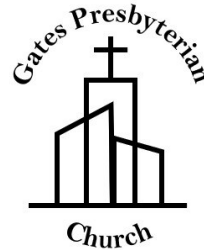


Gates Presbyterian Church



1049 Wegman Road
Rochester, NY 14624

August/September 2026 Harbinger

585-247-5292
gatespres.org

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in room 16. **August 4 and September 1**



Mid-Day Worship Services starts again on **September 3** and will continue the 1st Thursday of the month at 12:10 pm. Additional dates are **October 1, November 5, December 3.**

Choir begins on **September 6**

Jr Choir Rehearsals begin on **September 13**



Rebecca Circle will meet on **Tuesday, September 8** from 10:30 am to 12 noon in the Adult Lounge. Join us for great fellowship and wonderful conversation! Any questions, please contact Kay Harder at 721-7392.

Sunday School and Youth Group

Starts **Sunday, September 13**



From Rev. Laura Bachmann

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

John 10:10 (NRSVUE)



This summer, I have been thinking about what it means, and what it feels like, to have abundant life. As the boys and I traveled out west, enjoying days that seemed far longer than the norm and immersing ourselves in the beauty of God's creation, I was reminded what it felt like to be filled with the Spirit's renewing energy.

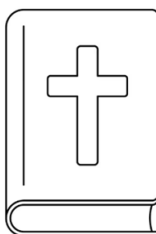
I imagine many of you can relate to my feeling lately that life has been going much too fast. Full as it may be with meaningful work and family time, my soul has not always kept up with my mind and body, and my connection with the Holy Spirit has too often been buried underneath worldly concerns. I have not been experiencing abundant life so much as life with an abundance of "stuff" packed in. And more, as we all know, does not necessarily mean better!

And so, this summer, as I have tried to intentionally slow down, taking the time to notice and appreciate the richness of my life, I have been so grateful to once again feel the Spirit flowing freely into my heart. Receiving the Spirit is one of those I-know-it-when-I-see-it situations for me. I find it hard to describe exactly, but I can say that I recognize it as deeply essential to my life. When I feel the Spirit's presence, I also feel hope, energy for the work, clarity about next steps (even if the rest of the path remains annoyingly out of view), and a deep sense of connection with the world around me – human and plant and animal alike. It is like that satisfaction we feel when finally sitting down to a meal of beautifully prepared and nutritious food, a joy to eat and share with others and a boon to our spiritual and physical selves.

To receive the abundant life that Jesus tells us he came to offer is, I think, to sit squarely in the path of the Holy Spirit, paying enough attention to notice its nearness and then opening our hearts and minds so that we can fully appreciate its arrival and the energy and love it delivers. Of course, along with this gift, comes the knowledge that we do not control the Spirit, it goes where it will, sometimes blowing us onto a path we never imagined following. We must prepare to be surprised when we decide to say "Yes!" to the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives, but, oh the abundance that follows!

As we enjoy our last weeks of summer and get ready for the quicker pace of the program year in September, let us take time to intentionally make space for the Holy Spirit's regenerative presence, allowing it to sink into our lives and ground us for the months to come.

Peace,
Laura



Bible Study – starting September 15

We meet on Tuesdays at 2:00 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/>).

(@juicy-fish)



Mission News

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." - Mother Teresa

The summer is flying by! Your GPC Mission Team held an "in-home" meeting in July while the church parking lot was being finished.

Everyone was delighted to welcome back long-time member Al Waugh.

Instead of our monthly food collection in May, we encouraged participation in the Postal Service Food Collection on May 9. A portion of the total collection was designated for SWEM. Thanks to Tom M and Tom W who picked up 776 pounds of food and delivered it to SWEM.

The next food collections at GPC will be from 11:00 am-1:00 pm on **Saturday August 22** and **Saturday September 26**.

Churchview Commons is nearing completion!

The Mission Team has prepared welcome bags for each new resident, filled with items needed to establish a home such as paper towels, cleaning products, and band aids.

Safe Way Homes of Greater Rochester, Inc. assists individuals (men, women, and children) in distress with a safe place while recovering from homelessness, domestic and interpersonal violence, poverty, and lack of opportunity by providing intensive case management services, housing, and mentoring. This is a grass roots agency in the Rochester area. We voted to help financially, and plan to watch their progress to see how we can further support them. Other financial assistance was sent to Rochester Refugee Resettlement, and to St. Joe's for bottled water through the summer months.



We met on July 22 to pack the welcome bags and discuss new business.

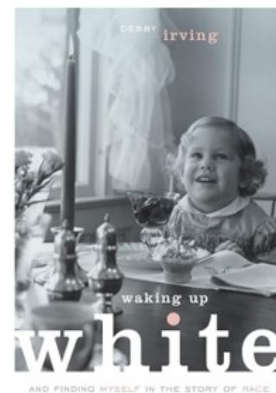
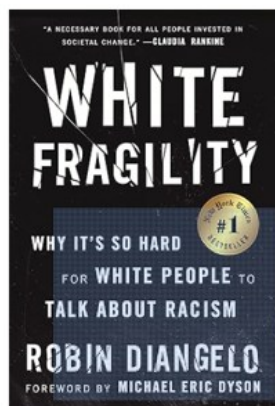
The next meeting is **September 14** at 6:30 pm in Room 1. We would love to see you!

Library News

Check out two books suggested by Pastor Laura and located on the library display in front of the windows.

Waking Up White, by Debby Irving, is about race and racism. Debby is a "racial justice educator and writer."

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism is by Robin DiAngelo who has worked with racial and social justice issues for over 20 years. Some thoughtful reading for this time!



2026 Mustard Seed Scholarship Awards

The Mustard Seed Scholarship was established in 1997 by a member of GPC named Frank Roberts. Frank was a true champion for GPC youth. He was a tireless advisor, a work project supporter, and a volunteer for many programs, activities, and service at GPC. Frank established the Mustard Seed Scholarship to encourage our youth to continue their faith journey as they finished high school. Frank's passion for the mustard seed was demonstrated by the significant monetary gift that he donated to start the fund. His support continued after his passing in 2007 as generous bequests were received from his estate. In addition, the generosity of other donors, along with continued care in the stewardship of the fund, assures that there will be Mustard Seed recipients for many years in the future.



@rochakshukla

Frank believed in Matthew 13:31-32 which says: *“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that birds come and perch in its branches.”*

The three recipients this year are Evelyn Henderberg, Georgia Fitzgerald and Will Hart.

In her essay, Evelyn wrote about the verse in Micah Chapter 6, verse 8 that says, “what does the lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.” Evelyn seeks justice by prioritizing others dealing with mental health issues and destigmatizing mental illness. She shares her beautiful gift of singing (and acting) to help herself maintain positive mental health. For Evelyn this expands beyond herself and she uses this gift as a way to communicate with others which leads to healing and mental wellness for all. She “loves kindness” by volunteering and supporting her theater program, helping to create a welcome, safe place for everyone to express themselves. What a great way to offer positivity and encouragement to others. “Walking humbly with God” is something Evelyn realizes is an ongoing journey throughout life. She feels strong connections and alignment with the beliefs and values held by GPC such as More Light, Churchview Commons, and the weekend food program for children in our community. Evelyn will attend SUNY Fredonia in the Medical Laboratory Science Program.

In her essay, Georgia wrote about how she has experienced the parable of the mustard seed in her own life. This parable resonates deeply with her because it reflects the way meaningful change often begins...in quiet, unseen ways, before transforming into something greater. She has lived out this parable in her educational journey; she remembers when her confidence felt small or she was struggling with feelings of doubt. She has balanced responsibilities at home, school, sports and her faith while overcoming challenges and pushing through moments of doubt that weren't always visible to others. Continuing to invest herself, studying when it felt difficult, asking for help when needed and staying committed are all things she recognizes she has done, to stay committed to her goals. Over time she has seen those small, consistent efforts

grow into something much stronger. Like the mustard seed into a tree that provides a home for the animals of the forest, Georgia has come to understand that even small acts of kindness and support can create meaningful change in someone else's life. These things foster connection, build community, and create a sense of belonging. These things align so beautifully to Georgia's future. She will be attending Loyola University as a Nursing major so she can continue expanding her knowledge, skills, and contributions in ways that extend far beyond herself.

Will wrote of the significant influence that the parable of the unjust steward had on his life. The Steward is dishonest, yet he is still praised for acting shrewdly. This parable resonates with Will because he realized that it isn't a lesson in dishonesty, but rather about wisdom, preparation and the importance of planning ahead. The steward understood that his situation was changing, and instead of ignoring reality, he took action to prepare for his future. As an Eagle Scout, Will deeply embraces the "be prepared" motto. He values planning ahead, adapting to unexpected situations and thinking carefully about resources that are available to him. He knows that success often depends on preparation long before challenges arise. In the parable, the steward realizes that his circumstances are changing, and instead of panicking or ignoring the problem, he acts quickly to prepare for what would come next. As Will thinks about his future, he understands the importance of keeping his options open instead of relying on one plan. He applied to 6 different colleges and explored two different majors: mechanical engineering and aerospace engineering. He has a strong interest in both fields because of his love for problem-solving, innovation, and understanding how complex systems work. He recognizes the importance of flexibility in planning his future. By applying to multiple schools and considering multiple paths he is making sure that he would have opportunities regardless of how circumstances may change along his educational journey. Will said in his essay, "Having backup plans does not mean expecting failure; it means being responsible enough to prepare for uncertainty." Very wise indeed. Will plans to attending University at Buffalo in the fall, He has set himself up well for success whatever path he decides to take while he explores his options and makes his way forward toward his dreams.

Please join in congratulating Evelyn, Georgia and Will and wishing them all the very best in their upcoming college years!



Deacons

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers:

Hannah Walker home recovering after a brief hospital stay.

Tess McKeel recovering from cancer surgery and treatment.

Prayers of Joy to Dorothy Mundt who has a new great, great granddaughter Elowen Grace.

Congratulations to Ian Unson upon obtaining his Ph.D. degree.

Kecia Binko's dad who broke his feet in a skydiving incident and prayers for her mom as he recovers.

Bob Paro now recovering at home from thyroid surgery and dealing with complications.

Barb Snaith's co-worker, Megan, who is recovering from a serious car accident.

Whit Beckett's partner Alyce recovering from two broken hips.

Nelson, Trina and Elena Portillo on the death of Nelson's mother.

To Jim Renfrew's sister and brother-in-law, Tina and Tim Helble, who were forced from their home after a fire next door.

Evan Mikoll's mother recovering from surgery and other medical issues.

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.

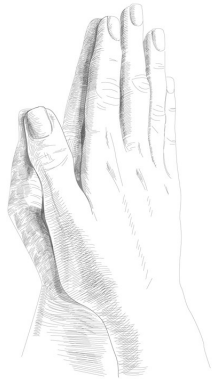
All the brokenhearted and weary and those who live with fear.

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:

Tom Ward on the recent passing of his cousin, Barb Harper.

Barb Snaith and Family on the recent passing of her cousin, Chip.

Janice Bilohlavek and Family on the recent passing of her niece, Annette Bilohlavek.

Family and Friends of Dick Kern who passed away on June 22.

To the Family and Friends of Donna Topp, a former GPC member and GPC Music Director who passed away on July 8th in Gainesville, FL.

To Betty Jones and Family on the recent death of Betty's sister in Orlando, FL.

To the Family and Friends of Alma Tzalai (a friend of Jim Renfrew) who recently passed away leaving four children and one grandchild.

Continued prayers for: Sonrisa Lewis, Sally Christensen's niece; Fran Paro's cousin, Kathy Orłowski; Cheryl and Bruce Taylor's friend, Anne; Kathy Coons' sister, Janet; Tom's Aunt Marlene and friend Vic Vinkey; Zoey; Karen D'Agostino; Linda Allen; Jill Corey; Ramisa; Laura's Uncle Mike Flint; Roger; Lori Walker; Tia Bates; Ria Tafani; Doris Barney; 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.

Trauma-Informed Care Training
Presented by Carrie Michel-Wynne
Saturday, September 19

10:00 am–1:00 pm

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm (optional) lunch and discussion

Gates Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

1049 Wegman Road Rochester, NY 14624

(585) 247- 5292 www.gatespres.org

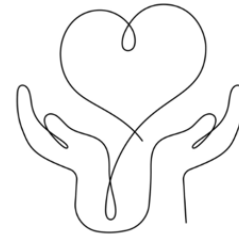
Lunch will be provided. (Please note dietary restrictions when registering.)

No fee, but registration is required.

Please register before September 9

[Registration link](#)

Everyone is welcome!



A strong community is built on understanding, compassion, and a shared commitment to supporting one another. Understanding that some of our neighbors have experienced trauma as refugees or as survivors of domestic violence, racial or ethnic violence, or violence based on gender or sexual orientation, we invite community members to learn how trauma-informed approaches can strengthen relationships, reduce stigma, and help create a welcoming neighborhood for everyone.

Trauma-informed care is an approach that recognizes the widespread impact of psychological, physical, and sexual abuse, neglect, structural racism, homelessness, and community violence, and incorporates that understanding into every aspect of supporting and serving people. For community members, trauma-informed care training builds awareness of how common trauma is and provides practical skills to respond with empathy, compassion, and respect while reducing the risk of re-traumatization.

Participants learn how everyday interactions—including language, tone of voice, and environmental factors—can unintentionally trigger trauma responses, and how to engage with others in ways that honor their boundaries, choices, and dignity. The training encourages a shift in perspective—from asking, "What's wrong with this person?" to "What happened to this person?" By emphasizing resilience, strengths, and recovery rather than focusing solely on behaviors or symptoms, trauma-informed care helps build a more compassionate, inclusive, and connected community.

Whether you are a neighbor, volunteer, business owner, member of a faith community, or simply interested in learning more, this training offers practical tools to strengthen our community and help ensure everyone feels welcome and supported.

Carrie Michel-Wynne brings more than 30 years of experience in supportive housing, residential services, and community partnerships, with a career grounded in advancing dignity, equity, and opportunity. She currently serves as Chief Community Services Officer at Jewish Family Services Rochester and previously spent nearly two decades at YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County, where she helped expand affordable and supportive housing and strengthen community systems of care. Carrie is a certified trauma-informed care trainer through the New York State Office of Mental Health sponsored 'Tending the Roots' curriculum and is passionate about helping organizations build trauma-responsive cultures that promote healing, safety, and belonging for both staff and those they serve. She also serves on the board of Partners Ending Homelessness, the region's Homeless Continuum of Care.

Image magnific.com @juicy-fish



Memorial Garden

Last summer we expanded our
Memorial Garden.

Come visit anytime!

JOIN US for Blessing of the Bricks

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Following Worship

*What good is sitting alone in your room?
Come hear the music play!
Life is a cabaret, old chum
Come to the cabaret!*

The GPC Cabaret will be on Saturday, September 26 at 6:30pm!

As usual, we can't make this work without your help!

We need volunteers for set-up on Friday evening,
dessert donations, and kitchen crew.

Performers and volunteers, sign-up online (links are below).

Email Katie Steinmiller at kathryn.steinmiller@gmail.com

with any questions.

[Volunteer sign up](#)

[Performer sign up](#)



Save the Date for **Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 27**
during service. More info to follow. Watch the weekly *What's Happening*.



Saturday, November 7, 2026

REGISTRATION IS... NOW OPEN!!

Get ready for the

2026 Wegmans East Avenue Grocery Run
and get ahead of the game by registering NOW!

[Register Here!](#)

*** Join the Gates Presbyterian Team during registration. ***

Churchview Commons

The Churchview Commons project with PathStone Corporation is nearly completed and should be when you read this. Bottom line, the end is near and the residents will be moved in. Some email records show our GPC team had begun working on the Churchview Commons as far back as June



of 2018, and actually likely earlier. The team has changed faces a bit over the years, but here are the people involved from the outset: Rev. Melissa Allison (DeRosia), Dick Stewart, Mary Hadley, Sheri McFarlane, Tom Ward, Ed Coons, Jan Beutner-Shirtz, Rev. Bachmann, and me.

The names changed, but the focus of why we began the partnership with PathStone Corporation did not change. It is part of Gates Presbyterian Church's charter values. There is still physical work to be completed, and our tour of the facility is still being planned. We kept asking for patience during the entire process and our patience has been rewarded. The building is quite remarkable, and the parking lot is sooooo nice, and we'll soon have a brand new regulation playground for our youngest to enjoy. Your patience has been rewarded.

A special thank you to our Administrative Assistant, Sue Eckhaus, who helped us out tremendously during the parking lot rebuild, keeping the many groups who use our building and were inconvenienced, informed about the process and thanking them for their patience.

Take the time to thank all the people who persevered to reach our goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dassero

(photo credit L. Bachmann)

The Harvesting Hope Gala

Friday, August 28

5 pm- 10 pm

Celebrating the seeds she planted.



Homesteads for Hope has been growing purpose on the banks of the Erie Canal for ten seasons now. This August, we gather on the farm to celebrate the life of the woman whose dream made all of it possible, co-founder Luann Brown, and the thousands of lives that have bloomed because she believed.

This August 28, we're celebrating everything that has grown from those seeds.

Set against the beautiful backdrop of the farm, the evening will feature a farm-to-table dinner, open bar, live music and dancing with The Swooners, live and silent auctions, a flower bar, and so much more. Whether you've been part of our journey for years or are just discovering Homesteads for Hope, we invite you to join us for a night of celebration, connection, and purpose.

Go to this [link](#) to see all of the details about what is included and the itinerary.

Here is the [link for tickets](#)

PERSEVERING *toward* WHOLENESS

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, addressed constitutional governance, racial justice, gender justice, denominational finances and the direction of the church, laying groundwork for work continuing through the next assembly.

Co-moderators elected, GA228 to be held in Puerto Rico

Commissioners elected the **Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero**, border ministry coordinator for the Tres Rios Border Foundation in Tres Rios Presbytery, and the **Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer**, pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa, as co-moderators. They will preside at GA228, June 11-22, 2028, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Commissioners also **approved full, in-person assemblies**, including an exhibit hall, beginning in 2030.

Budget and per capita

Commissioners approved a **balanced \$188.4 million unified budget** for Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL &W) and the A Corporation for the 2027–2028 biennium, about \$5.8 million more than the previous budget: \$90.45 million for 2027 and \$97.92 million for 2028. Per capita rates were set at \$13.04 in 2027 and \$12.72 in 2028.

General Assembly Relationships

The GAR Committee approved the new Organization for Mission, the structure for the General Assembly as the denomination's highest council, and **established PL&W** and its governing board.

Israel/Palestine

Commissioners approved RIW-04, declaring that the **Israeli government has violated international law** prohibiting genocide in its war in Gaza. As amended, RIW-04 directs the denomination's Office of Public

Witness to advocate against U.S. military sales to Israel and purchases from Israel. It also encourages members to avoid products from Israeli companies linked to violations of international law.

Constitutional interpretation, missiology, and mission co-worker dismissals

Following testimony on staff dismissals during **World Mission's closure**, the assembly approved CON-02, directing PL&W and the A Corporation to revise employment policies to prohibit nondisclosure covenants for employees, with a report due to the 2028 assembly. RIW-01 calls for review of the processes that terminated mission co-worker positions and World Mission. RIW-02 directs the development of a new missiological statement for global engagement.

Pastors will now be required to complete **boundary and abuse-prevention training** at least every three years. An overture to remove the Board of Pensions' medical coverage requirements was rejected.

Commissioners referred CON-10, which seeks an authoritative interpretation of monogamy, for discussion within the theological framework proposed in GEN-09, "Beyond Changing Families."

Gender and Sexuality Justice

The Constitutional Interpretation Committee **rejected a call for a special study of the Olympia Overture amendments**, citing related proposals GEN-06 and GEN-09. GEN-06 directs the development



of a mechanism that would allow congregations to indicate their openness and readiness to call an LGBTQIA+ candidate on their Ministry Discernment Profiles. Candidates would be allowed to view congregational responses. GEN-09, “Beyond Changing Families: Flourishing Relationships and Belonging,” seeks a theological framework and a study guide on human sexuality and gender that reflect the PC(USA)’s commitment to full inclusion.

The assembly reaffirmed support for **access to medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare** and approved development of a survey collecting non-identifying information about sexual misconduct in church settings.

Climate and Environmental Justice

The Climate Justice Committee approved CLJ-02, “Changing Course for a Green Future,” **directing divestment from more than 50 companies** by 2030 and barring new investments in them. All CLJ items were placed on the consent agenda, including a call for education on regenerative farming and prioritizing responses to the climate crisis.

White Christian nationalism

Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to declare White Christian nationalism and similar ideologies “**a theological error**” incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ; language changes in the *Book of Order* require presbytery ratification. Commissioners rejected an amendment that would have removed references to White Christian nationalism from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race report.

Racial justice

The Racial Justice Committee advanced several recommendations **strengthening the denomination’s**

anti-racism work, including RAC-04, “The Report from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Race,” directing “PL&W to create a tracking system that displays the progress/ completion of all GA business... related to race, racism, and White supremacy ...”

RAC-01 calls for PC(USA) entities to report to the 228th GA on implementation of RGJ-13, the 2022 Report from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force. RAC-03, the “Resolution on Liberia Project 180,” explores establishing theological learning and repair, and developing **acknowledgment and apology for Presbyterian involvement** in and support of the American Colonization Society and its lasting effects on Indigenous Liberians.

Ordered ministry

The Theological Education and Ordination Committee approved changes **modernizing preparation for ministry** while preserving Presbyterian ordination standards. ORD-02 clarifies that ministry preparation in G-2.06 and G-2.07 of the *Book of Order* applies to those training for the ministry of Word and Sacrament; it requires a two-thirds presbytery vote. ORD-03, addressing collaborative ministry teams, was approved; ORD-04, seeking removal of the time-of-service requirement for ruling elders in mid council roles, was not.

A new confession

A newly appointed special committee will continue **considering a new confession**. The draft seeks to articulate Christian faith in response to contemporary challenges including racism, economic inequality, environmental degradation, violence and political polarization.

For full stories about General Assembly or other news from the PC(USA):

Visit our website: pres-outlook.org

Follow us on social:

Facebook: Presbyterian Outlook

Bluesky: [@presoutlook.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/presoutlook.bsky.social)



GPC Events Calendar – August

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
August 2026						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10am Worship	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew	1pm Prayer Shawl (16) 6pm Dream Team (1)				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am Worship	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am Worship 11:30am Session (1)	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew					11am Mission Food/Personal Hygiene Collection
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School Meeting (Lib)	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry					
30	31					
10am Worship	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew					

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 – September

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
September 2026		1	2	3	4	5
		1pm Prayer Shawl (16) 6pm Dream Team (1)		12:10pm Mid-Day Worship (2)		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew	10:30am Rebecca Cir (1) 6:30pm Deacons (1)				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship, Blessing of the Bricks Sunday School and Youth Group Start 11am Jr Choir Starts	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry 6pm Trustees (zoom) 6:30 Mission (1)	2:00pm Bible Study (1) 7 pm Personnel Committee (Zoom)		Oct/Nov Harbinger due before Sept 21		10am-2 pm Trauma-Informed Care Training
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew	2:00pm Bible Study (1)				11am Mission Food/ Personal Hygiene Collection 6:30pm Cabaret
27	28	29	30			
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship Ministry Fair 11:30am Session (1)	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry	2:00pm Bible Study (1)				

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
Aug 2	Kecia Binko	Jan Beutner-Shirtz	<i>Pastor Laura & Liturgist</i>	1
Aug 9	Claudia Weber	Jared Steinmiller		2
Aug 16	Christine Cook	Jared Steinmiller		3
Aug 23	Andrea Hinchey Unson			4
Aug 30	Owen Smith			5
Sep 6	Carrie Dykes		<i>Pastor Laura & Liturgist</i>	6
Sep 13	Mary Hadley	Jan Beutner-Shirtz		1
Sep 20	Kay Harder			2
Sep 27	Lauren Henderberg			3

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.



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.).

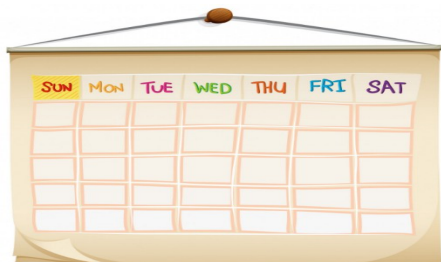
There is limited space and volunteer effort available to process items.

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

Financial Update

Thank you to everyone who has faithfully submitted pledge payments. We have collected about half of our confirmed giving and are so grateful for your faithful contributions. Your continued generosity supports the ministries and mission of our church.

If you have not yet sent your 2026 Per Capita payment, we encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. The total 2026 Per Capita obligation is \$10,080. Per Capita is the annual apportionment our congregation pays to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as part of our shared ministry and commitment. The amount is \$40 per member. You may submit your Per Capita payment by placing a check in a plain envelope marked "Per Capita" in the offering basket, mailing it to the church office, or paying online by clicking [HERE](#). Thank you for your continued support and faithful stewardship.



Save the Dates

October and November

October 4 World Communion Sunday

November 1 All Saints and Remembrance of those we lost this past year.

November 8 Treasury of Psalms, Music Sunday

November 15 "Reclaiming Church" with Rev. Dr. JJ Warren, guest preacher and leader for a Second Hour conversation

November 22 Generosity Sunday

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

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

**October/November Harbinger
submissions
are due September 21.**

Please note: images from www.magnific.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/>

