

GATES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1049 Wegman Road
Rochester, New York 14624-1530



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Gates Presbyterian Church

May 2020
Harbinger

Email: office@gatespres.org

Phone: 585-247-5292

Web: www.gatespres.org

FEAR NOT, for I am
with you.
I AM YOUR GOD.
I will strengthen
you.
I will *help* you.
I will uphold you with
my *righteous*
right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

A note from your Director of Child, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries....

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! A year ago, no one could have guessed we would be in the middle of a pandemic... without a pastor. My hat goes off to every single member of our congregation for the amazing contributions, efforts, and love shown during these last couple months. I have seen amazing contributions from our team concerning the transition to move worship online as well as from the congregation in the form of people donating and collecting food to bolster neighborhood food banks and sewing masks to donate to the medical community. Even more importantly, I have witnessed God's grace in the way our congregation has reached out to each other in word and prayer. Our members have been writing to each other, calling each other, and even delivering groceries or other supplies. I have felt everyone's deep compassion and sympathies for those who have lost loved ones and the continued prayers and support for those who are currently sick or struggling. The unprecedented number of people who are sick or unemployed, struggling with loneliness and isolation, or managing a household full of people with many large emotions is overwhelming. However, I feel God's love reaching out and wrapping around us like a comforting warm blanket. My greatest prayer right now is that those who are struggling feel the love being sent to them in this moment. I encourage you to reach out to a trusted loved one, church member or not, if you need extra support. Every single one of you is so loved.

In Christ,
Jen

*If you have not received a call offering support, it could be that our records do not have your correct information. If you suspect your contact numbers are outdated, please inform Karen at office@gatespres.org. Likewise, my "door is always open" through email at jennifer@gatespres.org.



Trustee Update – GPC Spring Clean-Up

The Coronavirus has necessitated that the GPS Trustees cancel the scheduled Saturday, May 2nd GPS Spring Cleanup Date. The event will now be a "self-serve task list of activities" for which people can volunteer. The activities list is being compiled and will be posted to enable people to sign up for specific tasks.



Giant Community Craft Fair Update

Due to the continuing concerns over the Corona virus pandemic and social distancing restrictions, we have decided to cancel the upcoming Craft Fair scheduled for June 6. Look for us to be back next year. The Church Mouse Bazaar is still being planned for this year and applications are anticipated to be sent out in June. Thank you for your understanding.

~ Larry Wakeman, chairperson

Community Garden Update

"To everything there is a season and a purpose" (Ecclesiastes) and so it is with the Community Garden. It has served its purpose. The Trustees, after consulting with the Property Development Team and Session, have concluded that it is time to remove the garden. It is in need of repair and new soil but there is no money budgeted for its maintenance.

By the time you read this, the garden will have been removed and new seed sown in time for spring showers.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Jim and Sue Poole for their tireless leadership and oversight of the garden these past years. Their hard labor and dedication is very appreciated!

As to the future...perhaps we will, at another time, have another Community Garden. In the meantime, keep a garden in your heart.

Churchview Commons Update

The Property Development Team has met several times in the past month with PathStone's engineering firm on finalizing the site plan, which has been submitted to the Town of Gates Planning Board. On April 27th a ZOOM meeting of the Planning Board was held. We hope to know their decision soon about final plan approval.

From the Hospitality Team

Like every congregation in our country, we are challenged by the circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all learning how to be church in a new way. In order to comply with CDC regulations, in-person public worship at our church is suspended until further notice.

But this does not mean we will stop being a church that worships. Although we are temporarily without a permanent pastor, the search is on. Meanwhile we have a wonderful line-up of guest preachers who will continue to offer inspirational and challenging proclamations of God's word. Join us online each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for a broadcast of worship on the Gates Presbyterian Church website www.gatespres.org. Find Worship Services from the home page and then access the bulletin to follow the service, sermon, scripture readings and read any inserts. Then click on the Gates Presbyterian You Tube Channel link prior to 10:00 a.m. to view the entire service. Services will remain available, so you can view them anytime.

If you have prayer requests that you would like mentioned in the weekly bulletin or included as part of our online worship, please send these to the church office at office@gatespres.org by 9:00 a.m. on Friday mornings.

During this unique time, our worship experience may not be perfect, but we know that God is with us. You may have noticed that the church building is built out of bricks that look a little different. The bricks that make up the exterior walls, as well as the walls of the sanctuary, are called "clinker" bricks. These are basically the bricks that were normally rejected by masons because they were imperfect or defective. These "clinker" bricks represent not only that we as Christians are all unique, as no two bricks are the same, but also that God, as well as the church, accepts and loves us with all our imperfections. This is an imperfect time for all of us, yet God is here for us.

Come, be with us, your church family, in spirit and worship together with us. We know this is a new way and you might not be able to do it the first time. But we want you to try or ask us for help.

The Hospitality Team: Linda Badger Becker, Jan Beutner-Shirtz, Nora Bush, Carol Henchen, Bruce Taylor, Eric Vail and Linda Beattie (585-247-6742, Linda.Btt@gmail.com).



DPNC Update

The committee recently interviewed five candidates, all of whom have gifts that would be blessings to our GPC family. We are in the process of narrowing the field to identify the person that will best lead us forward on God's path for us. Your continued prayers are much appreciated.

Giving for Others

We invite you to continue your regular giving to Gates Presbyterian Church. You can send your contribution in the mail to:

Gates Presbyterian Church, 1049 Wegman Road, Rochester, NY 14624

Electronic Giving If you currently utilize online banking or bill pay, add Gates Presbyterian Church, 1049 Wegman Rd, Rochester, NY 14624 as a vendor and include your pledge as you process your other online payments.

Worship with Us

Please join us online every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for worship. Go to our website at www.gatespres.org. Once there, click on the link on the home page for 'Worship Services', From there you can link directly to our YouTube channel and watch the service for that week. The bulletin, sermon and any inserts are posted there as well.



Office Updates

The GPC website is the best way to stay up to date on church related information. Continue to watch for those email blasts too, as that's the quickest way to get information out to everyone.

If you are NOT currently receiving the weekly "What's Happening at GPC" emails and would like to be added to the distribution list, please email the office.

Email blasts regarding Sunday online worship are being sent to everyone in the congregation. If you are NOT receiving those, please email the office so your email address can be verified in our database.

Zoom Meetings:

Any committee that would like to hold a team meeting via Zoom should email the office. Please provide the date, time, duration and subject of your meeting. Once scheduled, the invitation will be emailed to you. You will be responsible for sharing the invitation with your team members. To minimize confusion and duplication of efforts, the committee leader should be the only one requesting the meeting.

***Our Zoom account does not allow any overlapping of meetings, so some flexibility in times and durations will be required.**

Youth Updates

Class of 2020 Slideshow

Do you have any photos of our graduating seniors? The Class of 2020 has not had the kind of senior year anyone has ever pictured and we want to show them extra love and support with a great senior slideshow for our June 7th service in recognition of these amazing people. Youth graduating are Ryan Davis, Zach Henchen, Rachel Kelly, and Aurore Paquin. Please email photos to Mary Hadley at maryahadley@gmail.com by May 24th to be included in the slideshow.

Summer Work Project Updates

Group Mission Trips has decided to postpone all summer work projects until next year. This means we will not be going to Pittsburgh with the Sr Highs this summer. We ask that families keep the week of July 19th reserved for an alternate work project should restrictions be lifted by that point. Similarly, the Jr High work project is still scheduled for July 13-17. Whatever the situation may be at that point, we will figure out something that we can all get excited for instead!



Youth Group

In case you hadn't heard, youth groups have been meeting regularly on Zoom! We have already met a couple times and it has been wonderful to see people's faces Brady-bunch style. Meeting links for Zoom will continue to be sent on the Remind app. Upcoming youth group dates are May 3rd, May 17th, and May 31st. We will continue to meet every other week while we are social distancing. When social distancing is done, we will schedule a big celebration. Please email jennifer@gatespres.org with any ideas that you might like us to do during our Zoom time!

Young Children's Update

We hope you have been enjoying the Thoughts for Children and Sunday School topics from Miss Lauren during the online worship services. Moving forward, the Thoughts for Children videos will be posted separately so it is easier for families with young children to view the video at their convenience. Miss Lauren will also be posting the occasional fun activity or video link on our "Members of GPC" Facebook page in case you are interested! We are still hoping to have our Midsummer Fun Night during the summer so look for a date for this all-church family picnic once social distancing restrictions have been lifted! We miss you!!

Young Adults

Hi recent graduates and college aged people! We hope you have been enjoying the surprise gifts from your GPC family that may have recently arrived in the mail. We hope you are hanging in there during this strange time. If you did not receive a gift, PLEASE email jennifer@gatespres.org because perhaps we just needed the correct address or your name might have not been on the list for some reason. The goal is to surprise EVERYONE with something silly or fun to spread some joy. You are loved!

From the Deacons

Please keep in thought & prayer...

- JoAnn Vander in Unity with kidney function issues
- Angelika Alvarez dealing with issues from diabetes
- Evie Ortman recovering at the Jewish Home from knee surgery after a fall
- Ruth Fraty recovering at the Jewish Home from ankle surgery after a fall
- Bob Paro's brother recovering from surgery
- Kate Stanford recovering at home from Covid-19
- Lucinda Price in Elm Manor Nursing Home in Canandaigua



Our sympathies to...

- Christy & Dick Stewart on the passing of Christy's mother, Martha, on Easter Sunday. A celebration of Martha's life will be held in Long Lake, New York at a later date

We are so very thankful for prayers lifted, your caring calls, many cards, and other expressions of love on the death of our mother, Martha. We miss her dearly but also celebrate her amazing 98 years. We are comforted by her peaceful passing on Easter morn – so fitting for a faith-filled woman. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for our church family and we ask for God's blessings on all.

~ Christy and Dick Stewart

- Bill & Debbie Dassero on the passing of Bill's mother, Helen, on the morning of Good Friday
- Debbie and I would like to thank all those who reached out in prayers, cards, notes or phone calls to express their condolences, on my mother's passing on Good Friday morning. Your prayers were a continued source of comfort during the time leading up to her passing, and after. Our appreciation is so much greater than can be expressed in this short note. May God bless our GPC family.*
- ~ Bill and Debbie Dassero*

Continued prayers for...

- Peter Derry, Gladstone Crosdale, and Hannah & John Walker
- All who have lost their jobs
- Everyone with Covid-19

Prayers of joy to...

Adria & Joshua Laurore on the birth of their baby girl, Eva Jae Karyn Laurore, on March 22nd. Proud grandparents are Fitzroy & Dorrett Crosdale and great-grandfather Gladstone Crosdale.

Vital Congregation Update

The Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation continues to be included with the weekly bulletin. It is the team's hope that you are downloading the Vital Mark and using it in your weekly devotions. Read the scripture reference, meditate on the mark's descriptor, think about the questions and discuss them with those in your household and family. When we are once more able to gather again as the GPC community, we will have a second hour discussion about the Vital Marks and perhaps run them again in a weekly or bundled format.



Discipleship – Evangelism – Outward Focus – Servant Leaders
Worship – Caring Relationships – Ecclesial Health



Mission

Several monetary contributions have been made to various agencies in the area that are working to keep people in Rochester fed. These include SWEM, FoodLink, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, Cameron Community Ministries, Willow, and Rural and Migrant Ministries. Together with the GPC Guatemala Partners team, funds were sent to The Garden's Edge to fly home some of their representatives who were stranded in Guatemala. In April, we were able to provide a Kentucky Fried Chicken meal to the residents at REACH house in Rochester. (KFC was a request of residents at the REACH house!)



Wall of Food for SWEM

Over 200 pounds of food was delivered two weeks ago to SWEM from this year's collection of non-perishable items. As you can imagine, the demand is very high right now. You can make a personal contribution to the SWEM Food Cupboard by mailing a check to:

SWEM Community Services
350 Chili Avenue, Rochester, NY 14611

We will extend the Lenten Wall of Food for 3-4 weeks after we are able to gather in person again.

Mission, cont'd

St. Joseph's

120 people were fed at St Joseph's grab and go lunch thanks to Al and Mary putting brown bag lunches together. Thank you so much Al and Mary for all that hard work!!!

IBERO Donations (Easter tulip alternative donation)

Tulip orders were converted to IBERO donations in early April. IBERO, like other non-profit agencies, is struggling right now with extra expenses.

Donations are given in memory of or in honor of the following people:

- Ed & Kathy Coons: In memory of our parents
- Jen, Ben, Everett & Freya Olsen: In memory of Parker Hayes Olsen
- Carson & Graham Wohlers: In memory of our GG
- Ann M. Haag: In memory of Al Haag
- Elaine Owlett: In memory of my mom & husband
- Whit Beckett, Christine Cook, Linda Fitzpatrick: In memory of Bonnie Beckett
- Ginny Barley: In honor of loved ones
- Roger Best: In memory of Carol A. Best
- Bill & Janice Beutner-Shirtz: In honor of five fabulous girls - Addie, Ella, Gillian, Olivia, Katie
- Ginny & Paul Wheeler: In honor of our wonderful grandchildren
- The Adams Family: In memory of Shirley & Joe McGavern
- Steve & Aileen Szatynski: In memory of Edward Sklair
- Whit Beckett, Christine Cook, Linda Fitzpatrick: In memory of Melody Kelly
- Molina Family: In honor of Carol, Bill & David Balsley; Jen Olsen & Family
- Molina Family: In memory of Arlene & Dave Plummer
- Tess & Alex McKeel: In memory of George Bilohlavek & Connor McKeel
- Sally & Steve Christensen: In honor of our family
- Sally & Steve Christensen: In memory of loved ones
- Bruce & Cheryl Taylor: Our fabulous grandchildren Makenna, Nathan, Emmy & Everett
- James & Linda Allen: In memory of Earl Isaac Allen (born & died April 22, 1970)
- Jim & Sue Poole: In memory of Our parents, Russ & Mae Poole and George & Jean Walbert

