

## FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Dave Barrett recovering from hip replacement surgery

Colton Crane recovering from a concussion

Fran Henderson dealing with health issues

Continued prayers for Judy Gluchowski



Our sympathy to:

The family of **Helen Crawford** who passed away recently. She was 96.

**ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH HARBINGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>.**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP** meets next on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in Room 16.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 for lunch at MacGregor's.

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

## 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, February 5th. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30am.



**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.



## FROM THE PASTOR . . . .

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

- Romans 12:2

Dear GPC,

Lent is not a season many Presbyterians grew up with in a liturgical sense. For the longest time, I thought Lent was all about “giving something up” and denying ourselves something we enjoy, with a hope that will draw us closer to God and Christ's sacrifice. I normally approached this as a second attempt to the failed New Year's resolution and missed how giving up social media, chocolate or soda, helped me grow in my relationship with God. They felt a bit more like a means to an end. In other words, I ended up focusing more on the legalistic aspect of whatever I had chosen and less about how the discipline prepared by to be transformed by God's grace.

What if Lent isn't about “what we give up” for denial sake? Lent is a season in the church that calls us to reflect on transformational change. Our inclination at this time of year is to race to the Easter Resurrection without fully embracing the Lenten process that leads us there. Lent reflects the forty days that Jesus wandered in the wilderness. Few of us can relate to the level of sacrifice and commitment that Jesus displayed in his forty days, yet Lent provides us with an opportunity to deepen our spirituality by engaging in regular discipline from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday that prepare us to be transformed.

“**Transforming Faith**” is our theme during Lent at GPC. And I would invite you to explore personally and as a community the ways we can open ourselves up to God's transforming power. I've discovered that for me, that denial for the sake of denial achieves the opposite purpose. The disciplines don't help me empty myself in order to make room for God's transformation; they simply fill me with more of me. I believe that to become the people God has called us to be, the disciplines we take on during the season are most powerful when they focus on what needs to change in my life to prepare me for God's transformation.

I've come to learn that to become more fully the person God wants me to be, I don't ask the question “what am I giving up” but “what can I do to invite God to transform me this season?” I share the prayer on the cover of this month's Harbinger with you as an entry point. Perhaps you will join me in reading this prayer each day and focusing on a word or phrase that will help you think about the parts of your life that still need to be transformed? What is the one place of brokenness you long to see in yourself, your family, your community (church, work, school, etc.) your city, nation, and world? What practices will you adopt to help your heart and eyes see that transformation and follow God in new ways?

Blessings be with you,  
Melissa

## TAX INFORMATION

If you would like a receipt for your 2017 donations to GPC, please send an email to Jim Meddaugh at [jmeddau1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jmeddau1@rochester.rr.com) or notify the church office. If the letter with the receipt can be emailed to you, please let us know so we can get it to you faster and save the postage.



**Please join us at the Ash Wednesday service  
Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

## 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.

## PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

| Date               | Lay Reader    | Greeter         | Usher Team | Deacon Team       |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
| February 4         | Peter Derry   | Bridget Wohlers | 1          | 3                 |
| February 11        | Linda Allen   | Dick Stewart    | 2          | 4                 |
| Feb. 14 (Ash Wed.) | Andrea Unson  | Whit Beckett    | 3          | Communion Team: G |
| February 18        | Tami Pignone  | Bill Dassero    | 4          | 5                 |
| February 25        | Abigail Unson | Keith Hadley    | 5          | 1                 |

Communion Team: B

- Left:
1. Bill Dassero
  2. Colton Crane
  3. J. C. Rouchon
  4. Beth Molina

- Right:
1. Cathy Goodykoontz
  2. Andrea Unson
  3. Velta Rouchon
  4. Whit Beckett



**TODDLERS AND TINIES GROUP:** Join us from 2:30-4:30 on the Third Thursday of the month (February 15) 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 February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please call the school's registrar, Jane LoMaglio at 224-5107 or email her at [jane.lomaglio@gmail.com](mailto:jane.lomaglio@gmail.com), to reserve a spot in one of the classes. Please pass the word on to relatives, friends, and neighbors.



ROCHESTER AREA PRE - SCHOOL

## Mark Your Calendars!

### 2018 CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> 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.pbygenva.org](http://www.pbygenva.org)

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

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](http://www.biblegateway.com)



During February we will reflect on the following texts:

**Wednesday, February 7**

**Mark 1:40-45**

**Wednesday, February 14**

**NO BIBLE STUDY (Ash Wednesday Service 7pm)**

**Wednesday, February 21**

**John 3:1-17**

**Wednesday, February 28**

**John 13:1-17**

## JAMAICA NEWS:

Our trip this Winter Break will offer our seniors a chance to serve God and learn from our Jamaican brothers and sisters. This year we have six seniors and four adults going on the trip: Michael Hossenlopp, Danny Smyth, Chris Lewis, Sam Burkovich, Alyson Cook, Audrey Molina, Beth Molina, Keith Hadley, Tracy Burkovich, and Melissa DeRosia. Our youth have prepared a day of stories, fun and games for the children at the Green Island Basic School, and will spend most of the week painting - our favorite job!

Thank you for SO much for your support. Please keep our group in prayer on our journey February 17-24 - it means a lot to the seniors to know that they are so supported and loved by their church community. Our group will be commissioned in worship on February 4th, and will share their experiences during worship and second hour on March 4th. We hope you can join us!

## School Supplies for the Green Island Basic School

When our mission team travels to Jamaica we ask the teachers and staff of the Green Island Basic School if there are any school supplies we might bring with us to share with the school. Donations of the following can be brought to the GPC office until **Sunday, February 11th**:

|                           |  |                     |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Dry erase markers         | Washable markers                                   | Pencils             |
| Glue Sticks               | Construction Paper                                 | Cotton Balls        |
| Cotton Swabs              | Band-aids  | Children's scissors |
| Electric Pencil sharpener |  |                     |
| 1 subject notebooks       | Crayola Crayons (other brands tend to melt easily) |                     |

## Jamaica Tripgoers

Time for our final meeting! Bring your parents and any last questions to our last orientation, 12:15-2:00 on Sunday, Feb. 4th. There will be pizza.



**Souper Bowl Sunday:** Bring a can of soup on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> into Sunday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the church at 9:00pm, and get ready to have fun! Please bring \$20, and get ready to have fun! The next day at worship, we'll collect soup donations and money for the Souper Bowl!

**Senior Highs Serve:** We'll be preparing a special Super Bowl meal on February 4th for the families at Ronald McDonald House! Meet up after Sunday school (around 12:30) - we'll eat pizza, go serve, and be back at GPC by 2:30.

**Junior Highs serve at St. Joseph's:** Join us as we serve lunch at St. Joseph's soup kitchen on February 17th! Meet up at GPC at 10:00; we'll have fun helping out, grab lunch, and then be back by 2:00.

## Senior High Movie Night - Feb. 18th

It's time for a movie night! Meet at GPC at 6:00 and we'll see a movie at Tinseltown. Bring \$5 (extra if you want snacks), and expect to be back at GPC at 9:30pm.

## ROC SALT Mission Retreat

### SAVE THE DATE

**February 20-22**

### WINTER MINI-WORK PROJECT

Calling all youth grades 6-12 to a new mission opportunity! At 5:00pm, on February 20th through 7:30pm, February 22nd we'll be part of a retreat for service, learning, and fun at the ROC SALT mission center in the South Wedge. Cost is \$70 (scholarships available) and includes food, programming, and transportation. RSVPs are due by Sunday, February 4th. Questions? Ask Katie!



## 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.



## DONATIONS WANTED

Our youth will be serving at Harbor House during our ROC SALT retreat, and we're making welcome bags for incoming families! We need about 2 dozen of each of these items: decks of cards, hard candies, pocket hand sanitizer, pocket tissue packs, and granola bars. Other small trinkets or long-lasting snacks are also welcome! Please bring your items in by February 11th.



**MANY THANKS to all who supported the Blue Mountain Coffee House:** customers, servers, performers, donors, chefs, movers, designers, accompanists, sound engineers, etc. All monies from this event will be used on the Jamaica Mission Trip 2018.

### Youth Calendar:

- Saturday, February 3 - 9:00pm Junior High Overnight Begins
- Sunday, February 4 - 10:00 Worship "Souper Bowl of Caring"
- 11:15 Senior High Sunday School
- 12:15-2:00 Jamaica Final Orientation
- 12:30-2:30 Senior Highs Serve at Ronald McDonald House
- Sunday, February 11 - 9:30 Youth Choir
- 10:00 Worship
- 11:15 Junior and Senior High Sunday School
- Saturday, February 17 - 10:00 Jr. Highs serve at St. Joe's
- Sunday, February 17-24 - Seniors in Jamaica!
- Sunday, February 18 - 10:00 Worship
- 11:15 Junior High Sunday School
- 6:00 Senior High Movie Night
- Sunday, February 25 - 10:00 Worship - Fusion Sunday

### MEN 2 MEN

Men 2 Men will meet February 26 at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship and breakfast in the Fellowship Hall followed by a bible study from Hebrews 4. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Please sign up on the sheet on the Kiosk or email [grchapman49@gmail.com](mailto:grchapman49@gmail.com)

**NEW ADULT SINGLES SOCIAL GROUP** will be meeting for dinner on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Panorama Restaurant, 730 Elmgrove Road. Please call Janice Bilohlavek at 766-7131 if you would like to attend.

### Transforming Faith: Lent Book Study "God and the Gay Christian" by Matthew Vines Discussion on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 in Adult Lounge

Matthew Vines was a sophomore at Harvard when in 2010 he took a leave of absence from school to come to terms with his sexual identity and Christian faith. Vines had grown up in a conservative Presbyterian church in Wichita, Kansas, where he learned that the Bible condemned gay relationships. Returning home, Vines spent time researching what the Bible says about homosexuality. This book includes compelling interpretation of key biblical texts and the story of a young man navigating relationships with his family, his hometown church, and the Christian church at large as he expresses what it means to be a faithful gay Christian. Join Katie Styrt for a conversation about the book after worship. Copies of the book can be purchased on Amazon.com or talk with Melissa if you need her to order you a copy (\$15).

### FROM THE RENEWAL MINISTRY TEAM

There comes a time when it is healthy to consider taking time away from one's job or profession. Summer 2018 is the time for Rev. Dr. Melissa DeRosia to step away from her role as Pastor here at GPC and embark on a journey resulting in family bonding, inspiration, study and rest. The process of looking into a time of Renewal (previously known as Sabbatical) began over a year ago with the discovery that there is a grant program available through the Lily Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program. After several months of working on the grant application it was submitted and by the grace of God the nearly \$40,000 grant was awarded to Gates Presbyterian Church!

Hebrews 13:1-2 says, "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it". The theme of Melissa's renewal time will be "In the Company of Strangers", based on the book of the same name written by Parker Palmer. Melissa will have the opportunity to be a stranger. The congregation will also have the opportunity to learn the practice of being guests in an interfaith setting. With the approval and blessing of Session, Melissa's time of Renewal will begin June 17, 2018 with her returning to lead worship on World Communion Sunday October 7, 2018. The planning has begun and will continue as there is much to do between now and June 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be many opportunities for the congregation to become involved in the Renewal time which ultimately will be beneficial to Melissa as well as our GPC congregation.

There will be more information provided as time goes on but in the meantime you are encouraged to reach out to the members of the Renewal team: Michelle Bartell, Carrie Dykes, Velta Rouchon, Kate Stanford and Eric Vail.



## Annual GPC Amerks Hockey Game

Friday, February 16      Rochester Amerks  
7:05pm                              vs.



Wilkes/Barrie-Scranton Penguins

\$15.00 per Adult ticket; Check with Todd for cost of children's tickets

**Deadline: February 4, 2018**

**Tickets passed out the morning of February 11, 2018**

See Todd Pimm in the Fellowship Hall after worship each Sunday.

### EASTER TULIPS

If you would like to order a plant for display in the Sanctuary for Easter and/or donate to House of Mercy in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and send it with a check to the church office (1049 Wegman Road, Rochester, NY 14624). Orders due March 4th. Make checks payable to Gates Presbyterian Church. This year tulips will be available for \$10.00.



NAME OF DONOR (S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF (please circle appropriate phrase)

Please check appropriate donation:

Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

House of Mercy \_\_\_\_\_



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Gates Presbyterian**  
**Church**

**07/20/2018**  
**6:05 pm**