

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



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Gates Presbyterian Church

March 2021

Harbinger

Email: office@gatespres.org

Phone: 585-247-5292

Web: www.gatespres.org



Holy Week

Office Notes

- ❖ **April Harbinger** articles are due by **Wednesday, March 17**.
- ❖ Notes & announcements for the weekly email blasts need to be to the office by Thursday each week.

Daylight Saving Time - Sunday, March 14

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour

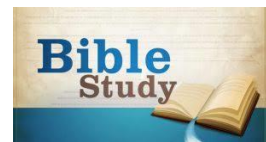


Service Schedule

- Palm Sunday: March 28, 10:00 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday: April 1, 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday: April 2, 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday: April 4, 10:00 a.m.

Liturgist Schedule for March

- March 7: Jan Beutner-Shirtz
- March 14: Whit Beckett
- March 21: Andrea Unson
- March 28: Evelyn Henderberg



Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

All throughout March, Bible Study will be focused around the Lent of Liberation book by Cheri L. Mills.

Join via Zoom: [Bible Study](#)
Meeting ID: 859 6516 3645
Passcode: 488716
One tap mobile:
+19292056099,85965163645# US (NY)

Week 2 (March 3) - Days 5-10
Week 3 (March 10) - Days 11 -16
Week 4 (March 17) - Days 17 - 22
Week 5 (March 24) - Days 23 - 28
Week 6 (March 31) - Days 29 - 40

From Rev. Laura Bachmann

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice! Psalm 95:7

As the people of God's pasture, how comforting it can be to listen to God's voice – the voice that will lead us to the good, green grass when we hunger; to the cool, clear water when we thirst, and to the spaces of safety when we encounter danger. This year, in the midst of the chaos of a disordered life, we are focusing on a Lent of Listening. A time to notice how God listens deeply to our lives. A time to practice the art of listening deeply to others. A time to invest in listening deeply to God.

We hear so much about the art of listening these days. How to listen without spending all our time planning what we will say next. How to listen without judgment instead of arguing in our heads with what is being expressed. How to listen with curiosity when all we want to do is attack or defend. To listen with our whole selves is to give the speaker the gift of an active presence, fully focused on their words, attending to the nuances of body language and tone, watching what the eyes and the hands say. When I taught preschool, we used to tell our children that they could listen with their whole bodies. How wonderful it was to watch them squirm into place, their small legs and torsos wiggling with excitement, their expectant faces turned toward the speaker. So often, at these times, when another child was speaking and expressed sadness or fear or upset, the listeners gathered around would respond with compassion and love and a ready hug. As I picture them today, I wonder, what would happen if we continued to listen to each other like that? What would happen if we truly believed that God listens to us in the same way? What would happen if we listened to the deepest parts of our souls with a whole body's worth of attention? Can you imagine the good God could do with that?

As we continue to prepare for the time when we can once again leave our cocoons and venture into the wider world, why not lay some groundwork for change by listening to God, to one another, to ourselves? Let us do the counter-cultural thing and, instead of continuing to fight with the "others" we encounter in the political, personal, work or faith realms, let us commit to listening in order to understand, to gain compassion, to receive insight. In a world where listening has largely disappeared, let us challenge ourselves to talk less and listen more; to create space for the voices that so often remain unheard; to tune our ears to God's listening presence in our lives; to seek the answering response of our hearts when we hear God's voice. Let us listen with our whole bodies and ask God to show us how to answer with our whole lives.

Grace and peace,
Laura

From the Deacons

Please keep in thought & prayer...

- **Buz Bauman** now recovering at home after gall bladder surgery in early February.
- **Lauren Henderberg** now recovering at home after surgery in early February.
- **Anne Tonery-DeMars** recovering at home from surgery.
- **Don Chapin** recovering from an injury.



Continued prayers for **Eric Paquin, Don & Pearl Plummer, Peter & Irene Derry, Angelika Alvarez, Debbie Schnabel,** and **Sonia Davis.**

Our sympathy to ...

- **Janice Bilohlavek and family** on the recent death of her sister-in law.

We are pleased to let you know ...

- **Pearl Plummer** has been moved back to her home. Please call the church office for her address.
- **Ann Marie Simm and her family** have recovered from COVID.
- **Roy Smith's grandfather** is recovering nicely from COVID.
- **The Millington family** is recovering nicely from COVID.

From Ann Marie Simm

Thank you for your cards, prayers and support during my recent illness with COVID. I have recovered and Lisa and kids are doing well. Blessings to all.

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.

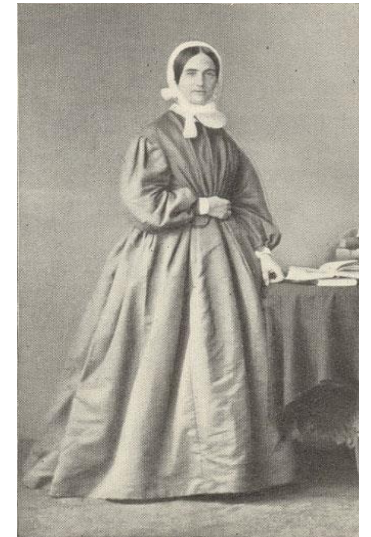
Greetings from the Deacons/Deaconess!!

Did you know....

The ministry of a **Deaconess** is, in modern times, a non-ordained ministry for women in some [Protestant](#) churches to provide [pastoral care](#), especially for other women. The term is also applied to some women deacons in the early church. The word comes from a Greek word, *diakonos* (διάκονος), for "[deacon](#)", which means a servant or helper and occurs frequently in the Christian [New Testament](#) of the Bible. Deaconesses trace their roots from the time of [Jesus Christ](#) through to the 13th century in the West.

(Elizabeth Catherine Ferard,
First deaconess of the Church of England)

Thank you to Jan Brewer for continuing to send Thinking of You cards; Kay Harder continues to send Sympathy, Get Well, and Congratulations cards. When needed for our members, meals are coordinated by Irene Ward. Thanks in advance to Cathy Goodykoontz, Tess McKeel, and Paula Sousa who will be representing the Deacons at the February 27th online church service reading from Psalms. Please stay warm and safe in these cold days!!! AND of course, Blessings to All from the Deacons!



Donations needed for St Joseph's bag lunches

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| • Loaves of bread | • Tuna | • Mayonnaise |
| • Small, individual bags of chips | • Cookies (individually packaged or homemade) | • Any type of fruit (whole or fruit cups, or small yogurt) |
| • Granola bars | • Napkins | • Bottled water |
| • Large size brown paper bags | | |

We pack 70 lunches per week so feel free to mix up your donations. Items can be dropped off at Tracy's house at 1082 Westside Drive. There will be a bin on the built-in bench next to the garage. Feel free to contact me (tburkovich@yahoo.com) if you would like to volunteer as well on Monday's beginning at 9:30am. This is an ongoing mission so there is no deadline for when items are needed. We have an ongoing inventory in the church kitchen.

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 **\$35.14** 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 **\$35.14** per member, please consider doing so. You can use your Per Capita pledge envelope or use the envelope provided with this Harbinger and bring it to the parking lot parade on March 28. You can also mail your check to the church anytime with your offering.

Lent of Listening Devotionals

The Generosity Team is soliciting video devotionals to be available during Lent. Please prayerfully consider making a video devotional. It does not have to be long or complicated, just say what is in your heart as you reflect and prepare for the celebration of Easter. The general theme is "listening", however, if you would like to talk about something else, feel free. Please let Larry Wakeman know if you would like to participate. Your videos should be submitted to Karen at the office so that they can be put up on the church web site. We need them right away since Lent started on February 17.

Thank you for your gift of time, Larry Wakeman 247-3296 or lwakeman258@yahoo.com

From the Trustees

This is your big chance - the lawn mowing team here at GPC is in need of a few new members to help maintain our yard. We now have a zero-turn lawn mower which makes cutting grass seem like an amusement park ride! Training is provided. If you are interested, call/email Dennis White at 247-8532, sh19572012@gmail.com. Act now, even though there is lots of snow on the ground, the schedule will be published during the second week of March!



A note from the Hospitality Team

Our 2021 team: Christine Arcara, Linda Beattie, Linda Badger Becker, Whit Beckett, Nora Bush, Carol Hennen, Bruce Taylor, and our Parking Lot Valet coordinator Eric Vail.



Our goal is to continue to find ways to create a more welcoming, hospitable environment where all people can find God in community with the Gates Presbyterian Church family. During the pandemic, we have focused our energies on updating the website and adding new pictures. Watch for continued changes and new pictures!

We have helped with car pool parades and posted signs in the lawn in front of the church to invite the community to check out our service on Sunday.

We also have helped with the GPC Members Directory. Thanks to all who have submitted their pictures and information! If you have not yet, it's not too late! Send a picture and your information to Karen at office@gatespres.org.

Mission

Thank you all for your commitment to serving our community. We have been receiving many thank you notes from many of the organizations that we are supporting in this time of need. SWEM food collection on February 27th went very well. Personal hygiene products were delivered to ROCSalt. They were extremely grateful!!



Save the Dates - Ongoing Mission Opportunities:

- Our next food drive will be on Saturday, March 27th AND on Sunday, March 28th at the next parking lot parade. **Along with non-perishable food items, we will be collecting personal hygiene products that will be delivered to SWEM and RocSalt.** Can't make it on Saturday? There will be a bin for SWEM items by the main entrance to the church. Call Sally Christensen (703-6238) with questions.
- 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.
- All are welcome to attend Mission meetings. The next meeting will be held on March 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Contact Sally Christensen at 703-6238 for zoom meeting information

The Mission Team has become aware of a family on Buffalo Road that has suffered a family tragedy and has many challenges to overcome. We have been able to coordinate food deliveries through SWEM and the South Wedge Food Pantry. They are looking for a used car (theirs was totaled), a ranch rental home in Monroe County, and assistance with snow plowing at their current home on Buffalo Road. If you can offer information on any of the above, please contact Sally Christensen (703-6238). Thank you.

GPC Programming for Children and Youth, 2021

Hello to all our parents, children, youth, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and anyone else interested in our offerings for Children and Youth during the Spring semester of 2021! Our Youth and Young Children's Committee did some brainstorming and we are hopeful that the following schedule may offer something for everyone. Beyond the listed events, please know that we would LOVE for volunteers interested in contributing to our worship services, to do so in any capacity. Contact jennifer@gatespres.org if you would like more information.

Youth Group:

March 7, 6-8 p.m. Bob Ross- directed drawing; pick up supplies in church parking lot (or arrange for a drop off from Jen) and we will do this together on Zoom

March 21, 3-4 p.m. (different time due to Confirmation Class) Cake and conversation; youth will receive a mug cake (either in mail or drop off from Jen) and we will talk about joys and concerns while eating cake on Zoom

April 11, 6-8 p.m. Popcorn/fav snacks and a movie; get your favorite snacks ready and we will have a watch party!

April 25, 6-8 p.m. Presents and presence; youth will receive a present in the mail and we will open them all together on zoom then do a mindfulness activity

May 2, 6-8 p.m. Harry Potter and the Bible on Zoom-For one night only: Dress up in your coolest HP clothes and we will discover some parallels between HP and the Bible/Christianity

May 23, 2-4 p.m. Pool Noodle Tag (and sidewalk chalk, bubbles) or Bingo on Zoom (with prizes!) if needed due to COVID or weather

June 6, 6-8 p.m. Cookie Cake and Year End Celebration; graduating seniors will receive gifts **For our graduating seniors!** Jen will coordinate a time with our seniors for them to come to the church masked to paint their bricks in the Senior High Lounge. If there is interest, we will have a separate catch up where food will be sent to each senior through Doordash or Grubhub and we "share" a meal on zoom.

Families of GPC:

Invitation to all children and youth of GPC! We will be making a video with kids "passing" an object from one to another (in individual video clips); more information will be provided in March.

For any age on **March 28, 2-3 p.m.** Easter Crafts and Conversation- for any age- pick up supplies in parking lot and do on zoom later; RSVP to Jen to receive Zoom link

Elementary age children 1st-3rd and 4th-6th grade on **May 23, 11 a.m.** Peace circle on Zoom following prompt from the leader; RSVP to Jen to receive Zoom link

June 6: Children's Sunday- Jen will be in touch with all families to coordinate participation in the worship service

Confirmation Class (entirely on Zoom):

Sunday, March 21st, 12:30-2 p.m. Faith in the World

Sunday, April 18th, 12:30-2 p.m. Worship and Sacraments & Worship Planning

Tuesday, April 20th, 7 p.m. Meet with Session

Sunday, May 16th is Confirmation Sunday where our class will lead worship!

Welcome New (Returning) Members



Jill Corey

I lived in Chili for about 20 years and attended GPC during that time. As a single working mom, Gates Pres was a very important part of my son Shawn's and my life. He was involved with the youth group and still maintains friendships with the kids in his group. In 2001 I met my now husband Bernie Deckman and we attended Gates Pres until we moved to Seneca Lake in 2005. Since that time we have been spending winters in Venice Florida and summers on the lake. In June of 2020 we moved back to Rochester and are now residing in Penfield at Allens Creek Valley. We are delighted to be back at Gates Pres with good friends and look forward to becoming involved with the church again.

Bernie Deckman

Hello, my name is Bernie Deckman, and I am happy to be back with the GPC community. I grew up in Rochester in the 19th ward, graduated from McQuaid High School, St John Fisher College, and worked at Deckman Oil in Honeoye Falls with my brother Buzz. Jill and I met through mutual friends in 2001 and she introduced me to the GPC community. I found it to be an active and welcoming place of worship, and very much enjoyed our fellowship there. Jill and I married in 2004 and together we have 5 children and 10 grandchildren. After 40 years I retired, then Jill and I moved to Seneca Lake where we enjoyed our summers for 14 years. We spend our winters in Venice Florida. We recently moved our summer residence back to Rochester and are looking forward to returning to our GPC family. I have been a member of the Venice Lions Club for 12 years. I enjoy doing odd jobs around the house and being with family.

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering - Sunday, April 4

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

What exactly are the Special Offerings?

The four Special Offerings of the PC(USA) are celebrations of specific ways God has been made known to us. Each is connected to a season of the church year and mandated by the General Assembly to help the whole Church join together in response to God's grace. They represent the largest, collective way Presbyterians come together to work for a better world. The offerings actively engage congregations in ministries of compassion, justice, hunger, Christian formation, education, peacemaking and global witness.

One Great Hour of Sharing – presbyterianmission.org/oghs

- Received during the season of Lent
- 100% is sent to Presbyterian Mission Agency - 36% for Presbyterian Hunger Program, 32% for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and 32% for Self-Development of People

Pentecost Offering – presbyterianmission.org/Pentecost

- Received during the season of Pentecost, especially on the Day of Pentecost (May 23, 2021) or any other youth-focused Sunday
- 40% is kept by the congregation for ministries with children at risk; 60% is sent to Presbyterian Mission Agency for ministries with youth, young adults, and child advocacy/children at risk

Peace & Global Witness Offering - presbyterianmission.org/peace-global

- Received on World Communion Sunday, October 3, 2021
- 25% is kept by the congregation for peace and witness efforts; 25% is sent to mid council for Presbytery and synod peace and witness efforts; 50% is sent to Presbyterian Mission Agency for peacemaking, reconciliation and global witness.

Christmas Joy Offering – presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy

- Received during the season of Advent, especially on the Sunday before Christmas
- 100% is sent to Presbyterian Mission Agency - 50% to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions; 50% for leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color

Congregational Learning Day

Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

For New and Experienced Church Leaders and Church Members

The Presbyteries of Genesee Valley and Geneva Present the **New all Zoom Format**

Worship led by Rev Dr. Stanley Bhasker from the Bath, NY Presbyterian Church. He is delighted to be a part of the learning day which includes both Geneva and Genesee Valley Presbyteries.

- 8:30 – 9 AM Meet and Greet
- 9 – 9:30 AM Introductions, Worship & Instructions
- 9:30 – 11:30 AM Courses (offered simultaneously via separate Zoom rooms)

6 Virtual Classes to choose from. *Course descriptions & instructors can be found in the brochure that will be included with weekly email blasts.*

As this year we are all virtual, there will be no fee charged. Register on line by March 1, using this link: [Congregational Learning Day - Presbytery of Genesee Valley \(pbygenval.org\)](http://Congregational Learning Day - Presbytery of Genesee Valley (pbygenval.org))



Presbytery Wide Event

A conversation with Doug Dicks, PC (USA) Mission Agency Co-Worker for Palestine. Joining us from Bethlehem on Sunday, March 21 at 12:30 p.m. Contact John Thomas for Google Meet Entry (Johnt21c@gmail.com or 442-2035)

2021 National Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD)

The 2021 national **Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD)** event **will be virtual**, and will take place from **April 18-21**. This year's EAD will advocate for Climate Justice, and will be an opportunity to support the global movement for climate justice centered on and led by the people and communities most vulnerable to climate impacts due to historic racial and colonial inequities. If you or any member of your congregation is interested in receiving more information about this year's virtual event, sign up for e-mail updates at this link: <https://advocacydays.org/2021-imagine-gods-earth-people-restored/>

