

Dear Friends,

Winter is the time of year when I become a real homebody. It's always nice to relax on the couch, but it's so much better to spend time inside when it's cold and snowy outdoors! As we all spend more time warm in our homes, we have the chance to give thanks for safe spaces in our lives during Lent.

Lent can be a time of unease, when we recognize where we've fallen short of God's call and prepare for the sorrows of Good Friday. But before we worry about the wilderness, we need a strong home to ground ourselves in. Without the foundation of a safe space to call home, our faith becomes weak.

This Lent we're focusing on the theme "Welcome Home". We'll look at how God leads people in scripture into new homes through Christ's love. In worship, we'll get to see a house built, week by week, at the front of our sanctuary. And we'll also head out into the community for mission, helping people in Rochester have safe places to call home.

Home is more than a place to sleep or curl up during winter storms. It's a gathering place for family and loved ones. It's the center of our lives, and a foundation to build the rest of our lives on. Help us to prepare for the joy of Easter with a season of service and scripture in Lent. And welcome, to worship and service in our church home!

Peace,

Rev. Katie

Lent Bible Study: Welcome Home

Every Wednesday evening from 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 March we will reflect on the following texts:

Wednesday, March 2nd	Joshua 2
Wednesday, March 9th	Mark 2:1-12
Wednesday, March 16th	Luke 19:28-40
Wednesday, March 23rd	Holy Week Story
Wednesday, March 30th	NO BIBLE STUDY - Spring Break

NOTE FROM TRUSTEES:

Do you think it's cold in the sanctuary?



You might be right! A number of people have asked or commented about the temperature during Sunday worship. We have an older heating control system that isn't as precise as what many of us have at home. The result is that after the designated temperature is reached in the sanctuary, it is allowed to drift downward by 3 degrees before the furnace kicks back into action to warm things back up to the target temperature ... even that takes time given the size of our sanctuary. Without a system overhaul there isn't anything we can do to change this. Sit closer together ☺ or dress such that you will be comfortable throughout the service.



HOLD THE DATE: Saturday, April 23rd

Women's Retreat at Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School
Details in upcoming bulletins and April Harbinger.

FROM THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The GPC Prayer Shawl Ministry has placed a basket of "pocket-sized" prayer shawls on the table in the Narthex. When you feel the need of God's comfort, please take one to keep close to you.

MISSION NEWS

LENTEN WALL OF FOOD – Lenten Food Drive for SWEM (Southwest Ecumenical Ministries)

People in Monroe County continue to be challenged by the economy. We can help!! Please bring a can of food each time you come to GPC during Lent. The collection for SWEM will continue through Palm Sunday, March 20th. SWEM provides people living in the southwest quadrant of Rochester with emergency food supplies.

Suggestions: Canned fruit, vegetables, and/or meat, oatmeal and/or cereal, powdered milk, cans of soup.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:

The fish coin boxes for One Great Hour of Sharing were handed out to the children the first Sunday of Lent, in their Sunday School classes. We hope they will fill these boxes with loose change and bring them back on Palm Sunday, March 20th. If your child did not receive one, there are extras in their Sunday School rooms, in the narthex on the table, or in the church office.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through this offering to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support disaster response, refugee assistance, safe refuge for people in need, community development plus much more.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be taken on Palm Sunday, March 20th.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Date	Lay Reader	Front Door Greeter	Ushers	Deacon
March 6	Carrie Dykes	Keith Hadley	4	6
March 13	Dick Stewart	Sally Christensen	5	1
March 20	Amy Merica	J.C. Rouchon	6	2
March 24	Jim Mossgraber	Samantha Dykes	1 - Maundy Thursday	
March 25	Jim Mossgraber	Bridget Wohlers	2 - Good Friday	
March 27				
Easter	Sally Christensen	Kathy Wakeman	3	3

Communion Team D: March 6

Maundy Thursday, March 24 – Communion by Intinction

Communion Team E: Easter Sunday, March 27

DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thoughts and prayers:

June Hungerford, recovering from illness.

Chris Thornton, recovering from surgery.

Hannah Walker now home after hospital stay.

Mary Beth MacKenzie's mother, Joan Kent, in rehab after a fall.

Continued prayers for **Mike Frisch, Dick Henderson, and Howard and Doris Falke**.

Our sympathy to:

The family of **Bill Thompson** who passed away on February 3.

Lynn Schramel and family on the recent death of Lynn's brother.

Update on Don Bernhart:

As you know, Don had both legs amputated in 2015 and has been wheelchair and house bound since. He now has a prosthesis for both legs and while still mostly in his wheelchair, he is beginning outpatient therapy. With the help of dedicated staff, he has been making strides in strength and mobility. There is still a long road ahead, but we are grateful for the progress. We want to thank our church family for their prayers, cards, and phone calls which help brighten his day!

REMINDER TO DEACONS:

The next Deacons' meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m.

REBECCA CIRCLE will gather at GPC at 11:30 a.m. to carpool to lunch on Tuesday, March 8th.

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, March 9th at 1:00 p.m. at GPC in the Adult Lounge. Read Chapter 4.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on Tuesday, March 1st at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16. All are welcome!

MEN 2 MEN Breakfast

Men 2 Men will meet March 20 at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship and breakfast of French Toast Sticks in the Fellowship Hall followed by a Bible study. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Sign-up sheet is on the Kiosk.

GOOD NEWS FROM SESSION



On Sunday, March 13th, 45 college students from the University of Northern Iowa will be in Rochester to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House. This work is part of an “alternative” spring break trip where the students spend their time volunteering in different communities around the country. The students will be sleeping in the GPC Fellowship Hall on Sunday night and Session would like to prepare a meal for them (maybe GPC goulash? Yum). If you are interested in helping with this one-time event, please contact the GPC office.



The PCUSA Office of Public Witness is hosting an Advocacy Training Weekend from April 15–18, 2016 in Washington, D.C. The conference titled, "Lift Every Voice: Racism, Class, and Power" will take a look at how Presbyterians are working to address the suppression of political and economic rights of people of color, immigrants, workers, and the poor in our own country and abroad. We will examine how decisions that affect the global economy, our day-to-day life, and the well-being of the entire global community are being made in secret with little or no transparency or accountability. If you would like to participate, please contact Tom Ward or the GPC office. Travel funding may be available.



What is the Spiritual Gifts Coordinator? The Spiritual Gifts Coordinator will be engaged in connecting the spiritual gifts of individuals in the congregation with the work of the four Core Value Ministry Leadership Teams. They will redesign/revise, update and distribute the "Time and Talent" survey to the congregation annually. The results of the survey will be organized in an effective manner that enables the coordinator to share the results. The

Spiritual Gifts Elder will actively connect with the Leadership teams and Ministry Teams of GPC to support volunteer needs. The Spiritual Gifts Elder shall serve as the Elder on the congregational Nominating Committee. The Coordinator will also work with the Finance Coordinating Elder to develop a healthy model of stewardship in the congregation. The current Spiritual Gifts Coordinator is Kathy Wakeman. If you would like to be part of Kathy's team contact her at kbwsings@yahoo.com.



Due to the generosity of our members and the budget cuts implemented by Session last year, the 2016 budget is much healthier than previous year's budgets. Therefore, barring any unforeseen circumstances, Session has determined we will not need a 2nd mile campaign for 2016.



If you would like a letter outlining your contributions to GPC for 2015 for tax purposes, please contact the office or Jim Meddaugh (293-3745; jmeddau1@rochester.rr.com).



“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” ---2 Timothy 4:2

We are pleased to share that Dave Fish has been appointed Pastor of North Bergen Presbyterian Church. For the past two years Dave has worked toward becoming a Commissioned Lay Pastor. That education finally reached a milestone with his appointment. Congratulations Dave!

THE REASON WHY

“Per Capita”

Our church does not stand alone when we confront our difficulties and triumphs. We are a part of the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with its arms around all of us. Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. As so, we participate with churches across the country to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian and further the mission of Jesus Christ here and around the world. PC(USA) moves our religion forward by bringing a larger group of us together in mission projects, publications, leadership development, working for peace and justice, and many other associated shared costs.

To be a Presbyterian is to be part of this commitment. This is why we have asked each GPC member to offer a “Per Capita” of \$29.80 for this year. If possible, if you have not done so, please offer your share in an envelope labeled “Per Capita” on Sunday or send it to the church office.

Young Adults @ DeCANstruction: Saturday, March 12th

Join us for a fast-paced mission project! We'll be tearing apart canned good sculptures from Canstruction Rochester and sorting cans to be donated to Foodlink. This event will be on Saturday, March 12th - time TBA. To see the statues pre-demolition, check out <http://www.canstructionrochester.com/>.

Inter-church Bowling Benefit for Cameron: Sunday, March 13th

Laurelton United Presbyterian Church is bringing a team to Cameron's annual Bowl-a-thon! If you'd like to join our team and come bowl for a good cause, sign up on the Kiosk. Teams bowl 1:30-3:30 or 4:00-6:00. Suggested donation is \$25 per person for two games, pizza, and a chance to win prizes! Contact Katie for more info.

Youth Announcements:

Junior High Sky Zone:

Sunday, March 6th from 6-8. Bring Sky Zone socks if you have them, \$10, and get ready to jump!

Senior High Coffee and Chats:

We'll grab coffee from 6-8 on Sunday, March 6th and hear stories from our freshly-tanned Jamaica team. See you there!

Confirmation class:

Our March meeting will be Sunday the 13th from 4:00-5:45; topic is "Faith in the World". See you there!

Junior High Mall Scavenger Hunt:

We'll get pizza at church at 12:30 on March 20th, then head for a scavenger hunt at Marketplace Mall! We'll be back by 2:30.

Senior Highs Serve at REACH:

Meet at GPC at 3:30 on March 20th to prepare a meal for the REACH shelter! Cook and then head to the Amerks game, or come serve the meal with us and return back to church at 7pm.

Youth Calendar:



Tuesday, March 1	- 7:00 Youth Ministry Team meeting
Sunday, March 6	- 9:30 Youth Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School 6:00-8:00 Junior High Sky Zone; Senior High Coffee and Chats
Sunday, March 13	- 9:30 Youth Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School 4:00-5:45 Confirmation: Faith in the World
Sunday, March 20	- Palm Sunday 9:30 Youth Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School 12:30-2:30 Junior High Mall Scavenger Hunt 3:30-7:00 Senior Highs Serve @ REACH
Thursday, March 24	- 7:00 - Maunday Thursday service
Friday, March 25	- 7:00 – Good Friday service
Sunday, March 27	- Easter Sunday 6:45 Sunrise Worship 9:30 Youth Choir 10:00 Worship

Summer Work Project Dates: Mark your calendars now!

Junior High: July 11-15th

Senior High: July 31-August 6th in DETROIT!!



EASTER TULIPS

If you would like to order a plant for display in the Sanctuary for Easter and/or donate to the Green Island Basic School in Jamaica in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and send it with a check to the church office at (1049 Wegman Road, Rochester, NY 14624). Orders due March 6th. Make checks payable to Gates Presbyterian Church. This year tulips will be available for \$10.00.



NAME OF DONOR (S)

ADDRESS

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

Please check appropriate donation:

Tulips _____ Green Island Basic School _____



Annual GPC Amerks Hockey Game

Sunday March 20

Rochester Amerks



5:05pm

vs.

\$14.00 per ticket

Providence Bruins



Deadline: March 13, 2016

Tickets passed out the morning of March 20th

See Todd Pimm or Gary Dykes
In the Fellowship Hall
after worship