

From the Public Worship Committee

Once again this year Gerry 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.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who come out to help set-up the Christmas tree, decorate it and hang the Christmas wreath and garland that shines 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 7, 2018 on your calendar as the day to gather after Worship at 11:30am 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 Barb Chapman at gbchapman@rochester.rr.com or call the church office at 247-5292. Thank you.



FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL
Friday evening, December 1
6:00 – 7:30
“The Rest of the Story”
Save the date

An invitation for all generations to come together for an evening of pizza, salad, dessert, crafts, and a time of reflection to end the evening.
Please sign up on the Kiosk! Hope to see you there!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

This year’s Family Advent Festival will include a dramatic re-telling of the Christmas story! Five volunteers are needed to help share the story in three-minute monologues. Want to be part of this fun evening? Please contact Katie.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

At least two generations grew up hearing the late radio broadcaster Paul Harvey who was famous for telling stories of little-known facts about a range of topics that were fascinating to learn about. He would take a famous person from American history and tell the story of his or her life before they were famous—but he wouldn’t tell us the name. By the end of the story, it was more or less obvious who he was talking about and he would give us the name of the person, he would inevitably sign off by saying, “And now you know the rest of the story.”

There is so much we know about the Advent and Christmas story. The story we see the children act out on Christmas Eve that gives us the main events; but there is more... there is the rest of the story. The stories not told in the Bible, the stories of our sacred imaginations of the characters surrounding Elizabeth, Zechariah, Joseph, Mary and Jesus. The stories of those living under the occupation of the Roman Empire. People experiencing everyday life filled with the hassles and anxieties that a busy life in a messed-up world can bring. But underneath it all, there is the rest of the story. A story in which God comes, is real and human. A story that happens in a real place and time, where God inhabits the everyday.

This Advent we will explore the theme “The Rest of the Story” as we imagine anew the voices of the stories we’ve heard countless times. We will listen as they speak to us in our current time and place of the hope and joy the promises of God’s presence with us, “Emmanuel.” May all of your encounters this advent season bring hope, and may the story of Jesus the Savior become a part of your own family story this year and every year to come.

Advent Blessings,
- Melissa

P.S. Please note that due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday our services will be held at 10am and ONE service in the evening at 7:00pm.

FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Bonnie Beckett recovering from foot surgery

Rena Bills recovering at home after hospital stay

Grayson Marconi recovering from surgery



Our sympathy to:

Philip and Katie Styr on the recent death of Philips grandmother

ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY HARBINGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets next on Tuesday, December 5th at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at the church on Monday, December 11th, at 11:15 a.m. to carpool to lunch at Rohrbach's on Buffalo 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.



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, December 4th. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30am.



DECEMBER 3, 2017

Following Worship in the Sanctuary

Purpose of Meeting:

Review Budget, Elect Officers and Pastor Terms of Call

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Tuesday, December 12th

The GPC Annual Women's Candlelight Dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at the Whittier Party House. We will have a hot buffet with chicken French, roast beef, pasta, mixed vegetables and miscellaneous desserts. Please feel free to invite family and friends.



Our entertainment this year will be Ellen Sonnenberg, a wonderful violinist who played in church on Sunday, October 22nd. You don't want to miss hearing this wonderfully, talented lady!

The cost is \$22.00 per person. Please do not hesitate to contact Barb Snaith with any questions at 247-9066.

As we have done every year, we will also be collecting personal items for WILLOW Domestic Violence Center.

Hope to see you there!!!!

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.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

December 25 – January 1 – The church office will be closed for the entire week between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

In case of emergency, please phone the church office and instructions on who to call will be available.

THANK YOU GPC!

As we come to the end of 2017, we want to thank you for your generous gifts throughout the year to support the ministries of Gates Presbyterian Church.

This was a great year as we seek to live as a joyful community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to worship God, follow Jesus and love our neighbors.

At the end of the year, people often ask how they can continue to support the mission and ministry of GPC. We believe that God is calling us to be the church by doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. We do that together. First, if you have not already done so, please submit a pledge commitment card for 2018. Did you know that you can fulfill your pledge through electronic giving?

We give thanks for the ways GPC's has been doing this in the last year. Please take a moment to be sure this last year pledge commitment is up-to-date. Contact the office if you have any questions. You also have the opportunity to make year-end gifts. Financial gifts can be made by check, online or by donation of stock. Please contact the office for more information if you wish to make a stock donation or set up electronic giving.

Looking for a Way to Grow in Faith this Advent?

Every Wednesday evening 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 December we will reflect on the following texts:

Wednesday, December 6th	Matthew 1:18-25
Wednesday, December 13th	Matthew 1:1-7 and Luke 2:1-5
Wednesday, December 20th	Luke 2: 1-20
Wednesday, December 27th	NO BIBLE STUDY
Wednesday, January 3rd	NO BIBLE STUDY



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – PARKING LOT VALETS

The Hospitality Ministry Team is asking for volunteers to help out with the parking lot valet services this coming fall and winter. Generally volunteers are only asked to help out 2 or 3 Sundays through the winter months. Please make a note in the hospitality register or contact Eric Vail 889-5491 or (email vailagency@yahoo.com) or contact the Church office if you can help. Thank you.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Date	Lay Reader	Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
December 3	Barb Snaith	Bridget Wohlers	1	4
December 10	Kay Harder	Bill Dassero	2	5
December 17	Rachel Kelly	Ann Marie Simm	3	1
December 24				
10:00 a.m.	Gordon Chapman	Dick Stewart	4	2
7:00 p.m.	Jan Brewer	Sally Christensen	5	
December 31	Whit Beckett	Laura Nolan	6	3

Communion Team: F

Left: 1. Laura Nolan
2. Larry Wakeman
3. Gladstone Crosdale
4. John Schramel

Right: 1. Linda Sidore
2. Kathy Wakeman
3. Cam Mossgraber
4. Lynn Schramel



Mark Your Calendars!

2018 Church Leadership Development Day

Saturday February 11th 9:30am-1:30pm

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.pbygenval.org

MISSION NEWS

CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS for SWEM (Southwest Ecumenical Ministries)

Due December 3, 2017

Help provide a Christmas dinner for a family in need living in the Southwest quadrant of our city. The following requested list from SWEM is for a family of 3-4. The ten dollars that goes with the meal is used to purchase a chicken, eggs, and margarine. If you feel creative, decorate the box that holds your dinner and add some small candies, mints, instant coffee, or tea bags. Please don't include gifts, toys, clothing, etc.

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|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 can of fruit cocktail or other canned fruit | 2 cans of soup |
| 1 large can of fruit juice | 1 box of instant mashed potatoes |
| 1 large canned sweet potato | 1 can of cranberry sauce |
| 3 cans of vegetables | 1 bag of stuffing mix |
| 1 or more relish/pickles/olives | \$10.00 in cash |
| 1 cake mix and frosting or pie crust and filling | |

Members of the Mission/Peacemaking Committee will be in the parking lot to receive your dinner before service on Sunday, **December 3rd**. Please hand your money to them separately from your dinner.

GPC MITTEN TREE

The GPC Mitten Tree stands in the hall outside of Room 2. The mitten tree has a long history as an Advent Project of GPC. This year you are invited to fill its branches with gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for the men and women of DePaul Mental Health Services of Rochester and their families.



ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY – December 16th – GPC serves lunch.

Folks from GPC will serve lunch on December 16th at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. The meal will be prepared at GPC on December 15th. There is a sign-up on the Kiosk for the following:

- Donations: Bring to the church kitchen by December 15th - noon
Cooks: GPC kitchen, 6:30, December 15th
Servers: Meet at St. Joseph's at 10:30 on December 16th. Plan to stay until 2:00.

This mission site serves lunch to those in our city with limited financial resources.

Blue Mountain Coffee House!

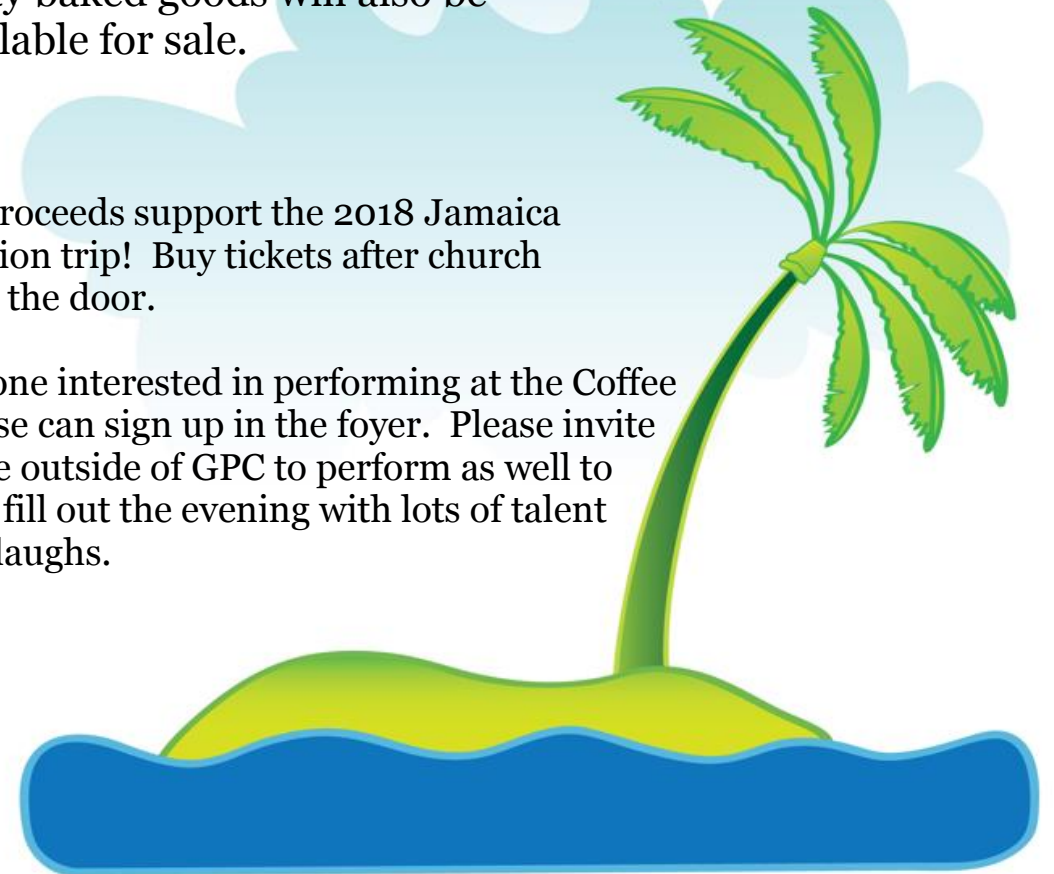
Saturday, January 13th

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 2018 Jamaica mission trip! Buy tickets after church or at the door.

Anyone interested in performing at the Coffee House can sign up in the foyer. Please invite those outside of GPC to perform as well to help fill out the evening with lots of talent and laughs.



Jamaica Mission Trip Participants check-list for December:

- ___ Catch up your payments by December 1st
- ___ Prepare to hand in trip paperwork by January 2nd
- ___ Mark January 12 and 13 on your calendar for the coffee house
- ___ Dream of doing God's work in the midst of tropical beauty!

JAMAICA 2018 MISSION TRIP SUPPORT:

In the foyer, you will see our Jamaica Mission Trip fundraising board as a way to offset specific costs on the trip. There are many options ranging from \$10 for journals up to covering our taxi rides to/from the airport. Envelopes can be taken from the board, filled appropriately and placed in the offering plate on any Sunday leading up to the trip.

HOLIDAY BABYSITTING to support Jamaica 2018 Mission Trip:

The Jamaica 2018 mission tripgoers will be available on the following dates to keep your children occupied with games & stories so parents can enjoy shopping or dinner together during the holidays.

The cost is \$20 per child with a max of \$50 per family. These will take place on:

Sunday, Dec 3rd from 2:00 to 6:00pm

Saturday, Dec 16th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm

There is a sign up sheet in the foyer as well to let us know of your interest to be sure we have enough youth for each date.

Summer Work Projects:

Mark your calendars!

This year **the Junior High work project** will be in Rochester from July 16-20 for youth entering grades 6-8 in fall 2018.

The Senior High work project will be from August 5-11 in New York City, for youth entering grades 9-12 in fall 2018.



JUNIOR HIGH OVERNIGHT – DECEMBER 1ST - 7:30 p.m.

Get ready for our first overnight of the year! We'll play games, have a cookie contest, and hang out! Bring your absolutely best batch of homemade cookies to share. The lock-in starts at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 1st, and will go until 8:30 a.m. the next day.

SENIOR HIGH EVENT with Downtown Presbyterian Church Youth Group:

Join us for dinner and caroling from 3:30-6:30pm on Saturday, December 2nd! More information to come.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING – Received in worship on December 17th

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC (USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offerings will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



CAMERON CHRISTMAS

We have been asked to assist Cameron Community Ministries with their Christmas Programs again this year. The Cameron Ministries Christmas Giving Tree will be on display in the narthex on **November 26th**, with tags bearing information about the gifts that are needed. **Gifts must be returned to GPC by December 10th.**

A list of gift suggestions will be on the gift tags. Please put the tag on the **outside** of the bag so it can easily be sorted by the folks at Cameron. Thank You. If you can help at Cameron wrapping gifts on December 16th, please let us know.

Questions? Contact Sally Christensen at 247-6095.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

GPC will support the House of Mercy by using our Christmas Eve offering to help with the cost of running the shelter.

THANK YOU to those who volunteered for the Blood Drive on October 20th and those who donated blood. The Red Cross appreciates all you do to save lives.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped serve 84 families when the Food Mobile Pantry came on November 11th. This is a great mission project and one that would not be possible without your efforts, kindness, and hard work, especially in this cold weather! Thank you! Thank you!

2018 CALENDARS

We are collecting 2018 calendars to take to places like Cameron Community Ministries, SWEM, St. Joseph's. If you have extra ones, we would love to have them. Please drop them off in the box in the foyer. Thanks!

ALTERNATIVE ADVENT MARKET – December 10th – 2nd hour

– Fellowship Hall

Come and shop where the gift gives twice: to the loved ones receiving the gift AND to the non-profit organization which you are supporting!

Here's some of what you will find at the marketplace:

- * Gourmet coffee from Coffee Connection
- * Socks for St. Joseph's House of Hospitality
- * One World Goods
- * Guatemala Partners
- * Heifer Project
- * Bead for Life
- * Palestinian Crafts
- * Pencils for Green Island Basic School
- * Lagom Landing
- * Much more!

One World Goods
*Celebrating 25 years as a
fair trade marketplace*



SENIOR HIGHS - WHERE'S WALDO?

The hunt is on! We'll meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 17th, then head to the mall and start hunting Waldos. Adults, if you want to be a Waldo, let Katie know. We have plenty of scarves!



JUNIOR HIGHS - CAROLING AND COOKIES

Bundle up and get excited to carol! We'll meet at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 17th, go caroling to church members and share cookies, and be back by 8:00 p.m.

YOUNG ADULT SECOND SUNDAYS: Tired of finals or long holiday work shifts? Meet us for lunch on Sunday, December 10th at 12:30 p.m. at Lovin' Cup Bistro (300 Park Point Drive). Questions, or need a ride??? Text Katie at 402-417-5901.

2017 CONFIRMATION CLASS AND 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

16 at 6:45 for instructions. If you are part of these two groups and can participate, please let Katie know.

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday Morning 10am
Impromptu Christmas Pageant with Christmas carols and plenty of glowsticks! Come join the fun!!

Sunday Evening 7:00pm
Traditional intergenerational candle light service of lessons and carols and choirs. All are welcome.

YOUTH NEWS

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|----------------------|--|
| Friday, December 1 | -- 6:00-7:30pm Family Advent Festival |
| | -- 7:30pm Junior Highs overnight |
| Saturday, December 2 | -- 8:30am Junior Highs overnight ends |
| | -- 3:30-6:30pm Senior Highs joint event with DUPC |
| Sunday, December 3 | -- 9:30am Youth Choir rehearsal |
| | -- 10:00am Worship |
| | -- 11:15am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School |
| Sunday, December 10 | -- 9:30am Youth Choir rehearsal |
| | -- 11:15am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School |
| Sunday, December 17 | -- 9:30am Youth Choir rehearsal |
| | -- 10:00am Worship – Youth Choir sings |
| | -- 11:15am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School |
| | -- 6:00-8:00pm Junior High Caroling |
| | -- 6:00-8:00pm Senior High Where's Waldo? |
| Sunday, December 24 | -- 10:00am Worship – All-ages Impromptu Christmas Pageant Extravaganza |
| | -- 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service |
| | 2017 Confirmation Class & 2017 High School graduates will light candles. |
| Monday, December 25 | Merry Christmas! |
| Sunday, December 31 | -- Fusion Sunday – No Sunday School |

