



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

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

Website:

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May/June 2025

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

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Reverend Sue Walters

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Office Hours:

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

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*Mighty God,
in whom we know the power of redemption,
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,
we will share in his resurrection,
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.*

✦ From the Pastor ✦

"So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

II Corinthians 12:9



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

Receive our prayers, O God, and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do so that your realm will come to fruition in glory. Amen.

✦ Upcoming Events ✦

● **Chicken BBQ Fundraiser:** We are fundraising with a BBQ sale (cooked by Gale-Wyn Catering) on **Sunday, May 18th**. We will serve BBQ chicken, salt potatoes and your choice of coleslaw or macaroni salad. The BBQ will begin at **11:00 a.m.** and will go until **4:00 p.m.** (or until sold out). The sale venue will be in the parking lot of Runnings (3191 County Road 10, Canandaigua, off of Eastern Boulevard).

** Please note our worship service on Sunday, May 18th, will begin at **9:00 a.m.** so that church members will be able to get to the BBQ site in time to start sales. Hope to see you there!*

● **Family Potluck:** The Christian Education committee will host a family potluck and games day on **Sunday, May 25th**; we will eat after the worship service. Congregational members are encouraged and friends of the church are encouraged to bring their favorite dish to share with everyone and then stay for group games.

● **Free Friday Suppers:** The church does not host these suppers during the summer months. We will be back with the free dinners in September. Thank you to the community for supporting us; we appreciate it.

✦ Birthdays ✦

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



May:

28 - Judd Rockcastle

30 - Marilyn Shafer

June:

16 - Nancy Walters

17 - Mona Eddy

19 - Jackie Shultz

20 - Janice Kelly

26 - Joan Hall

30 - Bethyn Boni

Holy God, you spoke the world into being. Pour your Spirit to the ends of the earth, that your children may return from exile as citizens of your commonwealth, and our divisions may be healed by your word of love and righteousness. Amen.

✦ Reoccurring 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 **May 4th** and **June 1st**. 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 meetings will be **May 4th** and **June 1st**. These meetings will start 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 **May 5th** and **June 2nd**.

- **Choir Practice:** The choir has weekly Wednesday rehearsals at 7:30 p.m. For those who cannot make it Wednesday evenings, there is a short rehearsal at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays. 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 **May 25th**, and **June 29th**.

✦ May and June Specific Calendar Events ✦

- **Thursday, May 1:** National Day of Prayer; this year's theme is "Pour Out to the God of Hope and Be Filled"

- **Sunday, May 4 (after the worship service):** Church council meeting

- **Monday, May 5 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's

- **Tuesday, May 6:** National Nurses Day
- **Tuesday, May 6:** National Teacher Appreciation Day
- **Sunday, May 11:** Mother's Day

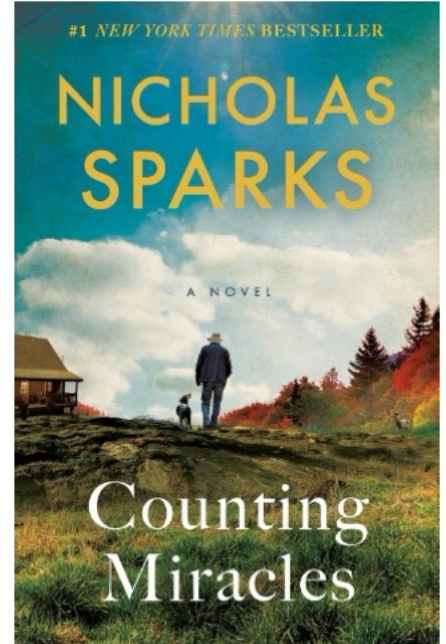


- **Thursday, May 15 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *Counting Miracles* by Nicholas Sparks.

Amazon synopsis:

Tanner Hughes was raised by his grandparents, following in his grandfather's military footsteps to become an Army Ranger. His whole life has been spent abroad, and he is the proverbial rolling stone: happiest when off on his next adventure, zero desire to settle down. But when his grandmother passes away, her last words to him are find where you belong. She also drops a bombshell, telling him the name of the father he never knew—and where to find him.

Tanner is due at his next posting soon, but his curiosity is piqued, and he sets out for Asheboro, North Carolina, to ask around. He's been in town less than twenty-four hours when he meets Kaitlyn Cooper, a doctor and single mom. They both feel an immediate connection; Tanner knows Kaitlyn has a story to tell, and he wants to hear it. To Kaitlyn, Tanner is mysterious, exciting—and possibly leaving in just a few weeks.



Meanwhile, nearby, eighty-three-year-old Jasper lives alone in a cabin bordering a national forest. With only his old dog, Arlo, for company, he lives quietly, haunted by a tragic accident that took place decades before. When he hears rumors that a white deer has been spotted in the forest—a creature of legend that inspired his father and grandfather—he becomes obsessed with protecting the deer from poachers.

As these characters' fates orbit closer together, none of them is expecting a miracle . . . but that may be exactly what is about to alter their futures forever.

- **Saturday, May 17:** Armed Forces Day
- **Sunday, May 18 (11:00 a.m.):** Chicken BBQ at Runnings in Canandaigua. Remember - our worship service will start at **9:00 a.m.** on this day
- **Sunday, May 25 (7:45 a.m.):** Men's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Sunday, May 25 (after the worship service):** Fellowship potluck and games

Memorial DAY

*Remembering those who served
and gave their all.*

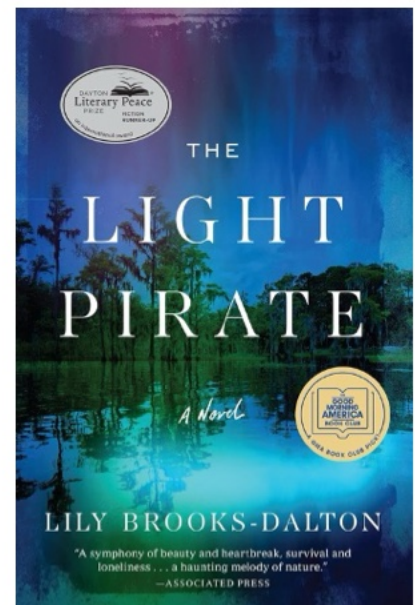
- **Monday, May 26:** Memorial Day
- **Thursday, May 29:** Ascension Day
- **Sunday, June 1 (after the worship service):** Church council meeting
- **Monday, June 2 (9:00 a.m.):** Women's breakfast at Brady J's
- **Friday, June 6:** D-Day remembrance
- **Sunday, June 8:** Pentecost - Commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and followers of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem; the beginning of the Church. Don't forget to wear **RED** this day
- **Saturday, June 14:** Flag Day
- **Sunday, June 15:** Trinity Sunday; celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- **Sunday, June 15:** Father's Day
- **Thursday, June 19 (9:30 a.m.):** The church book club meets in Pastor Sue's office; they will discuss the novel *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton.



Amazon synopsis:

Florida is slipping away. As devastating weather patterns and rising sea levels wreak gradual havoc on the state's infrastructure, a powerful hurricane approaches a small town on the southeastern coast. Kirby Lowe, an electrical line worker, his pregnant wife, Frida, and their two sons, Flip and Lucas, prepare for the worst. When the boys go missing just before the hurricane hits, Kirby heads out into the high winds in search of his children. Left alone, Frida goes into premature labor and gives birth to an unusual child, Wanda, whom she names after the catastrophic storm that ushers her into a society closer to collapse than ever before.

As Florida continues to unravel, Wanda grows. Moving from childhood to adulthood, adapting not only to the changing landscape, but also to the people who stayed behind in a place abandoned by civilization, Wanda loses family, gains community, and ultimately, seeks adventure, love, and purpose in a place remade by nature.



Told in four parts—power, water, light, and time—*The Light Pirate* mirrors the rhythms of the elements and the sometimes quick, sometimes slow dissolution of the world as we know it. It is a meditation on the changes we would rather not see, the future we would rather not greet, and a call back to the beauty and violence of an untamable wilderness.

- **Friday, June 20:** June Solstice; summer starts!
- **Sunday, June 29 (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.

Living God, you have created all that is. Send forth your Spirit to renew and restore us, that we may proclaim your good news in ways and words that all will understand and believe. Amen.

✦ Picture Us ✦



The church was honored to host the Greater Rochester Area Christian Ensemble (Grace) Choir, an interdenominational, community-based Christian choir, as they sang a selection of gospel hymns by Fanny Crosby on Sunday, March 9th. Directed by Dr. Lon Beery, the choir presented the hymns by Fanny Crosby interspersed with a hymn sing-along that encouraged audience participation. And oh my! The audience enthusiastically joined in on the sing-along portion (most times in four-part harmony), making the church rafters ring. It truly was an inspiring concert.

A truly special part of this presentation was that nine members of our congregation are in the Grace Choir and so had the pleasure of presenting this inspirational music to their fellow congregants in addition to the general public. What a great concert!



✦ May/June Lectionary Reading ✦

Sunday, June 8	* Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalms 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
Sunday, May 11	* Acts 9:36-43	Psalms 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
Sunday, May 18	* Acts 11:1-18	Psalms 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
Sunday, June 8	* Acts 16:9-15	Psalms 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29 or <i>John 5:1-9</i>
Ascension of the Lord Thursday, May 29	* Acts 1:1-11	Psalms 47 or <i>Psalms 93</i>	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Sunday, June 1	* Acts 16:16-34	Psalms 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
Day of Pentecost Sunday, June 8	* Acts 2:1-21 or <i>Genesis 11:1-9</i>	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17 or <i>Acts 2:1-21</i>	John 14:8-17, (25-27)
Trinity Sunday Sunday, June 15	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalms 8		Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
Sunday, June 22	1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a Psalms 42 and 43	Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalms 22:19-28	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
Sunday, June 29	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalms 16	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62

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

Redeeming Sustainer, visit your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

First Congregational Church
of East Bloomfield
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