

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear GPC,

In Mary Oliver's poem, "The Place I Want to Get Back To," she reminisces:

I have gone every day to the same woods,
Not waiting, exactly, just lingering.
Such gifts bestowed,
can't be repeated.

I am transported back to the place where I went camping as child. Old enough to go out alone on my bike, I would disappear deep into the woods to this spot on the edge of a creek. There weren't many places to sit, but if you knew to take the hidden path just a bit of the ways down, an adventurous child would be rewarded with a rock large enough to keep my shorts dry and my toes immersed in the icy waters. I would sit for hours, sometimes with a book and other times watching the Jesus bugs walk on the pockets of the still water. Every summer we returned to this place and I went to this same spot and lingered in God's good gift of this place and moment.

Years later, I find the gift of these moments can't be repeated in quite the same way. In fact, with an openness and keen sense of adventure I find God blesses us with new places and experiences where we can linger. These are the joys of summer. A time when the days lengthen and God invites us into discovery and wonder.

I'm sure I don't need to point out, however, that answering God's call to slow down and be present in the moment is much easier said than done. The calendar might say "summer," but this can also mean multiple demands, complicated and already busy families. Child care is pieced together between friends, family, and camps. There are more soccer and baseball games than days of the week. Sometimes, just thinking about the logistics of carving out time makes us exhausted before the day even begins.

What to do? Start somewhere and start small. Hours next to the creek may not be manageable, but a cup of coffee outside instead of in front of the TV (or tablet) might be. You could read the Bible or a devotional. Or you could simply take that quiet moment to look around—see the colors, look at the sky, observe people walking by and remember that each of them is as beloved by God as you are. And give thanks ... for this is the day that the Lord has made for you to rejoice and be glad in it.

Melissa

DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Phyllis Titus recovering from a broken hip

Nora Bush recovering from back surgery

Jeannie Bauman recovering from a broken foot

Ann Haag recovering from surgery



Congratulations to

Bob and Marilyn Kaiser are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on June 29th. To share your congratulations: rkaiser3@gmail.com or 150 Attridge Road, Churchville, NY 14428.

Jeff Harder and Candice Baker on their marriage on May 26th.

Omar Rouchon on his ordination at Gates Presbyterian and his installation at St. Phillip Presbyterian Church of Houston, TX.

Our sympathy to **Carol Cathy and family** on the recent death of **Tom Cathy**.

THANK YOU, everyone, for all of your support of my mother and me during my back surgery. Thank you so much for all of your prayers, phone calls, and beautiful cards you sent us. Thank you, too, for the visits from Melissa, Allison Gilday, Evie Ortman, Ann Marie Simm, Betty and Scott Blystone, and Dorothy Mundt. You are a lovely church family and my family and I appreciate all you do for us. Mom continues in hospice care at Monroe Community Hospital and I am making good progress at home.
- Nora Bush

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study has ended for the summer. We look forward to seeing everyone again in September!

SHARE YOUR MUSICAL SKILLS OVER THE SUMMER 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵

Interested in performing special music over the summer? A sign-up sheet is posted on the Kiosk outside the Sanctuary for any available performers! Please consider this unique musical ministry over the summer life of our church!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

June 26 – August 31 – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 (noon)

September 4 – **OFFICE CLOSED**

September 5 – Regular hours resume – 9:00 – 12:00 then 1:00 – 3:30





With warmer temperatures already making an appearance in Rochester, please be aware on Sunday mornings we may move our worship down to the Fellowship Hall (where there is air conditioning!) The decision will be made the morning of and signs will be posted directing you.



Bring a picnic food to share for dinner, a lawn game to bring and a tent to sleep in! GPC is going camping... in our own backyard! All are welcome for the first annual GPC Backyard Campout. Join us at 6pm for dinner and games. Folks are welcome to stay the night (church will be open for bathroom use) and join us for outdoor worship at 10am. For those not wanting to “rough it” come for the evening, sleep in your own bed and return for worship. Sign up on the Kiosk to let us know you are coming, want to lead a craft or a song around the campfire!



WOMEN’S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE:

July 10 – GPC vs Open Door III at Open Door, 350 Scottsville Chili Rd.
 July 17 – TBD – Watch bulletins
 July 24 & July 31st – Play Off games – TBD
 Aug. 7th -- Final - TBD

Games start at 6:30 p.m.

MEN’S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

July 11 – GPC vs RCCM at GPC
 July 18 – GPC vs Parma Christian Fellowship at GPC
 July 25, Aug. 1, Aug. 8 – Playoff games - TBD

Games start at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER

Date	Front Door Greeter	Lay Reader	Usher	Deacon
July 2	Ann Marie Simm	Bridget Wohlers	3	2
July 9	Dick Stewart	Harmony Cook	4	3
July 16	Sally Christensen	Carson Wohlers	5	4
July 23	Laura Nolan	Brendan Shaw	6	5
July 30	J. C. Rouchon	Carol Brown	1	1
August 6	Tommy Kelly	Kathy Wakeman	2	2
August 13	Kathy Wakeman	Sr. High Youth	3	3
August 20	Tess McKeel	Colton Crane	4	4
August 27	Keith Hadley	Amy Merica	5	5

Communion Team F – July – Because Melissa’s on vacation the first week of July, there will be no Communion on July 2nd.



Communion Team A – August – Communion on August 6th will be by Intinction. Team captain Sally Christensen will coordinate servers from your team for that Sunday.

Communion Team B – September – Communion on September 3rd will be by Intinction. Team captain Bill Dassero will coordinate servers from your team for that Sunday.

Summer Work Project Dates: Mark your calendars now!

Junior High: July 17-21 - Projects around Rochester

Senior High: August 6-11 at Camp Whitman!

Please note: The Junior High service activities listed on the registration sheet are not firm – we go where we are most needed each year! A letter will go out to work project participants soon with final dates, times, and activities.



BOTTLES AND CANS

Tis the season of outdoor picnics . . . and empty bottles and cans! As you enjoy your summer celebrations, please remember GPC seniors who are collecting bottles and cans to help defray their trip expenses for the February Jamaica Mission Trip. The collection barrels are in the outside area next to the Fellowship Hall where the trash cans are stored or you can take them to Flower City Bottle and Can on Chili Avenue, 2374 Chili Avenue, right across from the fire station. Just tell them the bottles and cans are for Gates Presbyterian Church and they will send us a check.

WORK PROJECT BOUND

Are weeds taking over your garden? Do you need a babysitter? How about someone to spread mulch? Youth Team has a solution for you: Work Project Bound!

Work Project Bound is a program created to help defray the personal expenses of youth going on mission work projects.

Here is how it works:

1. The Youth Committee creates a list of young people who are interested in being part of Work Project Bound.
2. You contact the church office 247-5292 or email katie@gatespres.org to ask for helpers.
3. We give you the name of a youth. We tell them that you will be contacting them. You connect with the youth and make arrangements.
4. You pay \$9.00 an hour for the work done. Rather than paying the youth, you put the money in the box in the office marked "Work Project Bound" with the youth's name attached.
5. The youth is then given credit toward their Work Project fee. A win/win to be sure! Thanks!



THANK YOU to all our amazing Sunday School teachers this year! From our Preschool/Kindergarten classes' excitement and church art wall to the Senior High classes' year of discussion around hot topics and current events, we are blessed to have such wonderful teachers! Thank you for all of your dedication and passion for our children at GPC!

GPC CAMPING EXTRAVAGANZA:

Join us July 29-30 starting at 6:00 p.m. for an all-ages camping night! We'll have a cookout supper, fun, games, a sing-a-long, and enjoy breakfast and outdoor worship together the next morning. People are invited to spend the night camping on the softball field or sleep at home. Signups are on the Kiosk.

WE HAVE HAD A GREAT RESPONSE!

We have had an overwhelming response from crafters who want to be in our 40th Church Mouse Bazaar. We have filled all the spaces and have a significant wait list for our annual arts and crafts show held November 18, 2017 at GPC. Unfortunately, applications for the Bazaar are now closed. We regret if you were not able to secure a spot this year, but we welcome you to send your application in quickly next year.



- Linda Beattie and Tess McKeel

ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER HARBINGER ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE ON AUGUST 16TH.

MISSION NEWS

UNDIE SUNDAYS

Here we go again with Undie Sundays for the entire month of August. We will be collecting new children's underwear and socks for Cameron Community Ministries once again. Please look for the clothesline and laundry baskets in the narthex for placement of your purchases. I know that you all enjoy this mission outreach each year and so enjoy the buying experience!!

SWEM FOOD COLLECTION

We will be collecting food for SWEM during the months of July, and August. Food can be brought in anytime during those months and left in the "swemming" pool in the narthex. Thank you!

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Gates Presbyterian will be working with Third Presbyterian Church in a Summer Sizzle Program.

Melanie Jones from Third Presbyterian is the Director of this seven-week camp like program. In partnership with Cameron Community Ministries, the Gandhi Center and with potential to expand, the **program will benefit up to 25 children ages 9-12. Beginning July 10. Summer Sizzle will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30pm - 8:30pm (or 9:00 on-trip nights).** Children will have hands on exploration of community activities, nature, music workshops and culturally focused dance classes. Additionally, they will use play and engage their peers to learn about non-violent communication and problem solving. Field trips will serve to let learning and curiosity unfold in new surroundings.

Here are some ways to be a part of this exciting opportunity:

There is a need for 6-12 volunteer staff members to serve as on-site chaperones/counselors. To ensure a stable community for the children, they are asking for a minimum commitment of four out of the six weeks. Also, people are needed who can provide one-time (or more) hands-on workshops about hobbies, academic subjects and work that they are passionate about. Prayerfully consider your involvement in this initiative for tomorrow's success stories.

If you would like to be a chaperone or willing to share your talent, please contact Ann Marie Simm – 585-594-2142 or email to annmariesimm55@gmail.com.

- Mission Team

MISSION CONTINUED

Imagine a 26 foot long refrigerated truck carrying 5000 pounds of food pulling into the GPC parking lot. That was the scene at our first Foodlink Mobile Pantry, on June 17th. HUGE thanks go to the volunteers who made the whole event run pretty smoothly – we all learned a lot in a short period of time that morning! 58 families from the community went home with plenty of produce, baked goods, eggs, and canned goods.



We will be hosting another Mobile Pantry on Friday August 4th late afternoon (exact time to be determined.) A volunteer sheet will be on the Kiosk in the foyer, or call Sally Christensen at 247-6095 (cell 703-6238).

- * 554 pounds of food were delivered to SWEM from the Lenten Wall of Food!
- * Summer program favorites UNDIS SUNDAYS (August) and SWEMMING FOR FOOD (June, July, and August) are happening!
- * “Summer Sizzle”, a vacation Bible school type of program, is being held two evenings per week this summer at Cameron Community Ministries. There are many volunteer opportunities. Contact Ann Marie Simm (472-5320) for more information.
- * Is there interest in an adult work project trip to Jamaica? No plans yet, just checking!
- * Did anyone participate in the SWEM walk? Please call Sally if you did, we would love some feedback.
- * Our next Mission Team meeting will be on July 31st at GPC. We would love to have YOU join us!

TREE REMOVAL:

Important notification from the Trustees: The very tall Linden tree behind the sign at the back entrance to the Narthex has been scheduled to be removed. We know this will cause some anguish, but there are very valid reasons for taking this action. It is not a question of will it fall, but when. The timing is anywhere between a week from now, to six weeks out.

- The tree has developed a split near the base, and has begun to rot there, as well as at the root level. A tree professional inspected the tree and confirmed that the tree is deteriorating and will continue to do so.
- With the tree’s significant height, its leaves and small dead branches are a constant maintenance issue to our roof and clogging of the storm drain system, as well. This tree drops its leaves well after the Fall cleanup, requiring numerous trips to address the storm drain cleaning issues, especially before the freezing temperatures arrive.
- The prevailing winds from the west are generally unabated, and when the tree does decide to fall, it will cause significant damage to the church structure. The direction of the fall would take it into the copier room, and/or Katie's office, and possibly the secretary's office. It would likely take out the AC unit as well.

Thanks for your understanding! If you have any questions contact Mary Hadley, maryahadley@gmail.com.

DONATING BLOOD

Have you ever thought about giving blood but wasn’t sure where to go? Well, you have an opportunity to help save a life! The American Red Cross is scheduled to be at our church some time soon. As you know, the blood supply in Rochester is low and you can make a difference in the lives of many people by donating.



Benefits of Donating

It feels great to donate! You get free juice and delicious cookies.

It's something you can spare – most people have blood to spare... yet, there is still not enough to go around.

You will help ensure blood is on the shelf when needed.

You will be someone's hero – in fact, you could help save more than one life with just one donation.

More information to follow regarding date and times. This will be announced in church and the bulletin. We will be seeking volunteers and donors! We need YOU so don’t hesitate to sign up.



SAVE THE DATE

Gates Presbyterian Church and
Laurelton United Presbyterian Church
7/21/2017
6:05 p.m.

See Sunday bulletins for info on
purchasing tickets or call the church
office at 247-5292

