

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lay Reader</u> | <u>Front Door Greeter</u> | <u>Usher Team</u> | <u>Deacon Team</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| September 3 | Dick Stewart | Barb Chapman | 6 | 1 |
| September 10 | Janice Beutner | Bridget Wohlers | 1 | 2 |
| September 17 | Bonnie Beckett | Bill Dassero | 2 | 3 |
| September 24 | Tom Ward | Ann Marie Simm | 3 | 4 |

Communion Team: B

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|-------|------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Left: | 1. Bill Dassero | Right: | 1. Cathy Goodykoontz |
| | 2. Tommy Kelly | | 2. Andrea Unson |
| | 3. J. C. Rouchon | | 3. Velta Rouchon |
| | 4. Beth Molina | | 4. Bonnie Beckett |

SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 15 – 2:00-4:00pm

OPEN HOUSE AND CELEBRATION OF LANDMARK STATUS OF CALVARY ST. ANDREWS ROC

Hosted by Friends of Calvary St. Andrews ROC

Friends of Calvary St. Andrews ROC is a group founded to protect, preserve, and promote the history and legacy of the building and congregation that worshipped in the building, located in the South Wedge neighborhood of Rochester.

This event is free and open to the public. Tour the beautiful building, learn about its history, hear music, and find out how you can be involved with Friends of Calvary St. Andrews' plans for the future.

Dear GPC,

Before heading out on vacation at the end of August, I perused Amazon to load my Kindle with reading material. I wasn't necessarily sure what kind of book I was looking for. I simply knew I wanted the kind of story I could get lost in. The kind that would leave me sad when the book ended because I would miss the characters of the story I had gotten to know. I am often drawn to the stories that begin "once upon a time" and leave us with a happy ending. When in reality stories, fiction or not, say things that happened, the things that could happen or the things that are happening. In other words, stories "bear witness" that speak our truth and reveal what we think and feel about our own life.

We bear witness by sharing the stories of our lives and by giving the gift of being a compassionate presence to the unfolding of another person's life or particular moment or event. As the church, we are called to a unique opportunity in our world to bear witness with one another to God's unfolding story in the world. We hear the stories of the Bible and learn the transformative power of creating a safe space for others to speak their truth and stories. Here at GPC, stories and how we live them out, make us who we are.

As we begin a new program year we will bear witness to the ways GPC is "Living the Stories" of life and faith. Join us for Kick- Off **Sunday, September 10th** and learn how a historic quilt (pictured on the cover) tells one of GPC's stories of faith and determination. Throughout the year we will have a chance to hear and share more of these stories that bear witness to our past, present, and future together. One such story was shared with me following the ordination of the now "Reverend" Omar Rouchon, and I now share with you. Read on in your Harbinger to learn more about how you can share your story!

-Melissa

Greetings, my GPC family! With much gratitude and joy, I wanted to share a letter which I wrote for the community at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, where I began serving as Associate Pastor in June. It was an opportunity for me to reflect on the incredible journey of faith, and the many ways in which Gates has been played a central role in that journey. Thank you to all who offered their time and gifts to making my ordination service a very special, memorable occasion. I am filled with so much gratitude and love. And I look forward to returning and worshipping with you again.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Omar Rouchon

What a time it has been! As I sit in my office and reflect on the past two weeks, I smile with great joy and deep gratitude for the opportunities I have had to worship and celebrate with two very special communities, Gates Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY and St. Philip.

On Sunday, May 28, I was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Gates, the church where I was baptized as an infant, confirmed as a teen, and shaped and cared for in so many ways over the last thirty-two years. Participating in that service were the Rev. Bob Kaiser, the pastor who baptized me in 1985 (in the same sanctuary and at the same font!), the Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge, the associate pastor who shepherded me through Confirmation and led youth ministry during my formative years at Gates, and the Rev. John Wurster, the pastor with whom I now serve. Other participants in the service of ordination included those currently serving in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley; members and liaisons to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the Stated Clerk and the Presbytery's Moderator; other worship leaders included a former youth group advisor, friends from Harvard Divinity School, a choir mate from high school and my partner, Greg. Elder Tom Ward, who presented me with a stole on behalf of the congregation, participated in the Commission, as well. Ever since my first experience "preaching" in 1999, Tom has called me "Reverend Omar."

It was an absolutely wonderful afternoon. The sanctuary that has been for me a place of spiritual nourishment for decades was filled with so many loved ones traveling from near and far, a beloved community which was a source of great joy and love that day. My parents and siblings were there, my godparents, Sunday School teachers and youth group advisors, childhood and college friends, relatives and family friends, church family and all the saints who have cared for me and encouraged me along the journey of faith in so many ways. We sang hymns and heard anthems that have long moved me; we read scriptures that have long sustained me; we offered prayers that strengthened us all. We broke bread and shared the cup, symbols of unity, grace and love – and the spirit that filled that sanctuary was unmistakable and unforgettable. As I sat in the pew, I was able to take in so much - everything from the beloved, unique clinker bricks of that sanctuary and its massive, hanging wooden cross, to the beautiful flowers offered on the occasion to the glory of God, a special gift of my St. Philip family.

Although a week has passed, I still remember the feelings in my heart, at once full and still, as the gathered community worshipped that day through song, scripture, and prayer. As I answered the Constitutional Questions, I recall the sense that I was truly being called and led. I am filled with gladness and am moved to share the feelings of love, support and belonging that were extended through the laying on of hands that afternoon.

Unfortunately, we could not sing all the hymns that I would have loved to include that day. But I am still called to share words from the song "Pass it On," from the Methodist hymnal, one I fondly remember singing as a child growing up at Gates particularly during our church family camping weekends:

'It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around, can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it.
You spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.'

As I begin this season of ordained ministry, with gratitude for my many years at Gates Presbyterian Church, and with a thankful heart strengthened by the all the places the journey of faith have taken me, I seek to pass along the love of God through ministry with you, my friends at St. Philip.

With gratitude and joy,
Omar



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

It could be a big or small moment when your life and faith were changed.

Share your stories with Melissa at melissa@gatespres.org.

Stories will be shared!

BIBLE STUDY

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 September we will reflect on the following texts:

- Wednesday, September 13th** Romans 14:1-12
- Wednesday, September 20th** Psalm 122
- Wednesday, September 27th** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34



WALKING A SACRED PATH AT GPC: THE LABYRINTH

A wonderful gift of generosity, inspired by the sacred space of the Memorial and Community Gardens, GPC will be the home to an ancient symbol of spiritual journey. Work will soon begin between the two gardens to create in the grass a way for people to walk and pray.

Labyrinth walkers may use the time to pray for people they care about, to think deeply about a question or situation in their lives, to name blessings God has given them, or to enjoy the quiet time away from life's stresses. Labyrinths can be a tool for physical or emotional healing. They can be walked individually or as a family or group activity. The labyrinth may look like a maze, but there are no choices to make about the way to go, no dead ends and no way to get lost. The winding path may remind walkers of the ways that life sometimes wanders, but the path always takes one to the center, which represents the presence of God. The invitation is open and the space is welcoming. We give thanks to God that a space like this will soon be available to GPC and the surrounding community!

LIVING GOD'S STORIES OF PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

Book Study and Meet the Author "Morning in Jenin" by Susan Abulhawa



Thursday, September 7th at 7:00pm at GPC we will continue our conversation about Israel/ Palestine by reading and discussing the novel "Morning in Jenin."

Sunday, September 10th at 2:00pm

Rochester Academy of Medicine

1441 East Ave. Rochester, NY

Meet the author, sponsored by Witness Palestine Rochester

For those who would like to carpool we will meet in GPC parking lot at 1:15pm.

Sunday, September 24th at 11:15am

Despite 50 years of occupation and despair, hope prevails for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. Throughout the World Week of Peace, 17 – 24 September, Christians around the globe are called to unite in peaceful actions to create a common international public witness. Join Melissa to hear stories and see images about her recent trip to Israel and Palestine.

UNITE AGAINST RACISM TRAINING

Mark your calendars for a training event at GPC on Saturday, October 21st from 9am-4:30pm

Crossroads Anti-Racism and Training will offer a unique opportunity for participants to learn about and dismantle systemic racism. This event is free to participants and fully funded by the Synod of the Northeast. The training will be offered to the Presbyteries of Genesee Valley, Western New York, Geneva, and Utica. More information to follow. Register online at:

<https://pbygenval.org/crossroads-workshop/>

FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Continued prayers for **Marge Westfall** and **Phyllis Titus Ann Haag** dealing with health issues



Our sympathy:

To the Family of **Marge Hubbard** who passed away on July 30th.

Prayers of Joy:

Welcomed in baptism on August 6th:

Frank Vito Incardona, born June 2, 2017, son of Frank and Elizabeth Incardona

Daniel James Trieste II, born July 23, 2016, son of Daniel Trieste and Elana Wittman

THANK YOU!

My warmest thanks to the congregation for all the support everyone has given my family and me when my mother passed away on July 24. Thank you so much for the beautiful cards, the phone calls, the prayers, and the visits to the funeral home. We have really appreciated GPC's care and concern for us. It has helped us tremendously. Blessings to all

-Nora Bush, Greg & Amy Bush and Corrine, Carrienne, and Caleb

REMINDER TO DEACONS: The next Deacons' meeting is Monday, September 25, 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12 in Room 16.

REBECCA CIRCLE meets on Monday, September 11 at 11:00 in Adult Lounge. Bring your lunch. Dessert and drinks provided.



CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR – HOLD THE DATE!

Our 40th Church Mouse Bazaar will take place Saturday, November 18th throughout the church. GPC has developed quite a reputation providing a high quality, well-run arts and craft show with handmade items that are perfect for that hard to find Christmas gift. This fundraising event benefits the whole church and is run by many volunteers. So plan on volunteering, coming, or both!!

Exciting things will be happening! Watch for more information or contact Linda (Linda.Btt@gmail.com, 247-6742) or Tess (tessmckeel@hotmail.com, 766-7151).

Linda Beattie and Tess McKeel, co-chairpersons



THANK YOU to all the talented musicians who graced us with their music this Summer! It's always a joy to share in worship your musical talents!

PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Please be sure to let the church office know your college student's address and/or email address. We like to send them the Harbinger each month!

MEN 2 MEN Breakfast

Men 2 Men will meet September 24 at 8:00 am for fellowship and breakfast in the Fellowship Hall followed by a Bible study about Christian Worship. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Sign up sheet is on the kiosk or email grchapman49@gmail.com

LUNCH BUNCH

Summer vacation is over. Bring a lunch and join us on Tuesday, September 12th from 11:30am to 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. We need to complete our projects in time for the big sale at the Church Mouse Bazaar in November. New people and new ideas are always welcome!!

OCTOBER HARBINGER articles are due in the office by noon on Wednesday, September 20th.

MISSION NEWS:

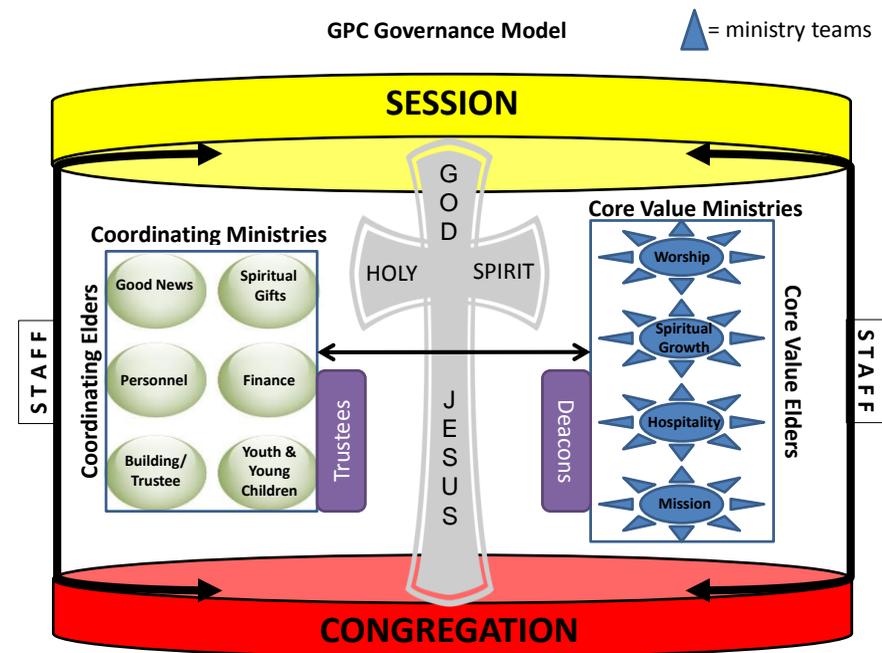
Thanks to everyone who supported our GPC summer mission collections.

- The "SWEMMIMG" pool was filled with food items. Thank you!!!!!!
- Undie Sundays are ongoing as the Harbinger is being prepared – the new underwear collected will be delivered to Cameron Community Ministries.



Got ideas? Join us for a Youth Team Meeting! On Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00pm, we'll meet to discuss plans for Kick-Off Sunday and the Free-Wheel-A-Thon. Want to help with these events or have ideas to make them even more awesome? Come plan with us! You don't have to join youth team to be part of this one-time planning event.

Your GPC Family needs YOUR Time and Talents!



The Nominating Committee is actively seeking passionate GPC members to help our church grow and thrive! Serving our church is a very rewarding experience. Please contact us if you are feeling God's call to serve our church as an elder: *Spiritual Gifts, Worship, Mission, Spiritual Growth, or Hospitality*. We are also recruiting for Deacon and Trustee positions. Terms for all of these leadership roles are two years. *The new term begins January 1, 2018.*

Please prayerfully consider sharing your God given gifts to help our wonderful church family move forward in serving God and our community. You can nominate yourself or someone else for one of these positions! For more information, please contact Melissa, Kathy Wakeman (247-3296), or any other member of the Nominating Committee (Marty Ohman, Barb Snaith, Nancy Hossenlopp).

How is God calling you to share YOUR gifts?

Spiritual Gifts Elder: *As Spiritual Growth Elder, you will be engaged in connecting the spiritual gifts of individuals in the congregation with the work of the four Core Value Ministry Leadership Teams and Ministry Teams. You will redesign/revise, update, distribute, organize, and share the results of the annual "Time and Talent" survey of the congregation with the Leadership and Ministry teams of GPC to support volunteer needs. As Spiritual Gifts Elder, you will shall as the elder on the congregational Nominating Committee.*

Worship Elder: *As Worship Core Value Elder, you will work directly with the Worship Core Value Leadership Team as they support our congregation's efforts to glorify God through traditional and nontraditional styles of liturgy, prayer, scripture, thanksgiving, and music,*

Mission Elder: *As Mission Core Value Elder, you will work directly with Anne Marie Simm (Currently serving as Mission Elder) and the Mission Core Value Leadership Teams as they support our congregation's efforts to reflect the love of God by reaching out to those on the margins of our local, regional, and worldwide communities.*

Spiritual Growth Elder: *As Spiritual Growth Core Value Elder, you will work directly with Keith Hadley (currently serving as Spiritual Growth Elder) and the Spiritual Growth Core Value Leadership Teams as they support our congregation's efforts to create opportunities for all generations to learn together, listen, share our questions and struggles, and actively live our Christian faith in daily life.*

Hospitality Elder: *As Hospitality Core Value Elder, you will work directly with the Hospitality Growth Core Value Leadership Teams as they support our congregation's efforts of intentional practices and conversations that challenge us to imitate God's welcome and compassion.*

Trustee: *As a Trustee, you will do more than make administrative judgments regarding our property and physical assets. You will also help make decisions not just on the basis of what costs less or preserves the assets of the church, but also with God's demands for justice in mind.*

Deacon: *As a Deacon, you will exercise a pastoral and caretaking responsibility for members of our congregation. You are a partner with our pastors in offering caring ministry to our congregation. Your caretaking role extends the pastoral ministry of this congregation to all its members and friends.*

Blessings to you as you consider God's call to serve!

JR. CHOIR TO START SOON 🎵 🎵 🎵

Join with other 1st- 6th graders in building a group that
Comes together to have fun and learn more about God's love
Offers a chance to get to know one another even better
Makes friends, even with those a little younger or a little older
Makes an effort to listen to and encourage each other
Uses music to praise God, and as a form of prayer
Notices ways to be helpful in working together
Invests time, energy and enthusiasm in preparing for worship
Trys to treat each other kindly, making a place just for
You

Yes, we would love to have YOU as a part of our group! We meet most Sundays from 11:15 – 12:15, and once a month make a wonderful, heartfelt contribution to morning worship at Gates Presbyterian. Keep in mind the following Sundays:

Sunday, September 10th – First rehearsal. Come see what Junior Choir is all about!

Sunday, September 17th - Rehearsal. We will meet in Room 4 from 11:15 – 12:15.

Come join the fun!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!!
Free-Wheel-A-Thon 2016!
OCT 1 - 12:30 – 5:00
IT'S FUN AND IT'S FOR MISSION!!!!

YOUTH! It's time to get ready for Wheel-A-Thon 2016, riding 20 miles to support youth mission work projects! Ask folks to pledge you (minimum pledge amount to ride is \$10.00, \$125 for Jamaica Participants). Tell them what you're doing and why. Bring your bike, helmet, pledges, and permission slip to Greece Canal Park on October 2 at 12:30. Ride for 20 miles round trip on the Erie Canal, with snack breaks along the way. We'll have supper at Greece Canal Park - parents, pick up your kids around 5:00pm.

Want to support GPC mission but don't want to ride a bike? No problem! This is the Free-Wheel-A-Thon, so we also accept walkers, runners, dog-walkers, kayakers, unicyclists - no movement too crazy! Whatever mode of transportation you choose, be prepared to travel for three hours (including breaks). Great day, great work, great friends, great food and lots of stops along the way!

Junior Highs 7th and 8th graders: Bring your faith questions and opinions to explore together. This amazing experience will happen in the Junior High Lounge after worship every Sunday (11:15) except Fusion Sundays.

Senior Highs 9th-12th graders: After church (11:15) every Sunday (except Fusion Sundays) in the Senior High Lounge.

CHECK YOUR MAIL - We'll be sending out the youth calendar for the year soon. Stick it to your fridge, save the dates, and get ready for a fun year!



YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF PARTY September 10th

6:00 – 8:00 – GPC 6th-12th graders. Bring a picnic blanket and get ready for supper, games, and fun! Check your snail mail for more info.

Junior High Game Night – Sunday, September 24th, 6:00-8:00pm

Come join us for time to catch up after the summer and play games!

Senior High – Sunday, September 24th, 2-5:30pm

Campus Quest Scavenger Hunt, snacks, and fellowship time with the University of Rochester's campus church. Pick up and drop off at GPC. Join us for fun and fellowship.



YOUNG CHILDREN

We hope everyone had a very relaxing and enjoyable summer! Fall brings us our Kickoff for Sunday School on Sunday, September 10th! We look forward to seeing you all again, hearing about your summer, and learning and growing in God's grace.

YOUTH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 10

11:15 a.m. – Junior High and Senior High Sunday School

6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Kick off

Sunday, September 17

9:30 a.m. – Youth Choir rehearsal in Adult Lounge

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:15 a.m. – Junior High and Senior High Sunday School

Sunday, September 24

9:30 a.m. – Youth Choir rehearsal in Adult Lounge

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:15 a.m. – Junior High and Senior High Sunday School

