

From the Public Worship Committee

Once again this year Gerry Stewart, the Stewart family and the Hossenlopp family donated and delivered the beautiful Christmas tree that became a part of our worship services during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We are very thankful for their generous donation.

In addition to acknowledging this donation, we wanted to thank the many volunteers that come out to help put up the Christmas tree, decorate it and hang the Christmas wreath and garland that shines brightly when the lights are turned on for all to enjoy. Our sanctuary is very festive looking adding to the spirit of the season.

One more thing, unfortunately the decorations that make the sanctuary look so beautiful will need to be taken down and put away. Please put Sunday, January 8, 2017 on your calendar as the day to gather after Worship at 11:30am and help us "undecorate". Recognizing that this time might make it difficult for some to have time for lunch we will have pizza and drinks available for all to enjoy. If you are able to join us please make a note in the hospitality register, email Eric Vail at vailagency@yahoo.com or call the church office at 247-5292. Thank you.



FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL **Friday evening, December 2** **6:00 – 7:30** **“Let Your Light Shine”** **Save the date**

An invitation for all generations to come together for an evening of pizza, salad, dessert, crafts, and a time of reflection on the Christmas story to end the evening.
Please sign up on the Kiosk! Hope to see you there!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS - NEW THIS YEAR:

December 23 – January 2 – The church office will be closed for the entire week between Christmas Eve and New Year’s Day.

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

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

FROM OUR STATED SUPPLY ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I confess - I have not adapted to Daylight Savings Time yet. I know that the one-hour shift shouldn't make that much of a difference, but it feels like a personal affront that it gets dark long before I head home in the evenings. Fall's beautiful colors can't be appreciated when it's dark out, and I resent these increasingly shorter days and longer nights. To combat these early sunsets and long nights, I've been pulling lamps out of storage. I'm getting ready to find my Christmas tree, and hang it with lights. It's becoming the perfect time to start our holiday decorating, and share some light with our community.

In the past few months, many things have gotten dimmer. The election laid bare many divisions in our nation, and left fear in its wake. As the nights get colder, we are rushing to provide safe shelters for people in Rochester without homes. And with so many things to do in our rush towards Christmas, it is hard to figure out where to start.

Thankfully, we have Advent. The month of December gifts us with time to learn the change that Christ's birth has brought to the world. We do not have to wait in the darkness. Instead, we are called together as a church to share the light of our faith, and let that light shine out. We can come together to protect the vulnerable, both here in Rochester and across our nation. We can feed warm meals to people at the Bridge shelter (contact Mary Hadley to help!) and light up their evenings in a safe place to stay. This Advent at GPC our theme is "Let Your Light Shine". We will prepare for Jesus's birth not by waiting for him to heal our divisions, but by preparing the path for Christ to come into the world.

In the devotional *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*, the editors say that "The love that descended to Bethlehem is not the easy sympathy of an avuncular God, but a burning fire whose light chases away every shadow, floods every corner, and turns midnight into noon. This love reveals sin and overcomes it. It conquers darkness with such forcefulness and intensity that it scatters the proud, humbles the mighty, feeds the hungry, and sends the rich away empty-handed (Luke 1:51-53)." Remember this Advent that Christ's light will soon be bursting into our lives. It is up to us to prepare for the joy of Christmas with our own light in our community. Let us get ready to let our lights shine, and welcome Jesus with love.

Peace,

Rev. Katie

FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Continued prayers for **Marge Westfall**

Norma Polizzi now residing at the Presbyterian Home

Allison Tuttle recovering from surgery

Nora Bush suffering from severe back pain



Sympathy to **Andrea Unson and family** and **Laura Nolan** on the recent death of Andrea's uncle and Laura's stepbrother, **Ronald Hinchey**

ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY HARBINGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14.

REMINDER TO DEACONS: The Deacons' holiday gathering will be Sunday, December 18th from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge. Questions??? Call Barb Snaith at 247-9066.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets next on Tuesday, December 6th at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at the church on Monday, December 5th, at 11:15 a.m. to carpool to lunch at the Apple Tree Inn.

CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES:

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. -- Comfy Christmas Service

Sunday, January 1st – New Year's Day

10:00 a.m. – Service of Healing and Hope – Communion by Intinction



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.



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 Tracy Burkovich at 247-5292 if you are interested in going. Our next time to serve at Salem is Monday, December 5th. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30am.



DECEMBER 4th 2016

Following Worship in the Sanctuary

Purpose of Meeting:

Review Budget, Elect Officers, Pastor Terms of Call and "Open Space Time."

In June of 2016, Session began committing part of their meeting "where they are" to also include "Living outside of the 'business as usual' agenda of session" for the purpose of generative conversations. We are exploring the ways the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst at GPC and how we can respond in faith. We are inviting the congregation to be part of these conversations! Following the business of the meeting we will open the meeting for time to hear thoughts on the question:

"What do you see changing at GPC?"

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Tuesday, December 13th

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

There will be a wonderful program with Ray Pool, who plays the harp for us occasionally in worship, after dinner.

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

If you haven't gotten a ticket, call Barb Snaith at 247-9066.



YOUNG CHILDREN'S TEAM will meet during Junior Choir on Sunday, December 18th. Our team meets every other month, guiding the Sunday School program and other activities for children. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Katie!

THANK YOU GPC!

As we come to the end of 2016, we want to thank you for your generous gifts throughout the year to support the ministries of Gates Presbyterian Church.

This was a great year as we seek to live as a joyful community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to worship God, follow Jesus and love our neighbors.

At the end of the year, people often ask how they can continue to support the mission and ministry of GPC. We believe that God is calling us to be the church by doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. We do that together. First, if you have not already done so, please submit a pledge commitment card for 2017. Did you know that you can fulfill your pledge through electronic giving?

We give thanks for the ways GPC has been doing this in the last year. Please take a moment to be sure this last year pledge commitment is up-to-date. Contact the office if you have any questions. You also have the opportunity to make year-end gifts. Financial gifts can be made by check, online or by donation of stock. Please contact the office for more information if you wish to make a stock donation or set up electronic giving.



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, November 30th	Matthew 3:1-12
Wednesday, December 7th	Luke 1:47-55
Wednesday, December 14th	John 1:1-14
Wednesday, December 21st	Matthew 1:18- 2:23
Wednesday, December 28th	NO BIBLE STUDY
Wednesday, January 4th	NO BIBLE STUDY

Thank you to everyone working to make our new nursing room comfy! Special thanks to Craig McKeel for donating furniture. This room (in the place of our old nursery) is open to all nursing moms and people who need a quiet place for their babies. As before, childcare for infants and toddlers during worship will be available in the "toddler room" next door.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2017 Church Leadership Development Day

Saturday February 11th 8:30am-noon

Perinton Presbyterian Church

6551 Pittsford- Palmyra Road Fairport NY

Open to new and experienced church leaders. You've been called to this particular and wonderful and ordained position of leadership in your faith community. Congratulations for being so trusted and respected! But now you wonder, "What am I actually supposed to be doing?" Each congregation has its own version of what it means to be in this service, but all are based in powerful truths, deep needs, a recognition of the gifts of community, and belief in God working through people in the here and now. Come and learn some of the ground rules and opportunities. Come and be given some great practical tools for this ministry. To learn more visit the Presbytery of Genesee Valley website: www.pbygenva.org



IMPRINTS OF GOD'S FACE: Race and Faith

The GPC community is raising deep concerns about structural racism, inequality and privilege, but we aren't sure what we can do about it... or how to talk about it. Continuing the community-wide conversation about race, we will join Third, Laurelton, and Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Churches for a book conversation on **Ta-Nehisi Coates's 'Between the World and Me.'** Order your copy from your favorite book retailer now and get started. Conversations will take place on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Each church will host a conversation. Watch your January Harbinger for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – PARKING LOT VALETS

The Hospitality Ministry Team is asking for volunteers to help out with the parking lot valet services this coming fall and winter. Generally volunteers are only asked to help out 2 or 3 Sundays through the winter months. Please make a note in the hospitality register or contact Eric Vail 889-5491 or (email vailagency@yahoo.com) or contact the Church office if you can help. Thank you.

COME EARLY on Sunday, December 18th 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!



GOOD NEWS FROM SESSION

New Sound System

Session has approved the use of the 2015 Endowment Fund gift and a Memorial Fund gift to complete upgrades to the sanctuary audio system. Trustees will use these funds to fix the sound system so that we will no longer hear the radio station in the speakers during worship.

Urban Presbyterians Together

Formed in 2009, Urban Presbyterian's Together (UPT) is an affiliation of nine urban congregations in Rochester which include Laurelton, Dewey Avenue, South, New Life, Third, Trinity Emmanuel, Calvary St. Andrews, Downtown, and Brighton Presbyterian Churches. UPT serves our urban center given its challenges, which are common to many U.S. cities. Their projects include: exploring how we might help improve education in our core city, raising awareness of food scarcity and hunger, combating racism, improving police-community relations, and creating collegiality and mutual support among pastors and lay people. UPT has recently received a \$50,000 grant from Duke Divinity School to strengthen and enhance UPT's capacity to serve its members and the broader community. This twelve month grant will help UPT determine their mission going forward and vision of the future including partnering with suburban congregations. GPC will be one of several suburban congregations that will work with UPT with the ultimate goal of developing initiatives to help urban communities. We are putting together a team of 3-4 congregational members who would like to create the new mission and vision of UPT. If you are interested in participating in this exciting new partnership, contact Elder Carrie Dykes.

Fearless Generosity

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

We have collected over 100 pledge cards so far valuing over \$180,000. Timely pledging helps session in their decision making process for 2017 plans and activities. Don't forget to hand in your stewardship pledge cards and give fearlessly.

MISSION NEWS

CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS for SWEM (Southwest Ecumenical Ministries)

Due December 4, 2016

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 | 2 cans of soup |
| 1 large can of fruit juice | 1 box of instant mashed potatoes |
| 1 large canned sweet potato | 1 can of cranberry sauce |
| 3 cans of vegetables | 1 bag of stuffing mix |
| 1 or more relish/pickles/olives | \$10.00 in cash |
| 1 cake mix and frosting or pie crust and filling | |

Members of the Mission/Peacemaking Committee will be in the parking lot to receive your dinner before service on Sunday, **December 4th**. Please hand your money to them separately from your dinner.

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.



ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY – December 17th – GPC serves lunch.

Folks from GPC will serve lunch on December 17th at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. The meal will be prepared at GPC on December 16th. There is a sign-up on the Kiosk for the following:

- Donations: Bring to the church kitchen by December 16th - noon
 Cooks: GPC kitchen, 6:30, December 16th
 Servers: Meet at St. Joseph's at 10:30 on December 17th. 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 18th

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 on **November 20th**, with tags bearing information about the gifts that are needed. **Gifts must be returned to GPC by December 4th.**

This year we will be participating in the “adopt-a-family” program by providing gifts for a large family in the Cameron Community. Look for the special tags on the Giving Tree – our primary goal is to fulfill that family's needs. In addition, we will be providing gifts for boys and girls ages 5 – 12 years, which the children will receive at Carmon's annual holiday party.

The third opportunity to help make the holidays brighter for the Cameron children and families is their annual “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 on the gift tags. If you choose an adopt-a-family tag or 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. For adult gifts, please return your **unwrapped** gifts **with the tag attached**. Thank You.

Questions? Contact Sally Christensen at 247-6095.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

GPC will continue to support the Basic School in Green Island, Jamaica by using our Christmas Eve offering to help fund the lunch program at the school.

ALTERNATIVE ADVENT MARKET – December 11th – 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 some of what you will find at the marketplace:

- * Gourmet coffee from Coffee Connection
- * Socks for St. Joseph's House of Hospitality
- * One World Goods
- * Guatemala Partners
- * Boadicea Sales of Zion House
- * Bead for Life
- * Palestinian Crafts
- * Girl Scout Silver Arrow candidates
- * Pencils for Green Island Basic School
- * Much more!

One World Goods

*Celebrating 25 years as a
fair trade marketplace*



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!!!!

We appreciate all the support we have had to make this event successful!

Linda Beattie, Tess McKeel, Jan Beutner Shirtz

BOTTLES AND CANS

The Youth Team 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.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Date	Lay Reader	Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
December 4	Peter Derry	Carrie Dykes	3	3
December 11	Dick Stewart	Peter Derry	4	4
December 18	Paula Sousa	Heather Pimm	5	5
December 24-4:30	Todd Pimm	Keith Hadley	1	
December 24-8:00	Tami Pignone	Laura Nolan	6	
December 25	Bonnie Beckett	Sally Christensen	2	6

Communion Team : B

Left: 1. Bill Dassero (Captain)
2. Alyson Cook
3. JC Rouchon
4. Beth Molina

Right: 1. Kay Harder
2. Heather Pimm
3. Velta Rouchon
4. Bonnie Beckett

LOCK UP SCHEDULE: November: Dan Charcholla

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 **Friday, January 6th 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!

ATTENTION 2016 CONFIRMATION CLASS AND 2016 HIGH SCHOOL

GRADUATES: The 2016 confirmation class will be candlelighters at the 4:30 service on Christmas Eve. Please meet in Room 16 at 4:15 for instructions. The 2016 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.

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 13 and 14 on your calendar for the coffee house
- ___ Dream of doing God's work in the midst of tropical beauty!

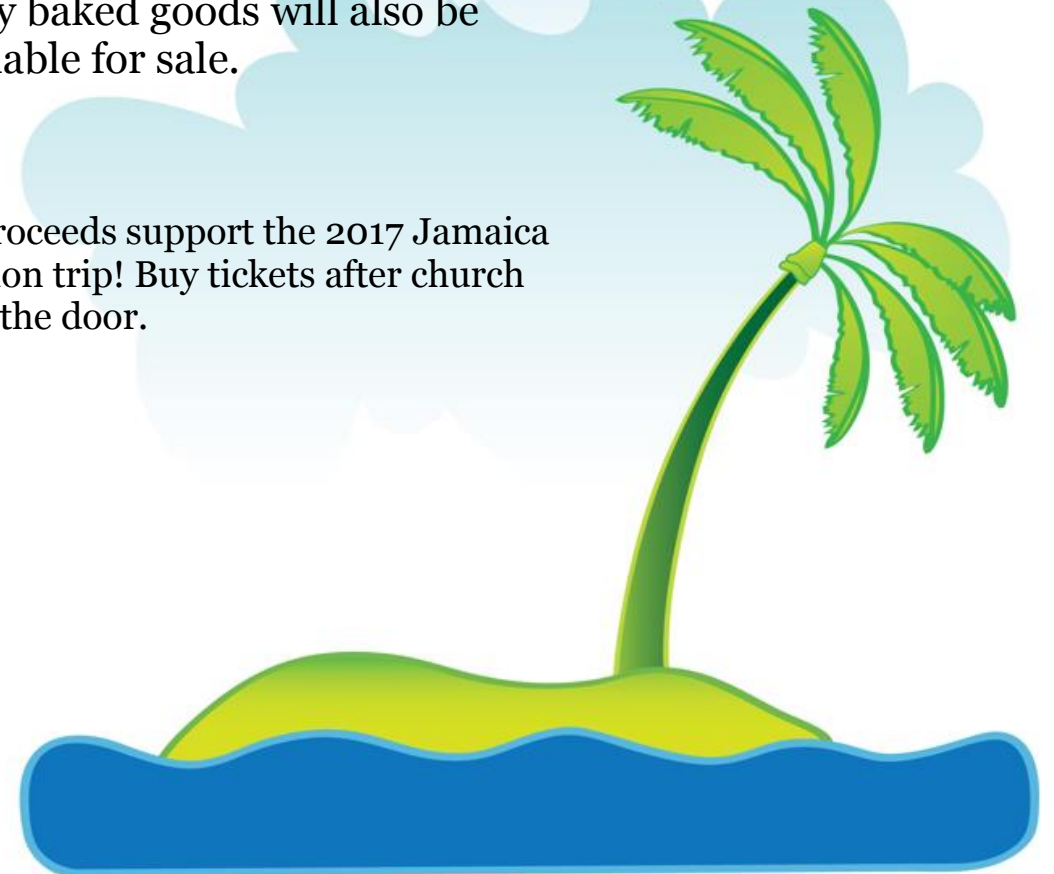
Blue Mountain Coffee House!

Saturday, January 14th

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 2017 Jamaica mission trip! Buy tickets after church or at the door.



Summer Work Projects:

Mark your calendars!

This year **the Junior High work project** will be in Rochester from July 17-21 for youth entering grades 6-8 in Fall 2017.

The Senior High work project will be from August 6-12 at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, for youth entering grades 9-12 in Fall 2017.



Junior High Overnight:

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 2nd, and will go until 9:30am the next day.

Junior and Senior High Event with Third Presbyterian Youth Group:

Join us for a special dinner and event from 6:00-8:30! We'll head to Third Presbyterian for dinner, then share in a presentation about race and privilege in Rochester. Come join us as we share and learn together!

Senior High Where's Waldo:

The hunt is on! We'll meet at the church at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 18th, 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:

Bundle up and get excited to carol! We'll meet at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 18th, go caroling to church members and share cookies, and be back by 8:00pm.

Confirmation class:

Hope your Amazing Faith Journey is going well! There is a service opportunity at St. Joseph's on Saturday, December 17th - check out your binders for more information. We'll see you for our next water stop on January 8th!

Youth News

- Friday, December 2 -- 6:00-7:30 Family Advent Festival
-- 7:30pm Junior Highs start overnight
- Saturday, December 3 -- 9:30am Junior Highs end overnight
- Sunday, December 4 -- 9:30 Youth Choir rehearsal
-- 10:00 Worship
-- 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School
-- 6:00-8:30 Junior and Senior High Event at Third Presbyterian
- Tuesday, December 6 -- 7:00 Youth Team meeting
- Sunday, December 11 -- 9:30 Youth Choir rehearsal
-- 10:00 Worship
-- 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School
- Sunday, December 18 -- 9:30 Youth Choir rehearsal
-- 10:00 Worship
-- 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School
-- 6:00-8:00 Junior High Caroling
-- 6:00-8:00 Senior High Where's Waldo
- Saturday, December 24 -- 4:30 Christmas Eve Service
(2016 confirmation class will light candles)
-- 8:00 Christmas Eve Service
(2017 high school graduates will light candles)
- Sunday, December 25 Merry Christmas!!!
-- 10:00 Comfy Christmas Worship – Fusion Sunday, no choirs, Sunday school, or youth group



Helping Kids Succeed



Do you have 1 - 2 hours a week to help a city student?

Become a Tutor today!

- Work with students in grades K - 12
- Choose from 3 school locations
- Pick your subject matter
- Set your own schedule
- Teacher directed activities
- Work one-on-one interaction or in a classroom

School #3 85 Adams Street Rochester, NY Deb Bishop 585.267.9939	School #35 194 Field Street Rochester, NY Ike Neilson 585.261.0017	East High School 1801 E. Main Street Rochester, NY Deb Bishop 585.267.9939
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A program of Third Presbyterian Church.
Visit ThirdPresbyterian.org to learn more.

HELPING KIDS SUCCEED

Become a Tutor today!

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If you are interested in helping, please contact:

Deb Bishop at 267-9939

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