

FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Larry Wakeman recovering from surgery



Our sympathy to:

Bridget Wohlers and family on the recent death of her step sister, **Crissa**

Happy Birthday to:

Marge Westfall who celebrated her 99th birthday on December 3rd

Neale Sweetman celebrated his 90th birthday on December 27th

Congratulations to:

The Rev. Dr. Melissa DeRosia on the completion of her Doctor of Ministry Degree from Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School!!

ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY HARBINGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets next on Tuesday, January 2nd at 2:00 pm in Room 16.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at the church on Monday, January 8th at 11:00 in Adult Lounge.

REMINDER TO DEACONS: The next Deacons' meeting is Monday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge.

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, January 8th. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30am.



FROM THE STATED SUPPLY ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when my internal clock gets a little out of whack. Days are short, and the sun sets way too quickly. It's frustrating to look out the office window and see darkness, or wake up before dawn just to walk the dog. Thankfully, after the winter solstice, the days are finally getting longer. In January, each day has a little more light coming into the world.

In January we celebrate Epiphany, the time when the Magi followed a star to find the Christ child. We don't know much about the Magi (we're not even sure there were three of them), but we know that they were not faithful Jews awaiting the Messiah's birth. The Wise Men were foreigners, drawn from another country by the arrival of new light in the world. They came to worship Jesus, and were drawn into the joy of knowing that the Messiah was born. Even as a child, Christ brought more light to the lives of people near and far.

"More light" is a uniquely American phrase. It was used by Pastor John Robinson in a sermon preached to Pilgrims before they traveled to the colonies. Robinson believed that there was more to learn about God than could be found in history, or in England. All around the world, in every time and place, God's grace brings more light to creation. There is no point where we are "done" experiencing new wonders of God's love.

The sermon served as a comfort for people who were traveling thousands of miles away from the only home they had ever known. They traveled knowing that God had more to show them, and there would be new ways to see Christ in the world. Today in the Presbyterian Church (USA), we have a group named More Light who encourages full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Christians. They picked the name remembering Robinson's sermon from so many years ago - they were also certain that people who may never have felt welcome in a church have God's light in them, and they have more to share with the church. All around us, in new ways and to new people, God's light is shining.

There are many ways to experience God's light in new ways this winter and spring. Our Senior High youth group have our upcoming retreat, where we'll learn about the trails we follow as Christians. Our young adults have an inter-church trivia event, to make connections and get to know other Presbyterians as we have fun together. And an all-youth mini-work project is coming up in February, where we will be part of ROC SALT's first mission retreat in the city. As the days get longer, there will be more ways to see God's light in the world in new ways. May we all be guided by God's light in our lives, and reflect that light to share with others.

Peace, Rev. Katie

YOUNG ADULT TRIVIA NIGHT: Calling all young adults (18-40ish)! Join us for an inter-church trivia night on Thursday, January 11th from 6-8 p.m. We'll have dinner and compete against other churches. Prizes will be silly, everything is free. If you need childcare, please let Katie know ASAP!

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.

SAVE THE DATE

The Worship Team needs your HELP on Sunday, January 7, 2018 following the worship service! That is the day we will be “undecorating” the sanctuary. Sadly, the holidays will be behind us and we need to return the worship center to its normal, beautiful state. Please consider giving us a small amount of your time for this purpose. You will be rewarded with a donut snack. So grab a cup of coffee or juice in the Fellowship Hall after worship, and join us in the sanctuary for the “take down.”

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Usher Team</u>	<u>Deacon Team</u>
January 7	Thomas Kelly	J. C. Rouchon	1	4
January 14	Sherry Nau	Thomas Kelly	2	5
January 21	Todd Pimm	Kathy Wakeman	3	1
January 28	Jim Mossgraber	Tess McKeel	4	2

Communion Team: E

- Left:
1. Bridget Wohlers
 2. Julie Siede
 3. Bob Fehnel
 4. Eric Vail

- Right:
1. Chris Arcara
 2. Randy Mosher
 3. Cheryl Fehnel
 4. Barb Snaith



Blue Mountain Coffee House!

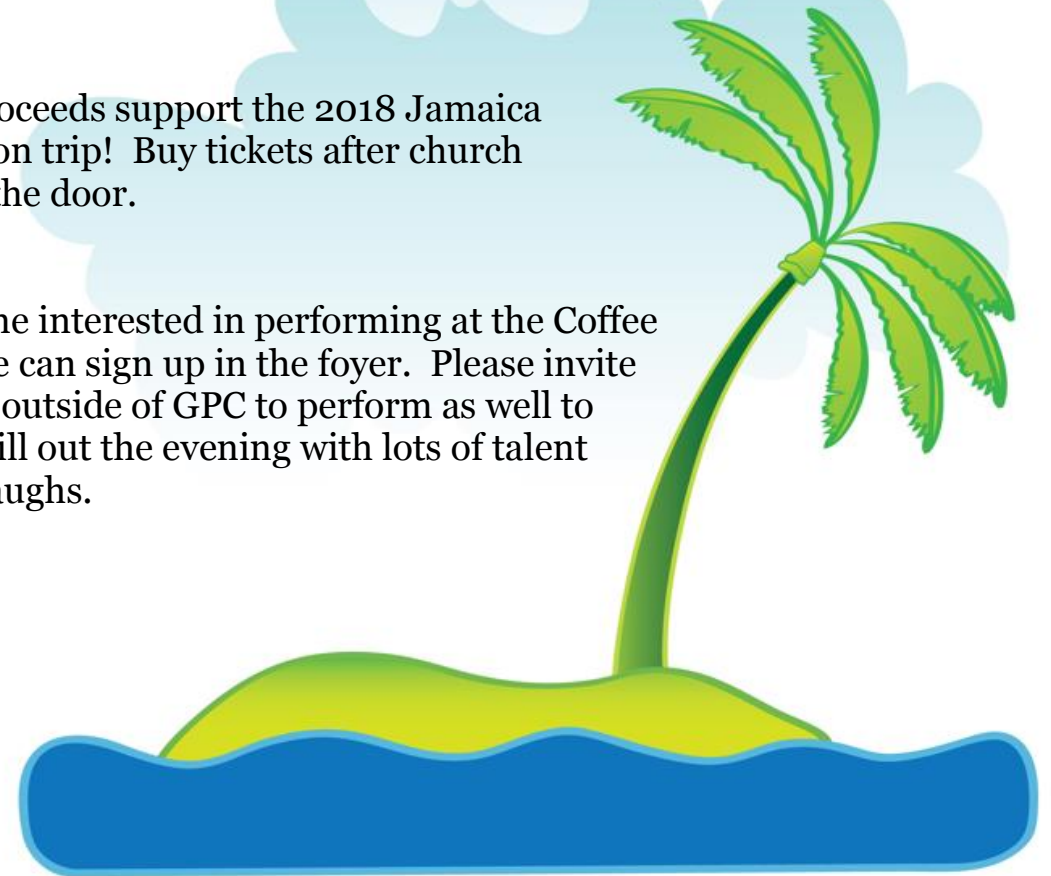
Saturday, January 13th

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.



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.



SAVE THE DATE – February 20-22

6-12th graders - Save the Date for our **Winter Mini-Work Project!** Join us from 5 p.m. Tuesday, February 20th to 10 p.m. Thursday, February 22nd for service projects, learning, and fun! Cost is \$70 (aid available if requested) and includes food, programming, and transportation. More info to come!

JUNIOR HIGH LASER QUEST: Meet after Sunday School on January 7th (12:30-3:00) for laser fun! We'll eat lunch at church, then go play two games of Laser Quest. Bring \$10 for food and lasers.

SENIOR HIGH NOOMA NIGHT: January 7th, 6-8pm. Join us for dinner, then we'll watch and discuss Nooma videos - a series about living out our faith in the world. See you there!

SENIOR HIGH RETREAT: January 19-22. We'll meet at GPC at 6:30 p.m., then head out to Covenant Acres for a weekend of fun and relaxation! Our theme for this year is "Trails". We'll be back right after worship on the 22nd. Look in the mail for more information!

JUNIOR HIGH MOVIE NIGHT: January 21, 6:00 to 9:30 p.m., meet at the church for a night at the movies! Tickets are on us, bring money if you'd like snacks.

Souper Bowl Sunday: Bring a can of soup on Sunday, February 4th to support the community! Junior High Youth will be collecting soup and monetary donations before and after worship. The soup will go to Cameron Community Ministries, and the money will be sent to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.



Junior High Souper Bowl/Overnight: The Souper Bowl is coming!

To celebrate, we'll have an Extreme Bowling overnight on Saturday, February 3rd into Sunday, Feb. 4th. Meet at the church at 7:30pm, and get ready to have fun! Please bring \$10.00 for pizza and snacks. The next day at worship, we'll collect soup donations and money for the Souper Bowl!

BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE HOUSE

The Jamaica coffeehouse is here! Jamaica team, join us at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, January 12th to set up. Everybody, join us from 6-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 13th for an evening of coffee, treats, and amazing talent! Talent and snack sign-ups are on the kiosk. Tickets are \$5, and include unlimited coffee, cocoa, and lots of great acts!

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday, January 7

-- 9:30 am Youth Choir
-- 10:00 am Worship
-- 11:15 am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School
-- 12:15 pm Jamaica Orientation
-- 12:30 pm Junior High Laser Quest
-- 5:00 pm Youth Team meeting
-- 6:00 pm Senior High Nooma Night

Friday, January 12

-- 6:30 pm Coffee House Set-up

Saturday, January 13

-- 5:00 pm Coffee House Set-up
-- 6:00 pm Blue Mountain Coffee House

Sunday, January 14

-- 9:30 am Youth Choir
-- 10:00 am Worship
-- 11:15 am Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School

Friday, January 19

-- 6:30 pm Senior High Winter Retreat

Sunday, January 21

-- 9:30 am Youth Choir
-- 10:00 am Worship
-- 11:15 am Jr. High Sunday School;
-- 11:15 am Sr. High's return from retreat
-- 6:00 pm Jr. High Movie Night

Sunday, January 28

-- 9:30 am Youth Choir
-- 10:00 am Worship – Fusion Sunday
-- 11:15 am Congregational Meeting

TODDLERS AND TINIES GROUP: Join us from 2:30-4:30 on the Third Thursday of the month (January 18th) for snacks, playtime and friends! All little ones and parents/grandparents are welcome.

ROCHESTER AREA PRESCHOOL registration for the 2018-2019 school year will begin on Saturday, January 20th for all Gates Presbyterian Church members. Please call the school's registrar, Jane LoMaglio at 224-5107 or email her at jlomagli@brockport.edu, to reserve a spot in one of the classes. Registration for the general public opens on Saturday, February 3rd at 9:00 a.m. Please pass the word on to relatives, friends, and neighbors.



YOUNG CHILDREN'S NEWS

The Young Children's Team was thrilled to see all the families who attended the Family Advent Festival on December 1st! Children and adults interacting and sharing, it was truly a great intergenerational blend! Thank you all for coming!! Thank you to Rick Howe for the wonderful guitar accompaniment for the Christmas carols and all the people who helped tell the Christmas story. The Family Advent Festival was lots of fun for all, and a perfect invitation into the holy season of Advent.

The Young Children's Team wishes all of you many blessings in 2018!

Looking for a Way to Grow in Faith the New Year?

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 January we will reflect on the following texts:

Wednesday, January 3rd

Wednesday, January 10th

Wednesday, January 17th

Wednesday, January 24th

Wednesday, January 31st

NO BIBLE STUDY

Mark 1:4-11

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

Mark 1:29-39



Mark Your Calendars!

2018 CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

Saturday February 10th 8:30 a.m. - noon

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.pbygenv.org

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Celebration & Potluck Lunch!

Members and friends of Gates Presbyterian Church are called to the Annual Meeting of the Church to be held following worship on Sunday, January 28th in the Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating and approving the 2017 reports from the various boards, staff and expressions of mission and ministry at GPC. A soup and salad potluck will follow. Please bring a beverage (water and coffee provided), table service (including the bowl!) and one or more of the following to share:

- Crockpot of your favorite soup
- Bread
- Salad (green or fruit)
- Dessert



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you likely to be actively involved in GPC's worship services? We have a number of possibilities for you! Volunteers are needed during 2018 for opportunities as lay readers, ushers, and communion servers (communion servers must be current or past Elders or Deacons). The master schedule for these assignments is being developed during December and early January. NOW is your chance to express your interest, and you can do so by signing the Hospitality Register; by contacting Barb Chapman at 426-1375, email – gbchapman@rochester.rr.com; or by calling the church office: 247-5292

THANK YOU to all the Ruling Elders, Deacons and Trustees who have served their terms faithfully at GPC! And **WELCOME** to those who have said “YES!” to God’s call to serve as leaders in the church’s ministry for the future.

The Session’s Ruling Elders who will serve us in ministry and governance are:

2 Year term - Linda Beattie, Whit Beckett, Peter Derry, Carrie Dykes, Bruce Taylor and Eric Vail

1 Year term – Bill Dassero, Keith Hadley, Kathy Wakeman and Bridget Wohlers

The Deacons who will serve us in ministry and care are:

Carol Cathy, Kay Harder, Keith Morgan, Laura Nolan and Barb Snaith

The Trustees who will serve us in ministry and management are:

Roger Best, Gordon Chapman, Ed Coons, Mary Hadley and Jason Taylor

Youth committed to service are:

Elder – Colton Crane

Deacon – Dana Hart

Trustee – Abby Jarvis

ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sunday, January 28th 2018

10:00am



Sermons are meant to be a response that invites a dialogue between our lives and the passages of scripture read in worship. Once a month, after service, there will be an opportunity to join Melissa or Katie for a conversation about

the sermon, scripture and how we are living our faith together as the church. The next “Talk Back” session is scheduled for January 21st at 11:30 in the Adult Lounge.

THANK YOU!!!!

The Mission and Peacemaking Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped contribute food, gifts, and time to make the following projects a huge success again this Christmas Season:



- All the food and money contributed for the SWEM Christmas Dinner boxes
- All the mittens and gloves donated for the Mitten Tree to benefit DePaul Mental Health Services.
- All the gifts to give to the children and adults at the Cameron Community Ministries
- For your support of the many different groups and agencies at the Advent Alternative Market on December 10th.

It was a busy month in December, but we look forward to doing Christ's work in the community every month and every day of the New Year in 2018!!

Thanks so much for everything!

Mission and Peacemaking Team

MEN 2 MEN BREAKFAST

Men 2 Men will meet January 28 at 8:00 am for fellowship and breakfast in the Fellowship Hall followed by a Bible study from Hebrews 3. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Sign-up sheet is on the kiosk or email grchapman49@gmail.com



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.

