

FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Evie Ortman now home recovering from a broken leg.

Dick Howell recovering at home from surgery.

Gladstone Crosdale recovering from eye surgery.

Nora Bush waiting back surgery.

Marjorie Bush (Nora's mother) in hospice care at Monroe Community Hospital.

Natalie McTarnaghan in Tina Edna Wilson Living Center for rehab.

Kaitlyn Shaw recovering from a tonsillectomy.

Continued prayers for **Jeff Cheal** who is in hospice.

Continued prayers for **Marge Westfall** in Tina Edna Wilson Living Center.

Congratulations to: **Jennifer Cheal and David Recino** on their marriage on February 10th.

**ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL HARBINGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017.**

REMINDER TO DEACONS: The next Deacons' meeting will be Monday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 7th at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Monday, March 13 at 11:45 a.m. for lunch at Yianni's Restaurant on Pixley Road.

 **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.



FROM THE PASTOR

"Were You There?" Lent 2017

"Were You There?" the African American spiritual enquires as the music and lyrics hauntingly move us through Jesus's crucifixion. Every year during the season of Lent we explore the life of Jesus. The years and days leading up to the moments that laid bare both Jesus' vulnerability in humanity and affirmation of his divinity. Efforts are made to encapsulate the entirety of Christian faith and beliefs around these events. Others try to make a case for the accuracy of the historical narrative. The echoes of the refrain, "Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble" urge a different response. One that begs us to pause for a moment, slow down, and observe our embodied response to God's presence in our lives and world.

The hymn "Were You There" was first published in old Plantation Hymns (1899), but it became the song of the African American who endured slavery, decades earlier. Some writers will cite sometimes before the Civil War, in a time when freedom from the oppressive weight of slavery existed only in the realm of hope. In its original seven verses it follows Jesus through his passion and death - the preacher asking the question, the congregation repeating the question, the entire body trembling together at the thought of their Lord suffering the abuse with which they had grown so intimate. The final verse "Were you there when he rose up from the grave" is the hope filled response and reminder that God's reign embodied by Jesus does not end with suffering, fear and death. God is always with us.

The stories of Lent, Holy Week and Easter are the stories of one person with the echoes of many, who lived in a particular place and time. Erik Kolbell reminds us, "The very best and the very worst of who we are come to play a constitutive role in Jesus' destiny, reinforcing the notion that the divine intention does not work itself out in a vacuum; God's work is truly our own" (*Were you There? Finding Ourselves at the Foot of the Cross*). The season of Lent invites us to look deeply into where we are and think about how we are living out our faith in the world today.

"Were you There?" invites us, all of us, in these upcoming weeks to not only explore where we as individuals are in this journey. We are called to join with others. To listen carefully. To learn from the experience of others and join them where they are. And respond together to meet the needs of those who are suffering the most. Where ever we are, we are not alone.

- Melissa

“WERE YOU THERE?”



**Please join us at the Ash Wednesday service
Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.**

“Were You There ... As the Builders for the Lord?”

March 5th - First Sunday in Lent

The Jamaica Mission Team will lead us in worship and reflect on their experiences. We hope you will plan to stay after worship to hear more! We will gather in the Adult Lounge.

“Were You There ... When We Gathered ‘Round the Cross”

March 26th - FUSION SUNDAY

Join us as we hear the voices of our children wonder about their place in Jesus’ story through dramatic readings.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Date	Lay Reader	Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
March 1 (Ash Wed)	Kay Harder	J.C. Rouchon	1	
March 5	Sally Christensen	Kathy Wakeman	2	4
March 12	Rachel Kelly	Tommy Kelly	3	5
March 19	Tami Pignone	Tess McKeel	4	6
March 26	Abigail Unson	Keith Hadley	5	1

Communion Team: B

- Left:
1. Bill Dassero
 2. Tommy Kelly
 3. J.C. Rouchon
 4. Beth Molina

- Right:
1. Cathy Goodykoontz
 2. Andrea Unson
 3. Velta Rouchon
 4. Bonnie Beckett



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. These monies go to the Jamaica mission trips.

WHAT THE CRAFTERS HAVE TO SAY

In January, we are able to take the time to read the surveys that the crafters fill out after the Church Mouse Bazaar, our annual arts and craft show held last November. We want to again thank all of you for your continued help with the bazaar. Your efforts are appreciated by the crafters, as well. Our “unsung heroes” directing traffic and moving furniture are so important, too! Here are some of the crafters comments:

“Thank you for organizing this show. It’s hard work but you help support my family.”

“This is the best, friendliest show we do.” “Don’t change a thing.”

“If I could only do one show a year, it would be yours.” “Thank you for a great organized event.” Our first show here and happy as is.”

“More baked goods”, “chicken with rice soup” suggested, “I miss the Beef Barley soup...It was the best I ever had.”

“Great advertising with a lot of foot traffic”, “pleased with the traffic flow”

“Thank you for the WiFi,” “loved my space”, “would like the same spot next year”

Hostesses were “very helpful”, “many stopped and asked if we needed anything”, “very friendly, as always”, “they started circulating early and were frequent during lunch”

“This church community is so welcoming. You feel comfortable here!”

Many are already planning on participating again this year, our 40th year! Thank you, GPC!!

Linda Beattie and Tess McKeel

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, April 9th. 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.





GIANT COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

Our 3rd GPC Giant Community Flea Market is now being planned, and we're excited for another successful event on Saturday, June 3rd. Again this year, *we will ONLY be accepting donations of:

- Books: hard or soft-cover novels, biographies, children's books, etc. (NO textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, magazines or tapes please!)
- Potted Plants
- Baked Foods ... Any time on Friday or the morning of the market. This is our largest Money Maker!!
- Please do not donate other items as we will have no space to sell them. Thank You!!

Look for sign-up sheets to be posted by Sunday, April 30th, on the kiosk where you can volunteer to help us with set up, help in church-benefit booths, hosts and hostesses, parking and traffic control and cleanup. Thank you for all your encouragement and assistance in the past, and we appreciate whatever you can do again this year. **CONSIDER BEING A VENDOR!** You'll have a great time!!

* If you can think of other items we can sell for the benefit of the church, let us know!! Thanks!

MEN 2 MEN

Men 2 Men will meet **March 26 at 8:00 a.m.** for fellowship and breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue our Bible study from The Sermon on the Mount. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Please sign up on the sheet on the Kiosk.

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, March 6th. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30 a.m.



Summer Work Project Dates: Mark your calendars now!



Junior High: July 17-12st

Senior High: August 6-11 at Camp Whitman! This trip will let us enjoy camp fun in the evenings and work hard at nearby churches during the day. Although this location is closer than last year's work project, youth must be fully committed to this week of service and may not leave early or arrive late.

Senior High Overnight: We'll grab coffee or smoothies from 7- 9 p.m. on **Friday, March 3rd** and hear stories from our freshly-tanned Jamaica team, then head back to church and have a fun overnight! Bring \$10, whatever you need to be comfy overnight, and games, movies, or snacks to share. Pick-up is at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday the 4th. See you there!

Junior High Mall Scavenger Hunt: We'll get pizza at church at **12:30 on March 5th**, then head for a scavenger hunt at Greece Ridge Mall! We'll be back by 3:00.

Junior and Senior High Trampoline Party: Sunday, March 19th from 6-8. Bring Altitude socks if you have them, \$12, and get ready to jump!

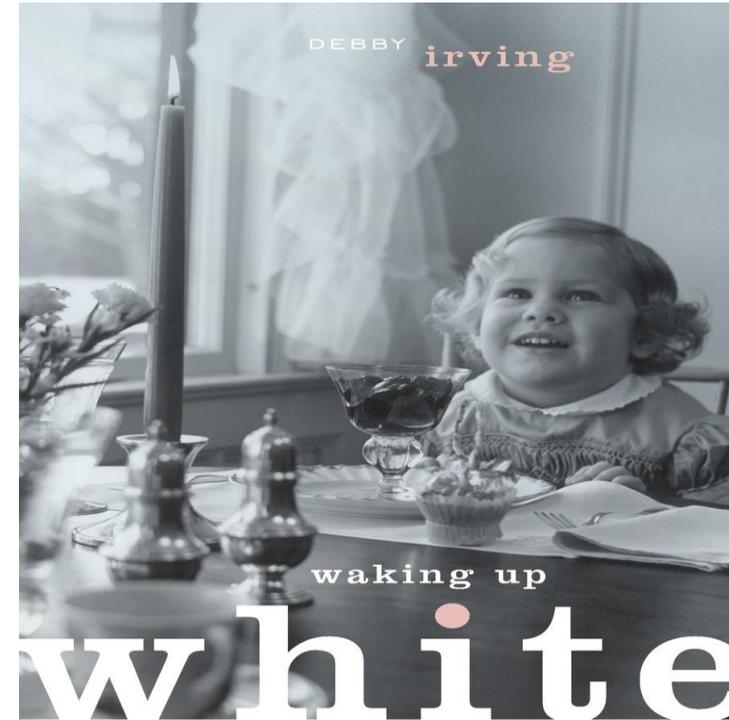
Confirmation class: Join us for class **Sunday the 19th** from 4:00-5:45; topic is "Worship and Sacraments". We'll also have our FINAL class on **Friday, March 31st** from 7-midnight. We'll work on our Statements of Faith, then go out and have some fun! Bring \$5 for snacks and activities.

Need some extra points? Join us for a special visit to a Presbytery Meeting! Join us from 10:00-1:00 on **Saturday, March 25th** to sit in on part of a Presbytery Meeting and learn more about our church community. We'll go to the meeting at Pittsford Presbyterian, share lunch, and get to see decisions being made by our churches! Please bring \$5 and RSVP by March 15th so Katie can reserve lunches.

Youth Calendar



- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Friday, March 3 | - 7:00pm Senior High Overnight |
| Saturday, March 4 | - 8:00am Senior High Overnight ends |
| Sunday, March 5 | - 9:30 Youth Choir
- 10:00 Jamaica Mission Team lead worship
- 11:15 Junior High Sunday School
- 11:15 Jamaica Mission Team leads Second Hour
- 12:30-3:00 Junior High Mall Scavenger Hunt |
| Sunday, March 12 | - 9:30 Youth Choir
- 10:00 Worship
- 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School |
| Sunday, March 19 | - 9:30 Youth Choir
- 10:00 Worship
- 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School
- 4:00 Confirmation: Worship and Sacraments
- 6:00 Junior and Senior High Trampoline Party |
| Saturday, March 25 | - 10:00-1:00 Youth at Presbytery |
| Sunday, March 26 | - Fusion Sunday
- 9:30 Youth Choir
- 10:00 Worship |
| Friday, March 31 | - 7:00-Midnight Confirmation Class: Faith Statements and Fun! |



AND FINDING MYSELF IN THE STORY OF RACE

ONE CHURCH, ONE BOOK "WAKING UP WHITE"

Lent 2017 Book Discussion

GPC joins Presbyterian's across the nation reading together Debby Irving's book "Waking Up White." The author tells how she stumbled into troubling and even shocking revelations about racial inequities after what she describes as "a blissfully sheltered, upper-middle-class suburban childhood." All are welcome to join us for one or more of the discussions.

SUNDAY,
MARCH 12TH
11:15- 12:15
@GPC

TUESDAY,
MARCH 14TH
6:30- 8:00PM
@GPC

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 22ND
6:30-8:00PM
@GPC

THURSDAY,
MARCH 30TH
6:30- 8:00PM
@ TWELVE CORNERS
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

PER CAPITA

Per Capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that our congregation pays to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a religious and moral commitment. It establishes a minimum level of financial participation in the vital work of our church. With this year's commitment of **\$30.65** per member, we work together with other Presbyterian Churches in our presbytery and across the country to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world. We benefit from the gifts, skills, vision and ministry of each other when we come together. Your Per Capita pays for the programs, training and resources that help us work together to benefit all.

If you haven't yet contributed **\$30.65** per member, please consider doing so. You can use your Per Capita pledge envelope or put your check in a plain envelope marked Per Capita and place in the offering basket or mail it to the church office.

EASTER TULIPS

If you would like to order a plant for display in the Sanctuary for Easter and/or donate to St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, Inc. in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and send it with a check to the church office (1049 Wegman Road, Rochester, NY 14624). **Orders due March 26th. 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 _____

St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center _____

Bible Study in Lent

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 March we will reflect on the following texts:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, March 1st | - <i>Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary</i> |
| Wednesday, March 8th | - John 3:1-17 |
| Wednesday, March 15th | - John 4: 5-42 |
| Wednesday, March 22nd | - <i>Join us for "Waking Up White" Book Study</i> |
| Wednesday, March 29th | - John 6 |

"Keeping Vigilant on Religious Liberty"

Sunday, March 19th 5:30pm

Islamic Center of Rochester~ 727 Westfall Road

The Commission on Christian-Muslim Relations invites us to join the dialogue. The Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary of the America Baptist Churches USA, will lead an interfaith dialogue concerning human rights and religious liberty.

Exploring Membership Gathering

Sunday, March 26th 11:30am- 12:30pm Adult

Lounge

Are you seeking deeper ties to a community of faith? Have you been worshipping at GPC and wonder what membership might mean for you? If you are interested in becoming a member and have questions, you are invited to an "Exploring Membership" gathering following worship. This is an ongoing conversation with elders and pastor(s) at GPC. You are welcome wherever you are in that journey. For those who desire to make the commitment and take the next step in membership, we will welcome you in worship on Sunday, April 2nd 2017.

