



EAST BLOOMFIELD UMC
WHERE EVERYBODY BELONGS
AS WE SEEK GOD, SERVE GOD, SHARE GOD
ROMANS 8:28



THE GOOD NEWS(LETTER)

DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings of peace and love in the name of the Prince of Peace!

As we immerse in the season of Advent, we learn how to wait. We wait and anticipate the birth of the Savior, Immanuel, God Incarnate born to Mary, a baby. Christians all know this story - Jesus was born from Mary in a stable barn in Bethlehem, humble beginnings for the King of Kings, Prince of Peace, the Lord, our God. So, why wait and have a season called Advent?

It is an intentional time of wonder, preparation, remembering, and honoring the most Holy Lord's gentle, humble, and human beginning as Jesus. God came to us in human form, born of a teenaged girl, Mary, to know humanity in a way that was lived experience. He could cry our tears, honor faithful joy, find a way to teach us his truth while healing our wounds. He came to Earth to pave the way to eternal love, and so, gently, we wait.

During the course of my life, waiting has had to be learned. Not my favorite first choice - anybody else? In a fast-paced world of instant Internet information at our finger-tips, of running to the store to satisfy a feasting whim, or a phone call across the miles to speak and even see, a friend or loved one - waiting has taken a back seat to important moments in our lives. So, maybe we need to remember year after year, waiting is a good thing?

I have learned to appreciate the anticipation and preparation for the events upon which I have waited during my years on the planet: the birth of children and grandchildren is my favorite example. In this, I can relate to Mary and her story.

There simply is no "hurry-up" in the world of growing a life in one's own womb; in fact, while one tends to be quite ready to give birth after 40 weeks of carrying the baby in one's body, there is something holy and precious as one feels life inside, week after week. Patience happens because it must and it is a classic definition of "worth the wait" until baby is born. From the stories of your lives I have heard - you feel much the same, too.

Mary and Joseph were in these moments of anticipation too, waiting upon the birth of Jesus. They were certainly confused after all the excitement of being betrothed, Mary suddenly "expecting" after a trip to see her cousin, Elizabeth, pulling Joseph in the depths of doubt, disappointment, and fear. What could the explanation be of Mary's pregnancy - other than the obvious? Until the angel who appeared to Mary also appeared to Joseph, the only thing he was waiting for was to live together and make a life; those hopes were suddenly dashed! Everything changed after the angel appeared, because he knew that he would raise Jesus, Son of God, as his son, too. As a father with a clear purpose before him, what were

Continues on p. 2

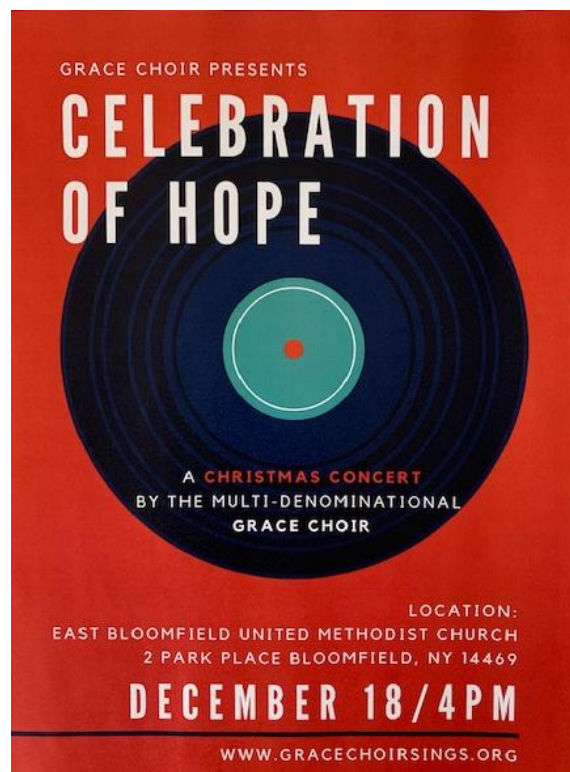
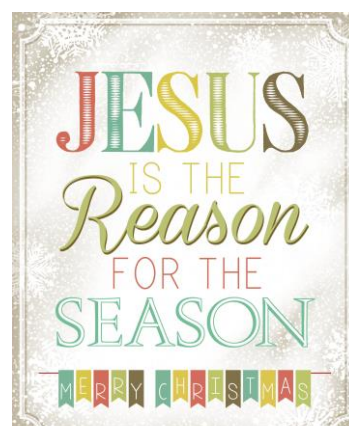
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those moments of waiting, confusion, elation, faith and perhaps, fear? I think that when we anticipate something really important - we can fill the time with all of our faith and emotions, as Mary and Joseph must have done, on the slow journey walking to Bethlehem.

In our “instant” world, can we slow down just a bit, in our hearts, to reflect on what it means that God would choose to come to Earth as a baby? Not in the flood, not in the earthquake, not in the torrential winds - but as a human/divine baby. The sheer gentleness of it all is, holy. Can we focus on this peace in our Advent time of preparation and waiting?

I hope and pray that as we journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph, we can find a peace and gentleness with one another and the world around, witness to this peace to others, and take that patient peace with love into the weeks that follow Christmas, because of Jesus. He is born.

With hope, joy, peace and love, Rev. Dr. Robin Blair



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Please see or call Christine McGinnis, Christian Education Director, at 585-924-7801 (home), 585-360-3353 (cell) or 585-657-7220 (church, usually here Tues. mornings).

Join us for Children's Bible lessons on [Facebook Live](#) every Tuesday at 12 noon and our Facebook videos for an archive of past lessons!



Wednesday, December 1

This will be a cooking class for children ages 9 & up from 4-6pm (3-4 early prep).

Our children will be preparing stuffed baked potatoes. Reservations required. Please call the office.

John 21:15

Feed My Lambs Family Night
at East Bloomfield UMC



Cookie Fest!

Wed, December 22 from 4-6pm

Feed My Lambs Cooking Club will be making and decorating cut-out cookies for shut-ins. If you know someone in need of a cookie or two from church, please let us know by Sun, Dec. 12 by calling the office, Miss McGinnis, or Mrs. Mann with your request.
Merry Christmas!

Received after the October Feed My Lambs...

To Thank Everyone who helped make the Feed My Lambs evening so successful. I appreciate the delicious meal I received – chicken & biscuits & flavorful gravy. From my car I could see 3 adults who have been working closely with our EBUMB children, and I saw children who came out to the car (and Sunday there were 3 in church – even with covid)—so good to see those children. I am so proud to have all these people working together to make the words of Jesus in the Bible come true. Please pass this note around to any & all who were involved. We should all be praising our leaders in this church who help to make all this happen. Love one another!
Much thanks to all.
Love from “Miss Marion”

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

Monday evenings 7 pm, lectionary bible study

Wednesday mornings, 10am prayer time

Email invitations will be sent to the events above, there is room for everyone. For more information, email Pastor Robin at revrobinblair@gmail.com



JOURNALING WITH GOD BIBLE STUDY

Not in Dec. but
on Fri, Jan. 28
from 7-8:30pm
at church

Contact Amber
(585-683-5233)
or Erica
(585-770-3812)
with any questions



4th Fridays
each month

CARD MINISTRY WED, DEC. 1, 6-7:30PM

WED, JAN. 5, 6-7:30PM + FRI, JAN. 21, 7-8:30PM

Led by Amber Whittemore, our EBUMC card ministry is a great way to learn how to create these little gifts of love and care. You are welcome to bring supplies if you have them but they will be provided.



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP NEWS

from Donna Hritz

Church operating fund financials for 2021 as of October 31, 2021:

Total Income plus SBA PPP loan: \$89,057 (all income sources not achieving the levels of 2020 and attendance has yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels)

Total Expenses paid: \$92,054 (we are fortunate to have reserves from prior solvent years to pay those expenses that exceed the income this year)

You may have noticed that we did not include a 2022 budget summary in the stewardship mailing you recently received. The church leadership continues to work on a budget for 2022. We have significant challenges ahead as our community struggles with the impact of the pandemic. We endeavor to continue to provide outreach and support as we serve God by serving others. We are facing a significant deficit in 2022 due to shrinking revenue with no federal help available like we received in 2020 and 2021. The leadership team continues to lift our situation in prayer, putting our faith in Christ to light a path as we finalize the budget in early December. Please join in a community of prayer, asking for discernment on your level of commitment of time, talents, and gifts towards the stewardship of this body of Christ. We will come together to celebrate our joint commitment through a consecration of our stewardship pledges on the first Sunday of Advent. What a festive day, where we recognize our many blessings and experience the joy found in preparing our house of worship for celebrating the birth of our Savior!

SOCIAL HOLINESS FORUM

Below you will find the draft of the voting ballot that will be used for EBUMC regarding the current language in the Book of Discipline that is under dispute. This ballot will be sent out the first week in January and is for members only. The vote will be by mail or email and you will have 10 days to respond.

What is the discussion in the UMC over theological differences in grace and human sexuality?

The UMC as a Christian denomination is in disagreement over matters of scripture and human sexuality through grace. Some folks believe that homosexuality is wrong, based on scripture, some folks believe that how God made you through love and grace is never wrong. The differences have reached a point of peaceful separation in the denomination due to these different theologies. Here is how it will work: The General Conference will meet in Aug 2022 for a vote on how to separate. We will have delegates from our AC there. Every local church will need to choose how God speaks to them on grace and human sexuality.

Current position of the Book of Discipline, states:

¶ 304.3 Qualifications for Ordination

While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.

This means that persons of the LGBTQIA+ community will not be considered for ordination or licensing in the UMC regardless of their authentic call from God, education, or gifts, graces and talents. It closes the door to persons for reasons of sexual orientation. It also means these persons cannot be married in the UMC, even if it is the church of their baptism and membership.

Proposed change to the Book of Discipline:

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This means that persons of the LGBTQIA+ community will be considered for ordination or licensing in the UMC in light of their authentic call from God, education, or gifts, graces and talents. It does not close the door to persons for reasons of sexual orientation. It also means these persons can be married in the UMC.

I agree that:

We keep the current language in BOD section 304.3.



I agree that:

The last two sentences of BOD 304.3 should be removed



Terms explained on back

To abstain-place an X here _ _ _ _ _

Terms explained:

UMC: the United Methodist Church

BOD: The UMC Book of Discipline is the document that interprets scripture and orders the life of the church

Grace: the unearned mercy and forgiveness to the human condition given freely by the Christ through the sacrifice of his human life and acceptance of his resurrection

Theology: how we understand and respond to a relationship with the Lord our God

General Conference: the meeting of delegates of the global UMC every four years to review, add to or edit the BOD

Annual Conference (AC): the annual gathering the of faithful to attend to the temporal matters of the church, like ordination, reports of the teams/churches, budgetary truths, and worship. We belong to the Upper New York AC of the UMC.

LGBTQIA-lesbian, gay, transgender, queer, intersect, asexual

Human Sexuality: one of the ways God blessed you to love one another in trust, faith and intimacy

Local church: the gathering of the faithful as connected to the Annual Conference in the UMC, members can vote on matters and anyone is welcome to worship

PRAYERS & SUPPORT

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Marlene Ward and her family on the passing of her brother-in-law, Rich and to Gregg Schwerzler and his family on the passing of his father, Ray.

May you find comfort in God and in knowing that your church family's prayers are with you.



PRAYER CONCERNS: please pray for **members of our Armed Forces, allies and veterans; all those working to combat the virus;** the children, staff, & faculty of local schools; **Amber Whittemore; Owen Hardy and Ron Newell,** recovering from surgical procedures; **Grace Anne Scott; Marlene Ward and family; Helen Lane;** and **Melody Judd** and family.

Taking Care of the Body of Christ

Everybody belongs at EBUMC. We love and care for each other. We also believe in the power of prayer and see evidence of it every day. If you are ill or in otherwise are in need of prayer, we can cover you in God's love through prayer. Notify us of prayer needs through the PRAYER CHAIN by contacting either Mary Lou Stark (585-229-2366) or Pastor Robin Blair (revrobinblair@gmail.com or 315-429-7785), or if you'd like to be a caller for the prayer chain or would like to be added to the chain to receive calls. ALL of us will be praying for you. WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST!



God's hugs are for everyone. There is a basket with Prayer blankets in the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to take one & make an announcement during Prayers & Concerns. We'll place the blanket on the communion rail, bless it & have it available for your church family to personally pray for that individual—a great opportunity to show God's love to all.

Pastor's Emergency Fund

Help Pastor Robin be able to assist those in need! Donations to the Pastor's Emergency Fund are always welcome and appreciated to help supply gas cards, food and help with rent & utilities to those whose resources are stretched. Thank you for your generosity!



"AND WE KNOW
THAT IN ALL THINGS, GOD WORKS
FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM,
WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE."

ROMANS 8:28

MISSIONS

Owen & Deanne Hardy's granddaughter, Noelle Ferris, is a missionary and registered nurse that we sponsor. She works through Christ for the City International in La Carpio, Costa Rica. Please keep her in your prayers.

To contact Noelle: phone/WhatsApp +15852972564 or email ferris.noelle@gmail.com.



Scan the QR code to access her giving page.



Find out more at: <https://cfci.org/donate/detail/?search=noelle-ferris>

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS from Donna Hritz:

One of our Mom's is Expecting

Help us welcome this baby by participating in our Virtual Baby Boy Shower!
The baby is due in a few short weeks. Go to the link below to see what our mom needs.
You can have things delivered right to the Day Center.

<https://signup.com/go/GJMkVig>



Save the Date! Giving Tuesday is Nov. 30
Did you know that in our area Giving Tuesday has been branded ROCtheDay by the United Way of Rochester? United Way makes it easy to make a 'Giving Tuesday' donation via their ROCtheDay website. Some may be wondering what 'Giving Tuesday' is? Giving Tuesday, often described as a global day of giving or a global generosity movement, is held each year on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Family Promise of Ontario County is one of the many charities available to support on the ROCtheDay website: <https://www.roctheday.org/Causes-to-Support/Family-Promise-of-Ontario-County>

GREAT BIG TOY GIVEAWAY



With the revamped Toy Giveaway about to launch, we are in good shape. There are lots of toys, games, puzzles and books to fill the shelves at the Support Shoppe! Cleaning and organizing is headed up by Laurie Christiansen; delivery and our participation on Dec 24th is led by Susan Mann. At this point we would really like more personal hygiene items to create male and female bags.

Our voucher distribution dates still remain Nov 17th (10am-12pm) and Dec 4th (10am-12pm). If those dates are missed and someone still has need, please have them call the church and leave their number so we can contact them. Thank you once again, congregation, for your support. We are trying some new ways for us to widen the reach of God's plan for us to be in community. Warmest wishes for a peace-filled Christmas season.

How do you view your faith? Submitted Nancy Gullo

The Reverend Cathy Noble asked her church family three questions. I challenge you folks reading this to answer them as your heart tells you.

Here are the questions and my responses. I think it will give all something to ponder over in our hearts.

What do you believe in and why? I believe in my family. I believe in Santa Claus. I believe in love and forgiveness. But most of all, I believe in God and prayer, as God has kept my family safe and kept my husband with me for 46 years when doctors gave him five years to live. I believe that the love of God brought all of this about. As Christmas comes, and a little child waits for Santa and smiles and jumps for joy when he or she sees that Santa has come, who else could make this happen but God working through that jolly old fellow that leads the sleigh. But what about that poor child that received no gifts, where is God then? He is with us, working through us and churches to make Christmas wishes come true. Food and care packages are sent; and through prayer and faith, God will provide.

What difference does it make that I am a person of faith? I hope it makes a difference to other people. I hope they can see the Love I feel for Christ through my words and actions. I hope my children see Jesus through me, as they look at their mother. Being a child of faith makes it so much easier to get through this troubling world. Without my faith I would be nothing. Where would I get my strength for each new day if it weren't for my faith? This I pray for my children.

How does being a disciple of Jesus affect my life? By doing the right thing, and helping others, I am making God smile. This is important to me – to always make him smile. When I've done wrong, I feel miserable knowing I've disappointed Jesus and possibly others I may have hurt. So it is important to me to be a faithful Christian, and do what Jesus would want me to do. I want to be happy. I want to have peace and love in my heart, and I can only do this by being a disciple of Jesus. May it be so with you.

Merry Christmas everyone. May you feel the love of Jesus at this most wonderful time.

Nickel & Dime Redemption Center at 2 E. Main St., Bloomfield
Thank you for your contributions! We received a check from the center for almost \$40!
Please continue to drop off your redeemable cans and bottles and ask them to credit the church's account.

Our Connectional Church System: Our connection to others in our worldwide church remains a vital part of our United Methodist identity. As part of this connection, we covenant to pray for other churches and pastors in our Genesee Valley District. In **December and January**, we are praying for:

- ✦ Sparta Center UMC & Pastor David Zastrow
- ✦ Spencerport UMC & Pastor John Laskowski
- ✦ Springwater UMC & Pastor Dawn Merritt
- ✦ Stafford UMC & Pastor Eric McHugh
- ✦ Victor First UMC & Pastor Benjamin Lalka
- ✦ Walworth UMC & Pastor Jacque Ruth
- ✦ Warsaw: First UMC & Rev. Ann Robinson
- ✦ Warsaw: Immanuel UMC & Rev. Ann Robinson
- ✦ Wayland UMC & Rev. Daniel Finch

- ✦ District Superintendent, Vonda Fossitt
- ✦ Bishop, Mark Webb

Online Shoppers!
If you make online purchases at the normal posted prices through <https://umcmarket.org/> or <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/16-1194916> and designate EBUMC as their charity of choice, a small portion of the sale will be sent to our church as a donation.



Volunteer opportunity: Media Ministry

Many thanks to Jaclyn Bell who has volunteered to help out the congregation with social media.

Also: if you are Facebook savvy, please help us during worship to sit at the church iPad in the second row to insure the folks watching at home are able to worship with us, too. Training available if needed (it's really easy). Thank you! Call the office to talk it over – bless you in advance – God is calling.



American Legion Auxilliary Appreciates Your Support

Needed are New white t-shirts (v-neck or crew) in sizes S-XXL and new underwear (briefs or boxer briefs) in sizes S-XXL!
Always collecting: Slim Jims and water flavorings (KoolAid/ Iced Tea, prefer no lemonade), white socks, snack packs of cookies/graham crackers, old flags, blankets, and boxed baking mixes always welcome. Please place all of these things IN (not on top of) the red box in the kitchen.

Thank you all and God bless always, Tillie



Poinsettias for Advent

The Worship Ministry Team will again be offering poinsettias for sale to decorate our church sanctuary as we approach Christmas. These will be placed in the sanctuary for the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19 as well as Christmas Eve. The cost will be \$10. **Order may be placed by filling out the form below and placing it in the offering plate or by returning it to Ayn in the office by Monday, Dec. 6.** If you prefer to make a mission donation, the option chosen for this year is the EBUMC Nurture and Outreach committee (formerly known as MISC). It is a new line in the budget.

Name: _____

____ I (We) would like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas.

of poinsettias: ____ red ____ white ____ pink ____ marble

Total cost of poinsettias at \$10 each = _____

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

____ I (We) would like to make a donation of \$_____ to EBUMC Nurture & Outreach committee (formerly known as MISC):

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

Total enclosed: \$_____

News from the Craft Sale

A big thank you goes to all those who crafted, donated things, worked at the sale and bought things to support our church. The yearly craft sale, whatever format it has taken over the years, has always been a successful fundraiser for EBUMC. We are hoping that at least 2 people will pick up the ball and run with it, because Laura Prong and Becky Buchholz have decided to step down from their co-chair positions. The total earned from this year's sale will be published in the weekly update next week, and in the 11/21 church bulletin.

OFFICE INFO & UPDATES

December & January Office Schedule Hiccups

The office is open Mon-Tues-Wed
from 8am-noon.

The office will be closed Mon/Tues, Dec. 20/21,
Wed, Dec. 29, Mon. Jan. 3, and Mon. Jan. 17.
Any further updates will be in the bulletin.
Thank you for your understanding and
flexibility.



The deadline for submissions to the
announcements in the bulletin
is Tuesdays at 10am. Thanks!

The newsletter is now published bi-monthly
(December/January, February/March, etc.)
The **deadline** for the **February/March
newsletter** is **Sunday, January 16**.
Please have any submissions to Ayn
by that day, but earlier is better.

Pastor Robin's schedule & contact info:

Sun 10:30am worship
Mon Home office
Tues 10am-1pm in office
Wed 11am-1pm in office
Thu Ionia UMC
Fri Sabbath
Sat Off (unless event)

You may reach Pastor Robin at:

Church (585) 657-7220
Home (315) 729-4485
Email revrobinblair@gmail.com

Happy Birthday December!

1-Conner De Badts
2-Donna Packer
3-Laurie Newell
8-Larry Orr
12-Nancy Gullo
13-Cathy Garrett
15-Bonnie Kelly
16-Richard Thomas
20-Meredith Messinger
21-Mike Bailey
22-Christine Pless
22-John Peters
24-Shirley Kelly
27-Suzie Jewell
30-Melody Judd
31-David Lane



Happy Birthday January!

1-Lisa Kay
1-Bob Spike
5-Ros Duncan
7-Andy McGovern
9-Dan Broadwell
10-Joan Eckler
12-Wanda Bailey
12-Grace Ann Scott
12-Tom Weigert
13-Colby Orr
14-Karen Yell
16-Andy Hritz
22-Levi Orr
23-Joan Mason
26-Paul Stark



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021-JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 Laity Sunday Worship-10:30am	22 NO Zoom Bible Study, 7pm (Pastor on vacation)	23	24 Office closed	25 Office closed Happy Thanksgiving!	26 Office closed	27
28 Advent 1 Worship-10:30am	29	30	Dec. 1 Card ministry 6-7:30pm	2	3	4 Toy Giveaway cleaning 10am- noon
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Grace Choir Concert, 4pm
19	20 Office closed	21 Blue Christmas service, 4pm EB	22	23	24 Christmas Eve service, 7:30pm	25 Merry Christmas!
26	27	28	29 Office closed	30	31	Jan. 1 Happy New Year!
2	3	4	5 Card ministry 6-7:30pm	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Feb/March newsletter deadline	17 Office closed	18	19	20	21 Card ministry 7-8:30pm	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Bible Journaling 7-8:30	29
30	31					

Recurring events

Sundays – **Worship** at 10:30am

Mondays- **Zoom Bible study**, 7pm; AA 6:30-9:30pm

Tuesdays-**Common Table Coffee Hour**, 9-10am, **Miss McGinnis** on Facebook Live at noon

Wednesdays – **Zoom Prayer group**, 10am

Thursdays – AA 6:30-9:30pm

Contact info:

E-mail: ebumc1830@gmail.com

Website: www.eastbloomfieldumc.org

Church phone: (585) 657-7220

Church office hours:

Monday-Wednesday, from 8am-12pm

Rev. Dr. Robin Blair, Pastor

Pastor's hours:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 10-1

Also by appointment

Fridays, Sabbath

Worship Service

Sunday at 10:30am on Facebook Live

Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/eastbloomfieldumc



East Bloomfield United Methodist Church
PO Box 6, 2 Park Place
E. Bloomfield, NY 14443

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED