

GREETINGS ALL,

The Gates Police for 2016 is embracing a project entitled “Restoring Hope Building Community 2016”. The purpose of this project is the belief that the Town of Gates is a wonderful community in which to raise a family or grow a business. Gates is populated with friendly people who care about their neighbors, and who are committed to the town they choose to call home.

The police department is not a separate entity, but an integral part of the community. Respectful and friendly relationships exist between the police, schools, business and folks in our neighborhoods.

Project Restoring Hope Building Community 2016 is a yearlong celebration of the citizens of Gates – of our kids and parents, of our neighborhoods, of our schools and churches. It is a yearlong celebration of the businesses and service clubs of our town. This project will entail many events that you can be a part of; events that highlight the quality of life we have in this dynamic community. If you watch our Facebook page, some of these community building events will be advertised.

An event in which our local churches might wish to participate in is Saturday April 23, 2016, a Gates Clean-up Day. This event will coincide with “Earth Day.” We will meet at the Gates Town Hall rear parking lot around 8:30am, then leave around 9am to head out to some areas of town to clean up trash. We will car pool from the Town Hall and around 12 noon, we will return to the town hall parking lot for hot dogs and a light lunch. This might be a great project for your youth group or service ministry!

Thanks for all you are doing!

Chief JVB



PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

<u>Date</u>	<u>Front Door Greeter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
April 3	Barbara Chapman	Barbara Snaith	4	4
April 10	Bill Dassero	Janice Beutner	5	5
April 17	Tom Ward	Jeff Tuttle	6	6
April 24	Kris Ohman	Tommy Kelly	1	1

Communion Team F

Left:

1. Laura Nolan
2. Larry Wakeman
3. Gladstone Crosdale
4. John Schramel

Right:

1. Linda Sidore
2. Kathy Wakeman
3. Cam Mossgraber
4. Lynn Schramel

Lock Up Schedule: April – Buz Bauman

FROM THE PASTOR

“Melissa, I have a question.”

“Jesus. Jesus is the answer,” I joke, quoting a bumper sticker I saw once. We often turn to Jesus and the words of scripture with the pressing questions of life. We aren’t always sure what to do with the fact that what we find in the Bible are more questions! This is especially true when we read the Gospels and stories of Jesus. Jesus asked more questions than he answered. Of the 183 questions asked of Jesus, he answered only 3 of them. And then he asked 307 of his own questions!

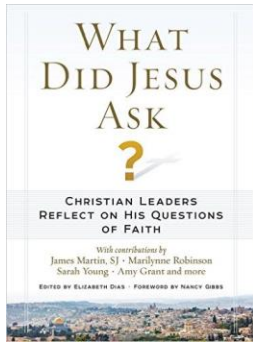
We have so many questions about our life, faith and the church today. The Christian church throughout the world is changing more rapidly than statisticians, theologians, preachers and church go-ers can keep up with. We want to know what it means to live in the 21st century as followers of Christ. How do we live our faith in the world that assumes the word “Christians” means we are closedminded, intolerant and exclusivist? How can our church be about our relationship with God, one another and the world and not just another meeting to attend? How do we move beyond our fear of not having enough people, money, and resources and see that God has given us exactly what we need to be the church God calls us to be?

Wouldn’t it be great if Jesus just answered our questions? Gave us the answers we are looking for. Then I remember the question Jesus asks his disciples, then later the men who would arrest him, and then later still Mary at the empty tomb, “What are you looking for?” Another way to ask this question is “What do you want?”

Huh. Well Jesus, when you put it that way... I’m not always sure what I am looking for. We the church aren’t always sure what we are looking for. Or when faced with that question we find about as many answers to that question as there are people themselves. What I do know is the question stirs in me a sense of longing to wrestle with it a bit more. The question invites me to draw closer to God and learn more what God is looking for.

Suppose this might be why Jesus asks so many questions? The questions have the capacity to draw us into prayer and conversations with God, ourselves and one another. Over the next two months in worship and study we will be exploring more of the questions Jesus asks. Not to answer them, but to envision the questions in a way that connects with our questions and faith today. You are invited to join us on this journey. The two books that will guide our way are the Bible and “What Did Jesus Ask? Christian Leaders Reflect on His Questions of Faith” edited by Elizabeth Dias (2010). Check out the rest of the Harbinger for more for what questions we will explore and when.

-Melissa



Exploring the Questions of Jesus

Wednesdays in April and May
6:30-7:30pm in the Jr. High Lounge

Guided by the questions Jesus asked in the Bible, we will reflect on the essays found in “What Did Jesus Ask? Christian Leaders Reflect on His Questions of Faith” edited by Elizabeth Dias (2010). All ages are welcome to join for the discussion. You can purchase a copy of the book on Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble.

April 6th “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

John 21:1-14

Essay by Makoto Fujimura p. 272

April 13th **NO DISCUSSION THIS WEEK.**

Please join us at the Westside YMCA at 7:00pm

Learn more about discovering our Spiritual Gifts.

April 20th “Why are you talking about having no bread?”

Mark 8:14-21

Essay by Walter Brueggemann p. 110

April 27th “Do you want to be healed?”

John 5:1-9

Essay by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew p. 227

May 4th “What is your name?”

Mark 5: 1- 13

Essay by Yolanda Pierce p. 89

May 11th “Why Does this generation ask for a sign?”

Mark 8:1-13

Essay by Carrie Newcomer. p. 105

May 18th “What do you want me to do for you?”

Mark 10: 46-52

Essay by Gene Robinson p. 135

May 25th “Why all this commotion and wailing?”

Mark 5: 21-43

Essay by Mihee Kim-Kort p. 96

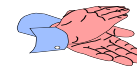
INTERESTED IN VEGETABLE GARDENING? AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

Have you ever considered or experienced any of the wonderful aspects of vegetable gardening? Fresher and less expensive vegetables than those bought in a store, the positive stress release of working with the soil, the sense of satisfaction harvesting and eating vegetables you grew yourself. But what if having your own garden at home is not an option for you? We may have the perfect solution. We are exploring the possibility of starting a community garden at GPC this year.



Please join us in the adult lounge on **Sunday, April 3** after worship to hear more about this exciting opportunity and share your thoughts and interest. Let's get growing... not only vegetables, but also new relationships in our community!

- Jim & Sue Poole



THANK YOU

The Hospitality Ministry would like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers that helped out with the parking lot valet service this past winter and early spring. Winter was kind to us for the most part this year after a long and brutal winter last year yet there were several Sundays that were cold, slippery & snowy. Once again, it was very pleasing to hear so many thankful comments about this service. Coming to Church early on a cold, windy and snowy Sunday is not something everyone looks forward to but the volunteers braved the elements and never hesitated when asked to help out. This extra effort offered on Sundays, some of which were pretty cold, shows just how willing people of GPC are to step right in and lend a helping hand. This is truly a caring Church family and we should all be very proud of the willingness these volunteers have shown to help others out.

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 at 247-5292 if you are interested in going. Our next time to serve at Salem is Monday, April 4th. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30.



ST. JOSEPH’S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

On Saturday, April 16th, GPC will be serving lunch at St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality. We need food donations, cooks and servers.

Food donations: See sign-up on the Kiosk. Please put donations in the GPC kitchen by noon on Friday, April 15th.

Cooks: The meal will be prepared on April 15th, 6:30 p.m. in the GPC kitchen
Sign-up on the Kiosk.

Servers: Meet at St. Joseph’s at 10:30 a.m. Prepare to stay until 1:30 p.m. Sign-up on the Kiosk. St. Joseph’s is located at 402 South Avenue.



DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thoughts and prayers:

Chris Thornton recovering from surgery

Dick Henderson in rehab

June Hungerford recovering at home from a fall

Doris Falke dealing with health issues

Bill Walence dealing with health issues



Our sympathy to:

Jim and Dotty Meddaugh on the recent death of Jim's brother

Katie and Phillip Styrt on the recent death of Katie's grandmother

Linda Badger Becker and family on the recent death of Linda's mother

REMINDER TO DEACONS:

The next Deacons' meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4th at 6:30 in Adult Lounge.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, April 12th at 11:15 a.m. in the church parking lot to carpool to Patti's Pantry for lunch.

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, April 13th at 1:00 p.m. at GPC in the Adult Lounge. Please read chapter 5.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on Tuesday, April 5th at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16. All are welcome!



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER PROJECT THIS SPRING???

We are looking for someone who would be willing to co-chair this year's Flea Market in June. Ginny Barley cannot chair it this year, but she is willing to work with a new co-chair and planning team, especially helping with the electronic advertising and vendor database. Please contact the office or Ginny if you would be interested in teaming on this very successful fundraiser in June. Thank You!

SNOWBIRDS: Don't forget to let the church office know when you have returned to Rochester so that we can make sure your newsletter goes to the correct address.

MOTHER'S DAY HANGING BASKET SALE

Flowers being offered this year are:

TRAILING PETUNIAS \$20.00 each _____

IVY GERANIUMS \$20.00 each _____

ROSEBUD IMPATIENS \$20.00 each _____

NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS \$20.00 each _____

Vegetable and flower flats are also available by request

through Tom Ward at 341-3105.

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Please include your check or money order made out to:

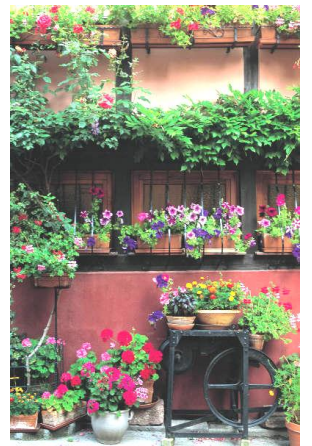
Gates Presbyterian Church with the memo "Flowers".

Place orders by: **April 26th**

Pick Up date: **May 3rd**

Pick up at Gates Presbyterian Church between 10:30 AM – 7:00 PM

Batavia Presbyterian church pick up by arrangement.



YOUTH NEWS:

Senior High Glow-Party

Sunday, April 3rd from 6:00-8:00. We'll decorate Day-Glo t-shirts and have a party under the black lights. Bring your brightest clothes!

Jr Highs at Strong

Sunday, April 3rd, 12:30-2:30. Bring a sack lunch and \$15 for admission, and we'll enjoy a trip to the Strong Museum of Play!

Confirmation class overnight: Our last class will be an overnight from 7:00pm Friday, April 15 to 8:30am Saturday, April 16. We'll be talking about worship and sacraments, writing our faith statements and bios, and planning our worship service for May, then joining the rest of the seniors for an overnight. All your points are due this day! If you need help, contact Katie.

Senior High Overnight:

It's time for the Senior High to have some overnight fun! Meet at GPC on Friday, April 15th at 8:30pm, and we'll be done at 8:30am Saturday morning. Bring \$5 for pizza, comfy clothes/toothbrush/sleeping bag/etc, and games or snacks to share!

Junior High Mission Overnight:

We can't let the Senior Highs have all the fun - time for another overnight! Meet at Laurelton Presbyterian Church (335 Helendale Road) at 4pm on Saturday, April 16th. We'll prepare and serve dinner for the REACH shelter, do a secret evening fun activity, have an overnight at Laurelton, then worship with them in the morning. Bring \$10 for food and games, whatever you need to spend the night, and a snack to share! Pick up from Laurelton at 11:00am on the 17th.



Triple Play Mission Day: Saturday, April 30th, 8:30-2:00.

This presbytery-wide event is for EVERYBODY. We'll meet at GPC, head out to do mission work, and come back for lunch and reflection. Bring \$10 for food and equipment, and get ready to serve! RSVP by April 22nd.

Summer Work Project Dates: Mark your calendars now!

Junior High: July 11-15th

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



PARENTS OF 2016 HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, OR GRADUATE SCHOOL

STUDENTS: Please call the church office (247-5292) or email us at office@gatespres.org to let us know of your son's or daughter's graduation!

YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday, April 3	- 9:30 Youth Choir - 10:00 Worship - 11:15 Jr. High Sunday School - 12:30 Jr. Highs at Strong - 6:00 Sr. Highs Glow-Party
Sunday, April 10	- 9:30 Youth Choir - 10:00 Worship - 11:15 Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School
Friday, April 15	- 7:00pm—Sat., April 16 to 8:00am, Confirmation Overnight - 8:00pm – Sat., April 16 to 8:30am, Senior High Overnight
Saturday, April 16	- 4:00pm – Sat. April 17, 11:00am: Junior High Overnight At Laurelton Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 17	- 9:30 Youth Choir - 10:00 Worship - 11:15 Sr. High Sunday School
Sunday, April 24	- Fusion Sunday - 9:30 Youth Choir - 10:00 Worship
Saturday, April 30	- 8:30-2:00: Jr. and Sr. High Triple Play Mission Day

GOOD NEWS FROM SESSION



On Sunday, May 1st Session will host a Ministry Team Fair. The purpose is to connect congregational members with ministry opportunities. Gather in the Fellowship Hall after worship to learn about all the amazing work we do at GPC and how you can get involved.



What is the Youth and Young Childrens' Coordinating Elder? The Youth/Young Children (YYC) Elder shall work with the Associate Pastor, Spiritual Growth Elder, and Spiritual Gifts Coordinator in creating Ministry Teams to coordinate the educational programming, fellowship activities, worship opportunities, and mission partnerships with and for our youth and young children. From identifying and organizing Sunday School teachers, to planning mission trips and youth events, working with Confirmation classes, and sharing ideas—the YYC Elder will support ministry serving our youngest members. Our YYC for 2016 is Bridget Wohlers. If you would like to be part of Bridget's team email her at bridgetwohlers@gmail.com or call the church office.



The Spiritual Journeys team will offer its first journey of 2016, Wednesday, April 13th in the YMCA, Elmgrove Rd. conference room, at 7:00pm. It will be a single leg journey dealing with "SPIRITUALITY". What is it? Who has it? How do we recognize it? How do we grow it? How do we make it a part of all our gatherings together? Our journey's guide will be Dr. Rebecca Letterman, Associate Professor of "Spiritual Formation" at Northeastern

Seminary. In GPC's new governance model, one Core Value Ministry is "Spiritual Growth" and one of the teams in this ministry is "Spiritual Journeys," this session will help us all towards a common understanding of "Spirituality." Please join us for what will be an informative and interactive evening. Tickets, priced \$1, will be on sale in the Fellowship Hall following worship.



The Mission Core Value Ministry would like to celebrate all the mission that congregational members do outside of GPC. Do you volunteer for any organizations? Do you serve in any leadership roles for any not-for-profit group? Do you donate goods or services to any organizations? Does the volunteer work you do hold a special place in your life? Any mission you do that you feel personally connected to or important, we would like to hear

about. Please email Tom Ward (tomw@rochesterymca.org) or Sally Christiansen (sjmcc@rochester.rr.com) if you have items to share.

Covenant for the Session of Gates Presbyterian Church

DRAFT updated and approved: February 2016

How will we 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 world, church or each other and it is your grace that makes us whole.

We the Session of Gates Presbyterian Church covenant to:

- Seek, listen and trust 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.
- Celebrate together our successes and joys!
- Acknowledge disappointments, mistakes, and failures as part of our journey in faith. Take time to learn and grow from them.
- Continue 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, trust, support and encourage each other.

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."
- Implement change responsibly and keep revising in the ways God guides us.
- 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 ministry teams in appropriate ways.
- Share in the excitement, fun and joy of serving!
- Listen, respect, love, forgive, challenge, trust, support and encourage each other.