

GATES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1049 Wegman Road
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gates Presbyterian Church

September 2020
Harbinger

Email: office@gatespres.org

Phone: 585-247-5292

Web: www.gatespres.org



Deepen Faith



Build Community



Begin Anew

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.

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.

GPC Sign-in Log

Even though the church building remains closed, we are aware that there are people in the building from time to time for necessary business.

The Re-Opening Task Force is requesting that if and when you enter the building, you sign-in on the log sheet that will be located at the main entrance.

This information will allow us to sanitize areas where needed.



October Harbinger articles are due in the office by Wednesday, September 16th.

Save the Date! Parking Lot Parade – October 4

Join your community in a drive by embodiment of our connectional church with brief pauses for mission, prayer and children/youth ministry. Stay tuned for details.



From Rev. Laura Bachmann

Six months ago, I did not imagine I would be sitting here writing to you about plans for our new program year and pondering how to build community, deepen faith, and pursue ministry outside our walls, all without coming face to face with one another. As we enter our sixth month of this strange pandemic existence, I know we all long for a return to the days when we could gather in person, offering hugs and high fives and sharing physical space without a second thought. Sadly, we cannot yet do these things without putting people at risk, and so we face the challenge instead of finding a new way forward through this wilderness time. As I was reminded this week during our national gathering of churches in the Vital Congregations Initiative, this is no new experience for God's faithful. The people of Israel spent a great deal of time wandering in the wilderness. There they encountered a world of contrasts – deprivation and God's provision, chaos and creativity, exhaustion and enthusiasm, failure and resilience. Perhaps you, too, can relate to these feelings. I know that I can. This time in the wilderness can seem endless, we may at first be overjoyed with the gift of manna provided by our God, only to find ourselves, a few months later, grumbling about the lack of diversity in nourishment and demanding God provide something different. This is the rhythm of faith – to lean on God as we wander in the wilderness and to rage at God when the going gets tough. While it may seem we are meandering without purpose, God can use this time to form us into a new, richer, more resilient community. We can embrace the wild unknown with curiosity, seeking God's new manifestations and trusting one another as we feel our way forward in an unfamiliar landscape.

On September 13th, we will celebrate our return to the program year. While the rhythms and gatherings will be different this time around, we can still celebrate the opportunity to begin anew. Bible study will be starting up again. Our choir will be finding its new role in worship. Our children and youth will be invited into a new way to learn and grow in their faith and engage in fellowship from afar. We will be transitioning to livestreaming our services this fall, allowing us to film worship in our sanctuary. And the work of the church will go on. We will gather food and other donations for our neighbors who live with poverty. We will work with our PathStone partners to pave the way for the new housing for our neighbors who live with homelessness. We will continue to call one another, to pray for one another, to meet in cyberspace as we seek to keep loneliness at bay and nurture relationships that matter.

This wilderness we wander may feel deeply unsatisfying at times but it has already given birth to new skills as we launched our virtual worship; it has revealed new strengths as our members came together to do the work of the church in innovative ways; it has resulted in bold steps to embrace change we might have avoided without the push of the pandemic. The wilderness may indeed be an environment beyond our control, but it is also a place outside of "normal" community where miracles can happen, manna can be provided, a new path can be forged, and a community can grow in resilience and faith. Welcome to our wilderness. Let's embrace the wandering path together.

Attention GPC Ladies!

Unfortunately, the women's retreat that was scheduled for Saturday, October 17th at the Assisi Institute had to be cancelled but the committee will come up with something for us to get together in the future virtually. If you have any creative ideas, please email Barb Snaith at basnaith@frontiernet.net or call at 585-727-4246. Thank you!!



Weekly Fellowship Hour

Join the weekly fellowship hour every Sunday right after online worship ends. The Zoom connection information is included in the "Worship with us Online" email that goes out on Saturday mornings and in the weekly "What's Happening at GPC" email that goes out on Monday mornings. If you aren't receiving either of these emails, please contact the office to make sure we have your correct email address.

ROCSALT Presentation September 27th after worship

Join our very own Keith Hadley September 27th at 11:00 am for a presentation on ROCSALT. Learn about this great Presbytery mission within our own Riverside Neighborhood. Learn about what they do and how they have responded to the COVID crisis. Use this Zoom link to join (*add Zoom link*).



From the Mission Team

The GPC Mission Team is making colorful social justice lawn signs available to our members. The team has selected two signs from which to choose. There is no cost to you, but if you request a sign you are making a commitment to display it! Contact Sally Christensen at 585-703-6238 or Tom Ward (585-261-2175) to place your order. They will also be available at the Parking Lot Parade on October 4th. Signs can be seen in color in the online version of the Harbinger.



From the Deacons



Please keep in thought & prayer...

- **Eric Paquin** dealing with a serious health issue
- **JoAnn Vander** dealing with several health issues in Unity Hospital
- **Angelika Alvarez** dealing with several health issues
- **Colton Crane** recovered from an auto accident from earlier this summer
- **Ken Gillman's** wife battling cancer. Ken has been GPC's outside IT person for many years
- **Debbie Incardona** in hospital earlier this summer with health issues
- **Jeannie Bauman** recovering from a fall
- **Sandra Ehman** in rehab after hospitalization
- **Laura Nolan** recovering from an illness

Continued prayers for...Elaine Owlett, Pearl Plummer, Gene & Amy Fowler, Peter Derry, Gladstone Crosdale & Jean Sklair

Our sympathy to...

- **Bob Reynolds & family** on the death of his wife, Joan, this summer
- **Vicki Gutheil & family** on the recent death of her mother
- **Sheri MacFarlane** on the recent passing of her Aunt & Uncle

Prayers of joy to ...

Dan Otto & Olivia Clark on the birth of their son, **Rhett Alexander** on July 13th. Rhett weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz.; 21 inches long. **Chris Arcara** is the proud grandmother, **Ed & Evie Ortman** the proud great-grandparents, and **Ruth Fraty** the proud great-great aunt.

Memorial Garden Bricks

Here is another chance for you to purchase a brick for the Memorial Garden walkway in memory or honor of a loved one. You can order one at any time by filling out the form and enclosing a check or cash in the amount of \$100. It is more efficient and cost effective to do more than one at a time so we are asking that you get your request in to the office or Janice Bilohlavek, 27 Kingsford Lane, Spencerport, NY 14559, by Sept 20th so that they can be engraved and placed while the weather permits. There has been an inquiry regarding a placing ceremony that is under discussion so if that is something you would like please include a note in your request.

A note to my GPC Family from Jen

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." -Colossians 3:12-13

As I struggle with my feelings about all of the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, these verses from Colossians speak to my heart. I know we have been frustrated and we all wish we could return to in person gatherings. I know that everyone has different risk tolerances and making plans with loved ones, both family and friends, can be almost impossible to navigate without having difficult feelings. As we continue to move forward into this exciting new chapter of our church with Pastor Laura Bachmann at the helm, I feel it is especially important that I share my current feelings and reflections. Let us love each other extravagantly, continue to be patient while we search for answers in an ever-changing situation, and forgive each other when faced with answers that are not to our liking. I have been so impressed with the continued efforts of both our staff and numerous volunteers in this marathon. Although my role has mainly been focused on children and youth, I hope the entire congregation can feel the love and encouragement I am sending out through these words. I think of all of you often and pray that you are finding ways to incorporate wellness into your lives whether it is through prayer, meditation, time spent in nature or in solitude. In closing, I will offer another of my favorites from **Numbers 6:24-26**: *"The Lord bless you, and keep you: The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."*

Attention Families with Children and Youth

Sunday School will be remote for the first half of the school year! We are currently working on ideas for how best to remain connected while physically apart, such as the new "GPC Faith Together at Home" Facebook group. Stay tuned as there will be ways for you to participate in the worship service on Sunday, September 13th when we reflect on the ways we are thankful! Our usual "Kick-off Sunday" will be delayed a bit this year in response to the later school openings and we look forward to starting our programming on Sunday, October 4th.



FAITH@HOME

Church + Home, growing in faith together

Youth Group News

Hello to our awesome 7th-12th graders! While we have not been approved to meet in person yet, take heart, your amazing advisors are back and ready to do youth group again... pandemic style... Our program year will begin on October 4th to give you a little extra time this year to get used to your new school routines. Please contact jennifer@gatespres.org if you would like to join in some brainstorming and planning meetings during September.



Confirmation Class

We invite those in 8th and 9th grade to take part in our confirmation class this year. Discussions are in the works for when and how this will take place and we hope to have more answers for you next month. Thank you all for your patience!



Cancellation of the 2020 Church Mouse Bazaar due to the pandemic

We have very carefully reviewed the current New York State COVID-19 reopening guidelines as well as the CDC Readiness and Planning Tool for Events and Gatherings as they apply to this year's Church Mouse Bazaar.

Due to the degree of health risk, the complexity of the reopening requirements, and the shortage of sufficiently trained staff, we have come to the sad conclusion that we will not be able to hold the bazaar this year. We did not make this decision lightly.

The seventy-six crafters that have already signed up will have their fees returned along with a letter explaining our decision and offering hope for next year's bazaar.

We realize that the church will lose out on a major fund raiser for the youth group as well as church operations. Until there is an end to this pandemic, we believe that this decision is in the best interests of our church and local communities.

Our thanks to all the people that volunteered to help with the bazaar this year, we hope that you will keep us in mind for next year.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,
Larry and Kathy Wakeman, Church Mouse Bazaar co-chairs



ATTENTION MEMBERS...We Need You in the GPC B-I-G Picture

You may have noticed that our pictorial directory is out of date. The latest one is dated 2012! We are in the process of creating a new form of the GPC pictorial directory called THE B-I-G PICTURE. This will be on a password protected part of the GPC website, accessible to church members, pastor and staff. If you do not have a computer or web access, we have made provisions for you, too. We think that modern technology will allow us to get up to date without the huge effort past directories have taken. We are asking each member to submit a photo of yourself to Karen at the church office (office@gatespres.org). There are suggestions below on the best way to format your picture, but none of that is critical, it's only important that we get your picture.

We will simply attach each picture to the member's file in the existing church member database. The database is available in the office for the pastor, staff, and church people that have a need. THE B-I-G PICTURE will be at <https://gatespres.org/>

The old pictorial directory contained addresses and phone numbers, also, and made it handy to contact someone. In this era, we would also like to add an email address and cell phone number. For THE B-I-G PICTURE please provide these four details, if you want to share them with the select group, some of which are already in the database. If members under the age of 18 want to have their picture included with their information, they must have parental approval. Please contact the office for the photo permission form for members under 18.

It's important to note that, if this goes forward as planned, THE B-I-G PICTURE will be a directory of GPC members, pastor and staff and limited to them. Contact information such as your name, address, phone number (home & cell) and email address will be included. The following suggestions will provide the best picture for the directory, but remember, just submit a picture and we can deal with any of the details as necessary.

- Horizontal format is best ("landscape" mode). Vertical ("portrait") works fine but would probably end up with black bars on the sides.
- If you're given a choice of resolution either when taking or when sending, less than 1 MB is best. But if yours is over that, we have the ability to reduce it for the database. Also, even low resolution is not a problem, we just want people to recognize your face!

If you do not have the technology to take (or send) a picture, please call Whit Beckett at 585-247-2155 (leave a message if he doesn't answer) and someone will contact you and make arrangements to take your picture and submit it.

Thank you to those that have already sent in your picture!



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