



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

Website:
www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org
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September/October 2025

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

CHURCH STAFF

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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 who is God but the Lord?

And who is a rock, except our God?

The God who has girded me with strength has opened wide my path.

He has made my feet like the feet of the deer, and set me secure on the heights.

He has trained my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your help has made me great. You have made me stride freely, and my feet do not slip;

II Samuel 22: 32-37



There was a school shooting today. Two children, 8 and 10, are dead. Fourteen more are hospitalized, with a range of injuries. They are expected to survive, as are the three women in their eighties, who were attending Mass with them. This shooting took place at a Roman Catholic school and church, Annunciation Catholic Church and School, as the children, teachers and staff were coming to Mass. The school and church are located on the south side of Minneapolis.

These school shootings are becoming all too common. But, there was a distinct difference in this one. The shooting took place while the victims, the rest of the school and some community members were praying! They were talking to God when their lives were forever changed. Evil confronted good. It might seem that evil won. We absolutely know that is not true, but the parents of those two dead children might have a hard time believing it, and I would not blame them. Today, their minds and hearts are probably not focused on the images of their children being greeted by their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. They could be focused on the emptiness in their homes; on the absence of the physical presence of their children. To hear they and the other families affected by this are in our thoughts and prayers might provide little comfort.

I listened to the press conference late this afternoon, at which Governor Tim Walz, Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara, school principal Matthew DeBoer and the Archbishop of Minneapolis, Bernard Hebda, all spoke. The principal spoke about holding all these families in our prayers, and quoted an African proverb about prayer involving the moving of the feet; that image was reinforced by Archbishop Hebda. That image is why I chose the scripture passage at the beginning of this column. We as a church are prayer warriors. We take that weekly bulletin insert with the names of those needing prayer to heart. We spend time commending these people and their circumstances to God. The community of Annunciation Catholic Church will be added to that list tomorrow as we lift our prayers.

Prayer is always the best place to start, but it is not a place to end. The author of this passage from II Samuel knew that God was his shield and salvation. In his case, it was during war. He was given the feet of a deer to navigate the rough places, the places surrounded by treacherous terrain, and filled with enemies. He trusted God to bring him through that, as I am sure the people of Annunciation are trusting God to bring them through this tragedy. But rough places, treacherous terrain and enemies are not relegated to times of war. There are more than enough of them, here and now, that we as people of faith need to navigate. Please, this day, let God direct not only your words, but your feet.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sue

✿ Upcoming Events ✿

- **Council Meetings:** The church council will resume its regular schedule; they will meet the first Sunday of the month (after the worship service). For this period, the council will meet on **Sunday, September 7th** and **Sunday, October 5th**.
- **Choir:** The choir will resume its regular Wednesday night rehearsals. They meet in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning. The first Wednesday rehearsal for this period is Wednesday, **September 3rd**. All are welcome.
- **Rally Day:** The Christian Education Committee will sponsor a church Rally Day on **Sunday, September 21st**. Planned is a potluck luncheon for all church members and friends followed by team-based Bible Pictionary games.

You may ask “what is Rally Day?” Rally Day is often celebrated in churches at the start of the school year. It’s a way to kick-start the fall and the return from summer. Through out our summer, many of our members and friends have been away on vacation, some of our ministries have been on pause or only with limited gatherings; Rally Day is a great way to get us excited for everything starting back up again! Please join us on our “restart.”

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 ✿

● **Joint Worship Service:** We had a joint worship service with our neighbors at the United Methodist Church. It was very well attended and the picnic (with free hotdogs cooked so well by Lynn Tyler) was also a terrific treat. It's always nice to worship together.

● **Trustee News:** We have new tenant at the parsonage. Prior to the tenant moving in, the trustees hired Brian Wheeler to spruce up the home and do some repairs. The work was done in a timely manner and the tenant was happy to move in. Our thanks to Brian and the trustees. In addition, the trustees arranged for the inspection of our fire and security system; which came out well.

✿ Birthdays ✿



September:

9 - Mary Martin
18 - Alice McConnell
27 - Donna Messner
28 - Sue Walters

October:

4 - Rich Walters
6 - Lynn Tyler
14 - Phyllis Rehtin
16 - Amy Webster
26 - Jim Rehtin
30 - Bruce 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 **September 7th** and **October 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.

- **Council Meeting:** The church council meets the first Sunday of every month. For this period, the meetings will be **September 7th** and **October 5th**.

- **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 **September 2nd** (as the first Monday is a holiday) and **October 6th**.

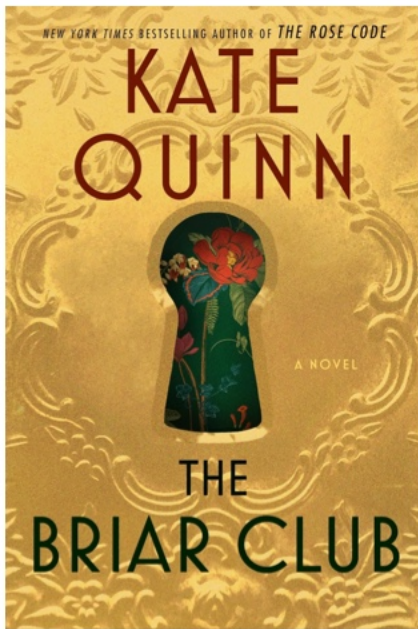
- **Choir Practice:** The choir meets every Wednesday evening for choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. There also is a short rehearsal every Sunday (before the worship service); this rehearsal starts at 9:15 a.m. As always, they are looking for singers and all are welcome.

- **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 **September 28th**, and **October 26th**.

✧ September and October Specific Calendar Events ✧

- Monday, September 1: Labor Day
- Tuesday, September 2 (9:00 a.m.): Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- Sunday, September 7: National Grandparents Day
- Thursday, September 11: Patriot Day
- Wednesday, September 17: Constitution Day & Citizenship Day
- Thursday, September 18 (9:30 a.m.): The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn.





Amazon synopsis:

Washington, DC, 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-the-heels all-female boardinghouse in the heart of the nation's capital where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when the lovely, mysterious widow Grace March moves into the attic room, she draws her oddball collection of neighbors into unlikely friendship: poised English beauty Fliss, whose facade of perfect wife and mother covers gaping inner wounds; policeman's daughter Nora, who finds herself entangled with a shadowy gangster; frustrated baseball star Beatrice, whose career has come to an end along with the women's baseball league of WWII; and poisonous, gung-ho Arlene, who has thrown herself into McCarthy's Red Scare.

Grace's weekly attic-room dinner parties and window-brewed sun tea become a healing balm on all their lives, but she hides a terrible secret of her own. When a shocking act of violence tears the house apart, the Briar Club women must decide once and for all: who is the true enemy in their midst?

Capturing the paranoia of the McCarthy era and evoking the changing roles for women in postwar America, *The Briar Club* is an intimate and thrilling novel of secrets and loyalty put to the test.

- Monday, September 22: September Equinox
- Sunday, September 28 (7:45 a.m.): Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- Monday, October 6 (9:00 a.m.): Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- Monday, October 13: Columbus Day
- Thursday, October 16 (9:30 a.m.): The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Paper Bracelet* by Rachael English.

Amazon synopsis:

For almost fifty years, Katie Carroll has kept a box tucked away inside her wardrobe. It dates from her time working as a nurse in a west of Ireland home for unwed mothers in the 1970s. The box contains a notebook holding the details of the babies and young women she met there. It also holds many of the babies' identity bracelets.



Following the death of her husband, Katie makes a decision. The information she possesses could help reunite adopted people with their birth mothers, and she decides to post a message on an internet forum. Soon the replies are rolling in, and Katie finds herself returning many of the bracelets to their original owners. She encounters success and failure, heartbreak and joy. But is she prepared for old secrets to be uncovered in her own life?

- Sunday, October 26 (7:45 a.m.): Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- Friday, October 31: Halloween

✿ 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 ✧

● **Marchaesi and Glamack Wedding:** on July 6th, the church had the honor of hosting the wedding of Marilyn (Mara) Glamack to Matt Marchaesi. Mara is the daughter of church member Nick Glamack. The bride, groom and the wedding party enjoyed the dressed up church.



● **July Red Wings Game (With Fireworks!):**
A large portion of the congregation went to a church



night out at a Rochester Red Wings baseball game at Innovative Field on Friday, July 25th.

While the Red Wings did not win, we all enjoyed the game. We got the church name on the billboard and there were fireworks after. A good time was had by all attendees.



God of faithful surprises, throughout the ages you have made known your love and power in unexpected ways and places. May we daily perceive the joy and wonder of your abiding presence and offer our lives in gratitude for our redemption. Amen.

✿ September/October Lectionary Reading ✿

	First Reading & Psalm	Alternate* First Reading & Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Sunday, September 7	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1	Philemon 1:1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Sunday, September 14	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14	Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
Sunday, September 21	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79:1-9	Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
Sunday, September 28	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31
Sunday, October 5	Lamentations 1:1-6 Lamentations 3:19-26 or <i>Psalm 137</i>	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
Sunday, October 12	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Psalm 66:1-12	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
Sunday, October 19	Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
Sunday, October 26	Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65	Sirach 35:12-17 or <i>Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22</i> Psalm 84:1-7	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-14
<i>Italicized readings, complementary to the standard reading, may be used with, or in place of it.</i>				

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
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