

PER CAPITA

Per Capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that our congregation pays to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a religious and moral commitment. It establishes a minimum level of financial participation in the vital work of our church. With this year's commitment of **\$31.26** per member, we work together with other Presbyterian Churches in our presbytery and across the country to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world. We benefit from the gifts, skills, vision and ministry of each other when we come together. Your Per Capita pays for the programs, training and resources that help us work together to benefit all.

If you haven't yet contributed **\$31.26** per member, please consider doing so. You can use your Per Capita pledge envelope or put your check in a plain envelope marked Per Capita and place in the offering basket or mail it to the church office.

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 _____

FROM THE STATED SUPPLY ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It is my last month serving here at GPC, and I am not ready yet. To be more specific, looking around my cluttered office, I am not sure where to start my sorting and packing. A few things will stay in this office - the files of lesson plans from work projects past, the equipment to play "Hungry, Hungry Humans", extra t-shirts for tie-dying. Many things need to be returned to their rightful place in the rest of the church - an ever-growing stash of sharpies, gardening gloves from Jr High Work Projects, and a tub of snacks for the Toddlers and Tinies group. And there are so many things that I will be taking with me - a lot more than I came here with!

I showed up at this church unordained, freshly-graduated, and so newly married that our name change hadn't gone through yet. Over the years here, I have been given so many wonderful things from GPC. I have received paper plate awards from the Sr. Highs, which take the place of honor next to my diploma. I have been gifted leftover plants from the Flea Market (and, after Ginny Barley saw how quickly I killed them, much hardier plants the next year). I have been given Christmas cards from the Jr. Choir, and art made on youth retreats. As I write this, I can lean back and feel the texture of a prayer shawl hung over my chair, which Bonnie Beckett knitted when I arrived.

Of all the precious things I have been given here, the best ones are unpackable. GPC has given me your trust as we've traveled to new cities for work projects. You've given me your guidance as I've led youth group here in Rochester. And you've given me your support as my position went half-time, and I needed help finding a new balance between Gates and Laurelton. I am so grateful for your generosity and kindness during my years here at GPC. You have given me space at GPC to serve God alongside you all, and I am proud to have been your Associate Pastor. And I know that the next person to sit in the office will be lucky to be part of this church.

As I prepare to pack up my books and gifts and leave GPC, I will leave this office the tidiest it's been in years. I know the plans are already being made to hire a person to lead the youth and young children's programs, and they will have many gifts to bring to this church. I also want to make sure that they have the space to form new relationships with you all, so I will be backing away on social media. Whoever this new person is, they will be blessed to serve God here at Gates Presbyterian Church. I certainly have been.

Before I pack everything up, there will be time to celebrate my ministry here together. My last Sunday is April 8th, and I am eager to have this last month here with you all. Thank you.

Love, Rev. Katie

CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF THE REV. KATIE STYRT'S MINISTRY AT GATES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please join us on Sunday, April 8th as we celebrate Katie's ministry with us and say goodbye. More details in Sunday bulletins.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Date	Lay Reader	Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
March 4	Eric Vail	Colton Crane	6	2
March 11	Gordon Chapman		1	3
March 18	Amy Merica	Carrie Dykes	2	4
March 25	Jan Brewer	Linda Beattie	3	5
March 29	Maundy Thursday/ Communion Intinction			
		Bruce Taylor	4	
March 30	Good Friday	Ann Marie Simm	5	

Communion – Sunday, March 4

Left: 1. Tess McKeel
2. Irene Ward
3. Irene Derry
4. Donna Schott

Right: 1. Linda Beattie
2. Tom Ward
3. Peter Derry
4. MaryBeth MacKenzie

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. These monies go to the Jamaica mission trips.

MISSION NEWS

LENTEN WALL OF FOOD – Lenten Food Drive for SWEM (Southwest Ecumenical Ministries)

People in Monroe County continue to be challenged by the economy. We can help!! Please bring a can of food each time you come to GPC during Lent. The collection for SWEM will continue through Palm Sunday, March 25th. SWEM provides people living in the southwest quadrant of Rochester with emergency food supplies. Suggestions: Canned fruit, vegetables, and/or meat, oatmeal and/or cereal, powdered milk, cans of soup.



2018 OPEN GATE COMMUNITY GARDEN

We are starting to plan for the 2018 garden season. It helps a little getting through these cold, snowy days! If you have not participated before, but think you would like to adopt a 4'x4' or 4'x8' garden bed this year please let us know. You can sign-up on the kiosk or contact Jim or Sue Poole at 623-1013 or jrpoole@frontier.com

BIBLE STUDY IN LENT

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 March we will reflect on the following texts:

Wednesday, March 7	John 12:31-38
Wednesday, March 14	John 11:1-45
Wednesday, March 21	John 12:12-16
Wednesday, March 28	John 17-21

MEN 2 MEN

Men 2 Men will meet **March 25 at 8:00 a.m.** for fellowship and breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue our Bible study. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Please sign up on the sheet on the Kiosk.

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, March 6th. If you would like to carpool, please meet at GPC around 9:30 a.m.



UPDATED CHURCH CONTACT LIST:

We have an updated Church Contact List. If you would like a copy, it is available by contacting the Church Office at 247-5292 or office@gatespres.org



GIANT COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

Our 3rd GPC Giant Community Flea Market is now being planned, and we're excited for another successful event on Saturday, June 2nd. Again this year, *we will ONLY be accepting donations of:

- Books: hard or soft-cover novels, biographies, children's books, etc. (NO textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, magazines or tapes please!)
- Potted Plants
- Baked Foods ... Any time on Friday or the morning of the market. This is our largest Money Maker!!
- Please do not donate other items as we will have no space to sell them. Thank You!!

Look for sign-up sheets to be posted by Sunday, April 30th, on the kiosk where you can volunteer to help us with set up, help in church-benefit booths, hosts and hostesses, parking and traffic control and cleanup. Thank you for all your encouragement and assistance in the past, and we appreciate whatever you can do again this year. **CONSIDER BEING A VENDOR!** You'll have a great time!!

* If you can think of other items we can sell for the benefit of the church, let us know!! Thanks!

YOUNG ADULTS SECOND SUNDAY:

Join us for lunch (our treat) at 12:30 on Sunday, March 11th! This month we'll eat brunch at Donuts Delite (1700 Culver Road). Contact Katie if you need a ride, and hope to see you there!

TODDLERS AND TINIES GROUP

Join us from 2:30-4:30 on the Third Thursday of the month (March 15th) for snacks, playtime and friends! All little ones and parents/grandparents are welcome.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH MEETING

Next fall we're working on a new rotational model for Sunday School. Teachers, Young Children's members, and others interested in helping are invited to our planning meeting on Thursday, March 8th at 7pm.

SUMMER WORK PROJECT DATES: Mark your calendars now!



Junior High: July 16th-20th – Mission sites in Rochester.

Senior High: August 5th-11th in New York City!

Youth Calendar



Sunday, March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9:30am Youth Choir - 10:00am Jamaica Mission Team lead worship - 11:15am Jr High Sunday School - 11:15am Jamaica Second Hour - 12:30-3:00pm Jr. High Mall Scavenger Hunt - 6:00-8:00pm Sr. High Coffee and Chats
Sunday, March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9:30am Youth Choir - 10:00am Worship - 11:15am Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School
Sunday, March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9:30am Youth Choir - 10:00am Worship - 11:15am Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School - 6:00pm Jr. and Sr. High Trampoline Party
Sunday, March 25 Fusion Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9:30am Youth Choir - 10:00am Worship

MORE YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Junior High Mall Scavenger Hunt: We'll get pizza at church at 12:30 on March 4th, then head for a scavenger hunt at Marketplace Mall! We'll be back by 3:00.

Senior High Coffee and Chats: 6-8pm, Sunday, March 4th. Join us for coffee/smoothies, time to catch up, and a chance to hear about the Seniors' Jamaica trip.

Junior and Senior High Trampoline Party: Sunday, March 19th from 6-8. Bring Altitude socks if you have them, \$15, and get ready to jump! We'll celebrate Katie's last youth group before she moves.

FROM THE RENEWAL MINISTRY TEAM

The Renewal Ministry Team continues to gather and develop creative plans for worship during our time of renewal this coming summer.

The theme of the 2018 renewal is "In the Company of Strangers". This message comes from the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program Grant application that was submitted and ultimately lead to GPC being awarded the grant in the amount of \$39,110. "Hospitality is at the heart of the Biblical message. Over and over again God calls God's people to be strangers in a foreign land, and experiences of hospitality between a guest and host were based upon an intimate connection of being strangers. Parker Palmer, in his book In the Company of Strangers, reminds us that "the role of the stranger in our lives is vital in the context of Christian faith, for the God of faith is one who continually speaks truth afresh, who continually makes all things new. God persistently challenges conventional truth and regularly upsets the world's way of looking at things." In 2018 Gates Presbyterian Church will have the opportunity to view and experience the way we look at our faith by engaging in practices of both welcoming and being strangers."

Luke 10:27 says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." The congregation will also have the opportunity to learn the practice of being guests in an interfaith setting. Plans are in the works to worship with people who follow the Islamic and Jewish faith traditions. These plans include times of learning, worship and sharing fellowship through conversations and meals. The GPC time of renewal begins June 17, 2018 and will conclude on World Communion Sunday October 7, 2018 with a joyful celebration.

There will be more information provided as time moves along but the opportunity to become involved in the planning of worship, fellowship and celebrations is now! You are encouraged to reach out to the members of the Renewal Team to ask questions and express your desire to become involved in the planning. Members of the Renewal Team are, Michelle Bartell, Carrie Dykes, Velta Rouchon, Kate Stanford, Eric Vail and Rev. Dr. Melissa DeRosia.

FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Peter Derry in rehab after a stroke at Monroe Community Hospital

Wendell Burtner recovering from surgery

Ruth Rauch home after hospital stay

Ed Vander suffering health issues

Dorothy Mundt's granddaughter recovering after kidney surgery

Our sympathy to:

Gerald Tregae and family on the recent death of his wife, Genevieve

Dick and Christy Stewart and family on the recent death of Dick's sister.



ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL HARBINGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018.

REMINDER TO DEACONS: The next Deacons' meeting will be Monday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge. Dotty Meddaugh will be our guest speaker.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 6th at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Monday, March 12th at 11:00 a.m. at GPC in the Adult Lounge. Bring your lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided.



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.

ADULTS SINGLE SOCIAL GROUP

The Adults Single Social Group will be having dinner at Slayton Place, 26 Slayton Avenue, Spencerport, NY on Saturday, March 24th at 5:30 p.m. Please call Janice Bilohlavek at 766-7131 by March 20th if you would like to attend.

SECOND HOUR: Transforming Faith as a Family, Sunday, March 11th at 11:30. Join us for a panel discussion led by parents whose children have come out as LGBTQ. Come hear stories of how parents' faith has been impacted and their family life has changed and grown. You are also invited to share your own stories of LGBTQ family life, or ask questions

Riverside Neighborhood/Duke Divinity Grant News

The Genesee Valley Presbytery has grouped the churches of our presbytery into neighborhoods by geography. Gates is part of Neighborhood 2 which has been renamed the Riverside Neighborhood because the Genesee River runs through the middle of our neighborhood. In December 2016 our neighborhood received a \$50,000 grant from the Duke Divinity School to strengthen and enhance our capacity to serve its members and the broader community. This twelve month grant ended in December and the grant team is transitioning to a neighborhood leadership team. The goals of the leadership group will be to promote communication and fellowship between congregations and assist ROCSALT with mission opportunities. Carrie Dykes from GPC and John Wilkinson from Third Church will co-convene this leadership group. If you would like to participate in Neighborhood work or learn more about what the Neighborhood is doing together, please contact Carrie Dykes.

