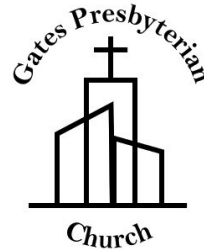


Gates Presbyterian Church



1049 Wegman Road
Rochester, NY 14624

May June 2026 Harbinger

585-247-5292
gatespres.org



Guatemala Partners Mission Committee Mother's Day Hanging Basket Sale

Pick up your Flowers! at GPC on Tuesday, May 5 between 8:30 AM and 4:00PM. If those times don't work for you, please call Tom to make other arrangements. Tom Ward at 261-2175
rtward73@outlook.com

Spring Clean-Up Hosted by the Trustees 9 am - 2 pm on Saturday, May 9

Come out and lend a hand at our annual spring clean-up!

There are many tasks that everyone can help with:

Washing windows, room clean up throughout the building, leaf and debris clean-up around the outside of the building, and lots more! There will be instructions, tools, supplies as well as coffee, juice and doughnuts! A sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex. Feel free to sign-up for a specific task and complete it at your convenience if you cannot come on Saturday, May 9.



Save the Date and GPC Members can register now!

Gates Presbyterian Church Flea Market

Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 9:00AM until 3:30PM

Register online [here](#) OR use this [form](#).

Sunday June 14 Celebration of Our Young People

Thank you, each and every one for supporting, encouraging and guiding our young people as they grow in God's love! The smiles, kind words, laughter and time you share with them make such a difference. There is no doubt that they feel at home here. As we move closer to our June 14 celebration, please let them know how much you are looking forward to the special worship service they are planning! (And here are some challenges for you- Can you name at least 4 of our church family members under the age of 13? Which Sunday School teacher has the initials PS? What color is the new rug in Room 16, where the Youth Group meets? True or False: Refreshments after worship are still popular with this group.)



From Rev. Laura Bachmann

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10b

I have always loved trees. I love their majesty and mystery, the way they wave in the breeze and their leaves dapple the light. I love the way they provide shade and shelter for us and for so many fellow creatures. I love to watch a woodpecker high in the tree, hammering away for his evening meal or witness a chipmunk scampering toward his own feast around the trunk. In the redwood forests, I love to reach my arms as wide as I can to hug these ancient bodies whose lives have encompassed so many generations of our human life. I recently learned trees can communicate through their roots. They share information and help each other adapt. Our trees are the lungs for our planet and the creators of the life-giving air that we breathe. The only creation mentioned in the Bible more often than trees is humans.



All of this explains why our recent service, based on the Canopy of Creation liturgy from Creation Justice Ministries has stuck with me. Between Grequan's beautiful and resonant sound bowls, Laurel's wise biblical reflection, and our powerful confession exchanging dead branches for live growth, I have been reminded again about how deeply we are all connected, one to another, across our world.

Last month too, our astronaut team reminded us of the fragility and unity of our planet, showing us how, from space, one sees only land and ocean, weather that crosses manmade boundaries to rain and shine on all those below, regardless of race, nationality or creed.

All this speaks so poignantly to me in our time. As we read in John 10:10, Jesus has come that we might have life and have it abundantly. This abundance comes from a God who longs for the wholeness and vibrancy of all creation. It is gift and responsibility and invitation – to love one another as Jesus has loved us. To care for one another in all parts of creation, understanding that we are woven together, our wellbeing tied to the thriving of our neighbors. To love as God has loved us is to receive the abundant life that Jesus came to proclaim.

It can be so hard to trust this idea of abundance when mostly what we feel is scarcity. It can be so hard to trust a boundless love when too much of what we witness is cruelty and hate. It can be so hard to trust in one another when so many around us are focused on division.

Our faith calls us to step out anyway in the belief that, though we cannot see the way, God will continue to provide abundance, love and community if we dare to open our lives and hearts to risk receiving this gift. As people of faith, God invites us to be witnesses in and to the world, to show by our foolish dependence on a God who loves us beyond our wildest imaginings, that another way is open to us, another mindset and value system and sense of what is good and just and right can be embraced.

As spring finally unfolds itself into full bloom, let us pay attention to the abundant life that surrounds us and commit ourselves to partner with God in furthering that abundance in every way that we can.

Peace,

Laura



Bible Study

We meet on **Tuesdays at 1:30 pm** in room 1.
We will follow the year A revised common lectionary.
Passages for each week can be found here (<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>).
Last date until the Fall will be May 19.



Mission News

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

The 2026 Lenten Wall of Food was a big success! Over 500 pounds of food was delivered to SWEM; another 100 pounds was given to the El Shaddai congregation. Many thanks to James, Owen, Faith, Everett, Nathan, and Katie for sorting and boxing all of that food.

There will not be a May collection as it falls on Memorial Day weekend this year. Instead, please support **The 34th Annual National Association of Letter Carriers' (NALC) "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive** on **Saturday, May 9**. Simply place your donations of non-perishable food items in a box or bag and place it by your mailbox on May 9.



The next GPC collection will be on **June 27 from 11:00 – 1:00**. Remember, there is a collection box under the coat rack in the foyer to drop off food items anytime.

Still on the topic of food – a group from the Mission Team joined the students of the Protestant Chapel Community (PCC) at the U of R for worship and a chili dinner on Palm Sunday. Turns out, a 2026 UofR graduate who still worships with the group is now employed at Walt Disney School and is the person who hands out the weekend lunches that were prepared by GPC. It really does "take a village"!

Projects still in the "development phase" are: reviving the goulash meal at St. Joseph's as a take-out, creating welcome baskets for our new neighbors at Churchview Commons, participating in the Town of Gates parade.

Congregational input is always welcome! We welcomed a new team member, Tom Munger, in April.

Expenditures approved in April were for the purchase of supplies for the GPC Coffee House, purchase of towels for Grace House and St. Joe's, and a donation to The India Gospel League.

The Mission Team will meet again on **Thursday May 7 at 6:30pm**, in the adult lounge. Open to all!

Message from Heritage to the Mission Committee

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. We are truly grateful to the mission committee at GPC for thinking of El Shaddai Church and for sharing these food donations with our community.

This will be a real blessing to many families in our congregation who could use extra support. I will make sure to share this with our members so they can receive what they need.

May God richly bless you, the mission committee, and the entire GPC family for your compassion and faithfulness.

*With gratitude,
Heritage*



Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm in room 16.

Upcoming dates are **May 5 and June 2.**

Mid-Day Worship Services continue on the 1st Thursday of the month at 12:10 am.

Upcoming dates are **May 7 and June 4.**



Rebecca Circle will meet on **Tuesday, May 12** from 10:30 to 12 noon in the Adult Lounge. Join us for great fellowship and wonderful conversation! Any questions, please contact Kay. Rebecca Circle will meet on **Tuesday, June 9** at 11:45am for lunch at Rohrbach's on Buffalo Road. Please let Kay know if you plan to come for the June luncheon. Kay Harder (721-7392)

Men's Breakfast

Sunday, May 17 (last one until September)

We meet at 8:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Please contact Adam Switzer if you would like to join or have questions.



The Memorial Garden Committee will take orders for memorial bricks until **May 25.** That will give us time to get them engraved and placed in the walkway sometime in June. A blessing service will be held at a later date. Bricks are \$100 each and forms can be found on the website or in the rack in the narthex. (Here is the form: [Memorial-Garden-Brick-Order-Form.pdf](#))

Deacons

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers:

Carol Anne Strawbridge's sister, Carlene, who recently had a serious heart attack.

From Jim Renfrew: Alyssa Marquez, not responding well to treatment; Anthony Weston, dealing with a cancer diagnosis and serious back pain; Mark Kelsey recovering at home from an acute sepsis attack; and Alma who is dealing with stomach cancer.

Betty Jones recovering from surgery at home.

Hannah Walker recovering from surgery.

Jan and Tom Brewer's friend, Maui recovering from cancer surgery.

Alex MacFarlane as he begins basic training in the Navy.

Sheri MacFarlane's friend, Sue, having serious health issues.

Tess McKeel with health issues.

Roger Kong-Xiong Wang, who was in detention in Buffalo was deported to China. Waiting to hear of his status in China.

Prayers for El Shaddai and all refugees whose status is being reassessed.

For our nation and our world as we confront rising violence in words and actions, especially for those who have been killed or shot during peaceful protests, in the course of detentions and in the midst of military operations, uprisings and war. We pray for the courage and persistence to work in local and global communities to imagine and create a world where polarization that devolves into violence can be replaced by deep listening, a sense of our mutual interdependence and shared values that honor the dignity of all life.

All the brokenhearted and weary and those who live with fear.

For children with learning disabilities and their families.

All those needing prayers and preferring privacy, whose names are known to God.

For all those who continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, that they may feel your spirit surrounding and holding them up, and that they may continue to heal and find new ways to feel whole.

For Churchview Commons and our partnership with the YWCA and Pathstone, that your Spirit may guide us as we prepare to welcome new neighbors to our community.

The Dream Team as they continue their work, that God will guide them as they work together to discern God's vision for our life and ministry together.



For refugees, immigrants and all those detained and at risk for deportation.

For all in our nation, national and local leaders and community members alike, that we may work together to advocate for the common good in the months and years ahead.

For peace to prevail in all places where war is killing and injuring people, destroying communities and polluting the earth. For leaders involved in negotiations, that wisdom will prevail and peace may take root. Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers for God's comfort, strength, and peace for:

Linda Beattie's friend, Fran Murphy who recently passed away. Prayers for Fran's family.

Mary Edna (Babe) Meyer and Sheree Barrett and family on the recent passing of Babe's brother and Sheree's uncle at age 100.

Chery Fehnel and family on the recent passing of Cheryl's Uncle Pete.

Jake and Kelly Carpenter on the loss of their son, Noah, in a car accident.

From Barb Snaith: Azina, an Iranian post-doc at the University of Rochester, on the recent death of her husband.

Continued prayers for: Paro and Withrow Families, Hinchey Family, Fraty Family, Sunrisa Lewis, Sally Christensen's niece, Tom Ward's friend, Neil; Cheryl and Bruce Taylor's friend, Anne; Kelly Cox's friend- Rebecca, Kathy Coons' sister, Janet, Tom Ward's friend, Harold Alvarez, Tom's Aunt Marlene and friend Vic Vinkey, Al Waugh, Zoey, Fran Murphy, Karen D'Agostino, Katie Steinmiller's sister-Jessie, Linda Allen, Jill Corey, Ramisa, Laura's Uncle Mike Flint, Roger, Hannah and Lori Walker, Tia Bates, Alyce, Helen, Barb Snaith's cousin- Chip, and friends- Ria Tafani, Jim, and Kathy, Doris Barney, Tracy Burkovich's sister in law- Sue, El Shaddai's baby girl, Andrea's friend-Elaine, Kecia's friend-Dennis and family, Laura's brother in law-Peter Chemery, Tonya Latone, Cheryl and Bruce Taylor's friend, Anne, Those affected by the devastating floods, wildfires, tornados, hurricanes and earthquakes, the Indian State of Manipur, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, South Sudan, the Congo, Bangladesh Iran, Venezuela, and all those experiencing violence, war and natural disasters.

The Hospitality Team

would like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the parking lot valet service



this past winter and early spring including Roger Best, Tom Brewer, Dan Charcholla, Bill Dassero, Bob Fehnel, Keith Hadley, Bruce Taylor, Eric Vail. This winter was often snow bound and was very cold and wintery for the most part of the winter season with cold, snow, ice and windy storms on or before our Sunday worship services. Once again, it was very pleasing to hear so many warm and thankful comments about this service. Coming to Church early on a cold, windy and snowy Sunday to shovel snow if needed and put down ice melting product is not something everyone looks forward to do but the volunteers braved the elements and never hesitated when asked to help. This extra effort offered on Sundays, some of which were very cold, shows just how willing the people of GPC are to step right in and lend a helping hand. This is truly a caring Church family, and we should all be very proud of the willingness these volunteers have shown to help others out.

Thank you to All of You.

Gates Presbyterian Church Mustard Seed Scholarship

To the members of the High School Graduating Class of 2026, you are eligible to apply for the Gates Presbyterian Church Mustard Seed Scholarship. The Mustard Seed Scholarship Fund originated with a generous donation from Frank Roberts, a lifelong member of Gates Presbyterian Church who was devoted to our church – especially our youth programs. Frank hoped that the Mustard Seed Scholarship would be a means of offering financial assistance to the youth of our church as they pursue post-high school education at an accredited college or university, or at a vocational trade school. We are fortunate and grateful that the Mustard Seed Scholarship Fund continues to grow through thoughtful and generous donations from our GPC members and friends. First awarded in 2001, this is the 25th year of Mustard Seed Scholarship awards. The Scholarship amount is a one-time award of \$3,000 and is disbursed to the awardee prior to the fall this year.

Please feel free to contact the church office or Keith Hadley, keithahadley@gmail.com, on behalf of the GPC Mustard Seed Scholarship Committee, if you would like to receive an application or have any questions.

El Shaddai Donation Needs

Thanks to all who have donated items for our El Shaddai community. Pastor Heritage has asked that we provide ONLY the following items as donations:

Personal hygiene products such as toothpaste and toothbrushes

Baby items such as diapers and wipes

And these food items:

- Dry beans - black and red
- Jasmine rice
- Peanut butter
- Vegetable oil
- Cornmeal
- White flour
- Salt
- Black tea bags
- Tomato sauce
- Canned tomatoes
- Mandarin oranges
- Pediasure (vanilla flavor)

Bring to the El Shaddai's collection room (Room 29)

Please do NOT bring any other items (clothes, household items, etc.).

There is limited space and volunteer effort available to process items.

If you have questions about donations, please contact Sue (office@gatespres.org) and she will work with Pastor Heritage to get you an answer.

Library News



Check out the two display tables in the GPC Library containing children's storybooks you can sign out! Author Harriet Ziefert's books about making mud pies and sandcastles are on display. Author Robin Pulver's *Nobody's Mother is in Second Grade* is also on display.

Upcoming displays will highlight books for Mother's Day. Also, the books addressing grief and loss are still on the front display table.

See you in the Library!

Why Serving as a Deacon Is Deeply Rewarding — And How You Can Join Us in Caring for Others

Serving as a Deacon in the PC(USA) has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my faith journey. Deacons are called to compassion, presence, and practical care—often in quiet ways that become lifelines for members of our church family. The privilege of walking alongside people, whether through a simple prayer, a visit, or a meal, continually reminds me how deeply God's love is revealed in everyday acts of kindness.

This ministry strengthens the whole congregation. Deacons help ensure that no one feels alone by coordinating visits, both at home and in hospitals, meals, transportation, card, and other forms of care. But this work is never meant to be done by Deacons alone—it is a ministry of the whole church. When the congregation joins in, even small acts make a big difference.

You can support Deacon ministries large or small ways: serving coffee and punch after worship, visiting someone at home or in the hospital, preparing a meal for a family in need, sending cards, or offering a ride to someone who can't get to appointments or church events. Each act of service becomes a thread in the fabric of community we are weaving together.

Together, we embody Christ's love in action—and that is the most rewarding part of all. If you would like to get involved, please reach out to me or another Deacon.

Love you all, Carrie Dykes

Hello from the **Pathstone Development Team**. There are many recent changes that you can see at Churchview Commons. The storage containers are gone and there are new parking lot lights. These are just a couple of the visible signs that the project is getting close to the end. In the upcoming weeks, while the inside work is completed, the outside will also be completed: the lawn will be restored and new trees will be planted AND the driveway, parking lot and playground will be rebuilt.



When the parking lot gets rebuilt, there will be lots of disruption for a short time. Unless necessary we ask you to delay your visits to church, or park in the Cornerstone lot and walk over. As soon as the parking lot work is scheduled, we will send the details. Thank you for your patience during these last few projects. Soon Churchview Commons will be done, and it will look great! If you have questions, please reach out to Bill Dassero, and he will address your questions. Thank you. Read more about this partnership [here](#).

Go to [News - Gates Presbyterian Church](#) for more photos.

GPC Events Calendar – May

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					May 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am Choir 10am Worship Sunday School	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew	8:30-4 PICK UP Flower Orders 1pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30 pm Bible Study (1)		12:10pm Mid-Day Worship (2) 6:30pm Mission (1)		9am-2pm Spring Clean-Up Hosted by the Trustees
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9am Choir 10am Worship Sunday School 11am Jr Choir	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry 6pm Trustees (Zoom)	10:30am Rebecca Circle (1) 1:30 pm Bible Study (1) 6:30pm Deacons (1)				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am Men's Bfast (last one until the Fall) 9am Choir 9:30 St. Joe's Meal Prep (once a month @ St. Joe's) 10am Worship Sunday School 11am Jr Choir 11:30am Session (1)	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew	1:30 pm Bible Study (1) (last one until the Fall) 7pm Personnel Comm (Zoom)				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9am Choir 10am Worship	Office Closed Memorial Day 8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry					

This calendar reflects only GPC related meetings/events.

For a full listing of our building use, please see our online calendar [here](#).

GPC Events Calendar – June

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
May 31	June 1	2	3	4	5	6
9am Choir 10am Worship Sunday School 11am Jr Choir	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew	1pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Dream Team (1)		12:10 pm Mid-Day Worship (2)		9am- 3:30pm Flea Market
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9am Choir 10am Worship Sunday School 11am Jr Choir	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry 6pm Trustees (Zoom)	11:45 am Rebecca Circle at Rohrbach's 6:30pm Deacons (off site)				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9am Choir 10am Worship Celebration of our Young People!	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew	7pm Personnel Comm (Zoom)			Office Closed Juneteenth	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 St. Joe's Meal Prep (once a month @ St. Joe's) 10am Worship	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry					11am Mission Food/ Personal Hygiene Collection
28	29	30	July 1	2	3	4
10am Worship 11:30am Session (1)	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry				Office Closed Independence Day	

This calendar reflects only GPC related meetings/events.

For a full listing of our building use, please see our online calendar [here](#).

Worship Support Schedule

Date	Liturgist	Greeter	Communion Servers		Usher Team
May 3	Katie Steinmiller		Kecia Binko Sue Poole Christine Cook	Jim Poole Whit Beckett Janice Phillips	6
May 10	Andrea Unson	Ginny Smith			1
May 17	Adam Switzer	Debbie Dassero			2
May 24 Pentecost	Eric Vail				3
May 31	Faith Switzer				4
Jun 7	Kathy Wakeman	Tess McKeel	Paul Gluchowski Paula Sousa Andrea Unson	Jan Brewer Tom Brewer Margaret Militello	5
Jun 14	Irene Ward	Ginny Smith			6
Jun 21	Tom Ward	Jan Beutner-Shirtz			1
Jun 28	Claudia Weber	Debbie Dassero			2

Greeters Needed - Please consider signing up to fill one (or more) of these dates.

You can sign up online here: [Greeter Sign Up](#)

Please note that the current schedule for Worship Support is now on the website.

Go to the drop-down menu on the Worship page to view. [LINK](#) (you will need the password)
Changes have occurred since the schedule was shared at the beginning of the year. If you switch with someone, please let the office know and the sheet will be updated. This ensures that the information in church communications is accurate. Thank you.

Upcoming Dates for Jr Choir

May 3 No Rehearsal

May 10 Rehearsal

May 17 Rehearsal

May 24 No Rehearsal

May 31 Rehearsal

June 7 Rehearsal

June 14 Sing During Worship – No Rehearsal





Thank You!

We would all like to extend a hearty “thank-you” to the stalwart members of the GPC choir—they show up early every week, are always prepared to lead the congregation in singing, and are a delight to hear in our worship services.

Thank you very much to:

Kris Ohman, Irene Ward,
Carrie Dykes, Kay Harder,
Christine Cook,
Kathy Wakeman, Amanda Hart,
Jan Brewer, Katie Steinmiller,
Paul Gluchowski, Dennis White,
Chip Bachmann, Whit Beckett,
Jared Steinmiller,
and Roger Howe.

Per Capita 2026

2026 Per Capita Amount:
\$40.00 per member

If you would like to pay your Per Capita online, you may do so by clicking [HERE](#)

Message from the Deacons

If you or someone you know would appreciate a visit or a card from one of our Deacons, please contact the church office. We also ask that if you are aware of anyone in the hospital who would welcome a visit from our Pastor or members of the Board of Deacons, to notify the church office as soon as possible. Please note that, due to privacy regulations, hospitals do not inform the church of patient admissions or share personal information unless specifically requested by the patient or their family. Your assistance helps us ensure that care and support are extended to those who need it.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anyone in need of a prayer shawl, for themselves or a friend or family member, please contact Dorothy Mundt.

Congregational Care

Anyone wishing to let us know of someone needing our care and concern, please contact Kay Harder kay1972john@yahoo.com (585) 721-7392. You can also contact Linda Sidore at 314-4437, lsidore@yahoo.com to place your person and their concern on the confidential prayer chain.

Contact Information

Rev. Laura Bachmann, Pastor
laura@gatespres.org

GPC Office Hours ***NEW***

Tuesday through Friday 10 am—2 pm
office@gatespres.org

No July Harbinger

August/September submissions
are due July 21.

Please note: images from Freepik.com

Gates Presbyterian Church
1049 Wegman Road
Rochester, NY 14624

Useful Info

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. We'd love to see you in person in our sanctuary, but if that doesn't work for you, you can join us online via our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/c/GatesPresbyterianChurch) (<https://www.youtube.com/c/GatesPresbyterianChurch>).

Visit our [website](https://gatespres.org) (<https://gatespres.org>) where you'll find a lot of information [about our church](#), our [Mission, Values & Beliefs](#), and learn about the various [local missions](#) that we support.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) (Gates Presbyterian Church) to stay up to date on news & events.

Want to volunteer, but don't know where you'd fit in? Check out our "[How to Get Involved at GPC](#)" brochure. This document outlines the various committees & groups at GPC and some of the things they do.

Generosity

There are several ways that you can make a donation to GPC.

Online [here](#). You can use a credit card or pay via ACH/bank transfer.

Make a one-time payment or set up recurring payments.

Please consider covering the processing fees to offset the costs to GPC.

Pay by Check (payable to Gates Presbyterian Church).

Mail to: 1049 Wegman Rd, Rochester, NY 14624

<https://gatespres.org/giving/>

