>
Sunday March 8, 2026	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Sunday March 15, 2026	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Sunday March 22, 2026	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Palm Sunday March 29, 2026		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11	
	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66 or <i>Matthew 27:11-54</i>
Maundy Thursday April 2, 2026	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday April 3, 2026	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or <i>Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9</i>	John 18:1-19:42
	Job 14:1-14 or <i>Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24</i>	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66 or <i>John 19:38-42</i>
	* Acts 10:34-43 or <i>Jeremiah 31:1-6</i>	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4 or <i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	John 20:1-18 or <i>Matthew 28:1-10</i>
Easter April 5, 2026	* Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 114	1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	Luke 24:13-49
Sunday April 12, 2026	* Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
Sunday April 19, 2026	* Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
Sunday April 26, 2026	* Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

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

Resurrecting God, you conquered death and opened the gates of life everlasting. In the power of the Holy Spirit, raise us with Christ that we, too, may proclaim healing and peace to the nations. Amen

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