

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



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Gates Presbyterian Church

September 2021

Harbinger

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Let's open our hands to catch
the new gifts and opportunities
that God sends our way

From the Office ...

Starting with the October Harbinger mailing, anyone with an email address on file will receive an electronic copy of the Harbinger. Hard copies will continue to be mailed to those without an email address and/or access to a computer. It is also posted to the GPC website here: <https://gatespres.org/whats-happening/harbinger-newsletter/>

Bible Study

Bible study will begin on Wednesday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. Watch the weekly bulletins & email blasts for more details!



September

Sunday, September 5	10:00 a.m.	Worship, <i>Communion</i>
Tuesday, September 7	4:00 p.m.	Public Worship Meeting
Thursday, September 9	7:00 p.m.	Generosity Team Meeting
Sunday, September 12	10:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday, September 13	6:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, September 15		<i>October Harbinger Due</i>
Sunday, September 19	10:00 a.m.	Worship, <i>Kickoff Sunday</i>
Tuesday, September 21	6:30 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday, September 22	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Saturday, September 25	11:00 a.m.	Mission Food / Personal Hygiene Collection
Sunday, September 26	10:00 a.m.	Worship
Wednesday, September 29	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Other Happenings in the Building

- AA groups meet on Thursdays (6:30 p.m.) and Saturdays (4:30 p.m.) in the Fellowship Hall.
- Rochester Regional Health Bereavement Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in room 1.
- Weight Watchers has meetings every Tuesday, at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

From Rev. Laura Bachmann

This month, while I was on vacation, I had a chance to read some sermons preached by Rev. Don Vickers at GPC in 1965 during the planning for the new building. I was struck by one message which focused on the question, what does a church look like? At the time, of course, this question was connected to the hiring of architects for the design of the sanctuary where we worship today, but the topic remains relevant in this moment too. As we look forward to a new program year, we are invited, once again, to consider what church looks like, but this time our perspective stretches well beyond the bricks and mortar of our building to consider what our missions and ministries, our behaviors and priorities, tell observers about what the church is and what we believe.

What does a church look like today?

Rev. Vickers reminds us that the church, its shape and form, should look like what it believes. Our life as a faith community should reflect what we believe about God; what we believe about ourselves as children of God; what we believe about what it means to follow God.

In this particular moment, when the pandemic has accelerated changes in our faith communities, we enjoy a unique opportunity to transform ourselves and our church to better conform to what Jesus is calling us to. At GPC, we are transitioning from a two pastor church to a one pastor church; we are witnessing an increase in elders and a decrease in youth; we are noticing new patterns of attendance and involvement in our life together; we are engaging in the digital, on-line church which we have perhaps resisted in the past.

As we enter this new time, let us examine each decision before us, asking what does a church look like today? What will this decision tell the world about the God we worship and the work we feel God calling us to do? Do our choices reflect our belief in a God who loves us beyond our wildest imaginings; our commitment to follow Jesus into the world to stand in solidarity with those who suffer; our intention to speak God's truth into, and enact God's peace in, the world around us?

During this time of change, it is easy to cling to the old ways, longing for what has gone before. Yet, as we cling, our hands fisted around the things we cannot let go, we miss the opportunity to open our hands to catch the new gifts and opportunities that God sends our way. As we start the new year, let us challenge ourselves to really look at our church. What do we want our life together to reflect about God and God's work among us? What do we really believe at the core of our beings? How does our corporate life together shout the good news to our neighbors?

Grace and peace,

Laura

From the Deacons

Please keep in thought & prayer...



- **Buz Bauman** in the hospital.
- **Mary Hadley's** cousin, Rosanna, diagnosed with new lesions on the liver from pancreatic cancer and recovering from a small stroke while undergoing tests.
- **Virginia Ryan** currently in rehab after a fall.
- **Jan Beutner's** daughter-in-law, Tammy, dealing with kidney disease.
- **Kate Stanford** recovering from asthmatic bronchitis.
- **Kristin Morris' (Jake Morris' wife)** friend, Andrea's mother-in-law dealing with serious health issue.
- **Howard Falke** who is in The Landing of Brighton Elderly Assisted Living for rehab.
- **Ann Haag** recovering from a fall at home.
- **Dorothy Mundt's granddaughter, Mandi**, continuing to recover from a difficult surgery.
- **Rev. Vinid and Kaveta Gnanaraj's son, Jo**, who was hospitalized in the last month.
- **Randall Shea and his wife, Juana and family.** Juana recently lost her mom to COVID and now her dad is suffering with COVID.
- **Steve Edgerton** dealing with heart issues.

Our sincere sympathy to ...

- **Hannah Walker and family** on the recent death of her husband, **John**.
- **Kate Stanford & her partner Ben** on the recent death of Ben's stepfather.
- **Jim & Sue Poole** on the death of Jim's cousins' husband.
- **Paula Sousa & family** on the death of Paula's brother's wife, Marcia.

Continued prayers for ... **John Belt, Hannah Walker, Eric Paquin, Debbie Schnabel, Sonia Davis, sister Carol, Linda Beattie's best friend, and Angelika Alvarez & her brother E.J.**

Communion

We will celebrate communion on Sunday, September 5th. 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. The wafers in these packets are not gluten-free but gluten-free wafers are available as well. 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.

To my wonderful GPC Family and Friends,

The time has come for me to step down from my position to be able to focus more on my family and my transition into work as a mental health counselor. September will be my final month as a staff member. Thank you all for your love and encouragement as I led our young children and youth programs through the significant changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been an honor to provide support and stability throughout the last few years. Furthermore, it was a true joy to lead youth work projects in Rochester, Theresa, Jamaica, and most recently in Orleans Four Corners.

It is important for me to share a special thanks to other staff members and the volunteers who have taught Sunday School, helped with special events, and led countless youth group events. You are amazing and essential!

As we look toward the future, I will be spending September listening to your voices and getting feedback on what people hope for in our young children's and youth programming. My goal is to be able to make recommendations reflecting our current realities and what is possible based on the energy and passions of our volunteers. I hope to hear from as many of you as possible and will be available the following dates and times as well as by appointment.

In Person: Every Sunday in September after church, 11-12
 Every Friday in September from 10-12

On Zoom: Monday, September 20, anytime between 7-8 p.m.
 [Jen Feedback Meeting](#) (Meeting ID: 837 8384 4590; Passcode: 427783)

While it is difficult for me to take a step back, I am glad that this is not a true goodbye as my family and I will remain as members of the congregation!

Grace and Peace,
Jen

For our Youth!

Come for a bonfire on Sunday, September 12th from 6-8 p.m. to kick off the new school year! We will meet at the back of the church parking lot. Bring your mask in case you need to go into the church to use the facilities. It will be Jen's last event so come hang out for the whole time or even just a little!

For our Families with Young Children!

Sunday School remains on hold as we face a surge with the pandemic and our children are not yet able to be vaccinated. In light of this- let's have a (spaced out by family) picnic!! We will meet at the church playground after church on Sunday, September 19th (rain date the 26th). Bring lunches, bikes/tricycles, bubbles, kites, etc! I'll bring lots of sidewalk chalk. Hope to see some of you there!

Mission News

- ❖ The next collection of non-perishable food, personal hygiene items, and new underwear for women and children will be on Saturday, September 25th from 11:00 – 1:00. Donations will be delivered to SWEM, Coldwater House, and the South Wedge Food Pantry. Contact Sally Christensen if you would like to volunteer (585-703-6238).
- ❖ The team had a combined August/September meeting on August 30th. The next meeting will be in early October, exact date to be determined. Watch the bulletins and Monday morning email blasts for more information.
- ❖ In July, the Mission team authorized donations to the following organizations: SWEM, Cameron Community Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, and Water for South Sudan.

This month we are highlighting one of the international agencies that GPC has supported for several years, Water for South Sudan. The founder, Salva Dut, has given presentations at GPC on his mission to bring safe water to villages in South Sudan. The following information is from their website.

The mission of Water for South Sudan is to deliver sustainable quality-of-life services to and with the people of South Sudan by efficiently providing access to clean, safe water, and improving hygiene and sanitation practices in areas of great need.

Salva Dut was born in a rural village in southwestern Sudan to the Dinka tribe. At 11 years old, the Sudanese Civil War reached his village and separated Salva from his family. He joined thousands of boys, famously known as the “Lost Boys” on their journey by foot to seek safety in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. After living in refugee camps for 10 years, Salva was given the opportunity to move to the United States, where he was embraced by a family in Rochester, New York. Several years later, Salva learned that his father was still alive in Southern Sudan but was suffering with disease caused by waterborne parasites. His father’s illness inspired Salva to help both his father and his country by bringing clean water to those in need. This was the beginning of Water for South Sudan.

Rochester continues to serve as the administrative headquarters for Water for South Sudan. The Operations Center in Wau, South Sudan, is where the local team directs water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. These operations teams work in remote villages in the Bahr el Ghazal region of South Sudan. These isolated villages have extremely limited access to clean water, and often can only access contaminated water that will lead to sickness or even death.

WFSS works with local governments and community leaders to determine the placement of wells. The goal is to create sustainable systems, incorporating well maintenance and training as part of the installation of a well. To date, WFSS has dug more than 500 wells for villages in South Sudan. For more information, go to www.waterforsouthsudan.org

“At the Movies” – An Evening with Roy and Julie and Smith

Thursday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. @ Shewan Recital Hall (Roberts Wesleyan)

Join us for a live performance of some of our favorites for trumpet and flute from the COVID movie music project, plus several new arrangements. Featuring Priscilla Yuen on piano (so Julie doesn't have to). Free and open to the public! Masks and social distancing will be in place. Please visit roberts.edu for the most recent COVID guidelines.



Liturgist Schedule for September

September 5: Jan Beutner-Shirtz
September 12: Janice Bilohlavek
September 19: Jan Brewer
September 26: Kaitlin Shaw

Church Mouse Bazaar - WE NEED YOUR HELP!!



We are excited that the 2021 Church Mouse Bazaar is on for Saturday, November 20! Mark your calendars! Crafter response has been great, and to make this GPC fundraiser a success we will need many hands to help. Along with the many opportunities to help out, **please consider becoming the 2022 chairperson(s) for this major fundraiser event for the church.**

Kathy and I will be stepping down, and would love to have the 2022 Church Mouse chair(s) work with us. Prior experience would be great, but is not required. It is a lot of work, but it is also a lot of fun! There are many good people around to help you out. Please let us know of your interest, or questions as soon as possible so that you can work with us this year to “learn the ropes”. You can phone us at 247-3296 or email lwakeman258@yahoo.com. Thanks for your consideration, Larry and Kathy Wakeman

Prayer Shawls

Anyone who is in need of a prayer shawl for themselves or for a friend or family member, can contact Dorothy Mundt at 247-3782 or email quilter2@twc.com. Delivery can be made in church or in the church parking lot, whatever your preference is.

Hello GPC Family



Have you been thinking of how you can get to know more people in your church family and to become actively involved? We have the right opportunity for you! The Nominating team is looking for two people to serve on the Hospitality team in 2022. This would involve attending the Hospitality team meeting the 4th Sunday after church and also participate in session meetings the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

Here is a short description of what the Hospitality Team does:

Hospitality, as GPC has defined it, is the “intentional practices and conversations that challenge us to imitate God’s welcome and compassion.” Your Hospitality team works to create a more welcoming environment, so all people can find God in community with GPC. We work with our office manager to review, update and improve the www.gatespres.org website. We developed the GPC members’ photo directory that is available on the website. We reach out to visitors and we work to retain and improve our church membership and celebrate new members. We find new and interesting ways to make our building, grounds and atmosphere welcoming to all.

If you need more information, please contact any of the nominating team members:

Keith Morgan (355-4117) Sue Poole (623-1013) Dennis White (247-8532)
Ann Marie Simm (594-2142) Andrea Unson (247-9007)

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.

Pave The Way



Our GPC Pave the Way campaign continues to make great advances. Our goal of \$200,000 is within reach, with just \$49,750 to go! And we now have a new roof over the education wing and the main entrance! Other capital improvement projects include the badly needed repair of the parking lot. You may not know that GPC has 6 different roofs, all of different area sizes and warranty years. The new roof cost is \$86,230 and carries a 30-year warranty. Thanks to the diligent efforts of our Trustees for making this happen! And thank you to everyone who has pledged to Pave the Way and continues to faithfully send in their donations! You can make a pledge at any time by requesting a giving card from the office or downloading one from the Pave the Way page at www.gatespres.org.

Janice Beutner and Mary Hadley, Co-Captains, Pave the Way



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From the Generosity Team

Our theme for this year's stewardship emphasis is " **Share your Story: Celebrating God's Gifts.**" As a major part of this emphasis, we have asked people in our congregation to share their stories as to how they have felt God's presence in their lives. Please think about when you felt God's presence. Possibly it was 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. More information will be forthcoming about our Fall activities. Please remember that generosity is not just about money. It is about what you can give; whether it be your time, your talents, or your money.



On our own, we conclude:
there is not enough to go around
and in the midst of our perceived deficit
you come
you come giving bread in the wilderness
you come giving children at the 11th hour
you come giving homes to exiles
you come giving futures to the shut down
you come giving easter joy to the dead
you come – fleshed in Jesus.

and we watch while
the blind receive their sight
the lame walk
the lepers are cleansed
the deaf hear
the dead are raised
the poor dance and sing

It dawns on us – late rather than soon-
that you “give food in due season
you open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.”

By your giving, break our cycles of imagined
scarcity
override our presumed deficits
quiet our anxieties of lack
transform our perceptual field to see
the abundance.....mercy upon mercy
blessing upon blessing.

Finish your creation, in wonder, love and
praise. Amen.

Excerpt from “On Generosity” by Walter
Brueggemann



Presbytery of Genesee Valley Fall Family Outing

You and your family are invited to:

a HARVEST of RIGHTEOUSNESS and PEACE
September 25, 2021
at Stokoe Farms Pumpkin Patch & Harvest Fest
35+ wholesome family activities
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Stokoe Farms 656 South Rd, Scottsville, NY 14546

11:30 a.m.

Worship Service

- Peace & Global Witness
- w/ Sara Lisherness & Rosemary Mitchell (PCUSA)

12:15 p.m.

Sandwich Buffet

- Sticky Lips BBQ
- Adults \$5, under 18 FREE
- Registration required

Many of us are missing the fellowship of in-person meetings so the PGV Healthier Congregations Team has organized this gathering for presbyters and their families focusing on fellowship, mission and fun.

Open to all the families in the
Presbytery
—make it a family day or church-
wide gathering
Make your reservations at
www.pbygenval.org see the
EVENTS tab

