

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Celebration & Potluck Lunch!

Members and friends of Gates Presbyterian Church are called to the Annual Meeting of the Church to be held following worship on Sunday, January 29th in the Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating and approving the 2016 reports from the various boards, staff and expressions of mission and ministry at GPC. A soup and salad potluck will follow. Please bring a beverage (water and coffee provided), table service (including the bowl!) and one or more of the following to share:



- Crockpot of your favorite soup
- Bread
- Salad (green or fruit)
- Dessert

THANK YOU!!!!

The Mission and Peacemaking Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped contribute food, gifts, and time to make the following projects a huge success again this Christmas Season:

- All the food and money contributed for the SWEM Christmas Dinner boxes
- All the mittens and gloves donated for the Mitten Tree to benefit DePaul Mental Health Services.
- All the gifts to give to the children and adults at the Cameron Community Ministries
- For your support of the many different groups and agencies at the Advent Market on December 6th.

It was a busy month in December, but we look forward to doing Christ's work in the community every month and every day of the New Year in 2017!!

Thanks so much for everything!
Mission and Peacemaking Team

MEN 2 MEN BREAKFAST

Men 2 Men will meet January 22nd at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship and breakfast of French Toast Sticks in the Fellowship Hall followed by a Bible study from The Sermon on the Mount. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Sign-up sheet is on the Kiosk.

MELISSA OUT OF OFFICE

Melissa will be out of the office January 2nd through the 8th as she continues her Doctorate of Ministry program.

FROM THE PASTOR

DEAR GPC,

You are invited to join Laurelton, Gates, and Third Churches as we explore together the book “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Coates, national correspondent for the Atlantic, has been writing about race for years, but this book is particularly gripping because it is an essay/letter addressed to his son on what it means to be black in America today.

Book Discussion will take place for three Thursdays in January at **6:00- 7:30pm**:

January 12th Gates Presbyterian Church ~ 1049 Wegman Rd.

January 19th Laurelton United Presbyterian Church ~ 335 Helendale Rd.

January 26th Third Presbyterian Church ~ 4 Meigs St.

***Our final conversation will end a bit early with everyone invited to stay to hear the Fisk University choir concert as part of RIT's Expressions of Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy event series. Concert begins at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary of Third Church.*

This is an opportunity for our congregations to challenge ourselves into conversations that are uncomfortable. The first challenge is for us all to commit to traveling outside our comfort zones! This means committing to one or more of these conversations that take place at a church other than our own.

The most significant challenge in reading this book is to open ourselves to the complicated pictures of race, religion and the “America Dream” Coates narrates. Of course, you don't have to read the book but it would be helpful if you did! It is relatively brief and very accessible. It's readily available at bookstores or online. Join us as we explore what part we, as Christians, can play in taking responsibility and providing opportunities to heal and grow, and how can we help society to move beyond the America Coates describes.

Questions or help in ordering a copy of the book please let me or Katie know.

Melissa

FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Babe Meyer recovering from a fall

Florence Case recovering from a fall



Continued prayers for **Marge Westfall** and **Norma Polizzi**

Sympathy to **Janice Bilohlavek and family** on the death of **George Bilohlavek** on December 14th.

ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY HARBINGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017

REMINDER TO DEACONS: The next Deacons' meeting will be Monday, January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge. Please note this is a week later because of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on the 16th.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets next on Tuesday, January 3 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet in the Adult Lounge starting at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 9th. Bring your lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided.



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. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30am.



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

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Date	Lay Reader	Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
January 1	Bridget Wohlers	J. C. Rouchon	3	1
January 8	Amy Merica	Samantha Dykes	4	2
January 15	Ian Unson	Bridget Wohlers	5	3
January 22	Janice Beutner	Barb Chapman	6	4
January 29	Harmony Cook	Kathy Wakeman	1	5

Communion Team: C

Left: 1. Kris Ohman (Captain)
2. Irene Ward
3. Irene Derry
4. Donna Schott

Right: 1. Linda Beattie
2. Tom Ward
3. Peter Derry
4. Mary Beth MacKenzie



FROM THE PUBLIC WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Once again this year Doug 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 came out to help put up the Christmas tree, decorate it, and hang the Christmas wreath and garlands that shine 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 11:30 a.m. 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!

ROCHESTER AREA PRESCHOOL registration for the 2017-2018 school year will begin on Saturday, January 21st for all Gates Presbyterian Church members. Please call the school's registrar, Lisa Marino at 943-0838 or email her at lisamarino9@yahoo.com, to reserve a spot in one of the classes. Registration for returning students will begin on Saturday, January 28th and general public registration opens on Saturday, February 4th at 9:00 a.m. Please pass the word on to relatives, friends, and neighbors.



ROCHESTER AREA PRE - SCHOOL

YOUNG CHILDREN'S NEWS

The Young Children's Team was thrilled to see all the families who attended the Family Advent Festival on December 2nd! Children and adults interacting and sharing, it was truly a great intergenerational blend! Thank you all for coming!! Thank you to Carrie Dykes for a fun way to share the Christmas story and Christine Cook for helping us sing our favorite carols. The Family Advent Festival was lots of fun for all, and a perfect invitation into the holy season of Advent.

The Young Children's Team wishes all of you many blessings in 2017!

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

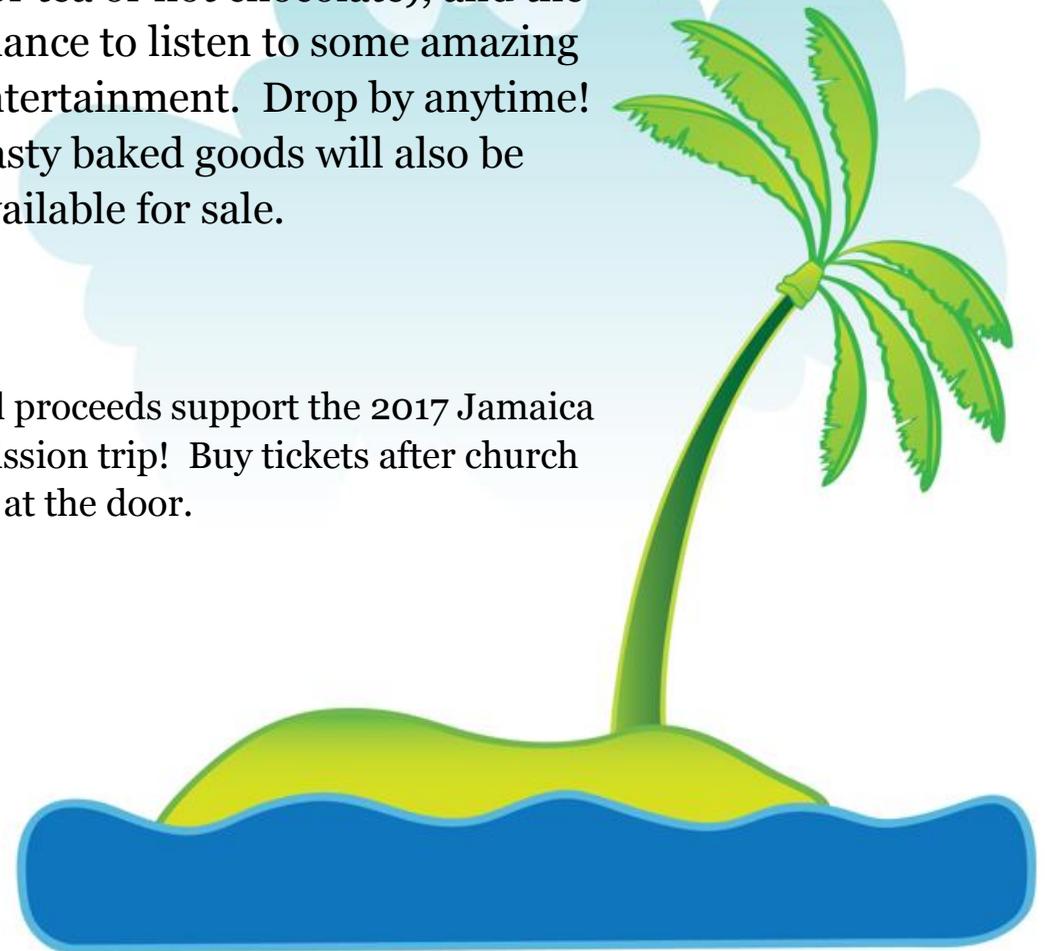
Blue Mountain Coffee House!

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.



Ice Cream with Frona: Need to get out of the house during Christmas break? Join us for sundaes and conversation over at Frona's house. Meet and pick-up at GPC, 3-5pm on Monday, Jan. 2. Please RSVP to Katie so we have enough drivers.

Jamaica Tripgoers: Our next meeting is on January 8th from 12:15-2:00 for students and advisers. We'll share lunch and prepare for our trip! Remember, by Jan. 1st you should have your notary-approved permission slips, medical form, and copy of your passport turned into the church office.

Coffee house is coming: All tripgoers must come setup for coffee house at 6:30 on Friday, Jan. 13th and arrive at 5:00 on Saturday, Jan. 14th to get ready.

Confirmation class: Our next meeting is on January 8th from 4:00-5:45. We'll talk about Polity (how does the church decide things and do them?) and eat a delicious dinner. See you there!

All-Youth "Ending the Silence" Event and Pizza Party: January 8, 6-8pm at church. Join us for a special presentation and activities by Kristina Mossgraber. Kristina works at NAMI, which works to end stigma about mental illness in Rochester. We'll eat, learn, then play all-youth games and party.

Senior High Retreat: January 20-22. We'll meet at GPC at 6:30pm, then head out to Covenant Acres for a weekend of fun and relaxation! Our theme for this year is "Priorities." We'll be back after worship on the 22nd. Look in the mail for more information!

Junior High Police Department Tour: January 22, 6:00 to 8:00pm. We'll meet at church, then head for a tour of the Gates Police Department and grab some donuts afterwards! Bring \$5 for snacks.

Blue Mountain Coffee House, Jan. 14th, 6:00-8:30pm: Whoever you are, we need **YOU!** Awesome musicians, singers, dancers, magicians, and comedians . . . sign up on the Kiosk to perform! Wonderful bakers . . . sign up on the Kiosk to bring delicious treats! Charming GPCers, friends, and family . . . come enjoy coffee, treats, and an evening entertainment at the Blue Mountain Coffee House! Tickets are \$5 for hot drinks and entertainment. All proceeds go to the 2017 Jamaica Mission Trip!!!

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.



YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 1	- 10:00 Worship
Sunday, January 8	- 9:30 Youth Choir - 10:00 Worship - 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School - 12:15-2:00 Jamaica Orientation - 4:00-5:45 Confirmation: Polity - 6:00-8:00 Junior and Senior High Youth Group
Friday, January 13	- 6:30 Coffee House Set-up
Saturday, January 14	- 5:00 Coffee House Set-up - 6:00-8:30 - Blue Mountain Coffee House
Sunday, January 15	- 9:30 Youth Choir - 10:00 Worship - 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School
Friday, January 20	- 6:30 Senior High Winter Retreat
Sunday, January 22	- 10:00 Worship - Fusion Sunday - 11:15 Junior High Sunday School Senior Highs return from retreat - 6:00-8:00 Junior High Police Department Tour
Sunday, January 29	- 9:30 Youth Choir - 10:00 Worship - Fusion Sunday - 11:15 Congregational Meeting

Souper Bowl Sunday: Bring a can of soup on Sunday, February 5th to support the community! Junior High Youth will be collecting soup and monetary donations before and after worship. The soup will go to Cameron Community Ministries, and the money will be sent to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.



Junior High Souper Bowl/Overnight: The Souper Bowl is coming!

To celebrate, we'll have an Extreme Bowling overnight on Saturday, February 4th into Sunday, Feb. 5th. Meet at the church at 7:30pm, and get ready to have fun! Please bring \$10.00 for pizza and snacks. The next day at worship, we'll collect soup donations and money for the Souper Bowl!

COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT NIGHT OUT: Let's get together over Christmas break! We'll have dinner and coffee or beverage of your choice (our treat) and relax after the holidays. Location: Boulder Coffee at 100 Alexander Street, 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!

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GROW IN FAITH THE NEW YEAR?

Every Wednesday evening 6:30-7:30pm in the Jr. 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 January we will reflect on the following texts:

Wednesday, January 4th	NO BIBLE STUDY
Wednesday, January 11th	Matthew 3:13-17
Wednesday, January 18th	Isaiah 9:1-4
Wednesday, January 25th	Micah 6:1-8



Ordination/ Installation of Officers
Sunday, January 29th 2017
10:00am

THANK YOU to all the Ruling Elders, Deacons and Trustees who have served their terms faithfully at GPC! And **WELCOME** to those who have said "YES!" to God's call to serve as leaders in the church's ministry for the future.

The Session's Ruling Elders who will serve us in ministry and governance are:

Ann Marie Simm – Worship Elder
Richard Stewart – Finance Elder
Tess McKeel – Good News Elder

The Deacons who will serve us in ministry and care are:

Dan Charcholla
Gary Dykes
Jim Poole
Velta Rouchon
Julie Seide
Osmond Simm
Andrea Unson

The Trustees who will serve us in ministry and management are:

Amy Merica
Marty Ohman
Wayne Smith
Paul Wheeler

Youth committed to service are:

Thomas Kelly – Elder
Maya Charcholla – Deacon
Michael Hossenlopp - Trustee