

## MISSION

### Lenten Food Drive for SWEM (Southwest Ecumenical Ministries)



Please bring a can of food each time you come to GPC during Lent. The collection for SWEM will continue through Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. 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. The Mission team will be boxing up the items on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**HEAL COLLABORATIVE** is meeting the needs of people who have experienced interpersonal violence and trauma through Education, Advocacy and Law. We're here to provide mental health, legal and social services- in the same place, at the same time- to individuals who are 18 years of age and older to help ensure their safety and well-being. HEAL also partners with community organizations such as Willow Domestic Violence Center, RESOLVE of Greater Rochester, Monroe Family court and others to help begin the healing process. One of the ongoing needs HEAL has is for hygiene products to provide to the people we serve. HEAL and Willow partner to help meet these needs but often people come to the HEAL Collaborative before connecting with Willow.

The Mission Team has created a drop off location at GPC where you can donate hygiene items for HEAL. Below is a list of items that are needed. Thank you in advance for your support of HEAL.

#### Items Needed:

- Tooth care
  - Shampoo and Conditioners for both Caucasian and African American (ethnic) hair types
  - Body wash/soaps
  - Lotions
  - Deodorant –both men and women's
  - Feminine hygiene products
  - Inexpensive nail polish and makeup to help with self-care
  - Snacks – i.e. granola bars, crackers, dried soups, dried fruit, individual size bags of chips or goldfish
- PLEASE NO NUTS**

**Note: We serve both men and women of all races**

### 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.

**Next date is Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**



## PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Date	Greeter	Lay Reader	Usher	Deacon
March 1	Larry Wakeman	n/a	5	1
March 8	Keith Hadley	Sally Christensen	6	2
March 15	Beth Molina	Linda Becker	1	3
March 22	Zach Henchen	Bridget Wohlers	2	4
March 29	Carol Henchen	Evelyn Henderberg	3	5

Please remember that if you cannot serve as Lay Reader or Greeter on your scheduled date, **you** are responsible for finding a substitute. Once you find one, please notify the office of the change.

## DPNC UPDATE



Exciting news! We have started to receive Personal Information Forms (PIFs) for candidates who have been vetted by Presbytery. Next steps are to review the PIFs and then to prepare for and schedule initial interviews. As we proceed with the selection process, we are grateful that our church continues to be so well served by our guest Pastors during this transition. We are also grateful for the continued prayers and support from our GPC family. We are honored to work on your behalf.

## FROM THE DEACONS



*Please keep in thought & prayer ...* **Angelika Alvarez, her brother, E.J. and Momma Katherine**, who are all dealing with health issues ... **Mike Winn** dealing with back issues ... **Dotty Meddaugh** with health concerns ... **Hannah Walker** in rehab at Creekview Nursing Home on Beahan Rd ... **Amy Fowler** and her husband, **Gene**, who is dealing with a serious health concern.

*Our sympathies to ...* The family of **Tom Zimmerman** on his recent passing. Tom is the eldest son of Bob & Lorraine Zimmerman who were long time members of GPC before their deaths. *Congratulations to ...* **Christy & Dick Stewart** on their 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



## SAVE THE DATE!

### SPRING CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>

Spring Clean-up is planned for May 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 8:30 a.m. Please consider volunteering to help clean-up inside and outside the church.

## NOTE FROM TRUSTEES: BUILDING USE UPDATES



The Trustees have spent several months reviewing our current building use policy in an effort to bring it up to date. We believe it's been at least ten years since it was last updated! Consideration was given to our current occupancy, expenses, custodial and administrative staffing, Trustee volunteer requirements, and benchmarks with other church building use policies. GPC's worship and mission continue to be the highest priority for the building, along with our regular paid occupants (Presbytery, Weight Watchers). Building use rental rates have increased slightly to help cover some of the expenses we incur during room rental. We are also limiting the one-time rentals (not reoccurring groups) to GPC members and their friends/families. If a person/group wants to use the building for an event/activity they now must have a relationship to a GPC member. A security deposit has been added to the rental agreement and will be refunded based on compliance to room clean-up procedures and no property damage at the completion of the rental (arbitrated by the Building Use Committee). Hours have been reduced on Fridays and Saturdays, all events on these days must end by 5:00 p.m. The goal of these updates is to ensure that we can continue to maintain our GPC facility such that the mission of GPC can be carried out.

## 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 **\$34.68** 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 **\$34.68** 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.

## COME JOIN THE GENEROSITY TEAM!

The Generosity Team has the task of making Stewardship a more personal and fun approach to giving. If you recall, the Generosity Team conducted the "Dessert First" program last fall. We are looking to expand our membership to help look at new approaches to giving. We are especially in need of youth members to use their insights and talents, but members of all ages are welcome! Our next meeting is March 15 at 11:15 in room 2. Simply drop by then or call Larry Wakeman at 247-3296 (email: lwakeman258@yahoo.com).



## VITAL CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE, cont'd

Here is the schedule for the 7-week study:

March 15	Lifelong Discipleship Formation (daily seeking and living in God's will)
March 22	Intentional, Authentic Evangelism
March 29	Outward Incarnational Focus or 'The Church has Left the Building'
April 19	Empowering Servant Leadership (recognizing and using our gifts)
April 26	Spirit Inspired Worship
May 3	Caring Relationships (church versus other social clubs and organizations)
May 10	Ecclesial Health (we cannot rest on our traditions)

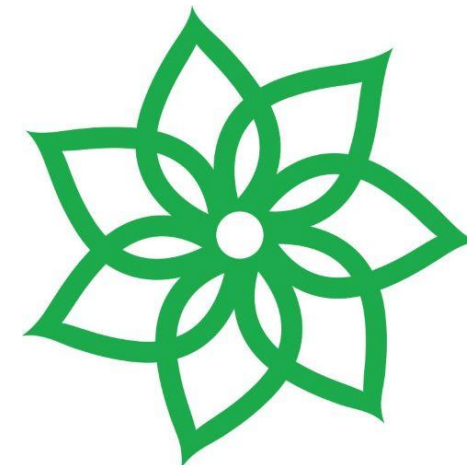
Your Vital Congregations Team: Janice Bilohlavek

Kate Stanford

John Kubinec

Whit Beckett

Janice Beutner



## VITAL CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE



GPC, through Session action, has covenanted with the Presbytery of Genesee Valley to participate in the Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI), a program of PC (USA). GPC is one of nine churches in our Presbytery to become part of this program. The purpose of the VCI is to help churches assess, discern, and live into transformative actions that will increase their vitality.

The VCI is based on intentional spiritual practices of scripture and prayer. The intent is to help us better define and refine how we “do church”. Buildings, budgets, and worship styles have become the “mission” of most American churches when the “mission” needs to be taking the church to the community. Just as each person in each congregation has a unique contribution to make, so each church is unique in its people, style, and resources. No one church is like any other and it is futile to compare and compete. Each congregation needs to discover for itself what it does best and work at that. Each worshipper must connect first to God, then to each other, then to the community.

Through prayer, study of scripture, and honest assessment, we will find ways to increase GPC’s energy as directed by the Spirit. Through intentional spiritual practices and building relationships, this process will take us deeper into following Jesus Christ and open us to the leading of the Spirit, enabling us to better serve our community of faith and the world outside our doors. It will help us better assess how we practice our faith; how we cherish our faith; and how we share our faith. It is all about whether our mission, vision, and values match up with the ways we live together.

So what is it that holds GPC together and makes us unique? We will begin to answer that question on March 15th with a 7-week study of the Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation. We will break for Palm Sunday and Easter. Each week there will be a take home bulletin insert with a description of the Vital Mark along with related scripture and questions for reflections. It is our hope that you will read the scriptures, pray, and think about the presented questions. The children’s time each Sunday will be about that week’s mark and the Sunday School, Jr./Sr. High youth will also have materials to use as will the Wed. night Bible Study group.

Please join us on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> for a 2<sup>nd</sup> hour presentation giving more information on the Vital Congregations Initiative.

## GIANT COMMUNITY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 3pm

Hope you've marked the date on your calendar!

Our 1st GPC Giant Community Craft Fair is now being planned, and we're excited for a successful event on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. This year, we will **ONLY** be accepting donations of baked good on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> (anytime) or the morning of the fair. This is our largest money maker!!

Look for sign-up sheets to be posted by Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 CRAFTER!** You'll have a great time!!

There's a lot to do, but short work with many helping hands working together. Thank You!!

Questions? Please see Larry Wakeman or call 247-3296

## MUSTARD SEED SCHOLARSHIP: ATTENTION CLASS OF 2020



Information regarding the 2020 Mustard Seed Scholarship, including application requirements and committee review process, will be shared at a meeting following worship on Sunday, March 22nd. Any graduating senior who is interested in applying for the 2020 Mustard Seed Scholarship must attend this informational meeting along with a parent or guardian. We will meet in Room 1 (Adult Lounge) and will do our best to address questions at this time. Thank you in advance for your attendance.

## HOLD THE DATE!! 2020 Women's Retreat LIFE PASSAGES, FAITH & RENEWAL

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Location: The Assisi Institute

1400 Winton Rd N, Rochester, NY 14609

Cost per person: \$25.00; Accepting money starting March 1st

Hope you can join us for a great day!

Questions? Contact Barb Snaith, Kay Harder, Kate Stanford or Lynn Schramel



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet on Tuesday, **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 2:00 p.m. in room 16.

**BIBLE STUDY** Every **Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High Lounge**

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet on Monday, **March 9<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 a.m. in room 1.

## YOUTH CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Sunday, 3/1	9:30 a.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Jamaica Team Leads Worship
	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School (PK – 8 <sup>th</sup> )
	11:15 a.m.	Jr. Choir Rehearsal (until 12:15 p.m.) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour: Jamaica Team
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. High Youth Group: Gates Police Night (until 8:00 p.m.)
Sunday, 3/8	6:00 p.m.	Sr. High Youth Group: Coffee & Chat (until 8:00 p.m.)
	9:30 a.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, 3/15	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School (PK – 8 <sup>th</sup> )
	11:15 a.m.	Jr. Choir Rehearsal (until 12:15 p.m.)
	9:30 a.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School (PK – 8 <sup>th</sup> )
Sunday, 3/22	11:15 a.m.	Sr. High Sunday School
	After church	Jr. High Youth Group: Swimming Party @ YMCA Sr. High Youth Group: Deconstruction Construction (until 8:00 p.m.)
	6:00 p.m.	
	9:30 a.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, 3/29	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School (PK – 8 <sup>th</sup> )
	11:15 a.m.	Jr. Choir Rehearsal (until 12:15 p.m.)
	9:30 a.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, 3/29	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School (PK – 8 <sup>th</sup> )
	11:15 a.m.	Jr. Choir Rehearsal (until 12:15 p.m.)
	6:00 p.m.	Sr. High Youth Group: Bob Ross Night (until 8:00 p.m.)



**TODDLERS & TINIES:** Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to bring your lunch and we will have plenty of free play.

Time to PLAY!

**SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL:** March 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

## JAMAICA NEWS

Our group will share their experiences during worship and second hour on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope you can join us!

## SUMMER WORK PROJECTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

This year the **Junior High** work project will be in Rochester from July 13-17 for youth entering grades 7 & 8 in fall 2020.



**Attention those going into 9th-12th grade next year!** Our **Sr High** Work Project will be in Pittsburgh, PA from July 19-24 and we hope you can join us! Please use the link below to go to our group page and fill out your participant information form ASAP. Plan on attending a short meeting with a parent after church on May 3 before youth group to learn more. Your payments will still be checks made out to Gates Presbyterian Church, so no need to submit payment online right now even though there is a link. If you have already submitted an online payment, please let Jen know. Have questions? Email: [jennifer@gatespres.org](mailto:jennifer@gatespres.org)  
<https://my.groupmissiontrips.com/pc/Gates-Presbyterian-Church-Rochester/20PA16/overview/>

## YOUTH GROUP

### JR HIGH



**March 1 – Gates Police Night (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)**  
*Join us as we work together to solve a mystery!*

### March 15 – Swimming Party @ YMCA

Bring your lunch, we will eat together after church and then head over to the Y as a group. Please RSVP to Jen with full name & date of birth by Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. This is so YMCA can run our group through their system.



### SR HIGH



**March 1 – Coffee & Chat (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)**

Join the group as we head out to a coffee shop. We will chat and catch up from recent events.

### March 15 – Deconstruction Construction (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Bring any scraps from home and your favorite tool, along with ideas for a theme. How do you want our Sr High Lounge to look? Let's get to work!