

FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought and prayer:

David Keiling, now at home covering from burns.

Nora Bush, dealing with back issues.

Natalie McTarnaghan in rehab at Edna Tina Wilson Living Center.



Our sympathy to:

Gretchen Green and family on the recent death of her sister.

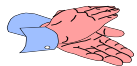
Vicki Cheal, Jennifer (Cheal) and David Recino, Ben Cheal and family on the death of **Jeff Cheal** on February 28th.

ARTICLES FOR THE MAY HARBINGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017.

REMINDER TO DEACONS: There is no Deacons' meeting in April.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP: The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 4th at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Monday, April 10 at 11:30 at GPC. We will carpool and go to lunch at the Olive Garden on Ridge Road.



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 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.

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.

MEN 2 MEN will meet Sunday, April 23rd at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a sign up on the Kiosk. Suggested donation for breakfast is \$5.00.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear GPC,

The season of Lent is drawing to a close and soon we will get ready to celebrate Holy Week and its culmination on Easter Sunday—the most important time of the Christian liturgical year. Our theme this year “Were You There?” in conjunction with my upcoming trip to Israel/Palestine, has me thinking about the people and the physical place (both then and now) where these events occurred. At this time of year Christian pilgrims descend upon Jerusalem wide eyed and excited to see the Palm Sunday parade processing down the Mount of Olives with thousands of people waving their palm branches and singing in a multitude of languages. The bread and wine of Maundy Thursday are followed by life size crosses being carried down the Via Dolorosa on Good Friday. Pilgrims journey up the mountain before the sun rises to sing loudly the “Alleluia” of Easter.

A pastor serving in Jerusalem writes, “This gut wrenching Lenten/Easter/Pentecost/Ordinary Time/Advent/Christmas/Epiphany/Transfiguration/Lent-Again trip is not a palm-waving, hymn-singing journey alongside the pilgrims making their way here, into the heart of the home of Jesus, only to board a plane and fly back to their busy lives.” Here in these ancient lands, called holy by three different faith communities—Jewish, Christian and Muslim, live the people who face the challenges of everyday life. They are used to the crowds of visitors on holy days that return home saying “I’ve been there.” In May, my hope in traveling with a group from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School is to be able to say more than “I was there.” I am eager to meet the people, hear their stories of life and struggle, amidst a seemingly intractable conflict that is tearing the fabric of this land apart. I want to be able to connect their stories to those of my faith and life.

This means learning from people who are Jewish, Christian and Muslim. Because while Christians made up 20% of the population of Israel/Palestine just 20 years ago they are now less than 2%. This is not because of tensions with Muslim neighbors. The two communities have coexisted peacefully for centuries and still do. It is the occupation and denial of human rights that makes life in Jerusalem and the occupied territories virtually unbearable for those without hope, for those who see no end to the conflict.

I look forward to learning and sharing with you the stories of the people who are there, who live and struggle today where Jesus took his final journey to the cross. And to be a witness to the hope, we believe as Christians was made manifest in Jesus resurrection.

Melissa

Bible Study

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

Wednesday, April 5th Matthew 21: 1-11

Wednesday, April 12th John 17-21

Wednesday, April 19th John 20:19-31

Wednesday, April 26th *Passage to be Determined

Palm Sunday – April 9

One Great Hour of Sharing

Remember to bring your Fish Banks to worship! Every year we collect spare change in fish banks for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering is collected on Palm Sunday (April 9th). The money we collect is combined with money from churches across America, and goes to help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People grants. Pick up your fish bank from Sunday School today and start collecting your spare change to help others!



Earth Day FUS!ON Sunday

Sunday, April 30, 2017 - 10:00am

Worship. Learn. Serve.

Come dressed ready to get dirty! We will begin with a short worship service in the sanctuary and then head outside (weather permitting) for hands on activities. If in the case of snow or cold rain, we will adapt and move our activities to Fellowship hall.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

| Date | Lay Reader | Greeter | Usher Team | Deacon Team |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| April 2 | Andrea Unson | Barb Chapman | 6 | 2 |
| April 9 | Sherry Nau | Bridget Wohlers | 1 | 3 |
| April 13 (Maundy Thursday) | Jim Mossgraber | Bill Dassero | 2 | 4 |
| April 14 (Good Friday) | Jim Mossgraber | Ann Marie Simm | 3 | |
| April 16 (Easter Sunday) | Todd Pimm | Dick Stewart | 4 | 4 |
| April 23 | Aleigha Binko | Sally Christensen | 5 | 5 |
| April 30 | Graham Wohlers | Laura Nolan | 6 | 6 |

Communion Team: C

Left: 1. Tess McKeel
2. Irene Ward
3. Irene Derry
4. Donna Schott

Right: 1. Linda Beattie
2. Tom Ward
3. Peter Derry
4. MaryBeth Mackenzie



Upcoming Lent/Easter Services

April 9 – Palm Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.

April 13 – Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.

April 14 – Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.

April 16 – Easter Sunrise Service, 6:00 a.m.

April 16 – Easter Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

PARENTS OF 2017 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!

LUNCH BUNCH

Dust off your needles and thread, your knitting needles or crochet hooks and supplies of yarn. Weather permitting on April 4th we will resume our Tuesday meetings from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a lunch and help us complete some of the projects we have been working on at home. We have lost some of our faithful workers, so we welcome newcomers to help out!

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.



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, April 3rd**. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30 a.m.



ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

On Saturday, April 15th, 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 Thursday, April 13th. (OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH.)

Cooks: The meal will be prepared on April 14th, 6:30 p.m. in the GPC kitchen
Sign-up on the Kiosk. **(Please note that preparation time may change due to the Good Friday service. Please watch for correct time in Sunday bulletins or call the church office.)**

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.

Summer Work Project Dates: Mark your calendars now!

Junior High: July 17-12st

Sites around Rochester.



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.

Confirmation at Session:

Thursday, April 27th, 7:00: Join us for your final step before joining the church! You'll share your Statements of Faith with the Session and officially be approved to become church members. Your time with Session will wrap up around 8pm.

Jamaica Advisers Wanted: Our 2017 Jamaica trip has come and gone, and it's time for us to start looking at leadership for our 2018 youth trip! The Senior High Jamaica Trip is the capstone event in GPC's youth program. The week of dedicated service from our seniors also needs devoted adult leaders.

Last year, a team of experienced youth advisers, Sunday School teachers, Youth Team members, and previous Jamaica trip leaders met with Katie and Melissa to talk about what makes a great trip leader. We agreed that future trip leaders must have experience being a committed, dependable, caring leader in GPC's youth program. They are encouraged (but not required) to have experience traveling internationally, especially for mission service. The team agreed that a balance of new and more experienced adults will provide the best long-term leadership for the Jamaica trip. We also agreed that parents may be trip leaders if they are committed to the youth program, but that being a parent does not automatically mean that they will be chosen.

Each trip will have at least three adult leaders - one pastor and two other adults. If a particular year has seniors who have special needs, their needs will be considered to make sure that each trip's leadership is a good fit for our youth. We want to make sure that each senior is comfortable on this international mission trip! Katie and Melissa will choose each year's adults with help from previous trip leaders if needed.

To make sure that no interested potential leaders are overlooked and that everyone is considered, adults must apply in order to be considered for next year's trip. If you are interested in being an adult leader for this 2018 trip (Feb. 17-24), please fill out an application form (available in the Harbinger or in the church office) and return it by April 15th. Applicants will be notified of Jamaica leadership by May 1st.

Adult Adviser Application for
Jamaica Youth Mission Trip

February 17-24, 2018

Adult advisers will work with the pastor to make sure that each senior has a safe, meaningful, eye-opening, and mission-filled week of service in Jamaica. Advisers must have experience being a committed, dependable, caring leader in GPC's youth program. They are encouraged (but not required) to have experience traveling internationally, especially for mission service. Youth group leaders, Sunday School teachers, and Youth Team members will be given preference, since they have ongoing experience with our youth. Trip leaders may be parents if they are committed to the youth program, but being a parent does not automatically mean that they will be chosen. A balance of new and more experienced trip leaders is preferred.

Please answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper and return this application to the church office by April 15th. Applicants will be contacted by May 1st. Thank you for your dedication to GPC's wonderful youth!

1. Why do you want to be an adult leader for next year's GPC Senior Jamaica Mission Trip?
2. What experience do you have with international travel?
3. What experience do you have with GPC's youth and the youth program? Please include dates for your experiences serving on mission trips, youth team, Sunday School, or confirmation.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH TOUR AT MOONLIGHT CREAMERY:

Sunday, April 2nd, 6-8:30: We'll meet up at GPC and head to Moonlight Creamery for a tour and ice cream tasting! Bring \$5 for delicious treats.

SENIOR HIGH BOWLING

Join us Sunday, April 30th from 6-8pm for a fun night of bowling! Bring \$10 for bowling, extra if you want snacks. See you there!



JUNIOR HIGH MOVIE NIGHT

Join us for a Tinseltown movie night, 6-9pm on Sunday, April 23rd! Bring \$5.00 and any money you want for snacks. Meet and drop-off at GPC.

YOUTH CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, April 2 | -- 9:30 Youth Choir rehearsal -- 10:00 Worship -- 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School -- 6:00 Junior and Senior High Moonlight Creamery Tour |
| Sunday, April 9 Palm Sunday | -- 9:30 Youth Choir rehearsal -- 10:00 Worship -- 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School |
| Sunday, April 16 Easter Sunday | -- 6:00 Sunrise Worship -- 10:00 Worship |
| Sunday, April 23 | -- 9:30 Youth Choir -- 10:00 Worship -- 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School -- 6:00 Junior High Movie Night |
| Thursday, April 27 | -- 7:00 Confirmation meets with Session |
| Sunday, April 30 | -- 6-9pm Senior Highs Fun Night of Bowling |



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!) **There is a box in the library for any books you would like to donate.**
- 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!

OPEN GATE COMMUNITY GARDEN 2017

It may be difficult to think of gardening right now, but the reality is it is less than 5 months to growing season. The first year of the Open Gate Community Garden was quite a success and we thank everyone who participated!

At this point we believe we have 3 available existing gardens for 2017, but we would like to see what additional interest there may be to consider expanding.

If you think you have an interest in adopting a garden, or even half a garden, please contact Jim or Sue Poole at 623-1013 (feel free to leave a message) or email jrpoole@frontier.com.

There are some ongoing responsibilities in maintaining the overall garden so if you have an interest in that, even if you are not gardening, please let us know. We would welcome your help!

- Jim & Sue Poole

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 261-2175.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Please include your check or money order made out to:

Gates Presbyterian Church with the memo "Flowers".

Place orders by: **April 30th**

Pick Up date: **May 9th**

Pick up at Gates Presbyterian Church between 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Batavia Presbyterian church pick up by arrangement.

