

PLEASE DONATE a Christmas Dinner - SWEM needs you to make a difference!

The mission team will be in the parking lot prior to our service on **Sunday, December 2** to accept your gift. Please do not put money in the basket. There will be people in the parking lot to collect this money.

Christmas baskets are designed for families of three to four people. Please donate standard sized cans and 16 ounce boxes for each item. For each basket, please provide the following:

- 1 fruit cocktail or canned fruit
- 2 soups
- 1 large fruit juice
- 1 instant mashed potatoes (two 6oz or one 15oz)
- 2 regular or 1 large can of sweet potatoes
- 3 canned vegetables (e.g., corn, peas, beans)
- 1 cranberry sauce
- 1 bag stuffing (or boxed- two 6oz or one 12oz)
- 1 boxed dessert (e.g., gelatin or pudding, cake mix/frosting, or pie crust/filling)

Additionally, please add \$10 cash donation per basket to cover the cost of meat, eggs and margarine that SWEM will provide.

Feel free to include holiday touches of your own, such as coffee, tea, candies, mints, or napkins. Laundry baskets or totes to hold the contents make an additional gift.

MISSION WORK TRIP

Anyone interested in going on a mission trip this Spring to North Carolina for hurricane relief, please email Whit Beckett, wbeckett@rochester.rr.com. The specific timing, location, and type of work will be chosen by the volunteers from a list provided by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

ALTERNATIVE ADVENT MARKET

The Alternative Advent Market will be after worship on December 9th. Vendors include One World Goods, Bead for Life, Heifer, Socks for St. Joseph, Jamaica Basic School, and Coffee Connection.

The Coffee Connection is one of the favorite vendors at GPC's annual Alternative Advent Market. This year they are unable to send staff members to sell their marvelous coffees. I am looking for two or three volunteers who are willing to "person" the booth. The Market this year is on December 9th, after church. You will need to come early to set up. Coffee Connection will make sure everything is ready for the sale. Please contact Sally Christensen if you can help. Thank you!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4th in room 16.

Message from the Pastor ...

Dear GPC,

On our trip to Israel/Palestine this summer, Matt and I found our way to Bethlehem. Well, no one exactly "finds their way" to Bethlehem. Going from the Old City of Jerusalem to Bethlehem is not as simple as the short distance between two cities, suggests (less than 5 miles). Standing between the two, they could almost join together. The land gradually changes from tree scape to barren desert hills and rocky limestone ridges sparsely dotted with olive groves and fruit trees. A large concrete border wall, militarized fences and armed checkpoints restrict movement between the cities. They limit persons from Palestine (where Bethlehem is located) to Israel. Israeli busses from Jerusalem will not cross the main checkpoint into the West Bank. and the Palestinian busses are forced to drive far around the cities, making a short trip last more than 45 minutes.

My experiences through Checkpoint 300 (the main entrance to Bethlehem) have varied. No matter how many times I seem to pass through the maze of gates, metal detectors and "border" guards, I get turned around and unsure what way I am supposed to go. There are no signs. English speaking tourists like myself, rely on the kindness of Palestinians to patiently show us the way. Once in Bethlehem, past the incessant call of the cab drivers and young children selling goods trying to make a living on the meager stream of visitors, my imagination gets caught up in the words of the familiar Christmas song:

O little town of Bethlehem

How still we see thee lie

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by

Yet in thy dark streets shineth

The everlasting Light

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight

Not in a romanticized or nostalgic kind of way, but one that wonders about the "hopes and fears of all the years" held over the centuries in the land, people, and stories of faith from this place. Standing in Manger Square it is impossible to ignore the juxtaposition of the bells from the Church of the Nativity and the Muslim call to prayer from the neighboring mosque. The land holds the scars of fallen empires, invasions and occupation. Christian pilgrims and religious orders intermingle with Muslim worshippers on their way to prayer. The people of Bethlehem embody a living hope for a life free of fear. The scene is far from picturesque, yet I believe what makes this space sacred is that God did not shy away from these tensions.

Our world is in dire need for people who do not avoid the way to Bethlehem because it is too difficult or complex. Both, hope and fear, reveal the ways we can choose to live in this world. The stories of scripture reveal again and again that in a world filled with fear the way to Bethlehem and the Christ child, are found in the hope, love, peace and joy of God. As we ready ourselves for this Advent journey, take time this season to be in prayer for the "hopes and fears" of all this world.

~ Melissa

Advent / Christmas Worship Schedule

December 2 First Sunday in Advent – Communion Sunday

December 9 Second Sunday in Advent – Cantata

December 18 Third Sunday in Advent

December 23 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Children's Christmas, "Impromptu Pageant"

December 24 Christmas Eve Service
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

December 30 First Sunday of Christmas

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING – Received in worship on December 16th

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.



2019 CALENDARS The Mission team is collecting 2019 calendars for Cameron Community Ministries and SWEM. If you have extra ones, they would love to have them. You can drop it off in the office or place it in the Mission mailbox in the work room.



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.

MEN 2 MEN Breakfast

Men 2 Men will meet December 23rd at 8:00 am for fellowship and breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheet is on the kiosk or email grchapman49@gmail.com.



December 2, 2018

Following Worship in the Sanctuary
Purpose of Meeting: Review Budget, Elect Officers,
and Pastor Terms of Call

LET'S SHOWER MARGE IN CARDS

Marge Westfall turns 100 on December 3rd. Birthday cards can be mailed to Marge at: Edna Tina Wilson Living Center, 700 Island Cottage Rd, Rochester, NY 14612. We are hoping that Marge will be able to join her GPC church family to celebrate with cake on December 9, after worship.

SERVING & SUPPORTING THE SALEM NUTRITION CENTER



Volunteers from GPC continue to prepare and serve at the Salem Nutrition Center on the first Monday of each month. We meet in the GPC parking lot at 9:30 am to carpool.

Salem has also asked if GPCers would be willing to supply hard boiled eggs on our once a month volunteer date. These would be used for the following day's lunch. We are in need of 12 volunteers to provide 1 dozen hard boiled eggs each & place them in the GPC refrigerator on the Sunday before we serve.

If you are willing to help out in this new capacity, please email Tracy Burkovich at tburkovich@yahoo.com. This is not required from the volunteers that go each month (although welcome if able) but hoping that perhaps folks that are unable to volunteer could help support Salem this way.

LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The time has come to say "good-bye" to Lunch Bunch. It began some 41 years ago with numbers ranging from as many as 15 to 20 crafters. It has trickled on down to 2. Gone are the chances to sell our goods at our church dinners. Gone are the people able to make items for sale. We are sorry that it has come to this but we enjoyed it while it lasted. The only way we could continue to staff a table at the 2019 Church Mouse Bazaar is if crafters donate items they made at home. If anyone is interested, please let us know. ~ Carol Howell & Janie Bilohlavek.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, December 12th at 11:20 a.m. at church, then leave around 11:30 for the Apple Tree Inn.



SNOW CANCELLATIONS: Reminder that during the week if the Gates Chili School District have cancelled school or evening activities for that day, then all meetings and church related events at GPC are also cancelled.



THANK YOU GPC!

As we come to the end of 2018, 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 2019. 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 gift 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.

CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR

Thanks to everyone who
Helped in
Any way to make our
Naturally amazing CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR a
Knock out success!!

You made it happen! With
Out you, there is no CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR
U are wonderful!!!!



IT TAKES A VILLAGE ... to run a Church Mouse Bazaar! We appreciate all of your support to make this, our 41st year, successful! We sincerely thank all the people that worked so hard for all these years to build this tradition of giving, community and fellowship. We especially want to thank our coordinators this year; Sue Mancini, Ginny Barley, Beth Molina, Jason Taylor, Marty Ohman, Jan Beutner Shirtz, Bill Shirtz, Heather Pimm, Irene Ward, Velta Rouchon, J.C. Rouchon, Carol Howell as well as Karen Kozlowski, our Office Manager and Bob Staszewski, our maintenance person, for helping to make this event one to be proud of!

~ Co-chairpersons: Linda Beattie and Tess McKeel

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Date	Front Door Greeter	Lay Reader	Usher	Deacon
December 2	Colton Crane	Eric Vail	5	5
December 9	Dick Stewart	Aleigha Binko	1	1
December 16	Carrie Dykes	Rachel Kelly	2	2
December 23	Bruce Taylor	Janice Beutner	3	3
December 24	<i>tbd</i>	Gordon Chapman	6	
December 30	Linda Beattie	Tom Ward	4	4

COMMUNION TEAM A

Left: Carrie Dykes
Carol Cathy
Keith Morgan
Kay Harder

Right: Mary Hadley
Keith Hadley
Carol Howell
Beverly Lamphron



FROM THE DEACONS

Continued prayers for: **Ionie Crosdale, Peter Derry, Marge Westfall, Wendell Burtner and Bonnie Beckett.**



Congratulations to Brad and Deanna Weber on the birth of their son Killian Paul on June 29th. Proud grandparents are **Jeff and Debby Weber.**

Our sympathies to **Jeff and Debby Weber** and family, on the death of Jeff's Mother, Doris Weber, On September 1st.

REMINDER TO DEACONS: The Deacons holiday gathering will be on Sunday, December 2nd at 11:30 a.m. in room 1.

JANUARY HARBINGER ARTICLES are due in the office by Wednesday, 12/12

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed from Monday, December 24th through Tuesday, January 1st. Regular office hours will resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. In case of emergency, please phone the church office and instructions on who to call will be available.

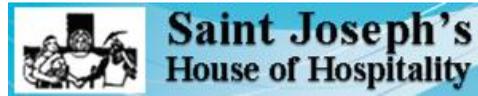
ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

On **Saturday, December 15th**, GPC will be serving lunch at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. We need food donations, cooks and servers.

Food donations: See sign-up on the Kiosk. Please put donations in the GPC kitchen by noon on Friday, December 14th.

Cooks: The meal will be prepared on Friday, December 14th at 6:30 in the GPC kitchen.

Servers: Meet at St. Joseph's at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. Prepare to stay until 2:00 p.m. Sign-up on the Kiosk. St. Joseph's is located at 402 South Avenue.



Mark Your Calendars!

2019 Congregational Learning Day

Saturday February 9, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon

(Working Lunch Courses 12:15-1:45 p.m.)

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/congregational-learningday/

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 18th, with tags bearing information about the gifts that are needed. Gifts must be returned to GPC by December 2nd.

Another opportunity to help make the holidays brighter for the Cameron children and families is their annual "shop" where the children can select small gifts for the adults in their lives. GPC will help "stock the shelves" by providing small adult gifts for the shop.

A list of gift suggestions will be on the gift tags. According to the coordinator at Cameron, Legos (boys and girls), remote control cars, Barbie dolls, and baby dolls are the children's most requested items. Please place the unwrapped item in a gift bag with tissue and attach the tag on the outside of the bag so it can easily be sorted by the folks at Cameron.

Questions? Contact Sally Christensen at 247-6095 or 703-6238.

Looking for a Way to Grow in Faith this Advent?

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

In December we will reflect on the following texts:

Wednesday, December 5th Luke 1:26- 38

Wednesday, December 12th Isaiah 12:2-6

Wednesday, December 19st Luke 1:39-55

Wednesday, December 26th NO BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, January 2nd NO BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S CANDLELIGHT BRUNCH - Saturday, January 5th – 12 noon to 2:30 p.m.



Something different this year!! Brunch at Sweet Briar Lodge (previously known as Lodge on the Green) on Ridgeway Avenue (near Elmgrove Road) – We will still collect items to support Willow. Hot buffet with breakfast items along with Chicken French, Roasted Vegetables, Potatoes and some sort of sweet dessert. Tickets will be sold beginning on Sunday, December 2nd after church in Fellowship Hall for \$20.00 a person. (Note – Less amount than in previous years.) We can offer carpooling from church as well. Hope you all join us this year...daughters and granddaughters too! For any questions please contact Barb Snaith at 247-9066.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Public Worship Team invites you to come and be a part of the annual Advent & Christmas decorating gathering on Sunday, December 2, 2018 following worship. We need volunteers to help trim the Christmas tree and decorate the sanctuary in preparation for the season of Advent and Christmas. With many hands, the work goes quickly! All ages are welcome. Please come for as long as you are able to help and have some fun with us. It is a special opportunity for fellowship and bringing in the spirit of the holiday season.



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

GPC will support the Presbyterian Disaster Fund by using our Christmas Eve offering to help with the cost of disaster relief efforts.

YOUTH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, December 2

- 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:20 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m. Junior High/Senior High Sunday School

Friday, December 7

- 5:30 p.m. Family Advent Festival

Sunday, December 9

- 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:20 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal
Junior High/Senior High Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Young Adult Second Sunday
- 1:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group – Swimming Party (until 5:30)
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group – Where’s Waldo

Sunday, December 16

- 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, *Youth Choir performs during worship*
- 10:20 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal
Junior High/Senior High Sunday School

Sunday, December 23

- 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:20 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Junior High Youth Group – Caroling at Unity Cottages
- 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group – Ice Cream & Cards with Frona

Sunday, December 30

- 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, FUS!ON

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER SCHEDULE FOR ELEMENTARY AGES

December 2 and 9 Jen Olsen, Sharon Costrino
December 16 TBD

YOUTH GROUP INFO

Junior High

December 9 – Swimming Party, 1:00 – 5:30 p.m.
December 23 – Caroling at Unity Cottages, 5:45 – 8:30 p.m.



Senior High

December 9 – Where’s Waldo, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
December 23 – Ice Cream & Cards with Frona, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
January 25-27, 2019 – Senior High Winter Retreat @ Covenant Acres Camp, Pike NY

AMAZING JOURNEY CONFIRMATION CLASS

December 9, from 4:00 to 5:45 p.m.

Topic: Bible 101

Dinner provided by the Fitzgerald family



YOUNG ADULT BRUNCH

All 18-25ish people are invited to join us at Pixley’s on Sunday, December 9th at noon, for brunch and conversation. Bring a friend or your partner – all are welcome. GPC is picking up the tab!



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM

Get your registration forms in for Presbyterian Youth Triennium!
July 16-20, 2019 at Purdue University. Registration deadline is January 1, 2019.

SUMMER WORK PROJECTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JUNIOR HIGH: July 8–12, 2019

SENIOR HIGH: August 4–10, 2019

More information coming soon!



BRING US YOUR EMPTIES!!!

The Jamaica Team is collecting empty cans and bottles to help pay for their trip. Help us by bringing your returnables to church. Every nickel counts!

JAMAICA COFFEEHOUSE - Saturday, January 12, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Come out for a fabulous evening of coffee, dessert, and entertainment to support the Jamaica team!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



You're not going to want to miss GPC's second annual Paper Bag Pageant, Sunday, December 23 at 10 am. We are looking for participants and actors of all ages -- there's no rehearsal or preparation required. Just show up, grab a bag, and follow along for a fun, glow-stick-filled retelling of that amazing trip to Bethlehem.

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