

## CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR - HOLD THE DATE!

Our 39<sup>th</sup> annual Church Mouse Bazaar will take place on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. throughout the church. GPC has developed quite a reputation providing a high quality, well-run arts and crafts show with handmade items that are perfect for that hard-to-find Christmas gift. This fundraising event benefits the whole church and is run by many volunteers. So, plan on coming, volunteering, or both!!!

Linda Beattie, Tess McKeel, Jan Beutner

## ANNUAL WOMEN'S CANDLELIGHT DINNER

### HOLD THE DATE!!! – Tuesday, December 13th

This year we are going to the Whittier Party House for our annual Women's Candlelight dinner beginning at 6pm.

We will be collecting personal items for Willow (formerly ABW) again this year.

Tickets will be sold in early November. Any questions??? Call Barb Snaith at 247-9066.



### Home Communion

Teaching and Ruling Elders, Deacons, and other caregivers participate in the celebration of home Communion. During these visits to homebound GPC members, those serving the Sacrament of Communion take time to visit with the care-receiver, especially inquiring about their needs and how the caregiver may pray for them and their loved ones. To request home Communion, please contact the office by phone (247-5292) or email [office@gatespres.org](mailto:office@gatespres.org)



### Hospital Calls

The Pastors and members of the Board of Deacons make hospital visits when notified of a hospitalization. Please contact the church office (247-5292) if you know of such a need. Note that because of privacy concerns, hospitals do not contact pastors nor share information with the church, so you must call to request a visit

### PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Please be sure to let the church office know your college student's address and/or email address. We like to send them the Harbinger each month!



**THANK YOU** to all the talented musicians who graced us with their music this Summer! It's always a joy to share in worship your musical talents!

## FROM THE PASTOR . . . . .

Dear GPC,

From a young age we are taught the two topics to stay away from in polite conversation: religion and politics. We are all more than well aware the political season is upon us. I wonder, where do you go deeper on matters that are important to you, affecting your daily lives and those of your neighbors in your communities and around the world? Where are those places where people can gather in community, trust one another enough to disagree, learn about different perspectives, and grow in our understandings?

Unfortunately, the church may not be the first place you think of. Once a topic emerges on a political platform, some decide the issue is no longer suitable for discussion in the church. "We believe in the separation of church and state," is recited. I, too, believe the views of one's religious tradition should not dictate the laws of our country. But conversations regarding faith and politics are about so much more than media rhetoric, red state or blue, or choosing a candidate to vote for (endorsing particular candidates is the big IRS "no-no" for ALL non-profit organizations). Such conversations require us to explore our faith in the sovereignty of God, and Jesus' participation in human liberation as the work of the Holy Spirit. In doing so we learn from Scriptures, tradition, and one another how we might best love God and our neighbors.

Such conversations also require a deep commitment from participants to practice hospitality, compassion, perseverance and holding tension in life giving ways. One of the many reasons I celebrate serving in ministry with GPC is the diversity of opinions and perspectives in the life of this congregation, and our ability to engage those differences together with humility and love.

- continued on next page

Over the next few months we are going to have the opportunity to explore a number of the questions where the political and theological overlap. The political season may wrap up in November, but here at GPC we are going to engage for a bit longer in what we are calling a “Seasons of Justice.” A number of the conversations during the “Seasons of Justice” will take place here at GPC and others we will partner with or attend events hosted by The Great Rochester Community of Churches (Faith in Action Network), Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and congregations in the Presbytery. We will have conversations about Israel/Palestine, race, democracy, religious extremism, and ways to recover the heart of democracy. The Senior High Sunday School class will spend the program year learning about other religious traditions and how their faith practices and beliefs influence their daily lives.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share in our questions regarding faith and politics together. More than three decades ago the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted a policy regarding our understanding of “Reformed Faith and Politics” reminding us:

*Faith gives us a context for knowing that God wills people to live together in trusting, wholesome relationship. Hope provides a motivation for engaging in a politics of expectation that life can be more just. Love requires us to respond to the love God has shown by loving service to our neighbor. These central Christian virtues transform but do not annul the way Christians in society try to order society through moderation, courage, wisdom and justice.*

Read on for the ways you can be engaged through conversation, study, prayer, worship, and action in the “Seasons of Justice” at GPC!

~Melissa



**October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 FUS!ON Sunday**  
**Elder Susan Orr, Presbytery for Mission & Education**  
**Rev. Melissa Lynn DeRosia**  
**“The Mosaic of Peace: Witnessing for Peace and Wholeness in a Land Call ‘Holy’”**

### **Coming in October! *Seasons of Justice: Religious Extremism & Violence***

Join us on Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30 for book study discussion on:

“Not in God’s Name: Confronting Religious Violence”

By Jonathan Sacks

\*\* Copies of the book can be purchased on Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble. Please talk to Melissa if you need her to order you a copy.



**KICK- OFF BREAKFAST & All Congregational Choir**  
September 11<sup>th</sup>  
8:30am- 9:30am

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 to fill your belly with breakfast and then at 9:30 to fill your heart with song! **All ages and musical abilities** are welcome to eat together and rehearse a very simple anthem to be sung in worship that day. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy breakfast together to kick off the program year!

### **MEN 2 MEN Breakfast**

Men 2 Men will meet September 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship and breakfast of Decant Scrambled Eggs in the Fellowship Hall followed by a bible study of The Sermon on the Mount. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Sign-up sheet is on the Kiosk.

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

Summer vacation is over. Bring a lunch and join us on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. We need to complete our projects in time for the big sale at the Church Mouse Bazaar in November. New people and new ideas are always welcome!!

**OCTOBER HARBINGER** articles are due in the office by noon on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Mission News

Thanks to everyone who supported our GPC summer mission collections.

- Fifty-four backpacks will be delivered to school children in Haiti.
- The “SWEMMIMG” pool was filled with food items that were packed up by the children who participated in Service-Palooza , ready for delivery to SWEM food cupboard.
- Undie Sundays are ongoing as I write this – the new underwear collected will be delivered to Cameron Community Ministries.

Your GPC Mission Team is working with Presbytery, our pastoral staff, and other ministry teams to explore the many ways that the Seasons of Justice concept can be used to enhance our mission education, advocacy, and giving. In April, we hope to introduce “Season of Justice: Creation”. The format is being developed – there will be time for worship, learning, and hands-on activity. If you are interested in environmental issues and being good stewards of our earth, please consider joining the team that will be building this intergenerational program. Don’t worry – we will also focus on keeping meetings to a minimum as we do this exciting work! Contact Sally Christensen (247-6095).

The Mission Team meets in the Junior High room at church on the first Tuesday of the month (“Mega-meeting” night). Guests are always welcome at meetings, whether you are interested in joining the team, have a project you would like to present, or are just curious about mission work at GPC.

## PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Date	Lay Reader	Front Door Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
September 4	Gordon Chapman	Heather Pimm	2	2
September 11	Meredith Hart	Laura Nolan	3	3
September 18	Tom Ward	Keith Hadley	4	4
September 25	Carson Wohlers	Sally Christensen	5	5

Communion Team E

Communion in September is by Intinction. Communion Team E, please contact your captain, Carrie Dykes, for instructions.

**LOCK UP SCHEDULE:** September: Todd Pimm



## Seasons of Justice: Faith, Politics and Democracy Book Study: “Healing the Heart of Democracy” by Parker Palmer

**6:30-7:30pm in GPC Jr. High Lounge**

9/14 Week 1: Prelude, Chapter 1 & 2

9/21 Week 2: Chapters 3, 4, 5

9/28 Week 3: Chapter 6, 7, 8

\*\* Copies of the book can be purchased on Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble. Please talk to Melissa if you need her to order you a copy.

## Fall Lecture Series: “Praise, Protest and Policy:” Religion and Politics Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

### Events of Interest:

#### Wednesday, October 5, 2016

6:00 pm

Helen Barrett Montgomery Opening Worship – Dr. Barbara Moore, RSM, preaching

Location: St. Monica Church, 831 Genesee St., Rochester NY

7:00 pm

Helen Barrett Montgomery Lecture: Can These Bones Live Again?

Faith and Politics in 2016 Part 1

Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director of NETWORK

Location: St. Monica Church, 831 Genesee St., Rochester, NY

#### Thursday, October 6, 2016

9:30 am

Worship Service, Rev. Diane Bagues, preaching

10:30 am

Helen Barrett Montgomery Lecture: Can These Bones Live Again?

Faith and Politics in 2016 Part 2

Simone Campbell, SSS

Location: CRCDS Strong Auditorium



**Seasons of Justice: Israel/ Palestine  
The Presbytery of Genesee Valley Welcomes  
PC(USA) International Peacemaker,  
Areej Masoud!**

**September 23-27, 2016**

*Areej Masoud, native of Bethlehem, Palestine, currently works as the Communication and Administrative Officer for Kairos Palestine, where she liaisons, networks and oversees communications with churches, organizations and donors. She has previously worked with Seeds of Hope in Jericho. She has training in international human rights, international humanitarian law and conflict resolution. She is a member of the Palestinian Youth Ecumenical Movement (PYEM).*

**Schedule of Events:**

- Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>:**      **6pm**    **Welcome Dinner** at Bethany Presbyterian Church  
Contact Cherie Livoti at [clivoti2@gmail.com](mailto:clivoti2@gmail.com)
- Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>:**      **6pm**    **Dinner, Film “Detaining Dreams: No Way to Treat a Child” and Discussion** for youth & leaders @ Gates Pres  
Contact Katie Styrts at [katie@gatespres.org](mailto:katie@gatespres.org)
- Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>:**      **7pm**    **Presentation** at Batavia Presbyterian  
Contact Roula Alkouri at [roula@rochester.rr.com](mailto:roula@rochester.rr.com)
- Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>:**      **11:30pm**      **Lunch & Conversation at CRCDS**  
                                         **2:30pm**      **Pre-Meeting Discussion** at Victor Presbyterian  
                                         **4pm**            **Stated Meeting of Presbytery** at Victor

**You are invited to attend any or all events!!**

Details are posted at <http://pbygenval.org/category/mission-advocacy/>.  
For more information, please contact Susan Orr at [sorr@pbygenval.org](mailto:sorr@pbygenval.org).  
To learn more about the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program’s International Peacemakers, visit:  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/international-peacemakers/>  
All Lectures are free and open to the public. For more information and full schedule visit [www.crcds.edu](http://www.crcds.edu) or call 340-9643.

**FROM THE DEACONS**

Please keep in thought and prayer:

**Darrell Beardsley**, Tracy Burkovich’s mother, recovering from surgery.  
**Doris Falke** now in Wedgwood in Spencerport.

Our sympathy:

**Wayne Smith and family** on the recent death of his wife, **Ann**.  
**Barbara Walence and family** on the death of her husband, **Bill**, in June.  
**Bob and Fran Paro** on the recent death of Bob’s mother, **Minnie Kaiser**.  
The **Gracey Family** on the recent death of **Lewis Gracey**.  
**Fran Henderson and family** on the death of Fran’s husband, **Dick** in August.  
**Jason and Jessica Millington and family** on the death of Jessica’s brother, **Gregory Petit**.  
**Margie and John McKnight and family** on the passing of her mother, **Catherine Marshall**, on August 18.

Prayers of Joy:

**Carol and Bill Balsley** recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
**Patrick Moore and Erica Garland** were married in Nashville, TN on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Proud parents are **Mike and Polly Moore**.

Heartfelt gratitude and love for the cards, phone calls, visits, prayers and love from our GPC family. We are grateful for the outpouring of compassion before and since Bill's passing. May you all continue to be blessed by God's grace.

With our love,  
- Barb, Natalie & Patrick McMichael and Ben & Lauren Walence

**REMINDER TO DEACONS:** The next Deacons’ meeting is Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Please note this is a change to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** meets at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> in Room 16.

**TABITHA CIRCLE** meets at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in the Adult Lounge.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** meets on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 p.m. in the Adult Lounge. Please bring your lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

**MEGA MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> STARTING AT 7:00 P.M.**

## YOUTH CALENDAR

- September 4 - 10:00 – Worship  
September 6 - 7:00 – Youth Team Meeting  
**SEPTEMBER 11 – KICK-OFF SUNDAY (Katie in Worship)**  
- 9:30 – Youth Choir (first rehearsal)  
- 10:00 – Worship  
- 11:15 – Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School  
- 6:00 – Youth Group Kick-off Picnic  
September 18 - 9:30 – Youth Choir  
- 10:00 – Worship  
- 11:15 – Jr. High and Sr. High Sunday School  
September 25 - 9:30 – Youth Choir  
- 10:00 - Worship (No Fusion Sunday)  
- 4:00 - Confirmation first meeting with parents and students  
- 6:00 - Sr. High Visit with Peacemaker Areej Masoud  
- Jr. High Game Night



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!!**  
**Free-Wheel-A-Thon 2016!**  
**OCT 2 - 12:30 – 5:00**  
**IT'S FUN AND IT'S FOR MISSION!!!!**

YOUTH! It's time to get ready for Wheel-A-Thon 2016, riding 20 miles to support youth mission work projects! Ask folks to pledge you (minimum pledge amount to ride is \$10.00, \$125 for Jamaica Participants). Tell them what you're doing and why. Bring your bike, helmet, pledges, and permission slip to Greece Canal Park on October 2 at 12:30. Ride for 20 miles round trip on the Erie Canal, with snack breaks along the way. We'll have supper at Greece Canal Park - parents, pick up your kids around 5:00pm.

Want to support GPC mission but don't want to ride a bike? No problem! This is the Free-Wheel-A-Thon, so we also accept walkers, runners, dog-walkers, kayakers, unicyclists - no movement too crazy! Whatever mode of transportation you choose, be prepared to travel for three hours (including breaks). Great day, great work, great friends, great food and lots of stops along the way!

## Confirmation Class Introduction

**September 25 - 4:00-5:45 for confirmands, parents, and sponsors**

Come learn about your amazing journey this year! Meet our new confirmation teachers; Carol Balsley, Mary Waugh, and Nancy Hossenlopp. Dinner will be provided. This year our confirmation class will include 8th and 9th graders. If you have any questions, contact Katie or Melissa!

**Got ideas? Join us for a Youth Team Meeting!** On Tuesday, September 6th at 7:00pm, we'll meet to discuss plans for Kick-Off Sunday and the Free-Wheel-A-Thon. Want to help with these events or have ideas to make them even more awesome? Come plan with us! You don't have to join youth team to be part of this one-time planning event.

**Junior Highs 7th and 8th graders:** Bring your faith questions and opinions to explore together with Todd Pimm and Keith Hadley. This amazing experience will happen in the Junior High Lounge after worship every Sunday (11:15) except Fusion Sundays.

**Senior Highs 9th-12th graders:** Our curriculum continues with a year learning about other faiths. Come learn about World Religions, go on lots of interesting field trips, and discuss how faith changes the way people live. This curriculum is part of a four year program called the "Compass" where we explore World Religions, Old Testament, New Testament and Current Issues Through a Faith Lens. With Mary Hadley and Carrie Dykes, after church (11:15) every Sunday (except Fusion Sundays) in the Senior High Lounge.

**CHECK YOUR MAIL** - We'll be sending out the youth calendar for the year soon. Stick it to your fridge, save the dates, and get ready for a fun year!

## YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF PARTY September 11th

6:00 – 8:00 – GPC 6th-12th graders. Bring a picnic blanket and get ready for supper, games, and fun! Check your snail mail for more info.

## Junior High Game Night - September 25th, 6:00-8:00

Come join us for time to catch up after the summer and play games!

## Senior High Visit with Peacemaker Areej Masoud September 25th, 6:00-8:00

We're excited to welcome youth from other churches to join us and meet Peacemaker Areej Masoud! Areej has traveled from Palestine to speak with us. She'll be sharing the film "Detaining Dreams: No Way to Treat a Child" over dinner and discussion. Parents are also welcome for this special event.

## **JR. CHOIR TO START SOON** 🎵 🎵 🎵

Join with other 1st- 6<sup>th</sup> graders in building a group that  
**C**omes together to have fun and learn more about God's love  
**O**ffers a chance to get to know one another even better  
**M**akes friends, even with those a little younger or a little older  
**M**akes an effort to listen to and encourage each other  
**U**ses music to praise God, and as a form of prayer  
**N**otices ways to be helpful in working together  
**I**nvests time, energy and enthusiasm in preparing for worship  
**T**rys to treat each other kindly, making a place just for  
**Y**ou

Yes, we would love to have YOU as a part of our group! We meet most Sundays from 11:15 – 12:15, and once a month make a wonderful, heartfelt contribution to morning worship at Gates Presbyterian. Keep in mind the following Sundays:

**Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** – First rehearsal. Come see what Junior Choir is all about!

**Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>** - Rehearsal. We will meet in Room 4 from 11:15 – 12:15.

Come join the fun!

## **YOUNG CHILDREN**

We hope everyone had a very relaxing and enjoyable summer!

Fall brings us our Kickoff for Sunday School on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>! We are looking forward to another year of learning and growing in God's grace!

## **Flat Jesus: It's time to share where Flat Jesus has been this summer!**

Bring your Flat Jesus to worship on September 11th for a fun-filled celebration during Kick-Off Sunday. And if you haven't posted your photos to the Members of GPC page or given them to the office, get them in soon! We want to see where you and Jesus have traveled this summer.

**A note from Katie:** I'll be in worship this September on Sunday the 11th for Kick-Off Sunday! Excited to see you all there. If you'd like to talk with me, let me know! I'm in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays.

## **2016-2017 WORSHIP TEAM OPPORTUNITIES**

There are LOTS of easy ways to support Worship at GPC! The Worship Team invites you to become a part of any or all of these Ministry Teams:

**Communion** – prepare the elements and clean-up on a Communion Sunday during the year

**FUSION Sundays/Thoughts for Children** – help provide supplies, extra hands, or find/be a volunteer

**Advent/Christmas Season** – seasonal activities include poinsettia orders, mission donation, scheduling Advent candle lighters, preparation for Christmas Eve services

**Decorating/Undecorating** – it takes many hands to transform the Sanctuary for the holidays (and to remove it all). Why not help out?

**Lent/Easter Season** – seasonal activities include tulip orders, mission donation, Holy Week needs

**Summer Worship** – help coordinate a Fellowship Hall and/or an outdoor service; provide support to pastors as requested

**Accessibility/Hospitality** – serve as host for guest preachers, maintain accessibility of worship for all

**Church Calendar** – coordinate with other Worship Ministry Teams; change seasonal liturgical candles and scarves; update volunteer lists, create, publicize and distribute the yearly serving schedule

Do you have an idea for a Worship Ministry Team? Other questions? Need more information? Please contact your Worship core Value Elders: Kristine Ohman (293-0608) or Barb Chapman (426-1375). You may also contact any of the other Worship Team members: Jeannie Bauman, MaryBeth MacKenzie, Donna Schott, Eric Vail, Kathy Wakeman, Irene Ward, or Marie Wilson.

Come join us ... We have FUN!!!!

## GOOD NEWS FROM SESSION



### “Generous Giving: Real Tools for Real churches”

The Presbytery will be hosting a workshop on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 3pm at Third Presbyterian Church. This workshop is designed to help churches with their stewardship campaigns. Presentations will include “Cultivating Generosity,” “Telling God’s Story: Narrative Budgets,” “Fundraising as Spiritual formation and Pastoral Care,” and more.

If you are interested in attending, there is an online registration <http://pbygenval.org/stewardship-event> or you can contact the GPC office (247-5292). The cost is \$20 per person.

### Budget Update:



Below are the budget numbers for the first half of 2016. We are doing well. The changes we implemented in our staffing and budget this year have paid off. Thank you for your generosity. Thanks also to those of you that have paid your portion (\$29.80 for 2016) of GPC’s Per Capita.

**Session is also looking for a person to serve as our Finance Elder. If you are interested, please contact the office.**

If you would like more information about the budget, please contact the church office.

	<b>6/30/2016 Actual</b>	<b>6/30/2015 Actual</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	\$156,708	\$190,867
<b>Expense Summary:</b>		
Staff Support	\$97,527	\$116,180
Maintenance/ Operating	\$26,532	\$36,879
Programming	\$12,181	\$11,273
Mission Programs	<u>\$16,518</u>	<u>\$11,828</u>
Total Expenses:	\$152,758	\$176,160
<b>Total Income Less Expenses</b>	\$3,951	\$14,707