

The Sounds of Silence

Take a break from the chaos and bustle of the season and prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ. Every Wednesday in Advent (starting December 2nd from 6:00pm- 6:30pm we invite you in to the sanctuary for a time of silence and prayer. You may come for 5 minutes or 30. Someone will be available in the sanctuary if you wish to have someone pray with you.

Congregational Meeting

December 13, 2015

Following worship in the Sanctuary. For the purpose of electing elders, trustees, and deacons, to review the 2016 annual budget, and hear more about the new governance model for GPC.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS - NEW THIS YEAR:

December 24 – January 1 – The church office will be closed for the entire week between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 4, 2016.

In case of emergency, please phone the church office and instructions on who to call will be available.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE....to run a Church Mouse Bazaar! We want to thank all of you, especially the coordinators: Bill Dassero, Jason Taylor, Marty Ohman, Heather Pimm, Linda Allen, Betty Blystone, Beth, Rachel, and Audrey Molina, J.C. Rouchon, and Carol Howell for helping to make this event a success! As our first year as co-chairpersons, we have learned a lot, changed things a little, and saw how GPC has made this a successful tradition for 38 years!



CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR

Thanks to everyone who
Helped in
Any way to make our
Naturally amazing CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR a
Knock out success!!

You made it happen! With
Out you, there is no CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR
U are wonderful!!!!

Linda Beattie, Kathy Wakeman, Tess McKeel

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,

The first time (...OK the only time) I attended a silent retreat at a monastery, I remember the first few agonizing hours of silence. I was with a group and we were instructed not to speak for 48 hours. The only intentional sounds our community would make was when we joined the monks for observance of the "Divine Office" or official times of prayer. The 2:25am Vigil came early and it was stunning how loud my body was wrestling out of bed and shuffling down the gravel path. I delighted in the sounds of the monks as they joined their voices in song. The sounds of silence were fascinating.

Throughout the month of December it is remarkable how much noise there is all around us. Holiday music blaring from speakers, family and friends crowded together in living rooms and restaurants, an app notifying us of the best bargain of the season, a doorbell rings, excited shouts of children, the timer from the oven going off, and phone calls from loved ones. The author of Ecclesiastes reminds us, "There is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak" (3:7). During the Advent season, keeping silence may not happen very often.

What if God is whispering to us and inviting us to hear in the sounds of silence this Advent? Intentional pauses for silence and prayer help us listen to that still small voice.

Rather than overscheduling, we might try under scheduling, creating intentional time for God to burst through. Every hour of every day it seems there's a chore to do, a child to take somewhere, shopping to be done, food to be made. Our chaotic schedules feel amplified during Advent.

This Advent at GPC we invite you to an opportunity to grow in your capacity to slow down in the midst of the Christmas bustle. To breathe deep. To listen carefully. To observe the sounds of silence in worship and prayer. We will begin the first Sunday of Advent, a FUS!ON Sunday, with a form of worship that focuses on silence and simplicity, receptive song, known as Taizé. Our progression through Advent will include times for silence in worship and on Wednesday evening 6:00-6:30pm in the sanctuary. Each week as our hope builds for the coming of the Christ child, the silence will lessen and our sounds of joy increase. You won't want to miss the Fourth Sunday of Advent when we have an opportunity to shout out and sing our favorite Christmas hymns! What happens when we listen for the sounds of silence this Advent? May we all hear the whisper of God and the sounds of the Christ child in the manger.

Melissa

Looking for a Way to Grow in Faith this Advent?

Every Wednesday evening 6:30-7:30pm in the Junior 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 December we will reflect on the following texts:

| | |
|--|---|
| Wednesday, December 2nd | Isaiah 52:7-15 |
| Wednesday, December 9th | Luke 1:5-24 |
| Wednesday, December 16th | Luke: 25- 55 |
| Wednesday, December 23rd | NO BIBLE STUDY Happy Christmas Eve, Eve! |
| Wednesday, December 27th | NO BIBLE STUDY |

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

| Date | Front Door Greeter | Lay Reader | Usher |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------|
| December 6 | Tom Ward | Jim Meddaugh | 4 |
| December 13 | Carrie Dykes | Paula Sousa | 5 |
| December 20 | Laura Nolan | Rich Howe | 1 |
| December 24-4:30 | Heather Pimm | Tom Ward | 6 |
| December 24-8:00 | Peter Derry | Jeff Tuttle | 3 |
| December 27 | Lucia VerSteeg | Colton Crane | 2 |

Communion: - December 6 – 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. Barb Snaith |

TRUSTEE LOCK UP SCHEDULE:

December: Dan Charcholla

January: Ed Coons

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS and/or

REACH (Rochester Emergency Action Committee for the Homeless)



If you would like to order a plant for display in the Sanctuary for Christmas and/or make a donation toward REACH in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and leave it with the money (or check) in the offering plate or in the church office **NO LATER** than December 7th. Make checks payable to Gates Presbyterian Church. Mail the order to the church if it is more convenient. This year poinsettias will be available for \$10.00 a piece.

NAME OF DONOR (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF (please circle appropriate phrase)

Please check appropriate donation:

Poinsettias _____

REACH _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

On the first Monday of every month (10:00am to 1:00pm) a group of volunteers from GPC partner with Salem United Church of Christ Soup Kitchen to prepare and serve a meal to those in the city of Rochester who are hungry. No experience is needed! Please contact Melissa DeRosia (Melissa@gatespres.org or 247-5292) if you are interested in a one-time opportunity or ongoing commitment. Our next time to serve at Salem is Monday, December 1st. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30.



College and Young Adult Night Out: Let's get together over Christmas break! We'll have dinner out (our treat) and relax after the holidays. Location TBA; save the date for Saturday, January 9th from 6-8pm and email katie@gatespres.org if you need a ride. Everybody 18-40 is welcome, and feel free to bring a friend!

DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer

Mike Frisch recovering at Strong Hospital.

Hannah Walker in Kirkhaven for rehab.

Laura Nolan at home struggling with illness.



Congratulations

Stacey Gutheil and Shaun Smingler on the birth of their son, **Jack August Smingler**,

Proud Grandma is **Vicki Gutheil**.

Jason and Jessica Millington on the birth of their daughter, **Aubree Rose Millington**.

Condolences

Gary Dykes and family on the death of Gary's grandmother, **Ellen Verity**.

Carrie Dykes and family on the death of Carrie's cousin, **Debbie Eddy**.

New Address:

Jan Beutner and Bill Shirtz have moved, their new address is: 4 Spotts Circle, Churchville, NY 14428. New phone number is: 293-7011

REMINDER TO DEACONS:The next Deacons' meeting will be Sunday, December 13th from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets next on Tuesday, December 1st at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet at the home of Jan Beutner, 4 Spotts Circle, Churchville, on Wednesday, December 9th at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at the church on Tuesday, December 22, at 11:15 a.m. to carpool to lunch at the Apple Tree Inn.



SNOW CANCELLATIONS: Reminder that during the week if the Gates/Chili Schools have cancelled school or evening activities for that day, then all meetings and church related events at GPC are also cancelled.

GPC ADVENT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

GPC MITTEN TREE

The GPC Mitten Tree stands in the hall outside of Room 2. The mitten tree has a long history as an Advent Project of GPC. This year you are invited to fill its branches with gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for the men and women of DePaul Mental Health Services of Rochester and their families.



CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS for SWEM (Southwest Ecumenical Ministries) Due December 13, 2015

Help provide a Christmas dinner for a family in need living in the Southwest quadrant of our city. The following requested list from SWEM is for a family of 3-4. The ten dollars that goes with the meal is used to purchase a chicken, eggs, and margarine. If you feel creative, decorate the box that holds your dinner and add some small candies, mints, instant coffee, or tea bags. Please don't include gifts, toys, clothing, etc.

1 can of fruit cocktail or other canned fruit

1 large can of fruit juice

1 large canned sweet potato

3 cans of vegetables

1 or more relish/pickles/olives

1 cake mix and frosting or pie crust and filling

2 cans of soup

1 box of instant mashed potatoes

1 can of cranberry sauce

1 bag of stuffing mix

\$10.00 in cash

Members of the Mission/Peacemaking Committee will be in the parking lot to receive your dinner before service on Sunday, December 13th. Please hand your money to them separately from your dinner.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY - December 19 – GPC serves lunch.

Folks from GPC will serve lunch on December 19th at St.

Joseph's House of Hospitality. The meal will be prepared at GPC on December 18th. There is a sign-up on the Kiosk for the following:

Donations: Bring to the church kitchen by December 18th - noon

Cooks: GPC kitchen, 6:30, December 18th

Servers: Meet at St. Joseph's at 10:30 on December 19th. Plan to stay until 2:00.

This mission site serves lunch to those in our city with limited financial resources.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING – Received in worship on December 20

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC (USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offerings will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



CAMERON CHRISTMAS

We have been asked to assist Cameron Community Ministries with their Christmas Programs again this year. The Cameron Ministries Christmas Giving Tree will be on display in the narthex the first Sunday in Advent, November 29th, with tags bearing information about the gifts that are needed. Gifts must be returned to GPC by December 13th.

This year we will be providing gifts for boys and girls ages 5 – 12 years. The children will receive the gifts at Cameron's annual holiday party.

We have a second opportunity to help make the holidays brighter for the Cameron children and families. Part of Cameron's holiday program includes a "shop" where the children can select small gifts for the adults in their lives. GPC will help "stock the shelves" by providing small adult gifts for the shop.

A list of gift suggestions will be available. For the adult gifts, please return your **unwrapped gifts with the tag attached**. If you choose a children's gift tag from the tree, please **place the item in a gift bag with tissue**. Please put the tag on the **outside** of the bag so it can easily be sorted by the folks at Cameron. Thank You.

ALTERNATIVE ADVENT MARKET – December 6th – 2nd hour – Fellowship Hall

Come and shop where the gift gives twice: to the loved ones receiving the gift AND to the non-profit organization which you are supporting!

Here's the marketplace:

- Gourmet coffee from Coffee Connection
- Heifer Project
- Socks for St. Joseph's House of Hospitality
- One World Goods
- REACH
- Guatemala Partners
- Zion House Avon

AND MORE!!!!

One World Goods

*Celebrating 25 years as a
fair trade marketplace*



GPC ANNUAL WOMEN'S CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Tuesday, December 8th at Whittier Party House

6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Special music provided by the Rochester Flute Association Flute Choir.

Donations for ABW accepted again this year the night of the event and we will need a volunteer or two to take our donations to their location. We will need boxes to pack up all the donations the evening of our dinner.

Tickets on sale now. Contact Barbara Snaith at 247-9066 if you would like to go. Cost: \$20.00



FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL

Friday evening, December 4

6:00 – 7:30

“Sounds of Silence”

Save the date!

Pizza, vegetable platter, cookies, crafts

Music and singing

We hope you will join us!!

Sign up on the Kiosk

Blue Mountain Coffee House!

Saturday, January 16th
6:00-8:30pm

\$5 gets you a delicious cup of coffee (or tea or hot chocolate), and the chance to listen to some amazing entertainment. Drop by anytime! Tasty baked goods will also be available for sale.

All proceeds support the 2016 Jamaica mission trip! Buy tickets after church or at the door.



Jamaica Mission Trip Participants check-list for December:

- ___ Catch up your payments by December 1st
- ___ Prepare to hand in trip paper work by January 1st
- ___ Mark January 15 and 16 on your calendar for the coffee house
- ___ Dream of doing God's work in the midst of tropical beauty!

YOUTH NEWS

Triennium is coming!

Talk to Katie to get more information, and let her know if you're interested in coming! Registration forms will be mailed out in December, and are due (with FULL payment) on January 15th. Check out presbyterianyouthtriennium.org to see more!

Summer Work Projects:

Mark your calendars! This year the Junior High work project will be in Rochester from July 11-15 for youth entering grades 6-8 in Fall 2015. The Senior High work project will be from July 31 - August 6 in Detroit, for youth entering grades 9-12 in Fall 2015.

Junior High Overnight: Friday, December 4th at 7:30pm

Get ready for our first overnight of the year! We'll play games, have a cookie contest and hang out! Bring your absolutely best batch of homemade cookies to share. The lock-in starts at 7:30pm on Friday, December 4th, and will go until 9:30am the next day.

Senior High Gingerbread House Party: December 6th from 6-8pm

Let's have some holiday fun! We'll make "gingerbread" scenes, drink hot chocolate, and enjoy the season. Just bring yourself (and a friend, if you want!) 6-8, December 6th, at GPC.

Senior High Where's Waldo: Sunday, December 20

The hunt is on! We'll meet at the church at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 20th, then head to the mall and start hunting for Waldos. Adults, if you want to be a Waldo let Katie know; we've got plenty of scarves.

Junior High Caroling and Cookies: Sunday, December 20

Bundle up and get excited to carol! We'll meet at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 20th, go caroling to church members homes, and share cookies, and be back by 8:00pm.

Youth Calendar

- Tuesday, Dec. 1 - 7:00 Youth committee meeting
- Friday, Dec. 4 - 6:00-7:30 Family Advent Festival
7:30pm-9:30am Junior High Overnight
- Sunday, Dec. 8 - 9:30 Youth Choir
10:00 Worship
11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School
6:00-8:00 Senior High Gingerbread Party
- Sunday, Dec. 13 - 9:30 Youth Choir
10:00 Worship
11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School
- Sunday, Dec. 20 - 9:30 Youth Choir
10:00 Worship - Hymn Sing
11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School
6:00-8:00 Junior High Caroling
6:00-8:00 Senior High Where's Waldo
- Thursday, Dec. 24 - 4:30 Christmas Eve Service (2014 confirmation class will light candles)
8:00 Christmas Eve Service (2014 high school graduates will light candles)
- Thursday, Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!!!
- Sunday Dec. 27 - 10:00 Worship – Fusion Sunday, no choirs, Sunday school, or youth group

COME EARLY on Sunday, December 20th to enjoy some instrumental carols before morning worship! Our church's brass and woodwind players will get together in the Worship Center at 9:20 and play from 9:30 until the service begins. If you have any questions, or would like to take a look at the music ahead of time, please see Dennis or Debbie White. Come share in the special music of the season!



Confirmation class: Hope your Amazing Faith Journey is going well! There are service opportunities at Laurelton Cafe on Saturday, December 12th or at St. Joseph's on Saturday, December 19th - check out your binders for more information. If you need a check-in, talk with Katie or Melissa, and we'll see you for our next water stop on January 3rd!

Attention 2015 Confirmation Class AND 2015 High School Graduates: The 2015 confirmation class will be candlelighters at the 4:30 service on Christmas Eve. Please meet in Room 16 at 4:15 for instructions. The 2015 high school graduates will light the candles during "Silent Night" at the 8:00 Christmas Eve service. Meet in Room 16 at 7:45. If you are part of these two groups and can participate, please call Katie at 247-5292 or email katie@gatespres.org.

BOTTLES AND CANS

The Youth Committee has set up an account with Flower City Redemption Center, 2374 Chili Avenue for bottles and cans. All you have to do is drop your bottles and cans off at the redemption center and tell them they are for Gates Presbyterian Church. They send us a check every month for what is collected. We will still take your bottles and cans here at the church if you prefer. Any questions???? Call the church office at 247-5292.