

Growing in Faith: Bible Study



Every Wednesday evening 6:30-7:30pm in the Jr. High 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

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

Wednesday, June 3rd with Katie Jasa

Wednesday, June 10th with Katie Jasa

Wednesday, June 17th Final Bible Study until the fall with Melissa DeRosia



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.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Date	Lay Reader	Front Door Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
June 7	Paula Sousa	Laura Nolan	2	3
June 14	S.S. Children	Carrie Dykes	3	4
June 21	Tami Pignone	Bridget Wohlers	4	5
June 28	Carson Wohlers	Heather Pimm	5	6

Communion Team E:

Left:	1. Carrie Dykes	Right:	1. Christine Arcara
	2. Mary Hadley		2. Randy Mosher
	3. Bob Fehnel		3. Cheryl Fehnel
	4. Eric Vail		4. Barbara Snaith



FROM THE PASTOR

When my girls were little I vividly remember them both going through the “why” stage. It would start innocently enough, “Why do I have to eat peas?” “Why do I have to go to bed?” “Why is the sky blue.” Some days I would provide an answer that satisfied their curiosity and other times another “why” would follow. More answers. More “why’s.” Were they engaged in genuine wonder or had they succeeded in discovering a new way to push boundaries? One may never know... but from a very early age we learn to explore what is and refuse to assume that’s the way it has to be.

My friend Shannon (who you met at my installation and Katie’s ordination) shared a devotional series she recently created for her congregation about wonder. She writes how wonder is the ability and gift to question, think, ponder, and stand in awe of something incomprehensible. Wonder transforms the way we see ourselves, our God, and the world around us. It takes courage to move beyond the fear of our busy world and allow ourselves the time and space to wonder. In order to wonder about God and ourselves we stand grounded in the safety of our faith. We use scripture, teachings, and theology in order to allow the imagination to soar and question the disbelief that inevitability comes from awe of the divine. Shannon raises the questions:

Do we really take the time to explore our faith in wonder?

Do we daydream about questions of life, faith, and God enough?

What would it mean to spend some time each day in wonder?

June is an incredibly busy month for folks as school comes to an end and we try to squeeze in our kids or grandkids concerts, soccer games, and end of the year events into an already packed schedule. And of course when the weather changes, we do all we can to spend time outdoors. This month at GPC our young children and youth will lead us in worship. We will celebrate the transitions of those “graduating” from Jr. Choir and the following Sunday our high school graduates. In all the busyness what might it look like to invite wonder into our lives this month?

The spiritual practice is simple: all we need to do is be on the lookout—using all our senses—for what gives you a sense of wonder today? Here is how it works:

30 Days of Wondering... Everyday!

1. Notice: Find below the list of prompts for each day in June. The prompts suggest where you might look for experiences of wonder. For example, on June 1, “Small,” ask yourself: “What tiny thing or small experience amazes me today?” Whether it’s the bones in your little toe, or a bee dipping into a flower, or a momentary sweet encounter with a stranger on the street—there can be wonder in what’s small.

Note: These prompts need not limit you! Use them or ignore them—the point is to take a moment each day to slow down and simply notice. If you only do those two things—slow down and notice—then you are contributing to our communal spiritual practice! Yet, we hope you’ll take the next step, too:

2. Create: When you notice that flicker of wonder or curiosity—when you notice something gets you wondering in a large or small way—take a picture, write a poem, or scribble a descriptive sentence or two. Have some fun with this second step. No need to be literal about the prompts—just play. Or if being literal increases your wonder, then mine the meaning of each prompt to your heart’s content. See if you can capture in words or imagery some of that childlike amazement that comes with seeing the world “for the first time.”

3. Post: Share your photo or your writing. First post it to our Facebook group at (GPC Member). In this way we will inspire and encourage each other through the month. Then send to Melissa (Melissa@gatespres.org) and we will publish some of the photos, poems, and paragraphs in our July/ August Harbinger.

4. No worries! There is no right or wrong way to engage in this practice, as long as your intention is to reawaken your sense of wonder. Some days will be more of a challenge than others. Don’t worry if you miss a day. Just keep coming back to the practice, and noticing. We can bet that this spiritual practice gets easier with ... practice.

*** Thanks to Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones creating this idea for her congregation at the First Unitarian Church in San Jose, CA.*

I look forward to “wondering” with you!

- Melissa

The Prompts:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. Small | 11. Sharp | 21. Fire |
| 2. Large | 12. Soft | 22. Air |
| 3. Touch | 13. Loud | 23. Emptiness |
| 4. Heavy | 14. Silent | 24. Taste |
| 5. Unexpected | 15. Fast | 25. Change |
| 6. Familiar | 16. Slow | 26. Consistent |
| 7. Light | 17. Young | 27. Separate |
| 8. Orange | 18. Old | 28. Together |
| 9. Violet | 19. Earth | 29. Same |
| 10. Smell | 20. Water | 30. Different |

DEACONS’ PAGE

Our thoughts and prayers to:

Connor MacKenzie recovering from elbow surgery

Wendy O’Keefe recovering from surgery

Don Bernhart in Unity Hospital

Ionie Crosdale recovering from surgery

Melissa DeRosia dealing with health issues

Dianne Kenney recovering after a stay in Unity Hospital

Our sympathy to:

Ellen Shields and family on the death of **Andrew Shields**

Ron and Nancy Bodhorn and family on the recent death of Ron’s father

George and Janice Bilohlavek on the death of George’s sister, **Christine Hemmerick**

Prayers of joy:

Erica (Strawbridge) and Jonathan Trotto on the birth of their son, **Austin Christopher** on April 19th. Proud grandma is Carol Anne Strawbridge.

REMINDER TO DEACONS:

The next Deacons’ meeting is Monday, June 15th at 6:00 p.m. at Rohrbach’s, 3859 Buffalo Rd.

REBECCA CIRCLE’S next meeting is our annual year-end picnic on Monday, June 29th at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Mary Waugh, 8 Lonran Drive. Bring a dish to pass.

TABITHA CIRCLE meets next on Wednesday, June 10th at 1:00 p.m. at GPC in the Adult Lounge for lunch and conversation.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets on Tuesday, May 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16 at GPC.

MELISSA OUT OF OFFICE

Melissa will be out of the office June 1st through the 14th as she continues her work on her Doctorate of Ministry program.





GIANT COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

**SATURDAY
JUNE 6
9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Join us for our community-wide Flea Market

Lots to see!

Coffee and donuts!

Popcorn!

Come look around and have lunch.

The GPC Youth Group will be serving up hamburgers and hot dogs
along with a cool beverage.

See you there!!



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.



MEET OUR 2015 CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Shannon Belt

Shannon attends East Rochester High School where she plays field hockey and lacrosse. She has two dogs, Bailey and Chloe. Shannon has two siblings, Ashley and Andrew. Her favorite food is mac & cheese, favorite color is teal, favorite movie is "Catching Fire" of the Hunger Games series, favorite TV show is Pretty Little Liars, and her favorite musical artist is One Direction. Shannon hopes to one day be an Interior Designer/Architecture.

Samantha Burkovich

Samantha is a 15 year old freshman at Gates Chili High School. She has a sister named Jessica who is a freshman in college. Samantha has two cats named Shadow and Cocoa. She plays tennis and softball for Gates Chili.

Alyson Cook

Alyson attends the Ninth Grade Academy in the Rush-Henriette School District. She is part of a group called Natural Helpers. People get into this group based on peer recommendations, teacher recommendations, and grades. Alyson attended a 2 day training retreat for this group.

Mike Hossenlopp

Mike also attends Gates Chili High School where he is a freshman. He participates in the school band and plays the euphonium. Mike has three siblings all of whom have been confirmed at GPC. He also has two dogs, named Ali and Scooter, one turtle, and a cat named Misty. In the fall, Mike plays football for Gates Chili.

Chris Lewis

Chris is a student at Churchville Chili High School. He has played volleyball for them for three years. He an excellent student in math, science, and social studies. Chris has enjoyed playing chess for the last 6 years. He is still trying to find something he's good at to go to college for, but hopes to find his way into chemistry. Chris enjoys hanging out with his friends and playing 4-square. In his spare time, Chris enjoys going to the mountains with his family or going to the shooting range with his dad to shoot guns. Chris hates doing chores, but who does.... Chris has 3 brothers and he is the youngest. James is 22, Shawn is 21, Scott is 16. The Lewis family has a cat named Bonus who's not too fond of the neighbor's cat, Tigger.

Confirmands continued:

Audrey Molina

Audrey attends Gates Chili High School. Her favorite color is blue. She has two dogs named Moose and Jubby. Audrey has purple hair! She loves going to concerts and hanging out with her friends. Traveling is one of her most favorite things!

Riley Marconi

Riley attends Gates Chili High School where she is a freshman. Riley enjoys playing soccer and lacrosse. She also enjoys spending time with her family and dog, Bailey. Riley has an older sister, Corrina, who is in her freshman year of college. She is very close to her sister and looks up to her! Riley also has a two year old brother, Wesley. When Riley gets older, she hopes to be in the field of law enforcement and eventually a detective. This summer she looks forward to spending vacation time with friends and family.

COME HEAR ABOUT JESSICA BURKOVICH'S TRIP TO TANZANIA!!

On May 18th to June 6th, Jessica Burkovich traveled to Tanzania, Africa for a service trip with six other students and a teacher from Marywood University and two students and a teacher from Chestnut Hill College. They spent their time in Morogoro, Tanzania teaching English grammar and writing skills to 7th-10th grade age girls at the Bigwa Sisters Secondary School. They also spent time with the children at a local orphanage. Jessica was very excited to be a part of this opportunity and would love to share her experience with her GPC family. Join her in the Adult Lounge after worship on Sunday, June 28th to hear stories and see pictures of her wonderful trip!

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

For the past 20+ summers, Presbyterian churches have collaborated in leading an outdoor Vacation Bible School for children in the city. This year's collaboration is planned for July 27-30, from 5-8pm at New Life Presbyterian Church. The week will be filled with fun, learning, and praising God together! If you'd like to come teach, the group needs youth and adult helpers. For more information, please contact Barbara Durfee at ddurfees@frontiernet.net.

LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The next meeting at church for the Lunch Bunch group will be in the fall after Labor Day. In the meantime, we encourage crafters to work at home on their specialty so that we will have lots of items available for sale at our fall fundraising efforts. If you need supplies (yarn, towels, etc.) give Carol Howell a call at 247-2080. Thanks and see you in the fall.

THE MISSION AND PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT

For 710 pounds of food from the Lenten Wall of Food which was donated to the Southwest Ecumenical Ministries;

For the \$700.00 donation from the Easter offering for Sanctuary Village to provide shelter for the homeless;

For the hospitality and participation in the Triple Play Mission day on April 25th. Approximately 45 people gathered at GPC for registration and breakfast snacks before heading out to various locations to learn about mission projects being funded by the Presbytery's Triple Play grant, including our Guatemala Partners and The Garden's Edge project with Batavia Presbyterian Church;

For your support of the Guatemala Partners Mother's Day Hanging Basket sale. It continues to be very successful!

The Mission and Peacemaking Committee also sent a gift on behalf of GPC to Omar Rouchon, who is graduating from Harvard Theological Seminary this May and will be taking a call in Houston, Texas.

Mission and Peacemaking is a year round activity and everyone is invited to join us at our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month (summer excluded) at GPC at 7:00 PM.

Thanks to all who responded to provide an emergency dinner for the Sanctuary Village for the homeless this past winter. When Ann Marie Simm heard that there would be no meal one night in March, she went into action and got volunteers, food donations and did some shopping on her own to provide a very tasty pasta dinner for the residents there and on short notice!! Thank you Ann Marie and all those who helped!

INVITATION FROM THE MISSION AND PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE

Our committee will be reading the book titled: "**Toxic Charity. How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse it)**" by Robert D. Lupton. We will then gather together once a month to discuss the book's main points and use it as a way to begin examining how we go about our mission work at GPC.

Our first meeting will discuss chapters 1 – 4 and will be held on June 2, 2015 at the home of Tom Ward, 73 Gateway Road, Rochester, 14624 at 7:00 PM. Some light refreshments will be served. **Everyone is invited**, but an rsvp would be greatly appreciated.

Other meeting dates will be July 7th to discuss chapters 5 – 8 and August 4th to discuss chapters 9 – end and to discuss possible revisions to how we deliver mission to the community and to the world.

Please let Tom Ward know if you would like to join this discussion by calling him at 341-3105 or e-mail him at: tomw@rochesterymca.org. Please purchase a copy of the book before the first meeting. It is available on line at Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com or Kindle.



CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR

It's time to start working on your crafts! The Church Mouse Bazaar is Saturday, November 21, 2015. Applications for church members only will be available on Sunday, June 7th in the rack in the foyer. Get your applications in early to assure your place in the show. If you have any questions, please call Tess McKeel at 766-7151 or email her at tessmckeel@hotmail.com

GOD'S PATH SEEKERS (GPS) Update

The GPS team had a joyful gathering with Session May 17th. The GPS Team shared the results of the survey, other data we have collected as part of our work and possible recommendations for visioning into the future. We will be submitting a report to Session on June 18th and Session will be voting on our recommendations at the Session meeting on June 25th. The report will also be available to all members of the congregation.

Thank you also for responding to our survey. We heard you! We will be hosting a talk back about the survey on Sunday, May 31st and Sunday, June 21st after worship at 11:15 am. We will share the results of the survey and give everyone the opportunity to share your thoughts."

EXPLORING SACRED SPACES

How do you define "Sacred Spaces"? Do you think of an awe inspiring cathedral, beautiful mosque, or our own unique sanctuary here at GPC? Or do you think of natural wonders such as Yosemite National Park, Niagara Falls, or the Great Lakes? Maybe you think of sacred spaces as the peaceful and inspirational feeling you get when you are exercising, practicing yoga or participating in a favorite hobby.

The Spiritual Journeys Committee invites you to explore your own beliefs about this topic on their Sacred Spaces journey starting this summer and running through fall. We will be touring buildings, walking a labyrinth, trying out yoga and tapping, and possibly another surprise.

Our first leg will be on Saturday, June 27 with a tour of a Frank Lloyd Wright house in Buffalo. The remaining legs will be held in late September and October. Cost for one or all legs will once again be \$5.00 per person, \$10.00 per family although the Frank Lloyd Wright house will have an additional admission fee.

Sign-ups for the Frank Lloyd Wright tour are going on now following worship. We will be meeting at GPC for carpooling to Buffalo at 8:45 am with the tour starting at 10:30 a.m. The tour will last approximately 2 hours. Cost is \$25.00 per person for this special tour. Come join us!

Signups for the remaining legs will be starting soon as we finalize our plans. Be looking for announcements and bulletin notices for your chance to experience Sacred Spaces.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS:

ROGER BEST

Roger is a retired Xerox employee of 40 years. He has been retired since 2003. While at Xerox he was a Technical Specialist and Program Manager. Roger has two sons, Kenneth and Timothy, an 11 year old granddaughter, Ava, and a 15 year old grandson, Jake. His hobby is coin collecting! Roger has been involved with youth soccer since 1975. He is currently a Rochester District Commissioner for the New York State West Youth Soccer Association (a position he has held since 1984). Roger was recently inducted into the Rochester Soccer Hall of Fame!

AMANDA HART

Amanda is married to Brian Hart and they have four children: James (15), Dana (13), Meredith (10), and Will (7). Amanda enjoys singing, exercising, driving her kids everywhere, and cooking! You will find Amanda singing in the Adult Choir at GPC and other activities.

JASON MILLINGTON

Jason is married to Jessica and are expecting their first child in November. Jason is an electrical teacher in the Rochester City School District. He enjoys mountain biking, photography, and camping. Jason is a big fan of the Buffalo Sabres.

JESSICA MILLINGTON

Jessica and Jason are expecting their first child in November. Jessica is a first grade teacher in the Elba School District. She enjoys camping, hiking, and reading. Jessica supports ALL the Buffalo teams! Jason and Jessica have a wonderful 8 year old golden retriever named Logan.

JULIE SEIDE

Julie has a wonderful son, Zachary who is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Gates Chili. Julie is a registered nurse. Julie has no specific sport she supports, but does love soccer.

AMY TERMOTTO

Amy is married to James and they have a beautiful daughter (15 months old) named Genevieve. Amy is a medical secretary. She loves gardening and crafts.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS (College – 40, we're not picky)

Our summer Work Weekend will be at Stony Point, NY from August 20-23!! For more information, check out our Facebook page: [Young Adults at GPC](#) or check your mailbox. We'll also have a Q & A session after worship on June 28th in Room 2.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

In the midst of all your celebrations don't forget GPC. We want to celebrate YOU, too!!!!

June 14 – Youth Group Year-end Picnic – You are the guests of honor!

June 21 – Worship – All high school seniors, get excited for a special Sunday celebrating you! We'll be honoring the class in worship. If anybody has pictures they'd like to share, please contact Mary Hadley or send them to katie@gatespre.org

Are weeds taking over your garden? Do you need a babysitter? How about someone to spread mulch? The Youth Committee has a solution for you -----Work Project Bound!

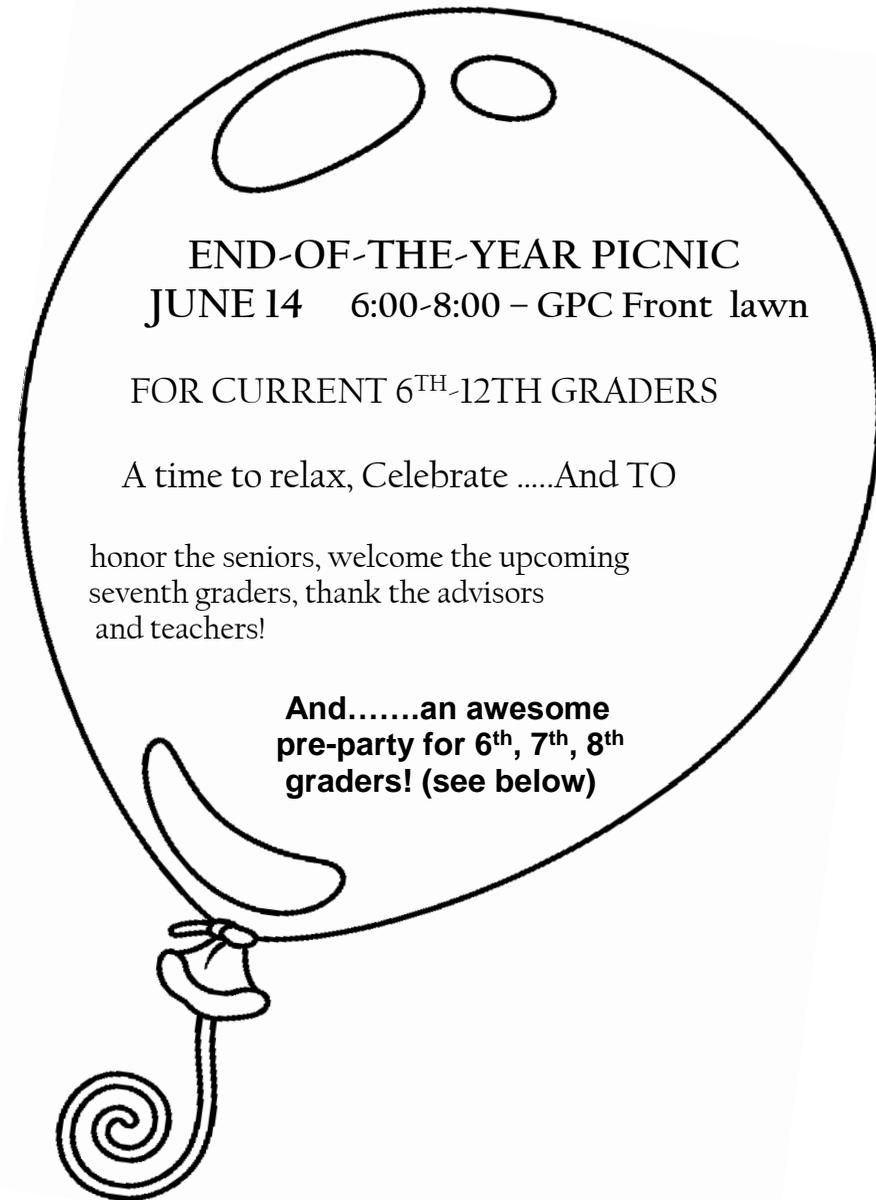
Work Project Bound is a program created to help defray the personal expenses of youth going on mission work projects. Here is how it works:

1. The Youth Committee creates a list of young people who are interested in being part of Work Project Bound
2. You call or email Keith Hadley at 698-8619 or email him at keith.a.hadley@gmail.com or you may call the church office 247-5292 or email office@gatespres.org
3. We give you the name of a youth. We call the youth and tell him/her that you will be contacting him/her. You connect with the youth and make arrangements.
4. You pay \$8.00 an hour for the work done. Rather than paying the youth, you put the money in the box in the office marked "Work Project Bound" with the youth's name attached.
5. The youth is then given credit toward his/her Work Project fee.

A win/win to be sure! Thanks!

Tis the season of outdoor picnics . . . and empty bottles and cans!

As you enjoy your summer celebrations, please remember GPC seniors who are collecting bottles and cans to help defray their trip expenses for the February Jamaica Mission Trip. The collection barrels are in the area next to the Fellowship Hall where the trash cans are stored or you can take them to Flower City Bottle and Can on Chili Avenue, 2374 Chili Avenue, right across from the fire station. Just tell them the bottles and cans are for Gates Presbyterian Church and they will send us a check.



Pre-party to the End-of-the-Year Youth Picnic for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders! Meet at GPC at 4:00. All youth graduating 6th – 8th grades are invited to have some fun at go-kart, miniature golf. Returning to GPC at 6:00, we will be ready for the next party - year-end-party! No money needed.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY – 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.

Parents: Be sure to have your children in the Adult Lounge at 9:30 a.m. on June 14th, so we can get ready for the amazing service!!

SENIOR HIGH SERVICE PROJECT – June 7th – 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun evening of mission at Harbor House!!! We'll meet at GPC at 6:00 p.m. then head to Harbor House to help out. We'll be back to the church by 8:00 p.m.

CALLING ALL AWESOME ADULTS

Ever thought about coming on a youth work project?? Adult advisors help lead small group reflections, work hard with the youth during the day, and HAVE FUN!! Start thinking about whether you'd like to be part of this great experience with us.

Registration forms for Advisors are due on June 7th.



SUMMER WORK PROJECT DATES:

Junior High: July 20-24th – Projects around Rochester

Senior High: August 2-7th with Ministry in the North Country (MINC) – Watertown, NY.

Please note: We will hold a Q & A meeting on **Sunday, June 7th** after worship in the Sanctuary. This meeting is not required, but is suggested for first-timers. Also on **June 7th**, **registration forms, medical forms, MINC waivers and a \$50.00 deposit is due for each participant.**



FLEA MARKET

All youth are asked to come help with set-up, clean-up and concessions for this fun-filled day! Sign up on the Kiosk!! Every youth going on the Senior High Work Project MUST work one shift. Options include: set-up from 9:00 – 11:45, concessions from 11:30 – 3:00, or clean-up from 3:00 until done. Fill out your work project registration form and bring it back so we know who to expect!

YOUTH CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Saturday, June 6 | - Flea Market |
| Sunday, June 7 | - Senior High Work Project registration and medical forms and \$50 due
10:00 am – Worship
11:30 am – Sr. High work Project Q&A
6:00 pm – Senior High Service Project at Harbor House |
| Sunday, June 14 | - Children's Sunday
10:00 am – Worship
4:00 pm – Junior High Welcome Party
6:00 pm – Junior and Senior High Year-End Party |
| Sunday, June 21 | - 10:00 am – Worship |
| Sunday, June 28 | - 10:00 am – Worship |



WOMEN'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE:

- June 1 – GPC versus Orchard Community Church at Greece Assembly 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 Father's House field
- July 20 – GPC versus Open Door III at GPC field

