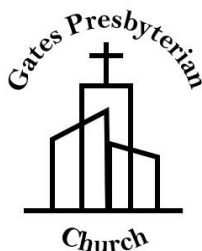


Gates Presbyterian Church

October/November 2026 Harbinger



1049 Wegman Road
Rochester, NY 14624

585-247-5292

gatespres.org

Coming Up - Read more inside

October 1	Mid-Day Worship Services
October 3	Session/Trustees Retreat
October 4	World Communion Sunday and Offering
October 6	Prayer Shawl Ministry
October 10	Fall Clean-Up
October 14	Rebecca's Circle
October 24	Mission Food/Personal Hygiene Collection
November 1	All Saints' Sunday
November 3	Prayer Shawl Ministry
November 5	Mid-Day Worship Services
November 7	Wegmans East Avenue Grocery Run
November 7	El Shaddai Church - Capital Campaign Dinner
November 8	Cantata Sunday
November 10	Rebecca's Circle
November 15	Rev. Dr. J.J. Warren "Reclaiming Church"
November 22	Generosity in Gratitude Sunday
November 28	Mission Food/Personal Hygiene Collection
November 29	First Sunday of Advent



From Rev. Laura Bachmann

*Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.*

1 Corinthians 10:17



This Sunday, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. At a time when division and hatred, wars and natural disasters fill our news feeds, we need a feeling of world communion more than ever. There are so many ways to come close to God, to hear God's word and to faithfully carry it out, to celebrate God's love and to share that love with others. God made each of us in God's image and so each of us reflects some new part of the divine being. When we worship and engage in ministry and love our neighbors together, we benefit from the wisdom each of us carries in us as the imprint of God's creative hand.

On World Communion Sunday, we remember all those around the world who are committed to following Jesus faithfully, just as we are; to loving our neighbors abundantly, just as we are; to speaking truth to power and seeking justice, just as we are. We don't do these things in one single way, we do them in many diverse ways, ways that fit our unique communities, ways that reflect our shared languages and cultures, ways that honor our ancestors. The common threads running through all the many ways we faithfully follow Jesus, lie in the hope in which we rest, the unending love in which we trust, the peace and justice toward which we commit to working.

As we celebrate the joy of our siblings who regularly dance out their faith, the wisdom of our siblings who spend countless hours in quiet meditation, the praise of our siblings who sing and shout in awe of the One who made us, we witness strands in the worldwide tapestry of God's love played out on a wide scale across nations and cultures and varying circumstances.

Even as some around us want to insist that we all worship and follow Jesus in the same way, we must insist on expanding our sacred spaces to include all the many ways humans have been created and have learned to worship and follow the God who loves us beyond our wildest imaginings.

This World Communion Sunday, let's open our hearts to new ways to meet and follow God, new ways to love and lift up our neighbors, new ways to seek justice and pursue peace. When we share the wisdom each community contains, we can create a beautiful, robust, creative and resilient way of life that creates space for the whole world to thrive. Can you imagine what a beautiful world that would be?

Peace,

Laura

Bible Study



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)



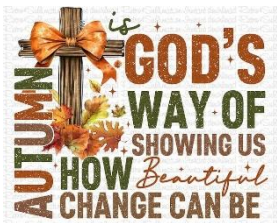
Mid-Day Worship Services

October 1, November 5,
December 3

1st Thursday of the month at
12:10 am

Mission News

Fall is here! The Mission Team met in July, then took a vacation from meeting in August. The September meeting was interesting, productive, and an inspiring opportunity to explore the many aspects of doing God's work through outreach at GPC. The summer food collections were on the light side, but we were still able to provide over 150 pounds of food to SWEM. Non-perishable food donations can be left in the foyer bins under the coat rack, in Room 29, or brought to the monthly collections from 11:00-1:00 on the 4th Saturday of each month (**October 24 and November 28**). Every can and box helps!!! Get in the fall spirit, volunteer at **HOMESTEADS FOR HOPE'S ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT** event on October 24th! GPC will be participating again this year. Contact Sally Christensen at 703-6238 if you would like to help.



Our new neighbors at Churchview Commons have arrived! Twenty welcome bags, loaded with cleaning products, paper goods, and other useful household items, have been delivered to residents. Here's a note we received from one of the recipients: "As a new resident at CHURCHVIEW COMMONS, I want to thank you for the bag of supplies you gave us. It was very nice of you. Makes us feel welcome. Again, thank you."

Harbor House of Rochester is a hospital hospitality house that gives out-of-town families a place to stay while a loved one is receiving critical, life-saving care at one of our area hospitals. Residents appreciate grab-and-go snack bags as they head to the hospital for what is usually a long day. We decided to fund snack bags and hope to get our GPC young people involved in preparing them. There are many other ways GPC can support this local, caring ministry, and we plan to implement more ideas in the future.

We also learned about an organization called Burundi Orphans, founded by a Chili resident of great faith and compassion. We hope to learn more about ways we can support this mission.

Budget decisions included funding for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Cameron Community Ministries, St. Joe's, Harbor House, and Homestead's Trunk or Treat.

The next Mission Team meeting will be on **October 5** at 6:30 at GPC. Please join us!!

Feeding Ministries

September is a notable month for our Feeding Ministries. We began our sixth year providing lunches for our neighbors who visit St. Joe's each Tuesday. That translates to more than 49,000 sandwiches!

The 2026/2027 School Year is our fifth year of packing Weekend Food Bags for students at Walt Disney Elementary School.

The continued success and resilience of these programs is fully attributed to the generosity of our congregation. Your unwavering support is much appreciated.

On-going needs include the following:

- Tuna – cans & pouches
- Peanut Butter – large jars & single serve cups
- Fruit cups/Applesauce
- Granola Bars
- Cookies
- Sandwich crackers (PB & Cheese, etc.)
- Mayo
- Chips
- Cereal singles



Valet Parking

The Hospitality Ministry Team is asking for volunteers to help with the parking lot valet services this coming Fall and Winter starting the first Sunday in December. Generally, volunteers are only asked to help 2 or 3 Sundays through the winter months. This is a valuable service provided for our church family. Please contact Eric Vail at 415-5421 or ericv56@gmail.com. You may also contact the church office at 247-5292 and leave a message if you can help. Thank you.





October 4 World Communion Sunday and Offering

"What does the Lord require of you?"

"... to do justice and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8

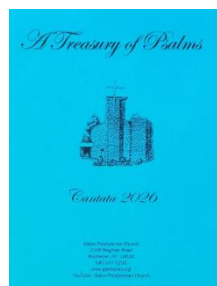
In the 8th century before Christ, the humble prophet Micah was deeply in touch with the plight of the people. He envisioned a world where everyone would be free to live into the fullness of the life God intended. Yet the society and the culture in Micah's day did not match his visions of God's reign — there was no justice, kindness or humble living.

The World Communion Offering, received during A Season of Preparation leading up to World Communion Sunday, is a new way for Presbyterians to "love kindness" expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness and steadfast commitment. Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical

and interfaith engagement are the important causes supported by this Offering.

The prophet Micah is clear: Our love of God moves us to faithful action through justice, kindness and humble living. Participating in the Churchwide Special Offerings is one way Presbyterians show their love for God and help all God's children live into the fullness of Micah's prophecy.

Visit pcusa.org/special-offerings/world-communion-offering for more information or to give online



A Treasury of Psalms Cantata 2026

Join us in morning worship on **Sunday, November 8**, for this year's choir cantata: "A Treasury of Psalms." This original work was composed by Roy Smith with support from a grant by the Presbytery and with the GPC Adult Choir and soloists from the choir. Anyone interested in joining the choir to sing along can contact Roy or Andy.

Join us on Sunday November 15

We will welcome **Rev. Dr. J.J. Warren** who will bring our **message** and lead a **second hour** discussion following worship. Prof. Warren will be speaking about **"Reclaiming Church"** What is the church, and what does it mean to be the church? In his sermon, we'll explore the concept of church as a symbol, and how it shapes us as a community. Like the Book of Acts itself, we find ourselves in the midst of uncertainty and change today. How can we, like Peter, embody a church of radical inclusion and reclaim the symbol of church itself as a healing one—especially as the future of the U.S. hangs in the balance?

Rev. Dr. J.J. Warren (he/him) is Assistant Professor of (Queer) Theology and Lead of the Gender, Sexuality, and Racial Justice (GSRJ) program at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. In addition to his role on the faculty in Rochester, Rev. Dr. Warren resides in Vienna, Austria, and is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Systematic Theology at the University of Vienna. Professor Warren is the author of two books: Reclaiming Church: A Call to Action for Religious Rejects and Where Two or Three are Connected: Being the Church in This New Era. After making an impassioned plea for the inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons at The United Methodist Church's (UMC) top law-making assembly in 2019, his speech went viral, and his advocacy has been covered by HuffPost, NBC, and Brut Media.



Generosity in Gratitude for 2027

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver...
You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity,
which will provide thanksgiving to God through us.*

2 Corinthians 9:7, 11

We will celebrate Generosity in Gratitude during worship on **Sunday, November 22**. The theme for our 2027 campaign is **“God loves a cheerful giver”** which is included in the verses from 2 Corinthians 9 reflected above.

In this season, as we again consider what belongs to God and what we feel called to return to God for the work of God’s kin-dom, what a joyful thing it can be to give generously from our hearts, thereby participating in the radical work of lifting the vulnerable and bringing a small piece of God’s anticipated new creation right here to our neighborhood. As noted in the passage from 2 Corinthians 9 **“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity...”**

Members and Attenders should receive their Generosity in Gratitude mailing by November 14. Please prayerfully consider your Giving Intention for 2027 and plan to join us as we celebrate collection of the cards during worship on November 22.

We look forward to imagining together what our community can do when we pool our resources for God’s work in the world. Sharing your giving intention for 2027 helps Session develop a realistic and achievable budget. If you are not able to participate in the November 22 service, please share your 2027 Giving Intention card on-line at www.GatesPres.org. Select “How to Donate”, then “Generosity” where there is a link to enter your information. Cards may also be mailed to the office.

P.S. Watch for information about **Giving Tuesday** (Dec 1st).

Accessibility at GPC



GPC continues to work on updating our building so that it is accessible for people of all mobility levels. To this end, we recently made a couple of changes to doors in our building.

Inside the building, we removed the door closer on the accessible restroom door near Room 1/Rooms 2/3. Some people have reported challenges opening the door while using a walker or wheelchair. The door now opens with a simple push and can be kept open as long as needed with no additional pressure.

We also installed an automatic door opener on the exterior door outside Fellowship Hall. Please note that a key fob is still required to unlock the door; if you press the button while it is locked, you will hear it try to open, but the lock will keep it closed. The door can be

manually unlocked using the hex key on the push bar on the interior side of the door. Once unlocked, anyone can use the button to open the door automatically.

At this time, we are following a policy set by GPC Session that this door remains locked during worship on Sunday mornings. If you know you will need to enter through this door, please let us know so we can either issue you a fob or make sure someone is there to unlock it for you.

Of course, you can also continue to use the main entrance to enter the building.

Deacons

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers:

A very Happy Birthday to Lucile Telfer, who turned 100 years old on September 10th.
Hannah Walker recovering at home from a broken foot.
Paul Gluchowski's friend, Chris, for strength, support, and healing after a recent discovery of lung cancer.
Margaret Militello's sister, Karen and family whose husband passed away suddenly.
Paula Sousa's brother, Gary in the hospital after a fall.
Tom and Jan Brewer's friend Maui, who is in treatment for cancer.
Jan Brewer and Debbie Dassero's friend, Kyle Knapp, who has been diagnosed with a rare incurable cancer.
Tracy's friend, Cheryl, recovering from surgery.
For Kameera C. and Family for guidance, safe haven, and protection in financial and other struggles, that they may continue to seek God and remain steadfast in their faith.
Evan Mikoll's mother recovering from surgery and dealing with other medical issues.
Dan Charcholla's friend, Fred Ferguson, recovering from a major stroke.
Eric Vail's longtime friend, Lisa Conway, who is now recovering from thyroid surgery.
Our church custodian's 8-month-old grandson, A.J., doing better after an undiagnosed illness.
Carol Cathy's grandson, Michael Cathy, now deployed to Germany.
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:

Bob and Fran Paro on the recent death of Bob's cousin, Michelle Alloco.

Family and friends of Sheri MacFarlane's friend, Sue, who passed away recently.

Fran and Bob Paro on the recent death of Fran's cousin, Heidi's, daughter.

Ed and Kathy Coons on the recent death of Ed's brother, Paul.

The Family and Friends of Kristina Mossgraber Zurich.

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

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

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

Heritage Munyakuri and Family on the recent death of Heritage's mother, Rachel's sister, Abia.

The Family and Friends of Donn Vickers who passed away recently.

Continued prayers for

Sonrisa Lewis, Sally Christensen's niece; Fran Paro's cousin, Kathy Orlowski; Cheryl and Bruce Taylor's friend, Anne; Kathy Coons' sister, Janet; Tom Ward's Aunt Marlene and friend Vic Vinkey; Zoey; Whit Beckett's partner, Alyce Norder; Karen D'Agostino; Linda Allen; Jill Corey; Ramisa; Laura's Uncle Mike Flint; Roger Wang; Lori Walker; Tia Bates; Helen; Ria Tafani; Doris Barney; Andrea's friend, Elaine; Kecia's friend, Dennis, and family, Laura's brother-in-law Peter Chemery; Tonya Latone; 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

October 6 and November 3

Please contact Dorothy Mundt if you know of someone in need of the comfort of a prayer shawl, we have a variety of colors, patterns, etc.

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



Rebecca Circle in October will meet on Wednesday (note day change), **October 14** at 11:30 a.m. at Jeremiah's Tavern on Ridge Road (next to Olive Garden). If you would like a ride, please call Kay Harder at 721-7392.

The meeting for Rebecca Circle in November will be held at the church in the Adult Lounge on Wednesday, **November 11** at 10:30 a.m. We will be putting the Christmas bookmarks together to hand out to the congregation to send out to our members and friends who can't make it to church on Sundays.

Fall Clean-Up 9am - 2pm on Saturday, October 10

Hosted by the Trustees

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

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, October 10.



Worship Support Schedule

Date	Liturgist	Greeter	Communion Servers		Usher Team
Oct 4	Tess McKeel		Katie Steinmiller Linda Sidore	Kay Harder Kathy Coons Dave Balsley	4
Oct 11	Barb Snaith				5
Oct 18	Sally Christenen	Vicki Gutheil			6
Oct 25	Paula Sousa	Jan Beutner-Shirtz			1
Nov 1	Katie Steinmiller		MaryBeth MacKenzie Claudia Weber David Weber	Betty Blystone Sally Christensen Simon Njumbwa	2
Nov 8	Owen Smith				3
Nov 15	Andrea Hinchey Unson				4
Nov 22	Eric Vail				5
Nov 29	Faith Switzer	Vicki Gutheil			6

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.



El Shaddai Church will be hosting a Capital Campaign Dinner

at Calvary Assembly Church, 3429 Chili Avenue, from 4:00-7:00 on November 7.

From Pastor Heritage Munyakuri:

“This campaign is about more than purchasing a building—it is about creating a permanent home for the vision God has entrusted to El Shaddai Church. Together, we can establish a house of worship and a center of hope where families can worship, children can learn, and our community can experience healing and true belonging. Scripture reminds us: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” — Psalm 127:1 Please pray that God will guide this campaign, open the right doors, provide the necessary resources, and unite people who believe in this vision.

Please RSVP here:

<https://form.jotform.com/262506695965068>

Your presence, prayers, and support would mean so much to us. I would love to see you there!”

Bathroom Remodel Project Update from the Trustees

Our bathroom remodel project at church had bathroom closures that started on Monday, September 21 and will continue through Monday, October 19. There will be new flooring, new partitions, and a fresh coat of paint on the walls. No more than 2 bathrooms will be closed at a time, and we'll post plenty of signs directing folks to the open bathrooms. Thank you for your patience and enthusiastic anticipation for the finished product!



From the Churchview Commons Team

Another milestone has been reached. The new playground is now open for business/use. Your patience has been appreciated and hopefully rewarded. Nearly everything affecting GPC is nearing closure. This has been a long, and sometimes bumpy road, but now that the end is near, it is being slowly occupied.

Regards,

The Churchview Commons Team.



Photo credit: W. Dassero 2026

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Get ready for the 2026
Wegmans East Avenue
Grocery Run.

Get ahead of the game by
registering NOW!

[Register Here!](#)

Join the Gates Presbyterian Team during registration.



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

Next Harbinger will be a December/January
edition and items will be due
EARLY on MONDAY NOVEMBER 16

Please note: images from www.magnific.com

GPC Events Calendar – October

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
October 2026				1	2	3
				Office Closed 12:10pm Mid-Day Worship (2)	Office Closed	10am Session/ Trustees Retreat (FH)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship World Communion Sunday Sunday School and Youth Group 11 am Jr Choir Rehearsal	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 6:30pm Mission (Lib)	1pm Prayer Shawl (16) 2:00pm Bible Study (1) 6pm Dream Team (1)				8am-12pm Fall Clean-Up
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship Sunday School and Youth Group 11 am Jr Choir Rehearsal	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry 6pm Trustees (Zoom)	2:00pm Bible Study (1) 6:30pm Deacons (1)	10:30am Rebecca Circle Offsite Lunch			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship Sunday School and Youth Group 11am Jr Choir Rehearsal	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew	2:00pm Bible Study (1) 7 pm Personnel Committee (Zoom)				11am Mission Food/ Personal Hygiene Collection
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship Jr Choir Sunday School and Youth Group 11:30am Session (1)	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry	2:00pm Bible Study (1)	<i>This calendar reflects <u>only</u> GPC related meetings/events.</i> <i>For a full listing of our building use, please see our online calendar here.</i>			

Jr Choir Rehearsals

October

4 Rehearsal

11 Rehearsal

18 Rehearsal

25 Sing during Worship, No Rehearsal



November

1 Rehearsal

8 Rehearsal

15 Rehearsal

22 Sing during Worship, No Rehearsal

29 No Rehearsal

GPC Events Calendar –November

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 November 2026	2	3	4	5	6	7
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship Sunday School and Youth Group 11am Jr Choir Rehearsal	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew	1pm Prayer Shawl (16) 2:00pm Bible Study (1) 6pm Dream Team (1)		12:10pm Mid-Day Worship (2)		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship Sunday School and Youth Group 11am Jr Choir Rehearsal	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry 6pm Trustees (zoom)	2:00pm Bible Study (1) 6:30pm Deacons (1)	10:30am Rebecca Cir (1)			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship "Reclaiming Church" Rev. Dr. JJ Warren (and Second Hour conversation) Sunday School and Youth Group 11 am Jr Choir Rehearsal	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew Dec/Jan Harbinger items due EARLY	2:00pm Bible Study (1) 7 pm Personnel Committee (Zoom)	<i>This calendar reflects <u>only</u> GPC related meetings/events.</i> <i>For a full listing of our building use, please see our online calendar here.</i>			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship Generosity Sunday and Jr. Choir Sunday School and Youth Group 11:30am Session (1)	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew 1 pm Library Ministry	2:00pm Bible Study (1)	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	11am Mission Food/ Personal Hygiene Collection
29	30	Save the Dates — December December 1 Giving Tuesday December 3 Mid-Day Worship Services December 20 Children's Christmas Pageant December 24 Christmas Eve Service				
9am Choir (1) 10am Worship Sunday School and Youth Group	8:30am St. Joe's Sandwich Crew					

*You Are
Invited!*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

BUILDING HOPE • CHANGING LIVES • TOGETHER

*"For I was a stranger
and you welcomed me."
Matthew 25:35*

*People
Families
Community
A Brighter
Tomorrow*

*Different
Journeys
One Family
in Christ*



Beginning with **PRAYER**

Walking in Prayer for Refugee Families

Join us for a special gathering to pray, learn, and stand together in support of our capital campaign. Together we can build a permanent home that will serve refugee families and create a brighter tomorrow for our community.



**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2026
4:00 PM**



Calvary Assembly
3429 Chili Avenue
Rochester, NY 14624



**African
Dinner**
Will Be Served

WALK • PRAYER • COMMUNITY • AFRICAN DINNER

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

TAKE PART IN SHARING THIS CAMPAIGN WITH OTHERS



PRAY

Commit to pray for the vision and for refugee families.



SHARE

Tell others about this campaign. Share on social media, with your church, friends, and family.



CONNECT

Introduce us to individuals, churches, or organizations who may want to be part of this journey.



PARTNER

Offer your time, skills, or professional expertise.



ADVOCATE

Help spread the vision, encourage others to get involved, and attend the event.

*Together We Can Build
a Stronger, More Welcoming Community.*

KNOW GOD • LOVE PEOPLE • CHANGE THE WORLD

EL SHADDAI CHURCH

Capital Campaign Vision Statement

KNOW GOD | LOVE PEOPLE | CHANGE THE WORLD

The Vision God Has Given Us

El Shaddai Church exists to help people know God, love people, and change the world. God has called us to build a Christ-centered church where worship, prayer, discipleship, and the Word of God remain at the center - and where faith moves beyond Sunday into practical service.

We especially walk alongside refugees, immigrants, children, and families rebuilding their lives in Rochester. We want every person to encounter Jesus, find belonging and healing, grow spiritually, and receive practical support.

Faith in Action

WORSHIP Encounter Jesus and grow as disciples.	HOPE BUILDERS Tutoring, mentoring, confidence, and learning support.
FAMILIES Practical support, stability, and belonging.	EMPLOYMENT Coaching and connections to opportunity and dignity.
COMMUNITY Meals, service, fellowship, and care across cultures.	PARTNERSHIP Churches and neighbors serving for greater Kingdom impact.

A Community Health Clinic

El Shaddai also envisions space for a community health clinic. With qualified healthcare and community partners, it could provide basic screenings, health education, referrals, and connections to trusted medical resources for refugee, immigrant, and underserved families.

Why a Permanent Home Matters

Many El Shaddai members came to the United States as refugees after war, violence, displacement, and tremendous loss. Some spent years moving from place to place or living in refugee camps after losing homes, possessions, and community.

In Rochester, El Shaddai became more than a congregation - it became a spiritual family and a place of belonging. Yet our church still worships and serves in borrowed spaces. Repeated moves can revive painful memories of instability.

A permanent home would mean stability after displacement, belonging after uncertainty, and hope after loss. It would tell our children and families: You have a place. You belong. You can put down roots here.

It would also give worship, children and youth ministry, Hope Builders Learning Center, Pathway to Employment, family support, and community partnerships room to grow.

A House of Worship. A Center of Hope.

We envision a sanctuary filled with worship, classrooms filled with children learning, families receiving support, people connected to employment, newcomers finding belonging, and churches and partners serving our neighbors together.

This campaign is about more than purchasing a building.

It is about creating a permanent home for the vision God has entrusted to El Shaddai.

AN INVITATION TO CARRY THE VISION FORWARD

We invite churches, individuals, foundations, businesses, and friends to pray, give, and partner with us. Together, we can establish a place where people encounter Christ, lives are transformed, families find hope, and future generations are equipped to serve God and their community.

EL SHADDAI CHURCH INC. | www.elshaddaichurch.net

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](https://gatespresbyterian.breezechms.com/give/online). <https://gatespresbyterian.breezechms.com/give/online>

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/>