

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



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# Gates Presbyterian Church

June 2021

Harbinger

Email: [office@gatespres.org](mailto:office@gatespres.org)

Phone: 585-247-5292

Web: [www.gatespres.org](http://www.gatespres.org)



Aleigha Binko, Carson Wohlers,  
Emma Savino, and Maggie Bracken

## From the Office ...

- ❖ **Have you moved recently? Do you have a new email address or phone number?** Be sure to [email the office](#) with the new information, so we can ensure you are getting all church mailings and emails.
- ❖ **Did you know that certain pages of the GPC website get updated weekly?** Check out [From the Pastor ...](#) for all of Laura's messages included in the weekly email blasts (since she started in August 2020), or [What's Happening this Week](#), which is a recap of what is included in the weekly email blasts, or [Pave the Way](#), which includes weekly updates on the progress of this campaign.
- ❖ **Are you currently receiving a printed copy of the Harbinger, but prefer to read the electronic version that is emailed out on the first of the month?** Let the office know so we can take you off of this particular mailing list.

## Welcome Back to In Person Worship at Gates Presbyterian Church

In order to return to in person worship, we must follow a few rules, including:

- Wear a mask at all times.
- Refrain from hugging, shaking hands and other close contact.
- Follow directions of the ushers to ensure safe distancing.



Worship will continue to be live streamed for members that prefer to join remotely. Go to our website at [www.gatespres.org](http://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.

## Communion

We will celebrate communion on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Note that this date was rescheduled from June 6<sup>th</sup>. Among the many adjustments we are facing as we return to in-person worship is that we are not able to serve each other the communion elements as has been our practice.

The Public Worship team has procured individual servings of bread and juice as shown below. On-line reviews indicate that these are easier to open than some other options; we hope that this is the case for you. You are most welcome to bring communion elements with you if you would prefer to do so.



## From Rev. Laura Bachmann

This week, as we prepare for that joyous moment when we will fling wide the doors to our sanctuary and welcome our community home, I have been thinking about what it means to stand on holy ground. The first image that leaps to my mind is of Moses standing before the burning bush. He has turned aside from the path to wonder at this flame that burns and brightens but does not destroy, and God tells him to remove his sandals for he stands on holy ground. What power lies in God's presence in these holy places, what mystery and awe they evoke. We preach all the time that God is everywhere, but it is undeniable that we feel the divine presence especially strongly in certain places.

As we prepare to return to our sanctuary, a place that has witnessed so many important moments in our individual lives and in the life of our community, we will step again onto the holy ground where we have been meeting God every week for more than fifty years. I think we may be surprised by the great joy and power in that long-anticipated moment. After so many months gathering in virtual space, how wonderful it will be to worship together, to hear the echo of our voices bubbling up in the sanctuary, to rejoice in the ring of the piano and the organ creating music that lifts us toward God, to settle into the quiet of that moment before our call to worship begins. Surely, as our voices rise in community, we will be deeply aware that we are standing on holy ground.

And even as we embrace this return to a place that we love, a place that holds God's presence for us in so many ways, the Holy Spirit will invite us to hold onto the new places in our lives where holy ground has been created anew. For, surely, holy ground has always been about much more than a physical location where God's presence has been made manifest. All through the pandemic, we have been creating, or maybe better yet, recognizing, holy ground in unexpected places. When someone types out a joy or a concern in our YouTube worship chat, we are standing on holy ground. When someone sends an encouraging note in the mail to lift the spirits of someone living alone, we are standing on holy ground. When we gather on zoom to pray or study the Bible together, we are standing on holy ground.

Even as we begin to return to in-person life, this expanded sense of holy ground can strengthen and enrich our ministry together. When someone shares a story of deep pain or joy or grief with us, we are invited onto holy ground. When we venture into the sacred space of God's natural kingdom, we are invited onto holy ground. When we share in a moment of transition in someone's life, we are invited onto holy ground.

We find holy ground in the places where we encounter God and feel the Holy Spirit. We recognize it in the moments where we experience the deep love and grace offered by the God who will not let us go. We create it in the radical hospitality we offer one another when we truly see every neighbor as uniquely and perfectly made in the image of the living God. Holy ground is the physical and mental and emotional and spiritual space that God invites us into; a place from which we can go out to do God's work, to which we can return for replenishment and renewal, in which we can shelter when we need comfort and rest.

Welcome home to this place of God's deep presence. Here, we stand on holy ground.

Grace and peace, Laura

## From the Deacons

Please keep in thought & prayer...

- **Buz Bauman** transitioning to Cottage Grove.
- **Hannah Walker** now home.
- **Wendell Burtner** recovering from a fall.
- **John Walker** in hospital.
- **Nora Bush** recovering nicely from a fall a few weeks ago.
- **Howard Falke** home after a fall.
- **Linda Beattie's** longtime friend, sister Carol, who was diagnosed with cancer.

Continued prayers for...**John Belt, Eric Paquin, Angelika Alvarez and brother EJ, Debbie Schnabel, Sonia Davis and Rev. Gordon Webster.**

Our sympathy to...**Margaret Troup & family** on the passing of Margaret's husband, Gordon, on April 16 ... **Beth & Jim Marconi** and family on the recent death of Jim's mother.

## Welcome Spring/Summer Everyone!

With that brings, hopefully, socialization with our GPC family sometime soon!! Although Fellowship time has not been approved with coffee, tea, punch and cookies, I want to let you know that the Deacons are still pretty active with monthly meetings, bringing meals to those in need, reaching out with calls and cards and just making our elderly feel special!!

If there is someone in our congregation that you would like us to reach out to with a need, such as a meal (Irene Ward), added to our shut-in list to receive a card (Jan Brewer) and a phone call, check in, or meet again in the future to (Kay Harder), please let me know! We will do our best to contact!

Enjoy this beautiful weather and hopefully reach out to our GPC family soon!!!  
Missing everyone!

Barb Snaith  
Deacon Moderator



## 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**

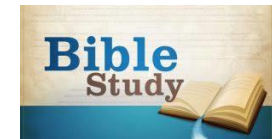
Electronic Giving. If you currently utilize online banking or bill pay, add Gates Presbyterian Church, 1049 Wegman Rd, Rochester, NY 14624 as a vendor and include your pledge as you process your other online payments.



Tuesday, June 1	4:00 p.m.	Public Worship Team meeting
Sunday, June 6	10:00 a.m.	Worship, <i>Children's Sunday &amp; Senior Recognition</i> followed by Fellowship Hour on Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group – End of Year Celebration
Monday, June 7	7:00 p.m.	Mission Team meeting
Thursday, June 10	7:00 p.m.	Generosity Team meeting
Sunday, June 13	10:00 a.m.	Worship, followed by Fellowship Hour on Zoom
Monday, June 14	6:00 p.m.	Trustees meeting
Tuesday, June 15	7:00 p.m.	Session meeting
Wednesday, June 16		<i>Summer Harbinger due</i>
Sunday, June 20	10:00 am.	Worship, followed by Fellowship Hour on Zoom
Saturday, June 26	11:00 a.m.	Mission Food/Personal Hygiene Collection
Sunday, June 27	10:00 a.m.	Worship, followed by Fellowship Hour on Zoom

### Liturgist Schedule for June

June 6: Lauren Henderberg  
June 13: Tess McKeel  
June 20: Irene Ward  
June 27: Carson Wohlers



**Bible Study is on break for the summer. Classes will resume in September.**

## Mission News

The next collection of food and personal hygiene items will be on Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 -2:00. As always, the need for food assistance remains high in many areas of Rochester. The food collected in May was delivered to the food cupboard at St. Theodore's Church on Spencerport Road; hygiene items were delivered to the YWCA and/or Coldwater House. Can't make it to GPC on Saturday? Leave your donations in the marked bin outside of the church foyer. If you would like to help at the collections or making deliveries, contact Sally Christensen (585) 703-6238. Thanks!



- ❖ St. Theodore's Food Cupboard at 168 Spencerport Road has reopened. They are open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 –noon to distribute emergency food bags to residents of the 14606 and 14624 zip codes. Photo ID and a current piece of mail (RG&E bill, cable bill, etc) with the home address are required. Call the food cupboard at (585) 429-5360 for more information. Please share this information with anyone you know who would benefit from this assistance.
- ❖ The next Mission Team meeting will be on Monday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Contact Sally Christensen (585-703-6238) for more information.
- ❖ A family in need is looking for a rental home for 3 (one adult, two teenagers) in the Gates Chili school district. Please contact Sally Christensen if you are aware of available Section 8 housing.

This month we are highlighting **Pillars of the Church**, a mission funding initiative of the Presbyterian Church USA. The *Pillars of the Church* program fosters commitment to peace and justice ministries. The following is adapted from the Presbyterian Church USA website:

“Pillars of the Church is about encouraging a sustaining and generous community of donors who are deeply committed to the commandments of Jesus to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves,” said Sara Lisherness, director of CPJ.

Jesus taught us the great commandments: Love God. Love your Neighbor. These are the pillars of our faith. As we live into these commandments we become Pillars of the Church, the Body of Christ.

The initiative was quietly launched in November 2014.”

Currently, Pillars of the Church funds support:

- **Unrestricted Shared Mission to be used where most needed**
- **Compassion, Peace & Justice**
- **1001 New Worshiping Communities**
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**
- **Presbyterian Giving Catalog**
- **Presbyterian Hunger Program**
- **Public Witness & Advocacy**
- **Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries**
- **Theology, Formation and Evangelism**
- **World Mission**
- **Young Adult Volunteers or**
- **One Great Hour of Sharing**
- **Pentecost Offering**
- **Peace & Global Witness Offering**
- **Christmas Joy Offering**

GPC has supported the Pillars of the Church initiative with quarterly donations since 2015.



## Donations needed for bag lunches

- Individual bags of chips and/or cookies
- Any type of fruit; whole, fruit cups, applesauce cups, small yogurt
- Granola bars
- Candy
- Bottled water
- Napkins
- Tuna
- Mayonnaise

Items can be dropped off at Tracy's house at 1082 Westside Drive, in the bin on the built-in bench next to the garage. Feel free to contact me ([tburkovich@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

**The Guatemala Partners of GPC** would like to sincerely thank everyone who worked on or supported our annual Hanging Basket Sale to raise funds for our mission work in Guatemala. We were able to raise almost \$1600.00 and that will go a long way to helping provide educational opportunities, as well as micro-lending, community support and more. Muchas gracias! May your flowers provide color and promote good spirits throughout the summer months!!!



**Are you ready to venture back out into the world a little bit?** Our mission partner, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, is seeking someone to help with light office duties a few hours a week. If interested, contact Pastor Laura for details.

## Save the Dates (for whole congregation, not just youth!!)

- In place of the Junior High Work Project, on July 12-15 we will be doing mission-related activities from 6-7:30 p.m. each night out on the church front lawn for **ALL** ages. For example, we will decorate and fill welcome gift bags for Harbor House, put together craft bags for families at the YWCA, write cards for shut ins, and more. Activities will be spaced out at tables outside, masks will be in place, and the church bathroom will be available as needed. Anyone is welcome for any amount of time on any day!
- **Save the Date: July 14, 4-7 p.m.**, in developing our new collaborative relationship with the YWCA before Churchview Commons is built, we have taken on the fun job of planning a carnival to put on in their parking lot. I would love to have as many people as possible of all ages to get involved with this effort! We will be doing some of the planning right during our July Mission Week evenings. If you have ideas to contribute, please get in touch with [jennifer@gatespres.org](mailto:jennifer@gatespres.org). This is going to be great!
- **Youth and Young Children's Sunday is June 6th!** Please get in touch with Jen if you haven't received the instructions on how to participate in the surprise for the congregation. Please join us that day in person or on the livestream to celebrate our children, youth, and graduating seniors.
- **Youth Group Year End Celebration is June 6th, 6-8 p.m.** at the church for youth entering grades 7-12! Eat dinner beforehand but get ready for some cookie cake! Bring any outdoor games you would like. We will play around the yard and celebrate our graduates and youth advisors. Hope to see you there!
- **Senior High Work Project August 1-7** in Theresa, NY rehabbing a house with MINC! \$50 deposit due upon registration. Contact Jen for more info.



### VCI Update from Jen

GPC Session recently voted to continue our commitment to the Vital Congregations Initiative. Committees will begin to have visits with some of the VCI team to begin digging deeper into the 7 Vital Marks to see more directly how we can make connections to our church and community. Speaking of community, one of the future aspects of the VCI charge is to go out in our community and do a needs assessment. However, that begs the question that the VCI team wrestled with last time we met. What is our community? Is it just the area surrounding our church? Is it where we live? I had a God moment as I was preparing to make deliveries for our Youth and Children. I plopped the addresses where I would need to drive into a route mapper to find the most efficient way to go about my drive. When the route showed up on the map it almost looked like a heart surrounding the city of Rochester. Our congregation is spread out all over the area, so no wonder answering the question of what is our community can be a hard one. What do you think of when you think of community?

## Stories wanted

Devotionals are an inspiring way to reach out to your church community. We are looking for people (no age limits) to "Share your Story" of how you have felt God's presence in your life.

Here are some Devotional ideas and guidelines for Share your Story – Celebrating God's Gifts

Although it is not safe to share our physical space, we all long to be close in other ways. We must instead focus on the glory of God's Abundance. Your devotional can be in the form of a written document or video and should be a way for you to discuss how you have experienced God in your life. It may be that you felt God's presence as you were helping someone else with your gifts of time, talent or money. Perhaps you felt God's abundance as you helped prepare and serve meals at St. Joseph's. Maybe you experienced it as you helped with a youth project, or the Jamaica trip, or as a church committee member, or wherever else you felt the holy spirit touch you.



If you would like to write or type out the words, it should be about 70-140 words. You do not need to include your name if you do not feel comfortable sharing that information. If you could include your initials, or indicate whether you are a church member or visitor, that would be helpful. It can be helpful to include a Bible quote or a story from your experiences. Luke 8:38-39, Corinthians 2:1-4, Mark 5:19, or any other scripture that you feel represents this idea for you. In addition, if you need someone to come with a camera or phone and to record this video then we would be happy to help, in whatever setting you feel comfortable.

Please submit your devotionals to the church office as soon as possible.

Thank you for answering God's call to reach out to your church family.

Larry Wakeman (247-3296), Chair of the Generosity



## Letter Writing Campaign Asking GM to Reconsider Layoffs

General Motors plans to lay off one third of its employees in August and then more people again in 18 months. The proposed layoffs would be low income workers and would add to the current suffering in our community which is already burdened with poverty. Please consider signing a letter asking GM to reconsider the layoffs. Simple click on this link and include your name at the bottom along with GPC as the organization.

<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/HMW-CADIKWSJ2VJHGV1FN?domain=forms.gle>



### Pave the Way

Our GPC Pave the Way (PTW) giving campaign is off to a great start! Only \$66,000 remains to be raised toward our \$200,000 goal! Thanks to those who have committed to this effort! The funds raised will be used for roof replacement, parking lot reconstruction, and the establishment of a major repair fund to help with future needs.

The campaign now has a dedicated webpage. Go to the GPC website ([www.gatespres.org](http://www.gatespres.org)) and on the home page you will find a direct link to the PTW page. You will find a colorful graphic showing our progress, which will be updated throughout the campaign. You will also find great information about the roof repair and the parking lot reconstruction, including graphs, drawings, and videos by several GPC Trustees. There are videos from Rev. Laura and the Pave the Way co-captains. Also, on our site you will find a pledge form you can use if you wish to pay in installments. Or, if you prefer, you may call the office and one will be mailed to you.

A letter recently was sent to the congregation about Pave the Way asking for your financial support. No gift is too small to be counted. Every contribution is needed toward Pave(ing) the Way to new and exciting mission opportunities for GPC as we open our doors to community service organizations and build relationship with our future neighbors at Churchview Commons. Thank you for your continued support! As always, we are happy to talk with you and answer any questions.

Jan Beutner, Co-Captain  
585-293-7011  
[janbeutner@gmail.com](mailto:janbeutner@gmail.com)

Mary Hadley, Co-Captain  
585-730-7592  
[maryahadley@gmail.com](mailto:maryahadley@gmail.com)

### Memorial Garden Bricks



We are again gathering brick requests for the Memorial Garden to be engraved and set in the walkway. It is more efficient to do the engraving and placing in groups so please send in your request forms with \$100 fee by June 25<sup>th</sup> to the Church Office or directly to Janice Bilohlavek, 27 Kingsford Lane, Spencerport, NY 14559. Forms are available through the church office or on our church website at [Garden Brick Form](#)

### A note from the Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team is super excited for church to have our first in-person service on June 6<sup>th</sup>! Along with other church committees, we have been working hard to make this day exciting. There will be some new things to experience and welcome you back. See you soon!



### Churchview Commons Update

This past year the pandemic and the economy have taken their toll on many aspects of our lives. Our Churchview Commons development with PathStone Corporation is, sadly, no exception. We have learned that their application for funding with New York State has not been approved. Even though we have the backing of the State, only 20 projects of the 81 applications submitted from across the state were approved due to funding restrictions. PathStone is already beginning to prepare for their next application and has engaged an outside consultant familiar with procedures to aid in the process. We meet regularly with Amy Casciani, PathStone Senior VP for Real Estate Development, who is determined to keep us moving forward. Churchview Commons continues to be a strong, viable project with the backing of both the Town of Gates and the County. As a reminder, when we began this process in the fall of 2018, we were advised that projects such as ours can take up to 6 years for completion. So, this is a lesson in patience for us as we look forward to having new neighbors in our backyard.

We had hoped for ground breaking later this year. Unfortunately, this delay will now push construction start into 2022. We know this is disappointing, but be assured, Churchview Commons is still moving forward and the YWCA is still anticipating partnering with us.

We know the Lord will continue to direct our steps as we work toward the reality of Churchview Commons. This waiting period can be a time of discernment as we pause and listen for God's calling. And we will continue to build connections with the YWCA through the work of our Mission team.

*"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up"*  
(Galatians 6:9)

Please feel free to reach out to any of the Property Development Team with your questions. Rev. Laura, Jan Beutner, Bill Dassero, Ed Coons, Jason Taylor, Tom Ward

**Patience..... Perseverance..... Prayer**



**GATES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DAILY COVID-19 SIGN-IN HEALTH SCREENING**

Upon entering the building, all visitors are required to perform a SELF CHECK.

Your signature on the sign-in sheet is your confirmation that you are NOT experiencing any of the symptoms listed below, which cannot be attributable to any other legitimate non COVID- 19 diagnosis (ex. seasonal allergies, chronic migraines, etc.)

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms listed below or if you have knowingly been exposed to COVID-19, you MUST immediately leave the building.

Visitors are required to (a) wear a mask or face covering, (b) keep social distancing, and (c) wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently while in the building.

You are confirming that you do NOT have ANY of the following symptoms:

- Chills or fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

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- Congestion or runny nose
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