

## FROM THE STATED SUPPLY ASSOCIATE PASTOR . . .

If there's any doubt that we have some first-rate optimists at GPC, remember one thing: Easter's outdoor service. This year's sunrise worship was planned while huge drifts of snow covered the front yard. We put out ads to the Gates-Chili post promising an outdoor, sunrise Easter service, as if the snow would magically disappear before then. And yet, Easter morning came and we were blessedly snow free . . . until our second service.

We've had some false starts in this year's spring season, but thankfully Easter season is more dependable. Even with snow coming down, we still celebrated Christ's resurrection and the new life he brought to the world. And now, in this Easter season, we have plenty of new life to celebrate in our church.

Spring has brought with it more sunlight and later sunsets. There are a few brave flowers poking up from the ground, and our Mother's Day flower sale will bring even more blooms into our homes. Our young adults had a mission day outside (finally!) at Grace House, and are preparing for a Habitat build day in June. The preschool even has new baby chicks to welcome to the world, who are growing fast. All around us, the world is bursting with new life and new hope.

At GPC, the joy of new life will continue all the way through the Easter season, into Pentecost. We're eagerly preparing an inquirer's day for people who are interested in joining GPC and becoming an official part of our congregation's life and mission. We'll be welcoming them as new members in worship on May 17<sup>th</sup>, and celebrating their commitment to the church. Pentecost's joyous worship will remind us all of the Holy Spirit's power to bring new life, from Biblical times into today.

At the end of May our confirmation class will lead worship as the newest members of the church, sharing their faith journeys with us in a special Fus!on Sunday service. The class has worked hard throughout the year to explore their beliefs and be part of many different activities in the church, finding the places where they can use their gifts to serve God in our congregation. I'm proud of their amazing journey, and excited to watch them become an official part of our church family as members.

Of course, the new life in Easter season doesn't end with new members or new flowers on the windowsill. We've come through Lent, a time of wilderness and connection in difficult times. I hope you take this Easter season as a time of new opportunities and growth, when we can connect and celebrate together. What a wonderful time to enjoy the sunshine!

Peace,  
Katie

## Covenant for the Session of Gates Presbyterian Church

Every year the GPC session spends time at the beginning of the year prayerfully considering the ways we promise to be accountable, and hold each other accountable to God, to each other, and to the congregation.

### Our Promises to God

Dear God we acknowledge that we cannot "fix" the church or each other and it is your grace that makes us whole.

We the Session of Gates Presbyterian Church covenant to:

- Seek and listen for your will in all that we do.
- Be faithful, joyful, patient, and humble in our work.
- Praise and worship you!
- Pray for your wisdom in our decision making.

### Our Promises to Each Other *and Ourselves*

We covenant with each other *and to our self* to:

- Pray for each other, including the joys and concerns raised in our meetings.
- Acknowledge disappointments, mistakes, and failures as part of our journey in faith. Take time to learn and grow from them.
- Be willing to open our minds to ideas that are different from our own and the way things "have always been."
- Have fun together and experience God's joy!
- Listen, respect, love, forgive, challenge, and encourage each other.
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### Our Promises to the Congregation

We covenant with the congregation to:

- Uphold the promises we make in baptism and ordination to "guide and nurture by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging each other to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church."
- Pray for the congregation as a community of faith and the members in it.
- Lead by example.
- Get to know the members of the congregation, especially those we may not know as well or don't sit near "our pew."
- Communicate the decisions made in session and the work of our committees in appropriate ways.
- Share in the excitement, fun and joy of serving!

## MEMBERSHIP AT GPC

Are you seeking deeper ties to a community of faith? Have you found your way to GPC and wonder about what membership might mean for you? Are you interested in becoming a member, but have questions? Please contact the church office at 247-5292, so we can connect you with one of our pastors. New members will meet after worship in the Adult Lounge on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** for an informal gathering and officially be welcomed in worship on **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**.

## ADOPT-A-GARDEN

Some garden areas around the church are available for YOU to plant. A sign-up sheet and map of the gardens are on the Kiosk. Signing up for a garden means you are willing to weed, water, and groom that area for this year. Let's keep our GPC gardens beautiful. Any questions, call the church office at 247-5292.

## MEN 2 MEN

Men 2 Men will have breakfast May 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22 and the theme for April is gentleness. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Sign-up sheet is on the kiosk.

## PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Date	Lay Reader	Front Door Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
May 3	Carrie Dykes	Linda Beattie	3	4
May 10	Dick Stewart	Kathy Wakeman	4	5
May 17	Carol Brown	Lucia VerSteeg	5	6
May 24	Bridget Wohlers	Kris Ohman	6	1
May 31	Confirmation Class	Peter Derry	1	2

Communion Team D:

Left: 1. Bridget Wohlers  
2. Gordon Chapman  
3. Osmond Simm  
4. Lucia VerSteeg

Right: 1. Bruce Taylor  
2. Barb Chapman  
3. Ann Marie Simm  
4. James Poole



# GIANT COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET



Our first ever Community Flea Market is fast approaching and we're excited for a successful event. Some things you need to know: Unlike previous Yard Sales, we will ONLY be accepting donations of:

- Baby & children's clothes
- Books: novels, biographies, etc. (NO textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, magazines or tapes please!)
- Jewelry of all kinds.
- Baked Foods ... Friday or the morning of the market.
- Please do not donate other items as we will have no space to sell them. Thank You!!

Donations can be left along the back (east) wall of the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings when you come to church beginning on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. After that we will have people there to receive your donations starting on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> continuing through Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> during regular office hours from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. If you unable to deliver during these hours, please call Ginny at 426-8427 and we will make other arrangements to suit your schedule.

On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will have sign-up forms on the Kiosk where you can volunteer for short periods of time to help us with set up of indoor areas and marking of outdoor spaces, help in church-benefit booths, act as hosts and hostesses, parking and traffic control and cleanup. Also, we would appreciate your time if you would like to work with the youth setting up and selling food. Thank you for all your encouragement and assistance ... whatever you can do. Also, don't forget to consider selling your own "stuff" at either inside or outside spaces. You'll have a great time!!

## **GPC MEMORIAL GARDEN**

The Memorial Garden was created as a hallowed place for the interment of ashes of our faithful departed. This garden has been dedicated in the spirit of closing the ministry from birth to death.



The Memorial Garden increases our choices by providing a sacred space, not a cemetery, on our church grounds to remember those who have passed away. The Garden is also used as a special gathering place for prayer and meditation.

The Memorial Garden has been financially self-sustaining and continues to be maintained through the use of Memorial Garden donations, fees paid for the interment of cremains and the sale of engraved bricks that will be placed in the memorial walkway.

Sales of the engraved bricks continues to be available and forms can be found in the information rack outside the church office and on the GPC website [www.gatespres.org](http://www.gatespres.org) under the Links tab - Forms & Documents. The cost for an engraved brick is \$100. Donations to the Memorial Garden are always welcome.

If you would like more information regarding the Memorial Garden please contact a member of the Memorial Garden Committee, Ed Coons, Rev. Melissa DeRosia, Carmella Judd, Mary Hughes, Babe Meyer, Barb Snaith, Eric Vail.

## **YOUNG ADULT NEWS:**

### **Calling All Awesome Adults:**

Ever thought about coming on a youth work project? Adult sponsors help lead small group reflections, work hard with the youth, and HAVE FUN. Start thinking about whether you'd like to be part of this great experience with us. We also need cooks, so if you love cooking (or hate mornings and want a calmer work project experience) let us know!



### **Calling All Young Adults (college-40, we're not picky):**

Our summer 2015 Work Weekend is a go! We'll be traveling to Stony Point, NY to take part in a food justice retreat where we'll work on local farms, learn about sustainability, and enjoy canoeing and campfires. We'll leave late on Thursday, August 20th, and get back on Sunday the 23rd. More info to come on our Facebook group: Young Adults at GPC.

## **STEWARDSHIP & BUDGET QUARTERLY FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

It's hard to believe we are already one quarter or 25% through 2015, but wanted to provide an update of our financial position as of the end of March. As we also experienced last year, the winter was not kind to us which is reflected in the fact that our heating and snowplowing costs are well over budget for the first three months. Despite the current deficit, although slightly better than 2014, we are covering payroll and managing our payments carefully. We appreciate you keeping current with pledges as well as paying your Per Capita of \$29.38, if you have not already done so. If you have any questions about the information below, please talk with the Elders on the Budget and Stewardship Committee (Linda Beattie and Carrie Dykes) or a Session member.

	Actual	Budget	Actual
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 80,707	\$ 295,569	\$ 78,800
<u>Expense Summary:</u>			
Staff Support	\$ 62,679	\$ 240,823	\$ 62,306
Maintenance/Operating	\$ 24,770	\$ 59,912	\$ 23,733
Programming	\$ 5,598	\$ 24,841	\$ 4,850
Mission Programs	\$ 5,658	\$ 31,090	\$ 7,191
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 98,705	\$ 356,666	\$ 98,080
TOTAL INCOME			
	LESS EXPENSES \$ (17,998)	\$ (61,097)	\$ (19,279)

## **NEWS FROM THE YOUNG CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE:**

**Children's Sunday this year will be on June 14th!** Our Sunday School classes will plan and lead worship together. The theme this year will be Loaves and Fishes: Sharing our Gifts. Come and see what our children share with us. More information to come for parents.



### **SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 17**

### **GAME TIME: 6:05 p.m.**

Our 2015 Red Wings baseball game has been set. The



event again this year consists of a baseball game, an RPO performance, and fireworks to top off the evening. We will begin taking ticket reservations in June and as always, this event is open to all friends and family of GPC.



## DEACONS' PAGE

Our thoughts and prayers to:

**Don Bernhart** recuperating at home.

**Bob Kaiser**, recovering at home after surgery.

**Mary DiGennaro** at Unity Hospital.

**Carol Balsley** recovering from knee surgery.

**Clarene Cress** recovering after surgery.

**Doris Falke** in rehab.

**Harry Boeff, Diane Keiling's father**, recovering from surgery.



Our sympathy to:

**Margaret Militello and family** on the death of Margaret's father on March 27<sup>th</sup>

**Gary Puckhaber and Diane Kearns and family** on the recent death of Gary's father in Florida.

Congratulations to:

**Rachel Molina** who has been accepted to Duquesne University begins her college studies in the Fall of 2015. Rachel will be graduating with honors from Gates Chili High School in June.

## REMINDER TO DEACONS:

The next Deacons' meeting is Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**REBECCA CIRCLE'S** next meeting is Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Please meet at the church at 11:30.

We will carpool to Patti's Pantry for lunch.

**TABITHA CIRCLE** meets next on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at GPC in the Adult Lounge for lunch and conversation.

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** meets on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16 at GPC.

## WOMEN'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE:

May 18 – GPC versus Open Door I at Open Door field

June 1 – GPC versus Orchard Community Church at Orchard Community's field

June 8 – GPC versus Grace Church of the Nazarene and Grace Church's field

June 15 – Make-up game

June 22 – GPC versus Open Door II at GPC field

June 29 – GPC versus Open Door IV at GPC field

July 6 – Make-up game

July 13 – GPC versus Victory at GPC field

July 20 – GPC versus Open Door III at GPC field



## MISSION

Please join us on **Sunday, May 17, 2015** during 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour (11:15am) to hear Sister Grace Miller from the House of Mercy. She will speak to us about all the wonderful things that they do for the homeless. Sanctuary Village was created by the House of Mercy and she will provide a status update. Here is some background on the House of Mercy:

### The House of Mercy

#### Making a Difference

In 1985, Sister Grace Miller could see that homelessness was a big problem in Rochester, N.Y.; and, there weren't enough shelters to meet the need. So she went to work! With help from the Sisters of Mercy, she opened a shelter in a small house on Central Park just north of downtown Rochester. "As soon as we opened the door, people flooded in," she recalls.

The House of Mercy now provides a wide range of valuable services to more than 4,000 people a month. Its unique and compassionate approach to assistance has attracted a growing number of supporters throughout the community.

Operating around the clock on a shoestring budget with a very small team, the House of Mercy continues to be a beacon of hope for the poorest of the poor. We never give up on the people we serve.



## GROWING IN FAITH: Bible Study

Every Wednesday evening 6:30-7:30pm in the Jr. Lounge a community gathers to nurture one another through spiritual formation, prayer, and Biblical exploration. Whether you have been reading the Bible your whole life or this is your first time, you are welcome!

You don't have to but if you would like to read ahead for that week, here is a look at what the scripture text will be. A great website to find the scripture texts in different versions:

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

During the month of May we will discuss the following texts:

**May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**John 15:9-17**

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**John 17:6-19**

**May 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Acts 2:1-21**

**May 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Romans 8:12-17**



## YOUTH NEWS

### Youth Groups:

#### Senior Highs



I-Spy and Apple Pie: Bring your camera and your appetite on Sunday, May 3rd! We'll do a photo scavenger hunt throughout the church, then eat delicious pie together.

Senior High Birthday Bonfire at the Binkos: It's birthday time!!! We'll have a massive all-birthday celebration around a bonfire at Kecia's on Sunday, May 17th from 6-8.

#### Junior Highs

Police Department Tour: We'll meet up on Sunday, May 3rd, head to the Gates Police Department and get an official tour, then get some snacks at Tim Horton's.

### **JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT**

It's time for our weekend retreat! We'll leave at 9am on Saturday, May 16th to go have fun at the Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY. After a trip to the Corning Museum of Glass and worship together, we'll be back home Sunday afternoon. Look in the mail for more information.

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

You're getting confirmed this month!!! Be sure to come to the Session meeting on May 28th at 7:00pm (with your bio and Statement of Faith) to be officially approved. You'll also be leading worship as a group on Sunday, May 31st, when we get to celebrate your amazing faith journeys. If you haven't RSVP'd for confirmation breakfast on the 31st, call the office and let us know who's coming.

### **Summer Work Project Dates:**

Junior High: July 20-24<sup>th</sup> – Projects around Rochester

Senior High: August 2-7th at MINC! We'll be working near Watertown, NY.

Be on the lookout for an info-filled letter coming your way soon!



### **Youth Calendar**

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|---|---|
| Sunday, May 3   | - 9:30 Youth Choir<br>- 10:00 Worship<br>- 11:15 Junior High Sunday School<br>- 6:00 – Youth Groups<br>Junior Highs – Tour of Gates Police Department<br>Senior Highs – I-Spy and Apple Pie |
| Sunday, May 10: Mother's Day                          | - 9:30 Youth Choir<br>- 10:00 Worship   |
| Saturday, May 16                                      | - 9:00am to Sun, May 17: Jr High Retreat  |
| Sunday, May 17  | - 9:30 Youth Choir<br>-10:00 Worship<br>- 6:00 Senior High Birthday Bonfire at the Binkos   |
| Sunday, May 24: Pentecost                             | - 9:30 Youth Choir<br>- 10:00 Worship<br>- 11:15 Junior High Sunday School  |
| Sunday, May 31: Fusion Sunday and Confirmation Sunday | - 9:30 Youth Choir<br>- 10:00 Worship led by Confirmation Class   |



