

Gates Presbyterian Church

2024 Annual Report



Our Mission Statement:

As a joyful community,
empowered by the Holy Spirit;
We worship God,
follow Jesus
and love our neighbors.

- Mission Statement Adopted by Session; June 2014

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Church Staff

Rev. Laura Bachmann, Pastor
Karen Kozlowski, Office Administrator
Tracy Burkovich, Treasurer
Roy Smith, Choir Director
Deborah White, Jr. Choir Director
Andy Pratt, Pianist
Christine Cook, Bell Choir Director
Evan Mikoll, Video Live Stream Director
Bev Switzer, Childcare Provider
Alex MacFarlane, Asst. Childcare
Provider
Bob Staszewski, Custodian

Directory of Church Boards for 2025

<u>Session</u>	<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
Jan Beutner-Shirtz	Dan Charcholla	Betty Blystone
Janice Bilohlavek	Steve Christensen	Jan Brewer
Kecia Binko	Ed Coons	Carrie Dykes
Christine Cook	Scott Grace	Mary Hadley
Paul Gluchowski	Keith Hadley (Chair)	Kay Harder
MaryBeth MacKenzie	Eric Paquin	Margaret Militello
Katie Steinmiller	Jim Poole	Janice Phillips
Adam Switzer	Chris Thornton	Sue Poole
Bridget Wohlers	Dennis White	Bill Shirtz
Adam Switzer		Linda Sidore
Clerk: Kathy Coons		Barb Snaith (Chair)
		Anne Tonery-DeMars

Membership Statistics 2024

Communicant Membership, December 31, 2023 260

Gains

By Profession of Faith	0		
By Reaffirmation of Faith	0		
By Letter of Transfer	2		
By Restoration*	0	Total Gains	+ 2
			262

*restored to active roll for transfer or reactivating membership

Losses

Removal from Active Roll	0		
By Letter of Transfer	2		
By Death	8	Total Losses	- 10
			252

Communicant Membership, December 31, 2024 252

Average worship attendance: In person 62
 Online 18

In Memoriam

Bill Balsley
February 9, 2024

Jack Beattie
April 21, 2024

Joseph Root
May 3, 2024

Ruth Rauch
June 12, 2024

Laura Nolan
September 9, 2024

Frona Rossman
November 28, 2024

Debbie Incardona
December 6, 2024

Carmella Judd
December 7, 2024

Pastor

As I contemplate our 2024 journey together as the GPC community, I keep returning to the idea that the last twelve months were truly an Easter experience, including both the deep, Holy Week lows of sixteen deaths, each devastating in its own ways, and the Easter highs of welcoming El Shaddai into our building, receiving funding and final approval for our Churchview Commons development to start, and accepting the most generous gift of a house, and the proceeds from its sale, which will help to fund our ministry and mission in the years to come.

As we have walked through these times of grief and joy, it has been so rewarding to see how our community has come together to offer one another a loving presence during times of sorrow along with energy and creativity to meet the new joys and opportunities that have come our way. I believe our hard work to stay flexible in the face of challenges and change is already bearing fruit in terms of strengthened community and deepening insight into the way forward in the years to come.

This year, we assembled our Dream Team which will be working throughout 2025 to discern a path forward that focuses on our resources, particularly the resource of our building, and how we can use it to fulfill our calling in the world in ways that we can sustain financially, spiritually and physically. In these times when so much is changing, God invites us into a new way of being church together. This liminal space can be an uncomfortable place to sit but, if we can tolerate that discomfort, the rewards awaiting us on the other side of taking the time to question and wonder and dream and discern together can be amazing. I can feel the Spirit moving and am excited to see where it leads us in the new year.

A highlight for me in 2024 has been the arrival in our midst of the El Shaddai church community. Their energy, spirit, love and hopeful presence has been a gift to our community and an invitation to remember that God is always working on something new. I am hopeful that we will continue to learn and grow in partnership with them; each of us contributing our strengths to the work so that, together, we create something new and unexpected that neither of our communities could achieve alone.

On the mission front, we continue to be indebted to a team of GPC members and friends who thoughtfully distribute ten percent of our income every year to ministries in our community and beyond, while also collecting food, clothing, hygiene items and Christmas gifts for local organizations, and contributing their time and talent to support our neighbors at St. Joe's and the local schools who experience hunger and need. Our entire community participates in this work in one way or another and thus helps to fulfill our commitments as a Matthew 25 community to feed, clothe, house, welcome, visit and care for our neighbors.

Our deacons, too, have carried a heavy load this year, supporting families through deaths and grief and coming alongside them as they celebrate the lives of their loved ones and mourn their passing. Their quiet ministry of cards and visits helps extend the love of our church beyond the immediate care we offer one another in person and provides comfort to many who cannot be with us in the sanctuary.

The trustees continue to care for our building in large and small ways, making sure all is taken care of – sidewalks are shoveled, leaks are plugged, walls are patched, maintenance is done, leaves are raked, lawns are mowed, and countless other tasks get accomplished. Their work allows us to focus on the ministry and mission we are committed to without worrying that our building cannot keep up.

Throughout 2024, our elders have led with thoughtfulness, energy, creativity and love and I am so thankful for their intentional commitment to guiding our community through change with open hearts and generous spirits.

As we head into the new year, I confess I am praying for a little more boredom and a little less excitement, some steady growing periods that allow us to sit and reflect and dream about what comes next. Whatever 2025 brings, I am confident in the God who will not let us go, in our commitment to love as Jesus loved us, and our intention to move as a church beyond our building to spread love and joy and peace and gospel good news to the community around us.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Laura Bachmann

Board of Deacons

The Deacons continue to serve and support the ministry of Gates Presbyterian Church as set forth in Scripture as one of Compassion, Witness, and Service.

Visits to hospitals and nursing homes and homebound members' homes, are ongoing. There are approximately 24 church members, who are homebound, who received phone calls, visits and personal cards through 2024.

God bless the families who lost a loved one in 2024. We were able to do several in-person memorial services in 2024, but some families chose not to have a service at GPC. Our sympathies to the families of Marty Ohman, Bill Balsley, Valerie Fong(non-member – granddaughter of Angie Meyer), Jack Beattie, Joan Pimm, Laura Nolan, Debbie Incardona, Ruth Rauch, Barbara Mosher (Non-Member), Joseph Root, June Smith (Non-Member), and Frona Rossman.

We would like to thank Rebecca Circle for once again providing bookmarks with names of our homebound members for the congregation to send Christmas cards. This devoted group of ladies have been doing this for years and the cards sent by the congregation are a joy to our homebound members. Thank you!

Our Crisis Coordinator, Irene Ward, is always willing to contact members of our congregation who might need meals provided. Irene arranged meals for those in need in 2024.

Many cards were sent throughout the year to members and attendees experiencing joy, loss, or illness. Thank you to Linda Sidore for sending those cards! Thank you to Jan Brewer for monthly thinking of you cards and birthday cards to our homebound members!

I want to mention that our Prayer Shawl Ministry is still very popular with shawls given out to those in need of comfort. Thank you to Dorothy Mundt and Jan Brewer, and all those ladies in Dorothy's group that make these beautiful shawls.

Many thanks to our Deacons who have completed their term on the Board of Deacons: Irene Ward, Simon Njumbwa, Fran Paro and Paula Sousa. We also want to thank the Deacons who will be continuing the work of the Deacons in 2024: Barb Snaith, Jan Brewer, Sue Poole, Linda Sidore, Anne Tonery-DeMars, Bill Shirtz, Margaret Militello and Carrie Dykes. We are welcoming Mary Hadley, Jan Philips, Betty Blystone and Kay Harder who will be joining the Deacons in 2025.

A special thank you to Irene Ward for recording the minutes of each meeting and to Sue Poole who stepped in and helped with doing the minutes as well. Both of your help in recording the minutes each month is very much appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Snaith
Deacon Moderator

Board of Trustees

Good day. For those that might not know, Bill Dassero and Chris Thornton were the 2024 co-chairs of the Trustees.

Every year each group of our congregation that has asked to serve on the Trustees, are such a source of pride. While we have the normal maintenance items needed for our building, several Trustees quite often go beyond and above the job description.

Each uses their own personal skill sets to continuously look out for our building, staff and our congregation. These are under the appearance and function of our building, the safety and security for all who use our building.

Out of these continual observations yield numerous projects to act on immediately or can be planned out during the calendar year. There are other activities that yield longer-term benefits to our church, both in physical benefits as well as developing processes to pass down to the future Trustees ensuring continual improvements, as well as bringing items to today's codes, increasing functionality and lastly spend the church's allotted funds judiciously.

Examples of this mindset, without identifying people directly, not shared in the annual report are:

Use of the "Pave the Way" funds:

- Mortar replacement, Location being exterior of the South wall of Sanctuary. Waterproofing additive for mortar and also applied post mortar curing. All, eliminating the water infiltration that has plagued us for several years.
- Re-caulked around windows under bell tower, and also waterproofed brick to right of window. Replaced the weatherstripping for windows near Cross under bell tower.
- Replace concrete at rear door (Salt Damage)
- Replace North/South sidewalk on the West side of the building
- Replace the concrete apron outside of the exterior door near the Fellowship Hall.

Using the Budget funds allotted:

- Replace ceiling tiles in "new" Wing Hall and Room #4.
- Tapestries hanging in the "new" were cleaned, first time ever. One was cleaned by a congregation member, the other was contracted out.
- Replacement of the Auto scrubber. The reason was that it was outdated and not functioning properly, and lastly parts are difficult/impossible to acquire.
- Fill winter potholes installing 300 lbs. in our parking lot.

Use of congregation anonymous funds:

- Replacement of parking lot church sign.

Location of a grant:

- Purchased and installed an additional AED near the Rose Garden exit.

Developing living documents on processes and procedures for the future Trustees and our church.

Yearly Responsibilities undertaken or monitored:

- Budget expenditures:
 - Track utility expenditures - monthly
- Roof inspection – Completed in June
- Security inspections – Completed in March
- Heat and Smoke inspections – Completed in March
- Heating & AC inspections - Completed in May
- Fire extinguisher and fire suppression system inspections – Completed in July
- Lock up scheduling.
- Lawn maintenance:
 - Grass mowing – both weekly schedule, and winter storage & service of the zero-turn mower. Also provided maintenance of a donated hand mower for trim work. This also is prep for winter storage.
 - Weed management.
- Spring & Fall church clean up schedule
- Snow redistribution team functioning very well keeping our facility safe for staff, congregation & groups during the winter months - Created in 2022. Also, pre-seasonal maintenance for the snow blower.
- Seasonal inspection of smoke detectors, alarms, clocks, heat tapes in roof drains and general maintenance cleaning the roof (clearing the leaves from the drains) and repairing where we can.

These are only a fraction of the work our Trustees do for us.

Thank you to all those who served on the Trustees committee this year: Gary Dykes, Linda Beattie, Steve Christensen, Keith Hadley, Jason Taylor, Chris Thornton, Tom Ward, Dennis White, and Bill Dassero.

We say goodbye to Gary Dykes, Tom Ward, Linda Beattie, Jason Taylor & Bill Dassero.

We welcome to the committee starting in 2025: Returning: Ed Coons, Dan Charcholla. New Trustees: Eric Paquin, Scott Grace & Jim Poole.

We thank the congregation for their continual support and trust, placed in us to maintain and preserve the grounds and facility of GPC for the future.

2025 will be eventful with Churchview Commons beginning construction and uncovering uses for our building, while supporting several tenants using our building.

Lastly, a shameless plug or request to all to consider joining the Trustees this year or next year.

If you have questions, or desire more details, please reach out to me to address your questions. Thank you.

Serving Christ and Gates Presbyterian Church,
Chris Thornton & Bill Dassero Co-chairs

Choir

2024 was a year of faithful and fruitful service in the musical life of Gates Presbyterian. Highlights included the annual cycle of many old favorites, the premieres of several newly composed small works, a Christmas cantata by John Purifoy, another Christmas collaboration video spearheaded by Bill Hammond, a thriving coffee house performance, and a solemn journey through the Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

We continue to be grateful for Andy Pratt's many talents as he leads us every week on the piano and organ. His preludes, postludes, and offertories are a musical and spiritual delight. Guest pianists Chip Bachmann, Kris Ohman, Priscilla Yuen, and Haley Reynolds have also made important contributions to our musical life this year.

Jared and Katie Steinmiller, Paul Gluchowski, Dylan Bachmann, Paula Sousa, and Jim Renfrew have all made contributions to services this year. We are thankful to them and to all others who have so generously shared their talents.

Special thanks also for Katie's planning and execution of the coffee house night last March, and to all of those who participated.

Debbie White has continued to lead a thriving Junior Choir this year, and we have been fortunate enough to hear Faith Switzer's beautiful solo voice featured both with that group and in numerous special musics.

We were all delighted to see the return of the Bell Choir under Christine Cook's leadership this Advent season and look forward to hearing this part of our musical community rejuvenated.

Roy Smith made regular contributions on his trumpet and led the adult choir in both new and familiar choral music.

This report was prepared by Roy Smith, director of the GPC Adult Choir.

GPC Crafters

Out of sight out of mind but we are still working behind the scenes making mittens and scrubbies. This year we had a table at the flea market and have been taking orders and selling off some of our inventory. We still have a limited supply of a few items. \$247.25 has been deposited into the general fund from our sales. Sales will continue as long as we have inventory and/or orders. Thank you to all who have continued to purchase items.

Submitted by Janice Bilohlavek

Mission/Peacemaking Team

Jesus said, "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25)

This scripture guided the mission team in thoughtful consideration how to best serve our Lord and His people.

Much of our mission work was done in collaboration with our generous and dedicated GPC Family:

- The Amazing Monday Lunch Crew is now in the 5th year of preparing bag lunches to be distributed by St. Joe's staff each Tuesday. From Jan 1st through Sept 2nd, 70 bag lunches were provided each week. Starting Sept 9th through the end of the year, the quantity was increased to 80 bags plus 20 extra P&J sandwiches. The average value of each bag contents is ~\$4.00 for items that are donated or purchased with funds donated by our congregation and friends. (The average value does not include bread and/or snacks that were donated by Freihofer's.) The total value of donated items used for St. Joe's lunches in 2024 is \$15,292.80.
- The monthly Saturday food collections help stock the shelves at SWEM, as well as providing toiletry items to Coldwater House, St. Joe's, and YWCA.
- The Weekend Food Ministry provided weekend lunches to children who participate in the district's free lunch program. We support children in 2 elementary schools. (See separate report)
- The Warm Clothing Collection started in October and continues through the cold weather months. We collect winter clothes for Cameron St. Ministries and refugee families through our sister church El Shaddai.
- Dinner was prepared by the mission team for U of R students in April- promoting relationships and sharing ideas with our future leaders.
- The Lenten Wall of Food- nonperishables were collected to stock SWEM Food Cupboard.
- We hosted Honeoye Falls Youth group overnight at GPC. Mission Team prepared dinner for youth.
- For MINO-Mothers in Need of Others, there was a collection of paper towels, and later the mission team assembled 40 cleaning bags with items provided by church members and mission.
- We joined the Gates community for the Trunk or Treat fun at Gates Chili HS, some children may be our future neighbors at Churchview Commons.
- Our participation in the Cameron Family Gift Drive provided Christmas gifts for 5 children and 2 adults in a family, gifts for children Christmas party, and gifts for children "to buy" for their parents.

The Mission Team is tasked with the responsibility of spending 10% of the funds received by the church annually. In 2024, a good portion of our financial funds have gone to those we have had a long-standing relationship with: St. Joseph's, Cameron St. Ministries, SWEM Food Cupboard and YWCA. We also financially supported:

- Trinity Emmanuel Breakfast Program- Offers breakfast to the community 3 Saturdays a month.
- Lentory Johnson Essay Contest- An opportunity for Rochester elementary children to reflect on gun violence in their community.
- LaMadonna Della Strada home for homeless, providing food and shelter.
- St. Theodore's Food Cupboard- open for emergencies, and a monthly program for families that qualify
- Open Door Mission- A place for our homeless to find warmth and dinner in the cold winter months

- People's Pantry- Provides groceries to individuals and families to help mitigate the effects of food insecurity, with dignity and without bias.

Those who are seeking opportunities for a new start... reaching the potential God sees in each of us.

- Coffee Connection- Provides employment training and job creation for women in recovery from addiction.
- Grace House - Provides a smooth transition to community life for men parolees and shelter for the homeless.
- Delphi Rise- Offers prevention services through counseling and education, recovery through treatment services, and support through care services.
- Willow- Support and advocacy for victims of & those at risk of becoming victims of domestic violence.

We supported the following organizations because we believe our faith teaches us to welcome all His children.

- Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program
- El Shaddai Church in their efforts to help their African brothers and sisters who are refugees
- Homesteads for Hope- a place to serve adults of all abilities in an inclusive, agricultural style community.

Working for peace and justice, we financially supported:

- Rural Migrant Ministries- working for a just rural NYS, especially farmworkers and rural workers.
- Pillars of the Church-Public Witness and Advocacy, promoting compassion, peace, and justice.

In addition to our local mission support, our mission dollars also have national and global impact. We support the Presbyterian Mission for Co-partners, who work all over the world to improve living conditions and spread the news of Jesus Christ. In 2024, Gates Presbyterian supported Cindy Corell in Dominican Republic, Eliane Menezes in Guatemala, and Jeff and Christi Boyd in the Congo. We also sent funds to the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Fund to help meet the needs of the many global disasters this year, (humanitarian aid to war torn countries, Hurricane relief, Palestine Hunger Relief, and other natural disasters, etc.). After a mission member's African visit, the need was shared, and we contributed money to the Fountain Primary School in S. Africa. In addition, the mission team also financially supported the India Gospel League, Wells for Water in South Sudan, and our Guatemala Partners

We had 2 members from our Guatemala Partners Team (Tom Ward and Adam Switzer) visit Guatemala, mostly listening and learning from the people, and to show our continued support for our Mayan friends.

Members of our team have searched ways to be in community with the people God puts in our path. This will be a focus point moving forward. We are blessed to share our walk with:

- El Shaddai Church which shares our space
- our future neighbors at Churchview Commons

GPC Mission Team Members in 2024 were Whit Beckett, Betty Blystone, Sally Christensen, Eric Vail (Financials), Simon Njumbwa, Linda Sidore, Diane Howe, Bev Switzer, Anne Tonery-DeMars, Tom Ward, and Al Waugh. Meetings will continue to be on the first Monday of each month, some daytime, some evenings.

Respectively submitted by Mission Team Members

Nominating Committee

Thank you to all of the Ruling Elders, Deacons, and Trustees who have served and completed their terms faithfully in service to Gates Presbyterian Church.

Elders:

Tom Brewer
Lauren Henderberg
Sheri MacFarlane
Kris Ohman

Deacons:

Simon Njumbwa
Fran Paro
Paula Sousa
Irene Ward

Trustees:

Linda Beattie
Bill Dassero
Gary Dykes
Jason Taylor
Tom Ward

Our 2024 Nominating Team included Carrie Dykes (Deacons), Mary Hadley (at large), and Tom Ward (originally at large, switched to Trustees when Jason Taylor stepped down), and MaryBeth MacKenzie (Elder, Nominating Committee Chair). We began our search process in the summer. Our final slate of candidates was approved at the Congregational Meeting on 12/29/2024.

To serve beginning 1/1/25:

Elders: Jan Beutner-Shirtz 2 yrs
Janice Bilohlavek 2 yrs
Kecia Binko Continuing, 1 yr
Christine Cook Continuing, 1 yr
Paul Gluchowski 2 yrs
MaryBeth MacKenzie 2 yrs
Katie Steinmiller Continuing, 1 yr
Adam Switzer Continuing, 1 yr
Bridget Wohlers 2 yrs

Trustees: Dan Charcholla 2 yrs
Steve Christensen Continuing, 1 yr
Ed Coons 2 yrs
Scott Grace 2 yrs
Keith Hadley Continuing, 1 yr
Eric Paquin 2 yrs
Jim Poole 2 yrs
Chris Thornton Continuing, 1 yr
Dennis White Continuing, 1 yr

Deacons: Betty Blystone 2 yrs
Jan Brewer Continuing, 1 yr
Carrie Dykes Continuing, 1 yr
Mary Hadley 2 yrs
Kay Harder 2 yrs
Margaret Militello Continuing, 1 yr
Janice Phillips 2 yrs
Sue Poole Continuing, 1 yr
Bill Shirtz Continuing, 1 yr
Linda Sidore 1 yr
Barb Snaith 2 yrs
Anne Tonery-DeMars Continuing, 1 yr

Thank you very much to the Nominating Team members for all of their dedicated time and efforts. Welcome to all of our new members willing to serve God as leaders in the ministry of Gates Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryBeth MacKenzie
Nominating Team Chair

Personnel Team

We are grateful to our GPC staff for the continued dedication, creativity and care with which they each approach their various roles and responsibilities.

This year we were very fortunate to have our new Assistant Child Care Provider Alex MacFarlane working with our Child Care Provider Bev Switzer taking care of our church children. We recognize how important and welcoming reliable childcare is for our members and visitors during worship and other church events, and we were happy to have Bev and Alex and substitutes including Anne Toner-Demars providing the faithful service for our church children.

Online worship continued to be a valuable offering and a way for those near and far to worship and be in community at GPC. We were fortunate to have added additional trained substitutes, including Jared Steinmiller, to help cover for Evan Mikoll in this important position as needed.

Music is a very important and valued part of the GPC worship experience. Under the direction of Roy Smith Choir Director, Debbie White Jr Choir Director, Andy Pratt Pianist/Organist, and back at the end of the year Christine Cook as Bell Choir Director. Thank you to those people who have filled in for our music team members when needed. The congregation enjoyed a variety of music and original compositions, both vocal and instrumental, performed by all ages throughout the year as part of the worship services.

Our team coordinated with the Trustees to identify a substitute, that being Tammy Carney, for our custodian Bob Staszewski when needed. Tammy has been filling in for Bob when he has been unable to be at GPC to fulfil the custodian responsibilities.

In partnership with Karen Kozlowski, our GPC Office Administrator, we have updated policies, developed procedures and continued to review and organize documents. Karen has once again fulfilled substantial responsibilities for our GPC community.

At the end of the year, we reviewed the salaries of our staff members and the 2025 Terms of Call for Pastor Laura Bachmann and presented initial 2025 recommendations to Session. We remained ready to work with Session throughout the budget process. As the Head of Staff, Pastor Laura proved to be a valuable resource and guide to our team in this time, as well as throughout the year.

Our 2024 GPC staff & substitutes:

- Rev. Laura Bachmann, Pastor and Head of Staff
- Karen Kozlowski, Office Administrator
- Tracy Burkovich, Treasurer
- Roy Smith, Adult Choir Director
- Debbie White, Junior Choir Director
- Andy Pratt, Keyboardist/Organist
- Chip Bachmann, Substitute – Keyboardist
- Christine Cook, Bell Choir Director
- Evan Mikoll, Video Live Stream Director
- Jared Steinmiller, Substitute - Video Live Stream Director
- Bob Staszewski, Custodian
- Tammy Carney, Substitute - Custodian
- Bev Switzer, Childcare Provider
- Alex MacFarlane, Assistant Childcare Provider
- Anne Toner-DeMars, Substitute – Child Care Provider

Thank you to all our other substitutes!

We are very grateful to have such faithful, caring and hardworking people making up our GPC staff. Thank you all!

The Personnel Team would also like to recognize and thank Kris Ohman for her leadership of the committee up until the time that Kris completed her commitment to the Personnel Team and our GPC Staff in 2024 and also recognize and thank Jason Taylor as a Trustee representative for his participation with the committee which he completed at the end of 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

The Personnel Ministry Team:

Carrie Dykes, Deacon

Keith Hadley, Trustee

Kristine Ohman, Elder

Jason Taylor, Trustee

Eric Vail, At Large

Rev. Laura Bachmann, Pastor

Property Development Team

2024 has been a year of moving forward for Churchview Commons. What began as a germ of an idea in the Fall of 2018 - 6 years ago - is about to blossom in the coming months.

We are partnering with PathStone Corp. in leasing 4 acres of land behind our building at a cost of \$175,000 on which Churchville Commons will be built. This is a \$18 million project with a footprint of over 54,000 square feet. It is a two-story complex of 24 one bedroom and 21 two bedroom apartments. Of those 54 units, 24 will be set aside for use by our partnering agency, the YWCA of Rochester, to serve families transitioning to the community after dealing with significant trauma. The remaining 30 units will be affordable housing rentals managed by PathStone Corporation.

We have come a long way in 6 years toward realizing our goal. Here is a very brief synopsis of what GPC and PathStone have needed to accomplish:

- Jan 2019 - extensive survey of the congregation
- April 2019 – congregation of GPC approved entering into lease with PathStone
- May 2019 - the Presbytery of Genesee Valley approved GPC partnering with PathStone
- July 2019 – preliminary lease is signed
- April through August 2019 - land appraisal, instrument survey, updated title search, environmental study, architectural drawings, engineering plans
- Dec. 2019 – granted re-zoning approval by Town of Gates
- April 2020 - received our preliminary site plan approval from Town of Gates

Then PathStone began the long journey of securing grant monies from NYS. From the fall of 2019 through March of 2024, 7 separate funding applications needed to be submitted to 7 different funding agencies, and some applications needed to be re-submitted 2 or 3 times due to their highly competitive nature. This past Spring we shared with you the good news that the final needed funding had been approved. Securing the necessary funding has been a 5-year long process, 2 yrs of which were drastically slowed by the COVID pandemic. And this past summer we needed to do battle with ‘not in my backyard’ people spreading misinformation on social media, which led to the necessity of holding a public meeting here in July to explain the project and answer questions. Then we met again with the Town of Gates zoning board and planning board to re-state our case and gain their continued approval of Churchville Commons. Many GPC folks attended both of these meetings to lend their support.

Our lease with Pathstone was approved by the NYDS Supreme Court in November. All other necessary legal documents have been signed by both GPC and PathStone. On Dec. 18th, Pathstone secured its funding from Five Star Bank.

Construction meetings with Home Leasing Corporation have begun. Construction fencing has been installed and tree removal accomplished.

We are on our way! 2025 will be a year of building new housing and opportunities for reaching out to our neighbors. We thank the congregation for its continued prayers, patience and perseverance during the upcoming months of construction.

Property Team: Bill Dassero, Tom Ward, Ed Coons, Pastor Laura, Jan Beutner

Public Worship Team

The primary focus of the Public Worship Team is to support one of the four core ministry values of our church - worship. The Team collaborates with the Pastor and our Music Ministry team in planning worship services and activities for each church season. Team Responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Assuring that the liturgical seasons are reflected in the sanctuary (candles and paraments).
- Scheduling of Liturgists, Usher teams and Communion Servers.
- Arrangement for and hosting of guest pastors when needed.
- Preparation of communion elements.
- Scheduling and recruiting help to decorate and undecorate the sanctuary for liturgical seasons. Advent, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- Arranging for Advent Candle Lighters.
- Providing support for special services as needed – Baptisms, Funerals/Memorial Services, Weddings, Mid-Day Worship, Blue Christmas and Service of Remembrance for Infant & Pregnancy Loss.

The elements of our worship experience have become more “normal” thanks to the many volunteers who fill the support roles for each service.

- Communion: The process by which communion is served has evolved to a point that it is working well. We reverted to use of prefilled cups on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and in July, August and September and will continue to do so in 2025.
- Offering: We recognize that many fulfill their giving intention electronically or using a bill-pay service, and many others submit monthly or quarterly. We will continue to pass the patens during the offering time as a reminder to consider the gifts we give to and receive from our church community.

The PW team determined it was time to retire the wreaths that have been used for (at least 20) years. They have served us well and we are grateful to all those who created and maintained them. Seasonal banners for Advent and Christmas and a table wreath for Advent were purchased.

I am grateful to the dedicated members of the Public Worship Team – Jan & Tom Brewer, Kathy Coons, and Janice Phillips. The team is grateful to all of those in our GPC family who so graciously serve as liturgists, ushers, communion servers, greeters, decorators and candle-trimmers and to those who willingly pitch in to help with whatever is needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri MacFarlane, Chair

Weekend Food Ministry

We are now in our third year of providing food to area children via our Weekend Food Ministry.

We provided 1,328 Weekend Food bags in 2024. Many thanks to all who have generously provided food items for the bags and to those who graciously help to pack the bags.

The need for food assistance among Walt Disney Elementary School families remained steady at 19 bags for each week that school was in session in 2024. Though there was a significant increase in need among Neil Armstrong families in the spring, which was also the case in 2023. The need since September 2024 has reverted to 2023 level for the same period.

The Collaborative Ministry grant that we were awarded by Presbytery late in 2023 was to be used for expansion of the WFM program in three ways.

1. Extend the program to another school. This was accomplished with the addition of Walt Disney Elementary School in November 2023.
2. Seek a partner such as another church or organization to assist in maintaining the program. Our neighbors at the Church of the Epiphany supplied two weeks of Weekend Bags during Lent in 2024. It is hoped that this will continue.
3. Expand the program to help establish other church-school connections. Ogden Presbyterian heard about the WFM program and reached out to learn the details of what we'd been doing and how we'd been doing it. We are delighted to share that they set up a partnership with Munn Elementary School and started providing Weekend Bags in April 2024. We are also glad to have been able to share a portion of the grant funds with Ogden Pres to help them get started.

The Weekend Food Ministry is not a line item in the church budget. The only funds regularly allocated via GPC are proceeds from bottle returns which are not included in anticipated income. This program is supported by our congregation – those who donate funds, those who donate food and those who put it all together. In the interest of full disclosure, our Mission team decided to allocate \$1,000 of mission support funds to the Weekend Food Ministry & St. Joe's Lunch programs; these funds will be used in 2025.

I gathered costs for items contained in a couple of typical bags. Value per bag in the examples ranges from \$5.00 to \$6.10.* Using the average (\$5.55) and the 2024 total of 1,328 bags translates to \$7,370 worth of goods provided to our neighbors. This is in addition to our standing commitment that 10% of our overall income is allocated to the support of mission ministries and programs.

That the need for programs like this is so great is troubling. That our congregation and friends are able to consistently meet the needs of some of our most vulnerable neighbors is a blessing to all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri MacFarlane

*Costs of a couple of typical bag contents were gathered based on BJ's (with coupons) and Walmart prices.

2024 Balance Sheet

ASSET
S

Current
Assets

Checking/Savings

1000 - Cash

1000 - Checking Operating Acct	\$12,890.05	
	\$194,735.4	
1005 - MM Escrow Fund	0	
1100 - CD Memorial Funds	\$30,998.68	From MM Escrow
1105 - CD PTW Funds	\$77,496.70	From MM Escrow
		Moved to MM
1120 - Cash - Youth Escrow	\$0.00	Escrow
		Moved to MM
1140 - Cash - Memorial Fund	\$0.00	Escrow

\$316,120.8

Total 1000 - Cash

3

\$316,120.8

Total Checking/Savings

3

\$316,120.8

Total Current Assets

3

Other Assets

1300 · Mustard Seed - Morgan Stanley	\$134,909.1	
	8	
	\$295,027.2	
1400 · Endowment Fund - Fidelity	3	

\$429,936.4

Total Other Assets

1

\$746,057.2

TOTAL ASSETS

4

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

2000 · Accounts Payable	\$895.95	
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\$895.95

Total Accounts Payable

\$895.95

Total Current Liabilities

\$895.95

Long Term Liabilities

Total 5000 · Youth Escrow Fund

\$0.00

Moved to MM
Escrow

\$194,735.4

Total 6000 · MM Escrow Fund

0

Moved to MM
Escrow

Total 7000 · Memorial Fund

\$0.00

Total 7500 - CD Memorial Funds

\$30,998.68

From MM Escrow

Total 7600 - CD PTW Funds	\$77,496.70	From MM Escrow
	\$134,909.1	
Total 8000 · Mustard Seed Fund	8	
	\$295,027.2	
Total 9000 · Endowment Fund	3	
	<u>\$758,103.1</u>	
Total Long Term Liabilities	1	
	<u>\$758,999.0</u>	
Total Liabilities	6	
Equity		
1990 - Fund Balance - Operating	\$15,633.64	
	(\$40,652.84	
Retained Earnings)	
Net Income	<u>\$12,077.38</u>	
	(\$12,941.82	
Total Equity)	
	<u>\$746,057.2</u>	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	4	
Submitted by: Tracy Burkovich, Treasurer		

2024 Financial Report & 2025 Budget

		Target	
	12/31/24 Actual	2024 Budget	Aprr 2025 Budget
FUNDS ON HAND AT PRIOR YEAR END			
Prior Year End Balance	\$5,646	\$5,646	\$13,605
Escrow Funds Released	\$32,364	\$32,364	\$12,000
TOTAL FUNDS ON HAND	\$38,010	\$38,010	\$25,605
INCOME PROJECTION			
Confirmed Giving	\$230,444	\$232,012	\$213,427
Anticipated Pledges - 2025	\$0	\$0	\$16,955
Unpledged offering	\$16,738	\$11,601	\$13,502
Building Use	\$16,925	\$12,000	\$19,000
Fund Raising	\$3,096	\$2,000	\$2,500
Loose Offering	\$2,683	\$1,000	\$2,500
Per Capita	\$3,607	\$3,000	\$3,000
Initial Offering	\$0	\$50	\$50
Interest from Money Market Account	\$3,328	\$0	\$5,500
Distribution from Endowment Funds	\$11,308	\$11,308	\$13,200
Distribution from Mustard Seed	\$0	\$0	\$9,000
Special Offerings & Mission Projects	\$549	\$1,500	\$1,000
TOTAL INCOME PROJECTION	\$288,678	\$274,471	\$299,634
TOTAL ANTICIPATED FUNDS INCL ESCROW	\$321,042	\$312,481	\$325,239

EXPENSE SUMMARY	12/31/24 Actual	2024 Budget	Aprr 2025 Budget
Staff Support	\$210,489	\$219,187	\$223,274
Maintenance / Operating	\$54,704	\$48,541	\$52,341
Programming	\$18,282	\$20,342	\$18,560
Mission Programs	\$25,489	\$28,916	\$29,863
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$308,964	\$316,986	\$324,038

TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$12,077	(\$4,505)	\$1,200
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Fund Balances:	
General MM Funds - 12/31/24	\$194,735
CD - Pave the Way - 12/15/24	\$77,497
CD - Memorial Funds - 12/6/24	\$30,999
Mustard Seed Fund - 12/31/24	\$134,909
Endowment Fund - 12/31/24	\$295,027
TOTAL	\$733,167

Operating Capital - KeyBank MM - 12/31/24 \$0
 Operating Capital - Key Bank Checking - 12/31/24 \$12,890

Accounts Payable - 12/31/24

\$896

Submitted by: Tracy Burkovich, Treasurer

2024 Financial Report & 2025 Budget, cont'd

STAFF SUPPORT		12/31/24 Actual	2024 Budget	Appr 2025 Budget
111	Pastor Salary	\$31,982	\$43,200	\$44,933
112	Pastor Housing Expense	\$35,872	\$27,300	\$28,564
113	Pastor Housing Utility	\$4,272	\$4,436	\$4,436
114	Pastor Medical Ins./Ded.	\$0	\$0	\$0
115	Pastor Social Security	\$5,518	\$5,733	\$5,044
116	Pastor Pension	\$29,865	\$29,225	\$33,511
117	Pastor Travel/Bus. Exp.	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
118	Pastor Continuing Education	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
162	Video Live Streaming Director	\$7,577	\$7,571	\$7,760
131	Office Manager Salary	\$23,914	\$23,338	\$24,271
134	Treasurer	\$3,504	\$3,504	\$6,500
135	Payroll Service	\$6,125	\$6,800	\$1,800
141	Choir Director	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$11,500
142	Junior Choir Director	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,125
143	Organist	\$12,050	\$12,000	\$10,500
144	Bell Choir Director	\$0	\$0	\$500
146	Service Musician Substitute	\$475	\$750	\$750
153	Custodian	\$11,249	\$14,000	\$14,350
160	Child Care Provider	\$2,993	\$2,850	\$2,850
161	Asst Child Care Provider	\$2,790	\$2,280	\$2,280
165	Background Checks	\$24	\$200	\$100
171	Workers' Compensation	\$42	\$4,000	\$4,000
172	Social Security	\$6,239	\$6,000	\$6,500
	Subtotals	\$210,489	\$219,187	\$223,274

Submitted by: Tracy Burkovich, Treasurer

2024 Financial Report & 2025 Budget, cont'd

MAINTENANCE / OPERATING EXPENSE		12/31/24 Actual	2024 Budget	Appr 2025 Budget
210	Building, Grounds & Equipment	\$6,869	\$8,000	\$8,000
220	Major Repair & Improvement Fund	\$4,218	\$3,634	\$6,634
	Unexpected / Unbudgeted Expenses	\$9,172	\$0	\$0
260	Ongoing Roof Maint	\$365	\$1,200	\$1,200
	Building Maintenance	\$20,625	\$12,834	\$15,834
215	Refuse Collection	\$1,454	\$1,400	\$1,500
240	Gas & Electric Utilities	\$13,394	\$12,000	\$12,500
242	Water	\$574	\$400	\$400
243	Water & Sewer Tax	\$481	\$481	\$481
245	Telephone / Internet	\$2,531	\$2,500	\$2,500
	Utilities	\$18,433	\$16,781	\$17,381
230	Office Supplies / Postage	\$2,166	\$2,700	\$2,700
232	Computer HW/SW Repair/Purchase	\$3,355	\$3,500	\$3,500
246	Insurance	\$7,076	\$7,076	\$7,076
249	Snow Removal	\$2,200	\$5,000	\$5,000
255	Pest Control	\$850	\$650	\$850
	Operating Expenses	\$15,646	\$18,926	\$19,126
	Subtotals	\$54,704	\$48,541	\$52,341

Submitted by: Tracy Burkovich, Treasurer

2024 Financial Report & 2025 Budget, cont'd

PROGRAMMING		12/31/24 Actual	2024 Budget	Apr 2025 Budget
310	Per Capita/Gen Assmbl/Synod/Presby	\$11,792	\$11,792	\$10,010
320	Stewardship	\$0	\$500	\$500
361	Session Programs	\$119	\$500	\$500
375	Copyright / Website Licenses	\$382	\$700	\$700
390	Personnel Committee	\$56	\$100	\$100
	Admin	\$12,349	\$13,592	\$11,810
315	Membership & Hospitality	\$0	\$400	\$400
370	Deacons	\$236	\$300	\$300
	Hospitality	\$236	\$700	\$700
330	Public Worship	\$613	\$500	\$500
331	On Call / Guest Worship Leaders	\$2,200	\$2,000	\$2,000
341	Music - Organ Tuning	\$695	\$850	\$850
342	Music - Piano Tuning	\$200	\$200	\$200
348	Junior Choir Music	\$0	\$150	\$150
349	Adult Choir Music / Musicians	\$630	\$800	\$800
	Worship	\$4,338	\$4,500	\$4,500
351	Spiritual Journeys Committee	\$452	\$300	\$300
352	Ministry with Youth	\$410	\$500	\$500
353	Ministry with Children	\$497	\$750	\$750
	Spiritual Growth	\$1,359	\$1,550	\$1,550
	Subtotals	\$18,282	\$20,342	\$18,560

Submitted by: Tracy Burkovich, Treasurer

2024 Financial Report & 2025 Budget, cont'd

GENERAL MISSION		12/31/24 Actual	2024 Budget	Appr 2025 Budget
420	Presby Mission Support	\$2,125	\$2,125	\$0
451	Pillars of the Church	\$500	\$1,000	\$0
452	Mission Co-Partners	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
425	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
	Special Offerings: Pent/OGHS/Peace	\$549	\$1,500	\$0
	Subtotal PCUSA	\$6,174	\$7,625	\$0
450	New Mission Projects (Undesignated)	\$2,635	\$3,741	\$0
457	Guatemala Partners	\$800	\$800	\$0
480	Youth Work Project	\$0	\$600	\$0
487	Mission Leadership	\$480	\$400	\$0
	Subtotal Mission At Work	\$3,915	\$5,541	\$0
453	Hunger	\$4,400	\$3,000	\$0
454	SWEM food cupboard	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
458	Rural Ministries	\$750	\$1,000	\$0
	Subtotal Food Justice	\$6,150	\$5,000	\$0
456	Cameron Comm. Ministries	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
460	Refugee Resettlement	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0
466	Urban Churches	\$450	\$450	\$0
470	St. Joseph's House of Hospitality	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$0
477	Housing	\$900	\$2,400	\$0
478	Rehabilitation Services	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
481	Willow	\$400	\$400	\$0
	Subtotal Social Justice	\$9,250	\$10,750	\$0
	General Mission Totals	\$25,489	\$28,916	\$29,863

SUMMARY	12/31/24 Actual	2024 Budget	Appr 2025 Budget
Staff Support	\$210,489	\$219,187	\$223,274
Maintenance / Operating	\$54,704	\$48,541	\$52,341
Programming	\$18,282	\$20,342	\$18,560
Mission Programs	\$25,489	\$28,916	\$29,863
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$308,964	\$316,986	\$324,038

TOTAL ANTICIPATED FUNDS LESS EXPENSES	\$12,077	-\$4,505	\$1,200
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Submitted by: Tracy Burkovich, Treasurer

Money Market Balances

Designated and Non-Operating Funds 1/1/2024 Receipts Expense 12/31/24

Designated Funds: Ongoing Programs

PAVE THE WAY - Trustees - Major Repair	\$64,149.78	12,204.52	(70,087.53)	\$6,266.77
PAVE THE WAY - Pathstone - Deposits - HOLD	\$25,000.00		(25,000.00)	\$0.00
Mustard Seed	\$0.00	125.00		\$125.00
Memorial Funds (moved from separate acct)	\$24,935.92	8,709.75	(30,068.00)	\$3,577.67
Guatemala Group	\$4,544.51	8,387.16	(8,311.36)	\$4,620.31
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$875.00	2,550.00	(2,000.00)	\$1,425.00
Pastors Travel / Cont Education (TOC Contracted)	\$0.00	4,469.84		\$4,469.84
Women's Brunch	\$0.00	308.00		\$308.00
Memorial Garden / Labyrinth	\$6,324.84	400.00	(54.00)	\$6,670.84
Weekend Food Ministry (incl Bottles & Cans)	\$844.17	6,451.56	(2,910.77)	\$4,384.96
Mission Funds - To WFM	\$365.12		(365.12)	\$0.00

Designated Funds: 2024 / 2025 Budget

2025 Prepaid Pledges	\$0.00	3,209.00		\$3,209.00
2025 Budget - Presby Refund re: Bldg Lease	\$0.00	12,000.00		\$12,000.00
2024 Prepaid Pledges	\$15,100.00		(15,100.00)	\$0.00
2024 Budget - Consolidated Escrow Funds	\$7,848.23	18,406.19	(26,254.42)	\$0.00
2024 Budget - Consolidated Youth Funds	\$24,516.45		(24,516.45)	\$0.00
2024 Budget - Deposits for Operating Acct	\$0.00	155,295.19	(155,295.19)	\$0.00
2024 Budget - Interest from Money Market Account	\$0.00	2,625.95	(2,625.95)	\$0.00

Presby Grants:

Collaborative Ministry	\$0.00	1,870.00	(1,870.00)	\$0.00
Vital Congregagtions	\$3,250.00		(3,250.00)	\$0.00
Delphi Rise Training	\$0.00	3,000.00	(1,272.90)	\$1,727.10
Other Grants:				
AED Purchase	\$0.00			\$0.00

Undesignated Funds:

ERTC /PPP Funding rebates - Designation Pending	\$0.00	43,402.13		\$43,402.13
Patricia Fox Estate Funds - Designation Pending	\$0.00	8,619.11		\$8,619.11
Olsen House Proceeds - Designation Pending	\$0.00	95,369.57	(1,439.90)	\$93,929.67

		\$387,402.9		
BALANCE	\$177,754.02	7	\$(370,421.59)	\$194,735.40

Submitted by: Tracy Burkovich, Treasurer

Endowment Fund

Maple Capital Management continues to manage GPC Endowment Fund holdings. Funds are held by Fidelity Investments.

- The account balance as of 12/31/2023 was \$268,321. As of 12/31/24, the balance was \$295,027.
- Change in Fund value in 2024 was \$40,204 (+14.98%).
- There were no gifts to the Endowment Fund in 2024; historic donor value remains at \$89,227.
- Total distributions since the origin of the Endowment Fund total \$90,208.
- Investment allocation is currently 60% Equities and 40% Fixed Income.

The intent and care taken when the GPC Endowment Fund was originated and the oversight and management since have served us very well.

As noted in the 2023 Annual Report, Rev. Bachmann and Sheri MacFarlane attended the Stewardship Kaleidoscope* conference in Sept 2023. Among the wealth of information offered at the conference were statistics and advice on best practices for management of Endowment Funds which include annual disbursements of 4-5% of the fund balance based on an average of the prior 4-5 years' results. The advice shared at the conference was echoed by our Maple Capital advisor.

In January, GPC Session approved changes to the Endowment Policy that include the following:

- **Annual Distribution:** 4% to 5% of the average of Year End Balances for prior five (5) years. Percentage within the 4% to 5% range will be determined by Session each year.
- **Mandated review:** The disbursement guidelines detailed above will remain in effect as long as the Endowment Fund holdings are greater than \$200,000, or until such time as the Session determines that revision is necessary.
- **Special Disbursements:** At the discretion of Session disbursements from the Endowment Fund may be authorized for specific use in support of needs or efforts beyond the normal scope of GPC operations.

Please note that 10% of disbursements from Endowment Funds will continue to be allocated to Mission. Distributions based on the current Endowment Policy:

- 2024 Distribution, Session approved distribution of 4.5% of the average of Year End Balances for 2019 thru 2023 resulting in the transfer of \$11,308.14 in December 2024.
- For 2025, Session has approved distribution of 5% of the average of Year End Balances for 2020 thru 2024. Distribution in 2025 will be \$13,148.20.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri MacFarlane, Chair

Memorial & Special Gifts Fund

Special Gifts and Disbursements in 2024

Account Information

Balance in Account 12/31/2023	\$24,935.92
Memorial Gifts Received	\$8,709.75
Estate Checks	
Transfer from other accounts	
Total Disbursements	(\$30,068.00)
Account Balance for 12/31/24 in MM Escrow Account	\$3,577.67

Disbursements:	Janice Bilohlavek – Postage	(\$68.00)
	Funds moved to KeyBank CD	(\$30,000.00)
	Total Disbursements	(\$30,068.00)

Account Breakout:	Childrens Music	\$0.00
	Music Program	\$3,508.45
	Designated Gifts	\$449.37
	Mission	\$1,745.88
	Library	\$585.10
	Youth Programs	\$8,808.54
	Future Designation-Salline Brown	\$190.00
	Deacons	\$100.00
	Lawn Tractor	\$795.00
	Undesignated Gifts	\$17,395.33
	Totals	\$33,577.67

Contributions given in 2024 in memory of:

Marty Ohman
Bill Balsley
Jack Beattie
Valerie Hungerford
Frona Rossman
Pat Tripoli

Respectfully submitted by Janice Bilohlavek

Memorial Garden Fund

The Gates Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden was dedicated August 11, 2013, and has become a peaceful and comforting place to sit and contemplate thoughts and stroll along the brick walkway viewing the names of those who are honored or remembered as special people in our lives. The Memorial Garden is also used as a special gathering place for prayer and meditation as is the Labyrinth completed in 2018.



The GPC Memorial Garden is financially self-sustaining and is maintained through the use of donations, fees paid for the interment of cremains and the sale of engraved bricks that will be placed in the memorial walkway.

The Memorial Garden Committee invites you to visit the garden and walkway as the walkway has been extended and now is accessible through the doors just beyond the sanctuary entrance across from the church office.

There is great emotional, spiritual, and psychological value in the time-tested traditions surrounding the way we lay our loved ones to rest. Cremation can be used as an alternative to cemetery burial while maintaining the traditional funeral home calling hours and funeral/memorial service. The Memorial Garden increases our choices by providing a sacred space, not a cemetery, on our church grounds to remember those who have died.

If you would like more information regarding the Memorial Garden, please contact a member of the Memorial Garden Committee: Janice Bilohlavek, Ginny Barley, Ed Coons, Barb Snaith, Eric Vail, Rev. Laura Bachmann.



We remember and honor Mary Hughes who passed away on August 27, 2022. Mary had a vision of creating a Memorial Garden at GPC and with Mary's guidance and passion the Memorial Garden became a part of the mission and ministry of Gates Presbyterian Church in 2013.

The sacred souls interred in the Memorial Garden include,		
<i>Jack Hughes (2013)</i>	<i>Ralph O'Keefe (2015)</i>	<i>Marjorie Westfall (2019)</i>
<i>Jack Westfall (2013)</i>	<i>Ann Smith (2016)</i>	<i>Scott Blystone (2019)</i>
<i>Fred Meyer (2013)</i>	<i>Dorothy Marie Whiteman (2017)</i>	<i>Jean & Ed Sklair (2021)</i>
<i>Jim Bartell (2013)</i>	<i>Scott Walker (2017)</i>	<i>James Bartle (2022)</i>
<i>Vi McMahan (2013)</i>	<i>George Bilohlavek (2017)</i>	<i>John Walker (2022)</i>
<i>Joyce Kern (2015)</i>	<i>Thomas Cathy (2017)</i>	<i>Mary Hughes (2022)</i>
<i>John McMahan (2015)</i>	<i>Judy Gluchowski (2018)</i>	

Memorial Garden Fund, cont'd

Special Gifts and Disbursements in 2024

Account Information

Balance in Account 12/31/2023		\$6,324.84
Memorial Gifts Received		\$400.00
Estate Checks		
Transfer from other accounts		
Total Disbursements		(\$54.00)
Account Balance for Current Date	1/13/2025	\$6,670.84

Disbursements:	Natural Stone Works	(\$54.00)
	Total Disbursements	(\$54.00)

Account Breakout:	Labrinth	\$0.00
	Internment	\$2,800.00
	Bricks	\$3,555.00
	Non-Designated	\$1,895.44
	Plants & Maintenance	(\$2,965.04)
	2017 Beginning Balance	\$1,385.44
	Total	\$6,670.84

Contributions given in 2024 in memory of or honor of:

Valerie E. Fong

Wayne & Ginny Engbrecht

Marty Ohman

Frona Rossman

Mustard Seed Scholarship Fund

Mustard Seed Scholarship Program

Established in 1997, the Mustard Seed Scholarship Fund continues to support the outstanding youth of Gates Presbyterian Church as they pursue post high school education. 2024 marked the 24th year that awards were made from the Mustard Seed Scholarship Fund. Awards have been made to 27 GPC youth and total more than \$118,000.

Mustard Seed Scholarships are currently awarded as one-time disbursements of \$3,000 to successful applicants. Prior to 2021, there was one Mustard Seed Scholarship awarded each year and the disbursements of \$1,500 per year for up to four (4) years were made to the school that the recipient was attending. There were no Mustard Seed Scholarship applicants in 2024.

Mustard Seed Fund Status

Mustard Seed Scholarship Funds are held by Fidelity Investments and managed by Maple Capital Management.

	Fidelity	GPC	Total
12/31/2023 Balance	\$118,510.1 6	\$0.00	\$118,510.1 6
Donations	\$0.00	\$125.00	
Disbursements			
GPC to Fidelity			
Fidelity to GPC			
Scholarship Payments			
Mgt & Transaction Fees	-\$963.99		
Earnings (Net of Fees)	\$16,399.02		
12/31/2024 Balance	\$134,909.1 8	\$125.00	\$135,034.1 8

Mustard Seed Funds - Uses

Through faithful discernment, the Session of Gates Presbyterian Church has determined that Mustard Seed Funds may be allocated to support our children’s ministries if necessary to assure the continuation of these ministries. This is in addition to continuation of the Mustard Seed Scholarship program and expanded use poses no risk to the on-going viability of the Scholarship program.

Considerations leading to the change include:

- The number of youths who attend and/or participate in the life of our church has declined particularly in the last 7-8 years. The waning of youth participation at GPC is not an anomaly; the same trend is seen nationwide.
- There has been an increase in the number of young children (under 13 years old) in worship and the energy they bring to the congregation is palpable.
- We want to build and maintain vibrant, engaging programs for our children throughout their growing in faith.
- Our membership has declined, and much of our congregation is retired and navigating the full spectrum of rising costs. The decline in number and the aging of our membership are not anomalies.
- Our financial needs continue to grow; we appreciate our staff and insist on compensating them accordingly, our building is aging, costs of utilities and supplies increase regularly.

- The Mustard Seed Fund has grown significantly and broadening the use of these funds poses no risk to the continued viability of the Mustard Seed Scholarship program.

An update to the policy governing use of Mustard Seed Funds was approved by Session in 2024. Changes are summarized below.

- Use of Mustard Seed Funds must be approved by Session and is subject to the following:
- Maximum Annual Distribution is up to 7% of the average of the Year End Balances for each of the most recent four (4) years.
- The percentage for calculation of disbursement will be determined by Session each year for disbursement in the following year.
- Distribution guideline will be re-evaluated if the fund balance falls below \$100,000.
- Possible uses include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Salary of Junior Choir Director
 - Salaries of Infant and Toddler Care Staff
 - Program needs for Young Children and/or Youth
 - Financial support for participation in events, camp attendance, etc.

For 2025, Session approved disbursement of 7% of the average of Year End Balances for 2021 through 2024. Amount to be disbursed is \$9,035.30.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri MacFarlane
Keith Hadley