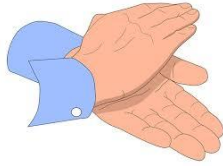


MISSION

The Mission team will monitor community needs, especially food supplies. In-person serving of meals by GPC members at St. Josephs House or other locations has been canceled.



THANK YOU! The Hospitality Ministry would like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped out with the parking lot valet service this past winter and early spring. This winter started out with a bang dumping a lot of snow early on but then Mother Nature was more kind to us for the most part the rest of this winter season. There were still plenty of Sundays that were cold, slippery & snowy. Once again, it was very pleasing to hear so many thankful comments about this service. Coming to Church early on a cold, windy and snowy Sunday to shovel snow and put down ice melting product is not something everyone looks forward to but the volunteers braved the elements and never hesitated when asked to help out. This extra effort offered on Sundays, some of which were pretty cold, shows just how willing the people of GPC are to step right in and lend a helping hand. This is truly a caring Church family and we should all be very proud of the willingness these volunteers have shown to help others out. **Thank You To All Of You!**

SAVE THE DATE! GPC SPRING CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, MAY 2nd

Spring Clean-up is scheduled for May 2nd starting at 8:30 a.m. Please consider volunteering to help clean-up inside and outside the church. And yes, there will be refreshments!



GIANT COMMUNITY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, June 6th, 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 6th. This year, we will **ONLY** be accepting donations of baked good on Friday, May 30th (anytime) or the morning of the fair. This is our largest money maker!!

Look for sign-up sheets to be posted by Sunday, April 26th, 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

Dear GPC Family,

The Session of GPC gathered on Monday March 16, 2020 to prayerfully consider how we will move forward as a community in light of the COVID-19 crisis. As you know, information and restrictions are changing rapidly and we are doing our best to respond to them. We realize that this is a time of great uncertainty and with the guidance of the Genesee Valley Presbytery and local and national health guidelines we have made the following decisions.

Worship

- In-person public worship is suspended until further notice. In lieu of this, we are doing the following:
 - We will create a worship service and have a written version of the bulletin and sermon from our guest pastor for each Sunday. This will be posted on the GPC website, sent out through an email, and also posted on Facebook.
 - We will have a Facebook Live stream of the service on the "Members of GPC" Facebook page each Sunday morning at 10 am. This will follow the worship bulletin that was mentioned above and will be led by our guest pastor.
 - Please email any prayer requests you would like included in the weekly bulletin or as part of our online Sunday worship to John Kubinieć. (john@gatespres.org)

Building Use

- All in-person meetings and activities at GPC are suspended until further notice. Meetings of Session, Deacons, and Trustees will be accomplished through phone or video conferencing. We will be investigating other possible ways to be connected as a community with online resources.
- Usage of the facilities by outside groups is also suspended. Some groups had already made the decision to cancel and others had started looking at meeting online. Trustees will be in contact with the remaining groups regarding this decision.

Pastoral Care

- Pastoral care will continue at GPC. Session will be working with the Deacons to develop a phone tree. The goal is to contact each household periodically to do a check-in and see if GPC can be of assistance. We ask that during this time you do not come to the GPC office for any reason. Please call the office with any pastoral care needs you might have. If no one answers the phone, please leave a voice message. The messages will be checked on a regular basis and someone will call you back.

Financial Contributions

- Members are encouraged to continue making financial contributions. Information for electronic giving will be provided in the weekly bulletins, Harbinger(s) and on the GPC website. You also may mail your checks to the church office.

2020 WOMEN'S RETREAT has been postponed until Fall 2020. Anyone that has paid already will get a refund.

CHURCHVIEW COMMONS UPDATE

PathStone Corporation has completed all its required 'due diligence' with respect to soil testing and environmental study. Monroe County has conducted a traffic study and the Town of Gates fire marshall has reviewed the project. The Town of Gates has approved rezoning of our property from Residential to Multi-Residential and the Zoning Board has granted a variance request allowing PathStone to build a 2-story 45 unit apartment building.

The Development team has met with PathStone, and their architect and engineer to finalize the site plan which was submitted to the Town Planning Board and was reviewed at their March 23rd meeting. We are awaiting their approval. Once that is given PathStone will apply for its capital financing through New York State.

PathStone has shared with us that the Town of Gates is very supportive of our project. The town is pleased that PathStone is partnering with us as GPC is the third largest community of faith in Gates. This has been reflected in how quickly the town has moved to grant reviews and approvals.

Your property development team: Ed Coons, Bill Daserro, Tom Ward, Jan Beutner
PATIENCE.....PERSEVERANCE....PRAYER



SAVE THE DATE! SENIOR HIGH WORK PROJECT MEETING on May 3rd at 11:30 a.m. , right before Sr High Ice Cream and Hike.

FROM THE DEACONS

Please keep in thought & prayer ... Hannah Walker in rehab in Creekview Nursing Home on Beahan Road and John Walker at home ... Gene Fowler, husband of Amy Fowler, Presbyterian of The Presbytery of Genesee Valley, suffering from brain cancer ... Peter Derry ... Gladstone Crosdale ... Prayers for the world during this Covid-19 pandemic. *Congratulations to ...* **Christy & Dick Stewart** on their 48th wedding anniversary.



The Deacons and Rebecca Circle would like to invite you to the Fellowship Hall on **May 3** after worship for extra goodies that will be served during coffee/punch time. We will be serving some extra food items on the first Sunday of the month starting in May through the summer months. This trial period is to see if people enjoy the extra and different selections. Coffee, tea, punch, and cookies will still be offered. Please stop by the table and let us know how you like it!

MUSTARD SEED SCHOLARSHIP: ATTENTION CLASS OF 2020

Information and application packets for the 2020 Mustard Seed Scholarship has been provided to our members of the Class of 2020. As indicated in the application packet, completed submissions are due on April 26th. If we have not returned to regular worship and activities schedules at that time, alternate arrangements will be made for collection of applications. Please contact Sheri MacFarlane by phone (436-1274) with any questions or concerns.



DPNC UPDATE



We are in the process of reviewing Personal Information Forms (PIFs) for candidates who have been vetted by Presbytery. We planned to proceed with scheduling initial interviews in April, but compliance with official guidance and requirements related to COVID-19 may result in delay. Be assured that we are continuing to do our best to balance discernment and expedience as we work on behalf of our GPC family. Your continued prayers and support are much appreciated.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for Children's Sunday on June 7th!! Once church and Sunday school start meeting again, we will be beginning to get ready. Families will receive a letter during April indicating rehearsal dates where the Sunday School classes will work with Mrs. White. One of the highlights of Children's Sunday is always when the children join together in song.

VITAL CONGREGATIONS UPDATE



A second hour presentation was held in March to give further information on the Vital Congregations Initiative. 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. In our present world-wide crisis, this is more important than ever.

The study of the Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation 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.

We began our Seven Marks study March 15th. This was the first week we did not hold church services due to the Covid-19 crisis. An insert for the 1st Vital Sign (Lifelong Discipleship Formation) was included in the bulletin that was e-mailed.

We will continue this weekly for the Seven Vital Signs. Even though we are not meeting together, it is our hope that you will use these inserts in your private devotions to help you grow in your faith and assess how GPC is a unique family of faith.

Until we can once again worship together as the GPC family, may you find peace and strength in the love of the Lord.

Your Vital Congregations Team: John Kubinec, Janice Bilohlavek, Kate Stanford, Janice Beutner

NOTE FROM TRUSTEES: BUILDING LOCKUP DURING WORSHIP

For the past two years, a group of GPC members has been working on a Safety Plan with the Gates Police & the Sheriff’s office to increase the safety of our church. That has resulted in a number of excellent improvements including the renumbering of our building rooms - labeling them inside and outside, updating our first aid kits and providing location signage throughout the church, and updating our wayfinding signage throughout the building to remove names of locations where our children and youth are located. We are also installing a video intercom system at our building exterior access points as well as in a couple of locations within the building. Starting in April, the Trustees will lock all entrances upon the start of Worship on Sundays and will position a Trustee at the main entrance to allow entry for people who are late or otherwise need to enter the building. Other churches have taken this action and both Trustees and Session feel it is a wise step for our church to take. While our primary concern is safety, we will work hard to ensure that GPC remains a welcoming place! If you have any concerns please contact Mary Hadley or Tom Ward.



REBECCA CIRCLE The lunch that was planned for April 13 has been cancelled.

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
<https://my.groupmissiontrips.com/pc/Gates-Presbyterian-Church-Rochester/20PA16/overview/>

Anyone planning on attending the Jr or Sr High Work project should plan on volunteering at the youth food booth during the outdoor craft sale on June 6th.

ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT SENIOR SLIDESHOW - Attention GPC! We have a great group of seniors who are graduating this year and we are looking for any photos you might have to contribute to the slideshow during Senior Recognition on June 7th. Seniors are Rachel Kelly, Aurore Paquin, Zach Henchen, and Ryan Davis. Mary Hadley is graciously volunteering her time to put together the slideshow so please email photos to her at maryahadley@gmail.com by 5/23

GUATEMALA PARTNERS MISSION COMMITTEE

MOTHER’S DAY HANGING BASKET SALE

It’s that time of year again for the very popular Mother’s Day hanging basket flower sale to begin! Here’s the information you need to know:

- Orders need to be in by April 26th, the last day of the sale.
- The plants will be delivered to the church for you to pick up on Tuesday, May 5th after 10 AM.
- This year we are offering the usual – Calibrachoa, Ivy Geraniums, Rosebud Impatiens, New Guinea Impatiens and Petunias. These plants are \$20 each.
- Fuchsias and Reiger Begonias can be ordered for \$25.00 each.
- Individual vegetable plants will be available for your purchase, including tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, etc.

Please ask one of the following committee members for the list of available flats OR to place your order: Tom Ward 585-261-2175 or e-mail at: rtward73@outlook.com
Bev Switzer, or Anne Tonery-DeMars.

Checks should be made out to Gates Presbyterian Church with “Flowers” written in the memo line. Payment is appreciated at time of order, but can also be made at time of pickup. All Proceeds support our mission work in Guatemala.