

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



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Gates Presbyterian Church

January 2021

Harbinger

Email: office@gatespres.org

Phone: 585-247-5292

Web: www.gatespres.org



Directory of Church Boards – 2021

- ❖ The Session's Ruling Elders who will serve us in ministry and governance are:
Linda Beattie, Jan Beutner-Shirtz, Christine Cook, Carrie Dykes, Keith Hadley, Carol Henchen, Lauren Henderberg, Sheri MacFarlane, Cam Mossgraber, Ben Olsen, Janice Phillips, Linda Sidore, Ann Marie Simm, and Larry Wakeman.
- ❖ The Deacons who will serve us in ministry and care are:
Nora Bush, Jan Brewer, Sally Christensen, Cathy Goodykoontz, Kay Harder, Tess McKeel, Keith Morgan, Simon Njumbwa, Barbara Snaith, Bill Shirtz, Paula Sousa and Irene Ward.
- ❖ The Trustees who will serve us in ministry and management are:
Roger Best, Ed Coons, Gary Dykes, Vicki Gutheil, Mary Hadley, Marty Ohman, Jason Taylor, Tom Ward, Dennis White and Carson Wohlers (youth).

Stay tuned for details on Ordination & Installation sometime in January.

Thank you to our Elders, Trustees & Deacons who are rotating off their respective boards. We appreciate your service to GPC!

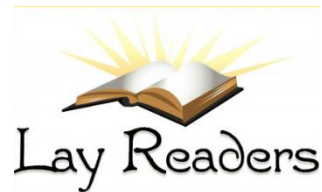
Elders: Kate Stanford, Beth Molina, Zach Henchen

Trustees: Bob Binko, Zach Davis

Deacons: Velta Rouchon, Julie Seide, Osmond Simm

Office Notes

- ❖ **February Harbinger** articles are due by **Wednesday, January 20.**
- ❖ The church office will be closed from Thursday, December 24th through Monday, January 4
- ❖ If you missed any of the devotional videos that were emailed, you can access them on the GPC website under Giving > Stewardship



Liturgist Schedule for January

January 3: Lauren Henderberg

January 10: Graham Wohlers

January 17: Tom Ward

January 24: Sally Christensen

January 31: Carson Wohlers

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.

From Rev. Laura Bachmann

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1Corinthians 12:12-13)

This month, we will usher in the new year by celebrating the Baptism of our Lord and renewing our own baptismal vows, reminding ourselves of Jesus' invitation to dwell in him as he dwells in us, joining together as one body with many members, each of us baptized into the one Spirit and grafted into Christ, each of us gifted with exactly the skills and abilities and perspectives needed to build God's kingdom here on earth. Thinking about renewing our commitment to becoming Christ's body in the world brings me hope, fills me with anticipation for the work and the fellowship to come, and energizes me to remain steadfast even as the world spins off its track and we wonder how much more we will be asked to face. The great hope of the tiny baby we welcomed at Christmas lies in his great gift and invitation to us – a gift of grace and salvation, forgiveness and fellowship, joy and peace, and an invitation to partner with God in God's salvation work in the world.

As we step out into a new year which we hope will end far differently than it has begun, to renew our baptism is to accept God's invitation to live into the hope it symbolizes. It is to trust in the coming of a new creation, even when we cannot see it. It is to rely on the presence of the Holy One in every circumstance and challenge we find before us. Even as we revisit the waters of our baptism – waters that remind us of the life-giving waters of the creation, the turbulent waves of the flood, the rushing streams of righteousness, and the revealing plunge of Jesus' baptism – we receive the water of new life Jesus promises all those who love him. We do not have to do anything to receive this gift. We do not have to "be" anything to receive this gift. We do not earn it, or buy it, or steal it. It is already ours. Jesus has given it to us, a present to make us whole, to bring us new life, to encourage our wandering feet to return to the path.

Our challenge this year, is to live into our baptisms together. As we ordain and install our new elders, deacons and trustees, we begin the concrete work of listening for God's call to us in this particular time and place. Where are we to focus our energy? What matters most and what can we set aside? Where are we each called to contribute to the slow work of God? As we enter the new year, God invites us to imagine with God what GPC can become. I welcome your prayers and your insights, your vision and discernment. Let us plunge together into the waters of our baptism, soaking in God's Spirit and awaiting with anticipation the new life that is sure to follow.

Grace and peace,
Laura

From the Deacons

Please keep in thought & prayer...

- **JoAnn Vander** now living at Elderwood Assisted Living in Brockport. Contact church office for her address
- **Buz Bauman** now home after a hospital stay
- **Andrea Unson's mom**, Marya Hinchey, having health issues
- **Gretchen Greene** undergoing major surgery
- **Brian, Debbie, and Jeff Weber** doing well after being ill with Covid-19
- **Babe Meyer** has moved to Seabury Woods. Please send cards to Sheree Barrett. Contact church office for her address.
- **Paulette Morgan** diagnosed with Covid-19.



Continued prayers for **Eric Paquin, Pearl Plummer, Peter & Irene Derry, Angelika Alvarez and Marilyn Kaiser**

Our sympathy to ...

- **Bill and Debbie Dassero** on the sudden death of Bill's cousin Cathi's husband
- **Dorrett & Fitzroy Crosdale and family** on the death of Dorrett's niece Samaya on November 30
- **Paulette & Keith Morgan** on the death of Paulette's mother, Eloween Jensen on December 8

A Note from the Deacons ...



A Note from the Deacons.... In December, the Deacons worked with the GPC Office to send e-mails containing our shut-ins' names and addresses to the congregation so that Christmas cards could be sent to our shut-ins. Our shut-ins really look forward to receiving cards from the congregation! The Deacons thank everyone for their participation in this special card ministry.

The Deacons continue to communicate with our wonderful shut-ins. Jan Brewer sends Thinking of You cards monthly and Kay Harder sends Sympathy, Get Well, and Congratulations cards. Deacons also stay in touch with shut-ins by phone. Irene Ward coordinates meals where needed.

The Deacons met via Zoom on December 8 to thank our outgoing Deacons for all their support, Osmond Simm, Julie Seide and Velta Rouchon. In addition, they welcomed 3 new Deacons, Paula Sousa, Sally Christensen and Keith Morgan, to assist with our ministry beginning in January 2021. New Year's Blessings to everyone from the Deacons!



Bible Study

Bible Study will begin again on January 6, as we continue our study of mark 2 of the Vital Congregations Initiative: Intentional Authentic Evangelism. Don't be scared off by the "E" word - it's all about sharing the good news of God's love for all creation. Come join us for a rich time of fellowship and study.

Every Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Join via Zoom: [Bible Study](#)

Meeting ID: 859 6516 3645

Passcode: 488716

One tap mobile: +19292056099,85965163645# US (NY)

January 6: Mark 4:1-20

January 13: Peter 3:13-22

January 20: Matthew 4:19-20

January 27: Psalm 96



The B-I-G PICTURE is now the GPC Membership Directory

The GPC photo directory of our church members has made the transition to our website at www.gatespres.org. Look for it under the heading "About Us" and find the page titled "GPC Membership Directory". If you are a GPC member and have submitted your photo to the directory, you should have received the password by email for this secure page. Now you are able to see photos and contact information for many members at any time. The directory will continue to grow as more members submit their photos and information.

Reminder: Simply email any digital photo of yourself (such as a selfie from your phone) to office@gatespres.org. If you don't have the capability of taking it yourself, please call Whit Beckett at 585-247-2155 (leave a message if he doesn't answer) and he will make arrangements to get your picture.
~ the Hospitality Ministry Team



CHASING JESUS

A Gates Presbyterian Church Women's Virtual Retreat

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, January 16, 2021

Ladies! Put on your craziest fun shirt and join us for a Zoom Retreat to learn about yourself, share your thoughts about your Jesus and great fellowship with your lady friends of Gates Presbyterian Church.

If you could rsvp to Barb Snaith via basnaith@frontiernet.net OR call my cell at 585-727-4246 by Friday, January 8, 2021 if you plan to participate or have any questions.

Greetings from Jen

Happy New Year! I am incredibly grateful we have moved on into 2021 and I am optimistic that at some point this year we will be able to gather in person with fewer concerns about Covid-19. Until that point, we will continue with our social distancing protocols to ensure everyone's safety. I hope the Sunday School lessons and occasional youth group (distanced/zoom) events have added a little sunshine and depth to your lives. While I continue to brainstorm ways for us to be the living body of Christ together, I invite feedback from all of our families. I would love to support you more during this challenging time! While we will take a break from Zoom events during January (other than Confirmation class) to combat Zoom fatigue, I am quite hopeful that we may be able to have a sledding party in February. Stay tuned!

Sending love and strength to all, Jen

Confirmation Class

We look forward to continuing on our Amazing Faith Journey together! Upcoming dates are all on Zoom from 2-3:30.

January 17: Bible 101

February 21: Presbyterian Polity

March 21: Faith in the World

April 18: Worship and Sacraments, Worship Planning

Tuesday, April 20: Meet with Session at 7:00 p.m.

May 16: Confirmation Sunday!



Vital Congregations Initiative: Discerning our next steps

Please join us during our Zoom fellowship hour after worship on January 24th so our VCI team can hear your feedback about our participation in the Vital Congregations Initiative thus far. We are in the process of discerning our next steps and hearing your voices will help guide us in the right direction for GPC.

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.

Mission Updates

A Huge **Thank you**....

- The first (and hopefully last) Virtual Advent Fair was a success thanks to the effort by Sally and Steve Christensen
- SWEM was overjoyed to receive 75 Christmas dinners from GPC. We had committed to 60 meals, so they were able to contact families on their waiting list and offer them the gift of a wonderful holiday meal. Thank you to everyone who provided the festively decorated meal boxes and bags.
- A special thank you to the devoted Monday morning crew for making sandwiches for St. Joseph's. In December we provided an extra lunch in addition to the regularly scheduled Saturday lunch.
- 512 pounds of food was delivered from our last collection to SWEM.
- Household and personal items were delivered to Cameron Street



Thank you to everyone who helps make these outreach efforts such amazing successes.

New ongoing events-

We are now signed up to do food box deliveries for ROCSalt on the second Saturday of each month. If you are interested in helping please contact Tom Ward at 261-2171 or by email at rtward73@outlook.com.

New Opportunity for Showing Your Care for GPC

GPC is so much more than a bricks and mortar building where we meet to worship. It's where our youth grow in Christian fellowship and our teenies and tinnies learn of God's love. It's where we open our doors to people struggling with addiction. It's where we collect things for people who need things like food, clothing, toiletries, school supplies. It's where we learn, study scripture, sing, pray, and hug...well, we will again soon!

This building we call our church home needs care and maintenance. Over the next several years we face roof, parking lot, and plumbing repairs. Session has approved the establishment of a capital improvements campaign to meet this need and you will be hearing more about that in the coming months as the 2021 budget is finalized.

