

ATTENTION ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

We want to thank you for your dedication each week to further the education of our children. We realize that it is not always easy and sometimes you may feel excluded from the Worship experience. This is especially true on Communion Sundays. In the past, Communion has been made available in the Library but we understand that it is not always easy to take Communion before church begins. In April, we experimented with serving Communion after the service. Many of you came into the sanctuary after church to take Communion. We will be implementing this from now on. The elder will remain at the Communion table until you are free to come into the Sanctuary and take Communion.

Please let us know if there is anything else that our committee can do to enhance your worship experience.

With thanks,
The Public Worship Committee.

Protect The Vision – Part II

Here is an update on the Protect the Vision II Capital Campaign:

- **We are entering the second year of this capital campaign. Expect to see a “recommitment” letter and pledge card in your mail box in the next few weeks.**
- As of press time (4/20), we received 99 pledges for a **Total Pledged Amount of \$41,142**. We have actually received \$31,452 so far against those pledges leaving \$9,690 outstanding.
- We added two new members to our committee: **Trina Portillo and Tracy Vander**. Welcome!
- The **Brick Buy Brick ribbon campaign raised another \$1,785**. Thanks to all who contributed! A special thanks to Beth and the other team members who sported the (ever stylish) sombreros.
- The inaugural **Clinker Brick 5K was held and was a huge success**. Thanks to Keith Hadley and Tracy Burkovich for coordinating this event. A huge “Thanks” also to all of the volunteers that made this community event special and showcased our GPC hospitality. The event raised \$1,200.
- (As a reminder, the PTV II Capital Campaign is in place to raise around \$110K to pay for work we had done on the Sanctuary roof, brick repair and sealing, the office copier, and the interest on the Presbytery loan.)

As always, thanks in advance for your continued generosity.

The PTV – Part II Committee: Beth Molina, Christine Schott, Keith Hadley, Melissa DeRosia, Trina Portillo, Tracy Vander, and Steve Christensen

FROM THE PASTOR:

Before we sit down at the table for dinner, a simple prayer is offered: “Thank you God for everything on and around this table. Amen.” Indeed we are thankful for what is on the table. We are thankful for the food that feeds us after a long day at work, a fun day with the grandkids, or a lonely day in the quiet house. As we begin to eat, stories about our day and week are offered on the table. We share the challenges of working through grief, worrying about an ailing parent, and the troubles of raising children who think their parents are clueless about their lives. Laughter makes its way to the table, and we are very thankful for that.

As the casseroles and brownies disappear, a time for spiritual nourishment begins. Our prayers for one another, our families, friends, church, and communities continue as we take time to bring our attention to the ways God’s Word is speaking to us in our lives today. We listen for God’s voice. And as we begin our discussions for the evening, and we keep coming back to the ways God is speaking to us.

You may have figured out by now that this isn’t dinner time at the DeRosia household. We use the same prayer in my house, but at this table I am not asked to cut anyone’s food into bite size pieces! Around this table there are faithful elders who are embracing their role as spiritual leaders of Gates Presbyterian Church. For their willingness to be around the table for our meetings, I am very thankful.

Over the last few months the session has been exploring what is on the table of mission and ministry at GPC. By listening, sharing and committing ourselves to explore the deeper questions, we are faithfully living into who the GPC community says that God is calling us to be. At our April session meeting we began our meeting with a potluck meal, prayer, fellowship and Bible study. Then we asked the challenging questions facing our congregation today. There are questions about how to respond to staffing transitions, budget shortfalls and changing congregational demographics. There are a lot of questions on the table, but all of these questions remained rooted in a hope that is bigger than any of us can hold on to. It is the hope that we are continually discovering what God is doing in the world and through the life of faith in this congregation.

I invite you to offer thanks to God for “everything on and around this table.” For the spiritual leaders of the congregation who gather around the table and for what is on the table. It is a chance for us to faithfully respond to questions and opportunities of how God is strengthening and nurturing the faith and life of GPC.

- Melissa

DEACON'S PAGE

Please keep in prayer:

Dean Davis now at home.

Richard Miller now at home.

Continued prayers for **George Bilohlavek, Lucinda Price and Jim Bartell and family.**

Congratulations to:

Robert and Christine Fitzgerald on the birth of their son, **Jameson John** on March 6th.

Happy Birthday to **Frona Rossman** on a milestone birthday!

Our sympathy to:

The **Polizzi Family** on the recent death of husband and father, **Mike Polizzi.**

The **Goodykoontz Family** of the recent death of Chuck's mother in Virginia.

The **Bower Family** on the recent death of husband and father, **Jon Bower.**

REMINDER TO DEACONS

The next Deacons' meeting is Monday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge.

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet at the home of JoAnn Vander on Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m. We will go back to the first Tuesday of the month in June.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at Yianni's Restaurant on Monday, May 16th at 11:15 a.m. for their May meeting.

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP meets next on Tuesday, May 10 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16 at the church. An interesting story about a Prayer Shawl was given to Tammy Endulovski's niece (age 13). Her 14 year old brother asked his sister if he could try it on. After sometime, she finally allowed him to "try it on". His comment was "this blanket has cool vibes."

LIBRARY NIGHT will be on Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

PARENTS: If you have a child graduating from high school, community college, college, a masters program, or doctoral program, please call the office – 247-5292. THANKS!

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL – All games played at 6:30 p.m.

May 9 GPC vs Calvary Chapel at Greece Assembly Church, 750 Long Pond Rd.

May 16 GPC vs Victory Baptist on the GPC field

May 23 GPC vs Open Door I at Open Door, 350 Scottsville Chili Rd.

Do you have Spring Fever?

We have the cure

The GPC Yard Sale!!

Saturday June 11^h – 9 am to 4 pm

Are your closets and cabinets full of things you don't use or need?

Did your kids move but their stuff didn't?

Are you really going to use that (fill in the blank) ?

Please consider donating your clean, gently used items to
The GPC Yard Sale.

There are some items which we are unable to accept for the sale. Many of these items can be donated or recycled through agencies in the community.

Mattresses

Large Appliances

Magazines

Non-Fiction Books (except Cookbooks)

Televisions & VCRs

Computers & Cell phones

Adult Clothing

Car Seats

Donations may be dropped off starting Thurs, June 2nd from 6-8pm

Full schedule of drop-off times will be posted on the Kiosk by mid-May, and will also be published in the June Harbinger

*Thanks to those who have already offered your time and talents to help make this year's event successful - and **FUN!** There are still **LOTS** of opportunities . . . and much help is needed. Please check the Kiosk and worship bulletins for details and updates.*

Please bring your energy, enthusiasm and creativity to the next organizational meeting on Wednesday May 4th at 7:00 pm in Room 4.

Please contact Sheri MacFarlane at 436-1274 with any questions.

Adult Education Programs in May

May 1st Creative Ways to Read and Reflect on Scripture...Ways That Can Deepen Our Faith.

Join Sr. Barbara Moore as she shares information on accessing wisdom during this last program of the spring. Sr. Barbara is currently the Interim Dean of Women and Gender Studies at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Sr. Barbara is familiar to the congregation for occasionally leading worship and Bible Study at GPC. You may bring a *Bible* or borrow one here.

GPC Men's Invitation

Join the men this month for breakfast on **Thursday, May 5th at 6:30 a.m.** We will be gathering at **Mr. Beenz 1941 Buffalo Road** (across from Wendy's).

Also join the men at **6 p.m.** for dinner on **Thursday, May 19th.** This month we will be gathering at the **church** in the **Fellowship Hall.** Bring your own dinner and join in on the free wheeling conversation.



Library News

We invite you to check out the GPC Library Display Table showing new books and seasonal books. Throughout the year we set up displays under such categories as Fall Readings, Winter Reading Ideas, Easter Books for Children, Spring Selections, and Summer Books. We've even had a Multi-Generational Book Display and a Let's Go Green Display. In addition, the children's wall changes monthly and includes a simple sentence (usually about reading!) for children to read while they select books to sign out.

We invite you to sign out library materials from both sections, Adult and Children, of the GPC Library. Posted signs explain the easy check-out process. (Also, please be sure to return books and materials so others can check them out, too!) *See you in the Library!*

Prayer Chain

Got a concern to share? Handle it with loving prayer. Contact Ginny Smith at 247-5563 to initiate a confidential request.

Women of Faith

This exciting event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 4-5 at the Blue Cross Arena. The cost will be \$99 for individuals or \$89 if we have a group. To find out more or to reserve your spot, contact Andrea Unson at aunson@frontier.com or call her at 247-9007.

We appreciate all of those who worked so very hard planning and participating in:

- ✓ **Heritage Sunday.** It was a delight to learn about and celebrate our history!
- ✓ **The Roast Beef Dinner.** The fundraiser was a great success and everyone was happily stuffed.
- ✓ **Clinker Bricks Run/Walk.** What a great opportunity to connect with the community and each other while getting healthy. Additional thanks go to all of our sponsors for their support.

Upper Room - Should you wish to make a donation to offset the cost of the Upper Room, please donate \$1.25.

New Presbytery Newsletter Available Each Month on the 10th

The inaugural issue of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley E-News is now on-line. Use this link: <http://pbygenval.org/documents/e-news/2011-04-e-news.pdf>

Proposed Addition of the Confession of Belhar, 1986

A vote will be taken on this at the May 24 Presbytery meeting. Here are some excerpts, with the full text available at:

[http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belhar.p](http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belhar.pdf)
df

To date, most who have already voted have voted to affirm this.

Unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church

This unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered

Fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another

This unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; We reject any doctrine which absolutizes either natural diversity or the sinful separation of people in such a way that this ...hinders... the visible and active unit of the church

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker.

Presbyterian Giving – Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

How can I give a financial gift?

In disaster situations the most pressing need is money. Financial support for relief efforts wherever disasters occur can be designated to DR000148.

[Give to One Great Hour of Sharing](#), which supports the ministry of Presbytery Disaster Assistance.

[Give online](#) – make a secure online gift with your credit card for:

- [disasters wherever they occur](#)
- specifically for response to the [Japan Earthquake and Tsunami](#)

Give by phone – call PresbyTel toll-free at (800) 872-3283.

Give by check – through your local Presbyterian congregation, or mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Please include the designated giving account number **DR000148** on your check to support disaster responses **where needed**, or **DR000117** specifically for response to the **Japan Earthquake and Tsunami**.

A minimum of 95 percent of designated funds will be used to help those most in need. Up to five percent of your gift will be used to cover shared mission support costs associated with the processing and distribution of your gift.



BIBLE STUDY FOR MAY

This opportunity for Bible study, fellowship, and prayer is open to everyone. We meet in the Junior High Lounge (Room 16) every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30. Here are the scripture texts we will be discussing:

May 4th: Luke 24:13-35

May 11th: Acts 2:42-47

May 18th: John 14:1-14

May 25th: Acts 17:22-31

CHURCH GARDENS

Some garden areas around the church are available for YOU to plant.

Sign up sheet and map of gardens are on the Kiosk. Signing up for a garden would mean you are willing to weed, water and groom that area for this year. Let's keep our GPC gardens beautiful! Any questions, please contact Sue Mancini at 235-8099.



TODDLER AND NURSERY SCHEDULES

Date

May 1

May 8

May 15

May 22

May 29

Toddler

Tracy & Jessica Burkovich/Tyler Phillips

Brian Hart/Shawn Lewis/Connor MacKenzie

Jeff & Allison Tuttle

Ginny Smith/Jenna Hossenlopp/Jocelyn Pimm

Diane, Laura and David Keiling

Date

May 1

May 8

May 15

May 22

May 29

Nursery

Sue & Alyssa Birkbeck/Nadia Endulovski

Andrea & Ian Unson/Josh Binko

Karen & Dominique Salem/Corrina Marconi

Ann Marie Simm/Katie Ohman/Jenn Cheal

Sue & Alyssa Birkbeck/Nadia Endulovski



JR. CHOIR ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

We will have no trouble at all remembering how the phrases of our introit start this month as they start with.....well, *this month*:

May we worship You, O Lord ...

May we come to You, O Christ ...

May we sing to You and bring to You the music of the Spirit ...

May we praise You and rejoice.

These words of composer Carol McClure can be sung in *any* month, of course, but we thought it would be especially fun to sing them in May! Look for us on May 15th as this prayerful introit helps us to focus on worship, while being a form of worship itself.

YOUNG CHILDREN

A huge **THANK YOU** to all our young disciples for their efforts in supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing! The beautiful posters you made were a reminder to all of the different ways we can help bring a brighter future to our brothers and sisters around the world. And your hard work earning money for your Fish Banks will do just that...those jiggling coins bring a sound of hope to many! For those who may have forgotten, you may still bring in your Fish Banks.

May is a busy month for our Sunday School classes. We are getting ready for our Children and Youth Day Service on Sunday, June 12th, which is Pentecost Sunday. The children will plan and participate in the service, and are busy creating banners, writing responses to scripture, and practicing the anthem with Mrs. White. It has always been a special service in the life of our church. Stay tuned for more updates!

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Front Door Greeter</u>	<u>Usher Team</u>
May 1	Andrea Unson	Ann Marie Simm	6
May 8	Bill Walence	Linda Sidore	1
May 15	Bridget Wohlers	Ginny Barley	2
May 22	Confirmands	Keith Hadley	3
May 29	Jenna Hossenlopp	Dave Fish	4

Communion Servers:

Left: 1. Bonnie Beckett 2. Dave Fish 3. Debby Weber 4. Eric Vail
 Right: 1. Whit Beckett 2. Carol Henchen 3. Ken Birkbeck 4. Frona Rossman

High School Seniors - in the midst of all your celebrations don't forget GPC.

We want to celebrate YOU, too!

June 12 - Year-End-Picnic - You are the guests of honor!

June 19 - Worship - You are again the guests of honor!

Mission Work Project Dates

Senior High Mission Work Project

When: -August 7-13

Where: North Country of New York

Who: Upcoming 9th-12th graders

Sign-up deadline: June 5

Parent Informational Meeting: 11:15 - June 5

Note: If you did not get info in mail, please call, text, or email CA.



Junior High Mission Work Project

When: July 25-28

Where: Urban Rochester

Who: Upcoming 7th and 8th graders

Sign-up deadline - July 10

Jamaica Mission Work Project

When: February 18-26

Where: Negril, Jamaica

Who: Upcoming 11th and 12th graders

TRUSTEES CORNER

What are the Trustees working on? Our goal is to lower expenses, increase revenue for GPC and make repairs & improvements to the church.

Our next big project is **SPRING CLEANUP**. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 21 starting at 8:30 a.m.** and join us. **We are looking for volunteers to help!**



The past few months we have been busy. Larry Wakeman has volunteered to be Chairman again. Ed Coons, is Co-Chairman, Heather Pimm is Secretary, Sue Mancini is Budget & Stewardship Representative, Ed Coons, Ed Vander and Gary Dykes handle Buildings, Grounds & Maintenance. Computers are taken care of by Gary Puckhaber, Insurance & Contracts are managed by Bill Gillette, Kitchen Use is overseen by Jeannie Bauman, Clarene Cress is the Nominating Committee Rep and Mary Ohman is the Personnel Representative. Special Projects (Spring & Fall Cleanup) have been tasked to Kayla Millar and Frona Rossman. We have all been busily working on the Monthly Maintenance Items; we are working on our Facilities Wish List with the congregations' suggestions, and have reviewed Building Use Policies.

We are happy to report that Weight Watchers is now utilizing our facilities 3 times per week which helps offset the loss of BOCES income. Thank you to Frona Rossman for facilitating their return!

We are still looking for a person to lock up the church in August, see Frona if interested.

Gary Dykes has been working on kitchen wiring repair and his newest project is getting rid of our pet woodchuck and releasing him back to the wild (on the other side of the canal hopefully). Ed Vander has assembled a schedule for Lawn Mowing for the summer months. If you would like to volunteer/sub, please see Ed. Bill Gillette has negotiated a better price for Refuse Removal. We will soon be switching to Boon & Sons.

Our search is wrapping up for a new Custodian for GPC, headed by Marty Ohman. Thank you to Carol, Mary, and Nancy for your hard work and service to the church. Several interviews have been done and final decisions to be made soon.

RAP Preschool has donated \$500 to use towards waxing and stripping the floors in some of the rooms of the church. Trustees are trying to come up with a way of doing the waxing on the remainder of the rooms, not covered by RAP.

TBD. Clarene Cress and Frona Rossman have put an ad on Craig's' List to see if we can rent out any of our rooms, to increase revenue.

Also a big THANK YOU to ACTION SECURITY GROUP for donating the service recording computer and equipment in the sanctuary. Gary Puckhaber has volunteered a lot of time and labor and has it 97.2% complete!

Sue Mancini is taking charge of the ADOPT-A-GARDEN program this year.

Thank you to Jeannie and Buzz Bauman for handling some recent Kitchen Clean-up.

Remember.....if you have a couple hours to spare on May 21, stop by and help with the **SPRING CLEANUP**.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone for supporting and/or participating in the inaugural Clinker Bricks 5K Run/Walk on April 2. We had 125 participants (15 GPC members) and 45 amazing volunteers. Everyone seemed to have a great time on race day – participants and volunteers alike, and we are already planning the Clinker Bricks 5K for next year!



The event generated \$1200 to be used for the Protect the Vision capital campaign. Thanks again to our race sponsors: Westside Pediatric Group, Home Instead Senior Care, Vail Insurance Agency, Rochester Travel Group, Olympia Neighborhood Restaurant, Palazzo Jewelers & Charlotte Sorrell. And also our supporters from the community: Town of Gates, Gates Police Department, Gates Highway Department, Gates Fire Department, Gates Volunteer Ambulance, Monroe County Water Authority, Gates Chili Central School District.

- Keith Hadley

Stewardship Corner

It's April, and the buds are preparing to open to a glorious springtime. We're all excited about the promise of change, from the cold bitter wind that we've experienced these past months, to new, beautiful and exciting things to come. What a wonderful anticipation!

We are happy to tell you that the **Stewardship Pledge Campaign** for 2011 has reached its conclusion. At the same time, we also need to let you know that we will have a pretty substantial shortfall for this year, and due to this shortfall, some changes will also need to happen within our church operations. At this point we are \$17,275 short of what we need to maintain the budget as we see it today. No household can continue as it has been operating with this kind of shortfall without constructive change, but change is not always a bad thing. Just think of the relief you feel when you've made decisions to resolve a personal financial crisis! Session is working and praying together now to determine how we can adjust spending in order to keep our house running in the spirit of excitement. You will hear more about any proposed changes as time goes on.

Special thanks to those who attended and volunteered to "work" the event, as well as those who gave desserts, food and money to support our **Annual Roast Beef Dinner**. Our chefs prepared a marvelous dinner; helpers spread the love of God and friendliness of this church with members of the community. We are blessed to have such a giving group of people in our midst! But, alas, we cannot depend on getting the attendance that would have provided the profit we had hoped for. We did make a pretty good profit, though. We look forward now to the **Annual Yard Sale** on June 11th. Please search through your household and donate items that are in good condition that others will want to add to their treasures!

From the Associate Pastor

This morning, at my home, I watched it snow, sleet, hail, and rainall in a ten minute block of time. After those few dramatic minutes, the sun burst through the clouds shining brightly with the promise that the day would be more like spring than winter - a perfect meteorology experience for this week - Holy Week! For Holy Week is a week of quickly changing events and moods. We know the story. We know that the events of Holy Week happen beneath clouds of doubt, fear, anguish, and despair. We also know that the ending – the ultimate joy of the empty tomb – is the truth of John's passage "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it". It is the truth that breaks through the clouds of life with the mighty power of God. Indeed, Easter assures us that the disappointments, fears, anger, and despair of life are ultimately triumphed by the Light of the Resurrected Christ! Each year, we sing "Christ has risen today, Alleluia" and we are reminded that the Easter story is not just about one event in history. It is not even just about eternal life, but is also about TODAY! For God's promise of new life is for us as we walk through the difficult challenges of everyday life. The Easter story fills our own story with hope.

On my March trip to Germany, I discover that the shops of Germany were filled with beautiful Easter eggs during Lent. The same style that typifies German Christmas ornaments is also evident in their Easter décor. Stores were filled with eggs made from carved woods, crafted paper mache, molded wax, and others forms of artistic crafts. These eggs are exquisite reminders of God's exquisite gift of love to us – new life. In this season of Easter, let us be aware of the day to day ways in which we experience resurrection. For when we are in touch with and by those sacred moments, we are able to be the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Carol Anne

YOUTH CALENDAR

- May 1 - 9:30 - Youth Choir
10:00 - Worship
11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School (last class for Jr. Hi"s)
12:15 - Mustard Seed Interviews
6:00 - Jr and Sr High Youth Group
- May 3 - 7:00 - Youth Committee
- May 5 - 7:00 - Youth Advisor's Meeting
- May 6 - 7:00 - 11:30 - Confirmation Class
- May 8 - 9:30 - Youth Choir
10:00 - Mustard Seed Award presentation
No Church School - hug your Mom - it's Mother's Day!
- May 14 - 9:00 - Junior Highs leave for retreat
- May 15 - 9:30 - Youth Choir
10:00 - Worship
11:15 - Senior High Church School
6:00 - Junior Highs return from retreat
6:00 - 8:00 - Senior Highs Meet
- May 19 - 7:00 - Confirmation Class meet in Junior High Lounge before meeting with Session
- May 22 - 8:30 - Confirmation Class breakfast
9:00 - Youth Choir
10:00 - Worship
Introduction of new members (Confirmands)
Youth Choir sings
11:15 Last day of Sr. Hi Church School
- May 29 9:00 Youth Choir
10:00 Worship
- June 5 - 9:00 - Youth Choir
10:00 Worship
11:15 - Informational Meeting for Senior High Mission Work Project
Registration due for Senior High Mission Work Project
No Church School or Youth Group