

Roots & Wings

Rooted in Faith, Growing Together, Caring for the Community

January 2016 Newsletter
Volume 3, Issue 1

First Presbyterian Church of Chili
3600 Chili Avenue
Rochester, NY 14624
A Stephen Ministry Church

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Worship With Us in

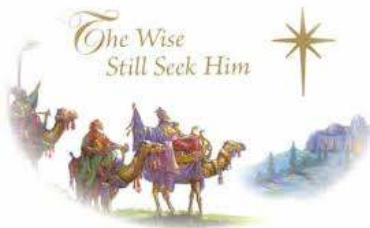
JANUARY

at 10:00 a.m.

(childcare is always available)

January 3

2nd Sunday After Christmas
Communion Worship



January 10

Epiphany Sunday / Baptism of the Lord

January 17

2nd Sunday After Epiphany
Blended Worship

January 24

3rd Sunday After Epiphany
Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation

Saturday, January 30

Special Saturday Worship and Potluck Meal
(watch for details)

January 31

4th Sunday After Epiphany
No worship service today – you are encouraged to worship in your own way!

Inside this issue...

Pastor's Notes...Ministry of Care... Leadership Notes...
Epiphany Season Team Plans...ANNUAL MEETINGS...
Minister of Music Notes...Youth News...and so much more...
All in this issue of Roots & Wings!

Wooten's Wonderings...



Well, we managed to get through Advent, Christmas and New Year's Eve. The marathon of holiday busy-ness and stress is over. For some, the holidays brought joy and an opportunity to connect in a meaningful way with family and friends. For others it brought a mix of emotions -- sadness, loneliness, longing for and remembering holidays past and people we love who are no longer with us. Many of us felt the frenetic pace of long to-do lists and time slipping through our fingers.

After this season of giving, it is time to celebrate a season of receiving and rest. Therefore our Epiphany Season theme is "STOP for EPIPHANY". In this season we are reminded of the greatest gift we have received this Christmas -- the birth of Christ, God with us. From the beginning of time, when God created the world, our Lord declared that there is a time for work and a time for rest. Throughout this rather short Epiphany Season, we will explore what it means to honor and be shaped by Sabbath.

As an invitation to rest, comfort and playfulness, the pews in our sanctuary will be adorned with prayer shawls and stuffed animals. As you worship, you are invited to wrap yourself in a prayer shawl and feel the comforting arms of Christ surrounding you. The stuffed animals in the pews are also there for you to worship with. They represent the playfulness that Sabbath calls us into. Come early if you like and pick a stuffed animal that appeals to you. Have it sit next to you or in your lap. They are there for kids and adults alike. I hope, if nothing else, they make you smile and remind you of the childlike faith Jesus wants each of us to practice.

The stuffed animal idea came from one of the churches I traveled to during my sabbatical. The UCC Church in Spencerport has stuffed animals in the pews every week. The pastor told me that it started as a way of welcoming kids and giving them something to quietly cuddle and play with during worship.

But not long after they began this practice, she noticed a recent widow cuddling one during the worship service. She had tears in her eyes. In a time of grief and loneliness, she needed a "hug" from God and this stuffed animal gave her the physical comfort she needed. When the pastor saw that, she knew the stuffed animals were there for more than just the kids.

After a busy holiday season, may we rejoice as we receive the gift of Christ and the invitation to practice a Season of Sabbath.

~Grace and peace, Brandi

MINISTRY OF CARE

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

Contact Sharon Breeze (293-1340),
or call the Church Office (889-9896).



SESSION MEETING SUMMARY

At its meeting on December 15th, Session...

...discussed the chapter, "Transformational Leaders Commit to Self-Awareness" from the book, Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding. We discussed and reflected on our greatest desires for us as ruling elders and our greatest desires for our congregation. Pastor Brandi opened the meeting with prayer.

...received the Treasurer's Report for the month ending November 30, 2015.

...welcomed John DeHority, Co-Chair Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry. He was with us tonight to provide an orientation to the process of preparation for ministry when a member of a church is called to ministry. Whitney Scoville has expressed interest and has received endorsement from the Session to explore a call to ministry. John reviewed Whitney's responsibilities, the Session's responsibilities, the congregation's responsibilities and finally,

the responsibilities of the Presbytery as one moves from Inquirer status to Candidate status and finally to Ordination.

...placed activity dates on the Master Calendar:

*Indicates date change

January 3, 2016 Task Force on 200th Anniversary
January 5, 2016 Special Meeting of the Session
January 30, 2016 Worship Service and Potluck
*February 7, 2016 Examination and Orientation
of Newly Elected Officers
*February 7, 2016 Installation and Ordination
of Newly Elected Officers

...heard Season Team reports from Elder McGaffick, Facilitator for the Advent/Christmas Season Team, and Elder Wasmer, Facilitator for the Epiphany Team.
...reflected on a meeting with Trustees where we began an exploratory conversation about our current structure, our current needs, and our future needs. We will meet again to continue discernment on February 8, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. following the regularly scheduled Trustees meeting.

...reviewed the profit and loss statements, and the tracking of monthly income and expenses statements.
...received a Stewardship Campaign Report noting that anticipated income from pledges is \$126,830. The report also noted number of increased pledge commitments, number of pledge commitments that remained the same, number of decreased pledge commitments, number of lost pledges, and new pledging units. Session expressed appreciation for the work of the Stewardship Committee and its clear and concise report. Session also expressed appreciation for the giving that occurs in our congregation.

...received the annual report of the Nominating Committee from Elder McCauley and noted that there are two unfilled positions for Session.

...heard a report from Elder Horton, Chair of the Personnel Committee, that the Personnel Committee has met and is in process of updating staff job descriptions.

...reviewed and discussed a proposal prepared by the Mission Fund Committee to reconcile the status of a loan in 2011 from the Mission Fund to the General Fund. By motion (Elder Wasmer) Session approved the proposal of the Mission Fund Committee that the 2011 loan from the Mission Fund to the General Fund be forgiven with these key points noted:

-The Mission Fund money is used toward church missions and should not be used to help balance the church budget in the future.

-As St. Pauly Box funds have been reallocated and are being divided between the church General Fund and the Mission Fund, the Mission Fund will no longer tithe (10%) from the money raised for missions.

-Sharing the responsibility for the St. Pauly Box throughout the whole congregation which would represent a commitment to the importance of missions in our church.

In follow-up to this action, the Mission Fund Committee will revise and update the Policy for Mission Funds Allocation for Session's review and approval. The Session expressed its gratitude to the Mission Fund Committee for its thoughtful and caring work in preparing and presenting this proposal.

...received and reviewed the Memorial Fund Report prepared by Alice Hassett, Memorial Fund Coordinator.

*~Remitted by,
Elder Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session*

MANY THANKS!

The Fall Supper Committee thanks our church family for another successful Fall Supper. As has been the tradition, the profit will be split evenly between the Session and the Board of Trustees, less the 10% tithe to Outreach. The profit is approximately \$3,800. **As always, many, many thanks to all of the volunteers who made this year's Fall Supper a success.**

~Dave Abell, Andy Atwater, Linda Enright, Carrie Horton, Kathy Mathewson, Gail McArthur, Laurie Stowe, and Karen Woodward

THANK YOU!

The Advent/Christmas Season Team thanks all who contributed food and cash for the SWEM Christmas Basket program. **Because of your generosity we delivered 11 food baskets, \$160, and 2 boxes of canned vegetables to SWEM.** We are also grateful to those who donated food to SWEM throughout the year. **814 food items plus numerous hygiene and paper products were given to those in need. The people who depend on SWEM are very thankful for our donations. We were told by the workers there that traditionally, there will not be another big donation until March. Please continue to bring food for SWEM on Communion Sundays in 2016.**

*~Thank You and Happy New Year!
Jane & Fred Schulitz*

THANK YOU

to the Elders, Deacons, and Childcare Volunteers
serving in January:

January 3*

Elder/Deacon: Dan Wooten and Gail McArthur

Jr. Deacon: Mira Wooten

Childcare: Lori Oliver

*Communion: Dan Wooten, Gail McArthur,
Sue Atwater, Barb Boerschlein,
Whitney Scoville

January 10

Elder/Deacon: Judie McGaffick and Jerry Huffman

Jr. Deacon: Grace Varner

Childcare: Lisa Hassett

January 17

Elder/Deacon: Dave Diehl and Darla Diehl

Jr. Deacon: Ashley Naugle

Childcare: Judie McGaffick

January 24

Elder/Deacon: Sherman Gittens and Alice Hassett

Jr. Deacon: Aidan Snover

Childcare: Kathy Mathewson

SATURDAY January 30

Elder/Deacon: Jan Hoyt and Barb Boerschlein

Jr. Deacon: Jordan Wilson

Childcare: Need Volunteer

January 31

No Sunday Worship Service

DON'T FORGET 

2016 Per Capita

Presbytery: 18.31

Synod: 3.95

General Assembly: 7.02

Total 2016 Per Capita for Each Member: \$29.28

You can help by making your contribution of **\$29.28**
for each person in your family who is a member of our
congregation. You can drop your check in the collection
plate, or mail to the Church Office. Thank you!

2015 ANNUAL REPORT GUIDELINES

for Boards, Committees, Seasonal Teams, and
Organized Groups of 1st Presbyterian Church of Chili

If you are a Chair, Elder of
Responsibility, or Facilitator for
one of our Groups, you are
responsible for the Annual
Report for your group's
activities for the past year.



Each group's individual report
then becomes part of the final
Annual Report to the Congregation and Corporation
for the Church, which is distributed at the Annual
Meeting, which is towards the end of January.

REPORT SUBMITTAL

- It is preferable that you submit your report to the Church Office *in electronic form*, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2016**. *No changes or corrections can be made to reports not submitted in electronic form.*
- If you miss the 1st deadline, you will need to prepare, proofread, and submit a hard copy of your report (*following the above report format*) to the Church Office **no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 11, 2016**. *Absolutely no changes or corrections can be made to reports not submitted in electronic form, or to reports received after January 11, 2016.*
- If no report is submitted before the 2nd deadline, the table of contents of the **Annual Report to the Congregation and Corporation** will indicate "no report received."

*If you have questions or need clarification,
please contact Candy Rogers at 889-9896.
Thanks for your cooperation!*

Epiphany Season 2016

"STOP for EIPHANY"

Plan: 11-22-15 to 1-9-16 / Implement: 1-10-16 to 2-8-16



The Five Sundays of Epiphany

*January 10th
Receptivity*

*January 17th
Recreation*

*January 24th
Reconciliation*

*Saturday, January 30th
Rest*

*February 7th
Reflection*

Saturday, January 30th

*Special Evening Worship
and Potluck Dinner*

Sunday, January 31st

*(No Church Worship Service)
Celebration of the Sabbath
in Your Own Way!*

Sunday, February 7th

Training/Installation of Officers

Mission Project

*Collecting food for SWEM,
so we can "warm bellies"
throughout the winter season!*

Your Season Team

*Barb Wasmer (Facilitator),
Andy Atwater, Tom Leahy,
Jay Mathewson*

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

Event to be held at Perinton Presbyterian Church
Registration Fee: \$5.00
Bagged Lunch: \$5.00

**Deadline to register: January 13th by mail
or January 18th at Presbyterian office.**

Contact Cheryl Battaglia at the Presbytery Office (242-0080 / financialadmin@pbygenval.org) with questions.

“ROOTS AND WINGS”

Your next newsletter will be the February 2016 issue.

The deadline will be:

Tuesday, January 19th, no later than 10:00 a.m.



**After serving our church
as Finance Chair for 35 years,
Dave Abell is retiring.**

*He has worked tirelessly
through the good times
and the challenging times
sharing his time and his talent.*

*At the Annual Meeting
of the Congregation on January 24, 2016,
Dave will be formally recognized
for his service.*

*Please join us for a reception
in Fellowship Hall following the meeting.*

All are invited to attend!



***For the Congregation and for
the Corporation of:
The First Presbyterian Church Of Chili***

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016

**The meetings will take place
following the morning worship service.**

The annual meeting of the Congregation will be conducted for the business of electing officers, hearing reports, and transacting other business as is appropriate for the Congregation.

Also, the meeting of the Corporation shall take place for the purpose of electing Trustees, as the following Trustees have concluded their 3-year term:

Andy Atwater, Tim Engelbrecht, and Geoff Wasmer.
Financial reports for the year 2015 will be received, and other business will be transacted as is appropriate for the Corporation.

**The meetings will take place
in the sanctuary.**

The Annual Meeting(s) is an important event in the life of our Presbyterian Church. The reports of Committees, Boards, and Seasonal Teams are distributed. These reports summarize each group's activities for 2015 as well as plans for the future. We as a congregation elect persons to serve on various Boards and Committees, and give recognition and thanks to those who have completed terms. All of the financial reports are made available such as the Housing Investment Fund, the Endowment Fund, Memorial Fund, and the Senior High Mission Fund just to name a few. We receive the Treasurer's Report and the Church Budget. This is the time each year when we all come together as a church family. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Those who are on the "active membership roll" are eligible to vote. We look forward to seeing you all on:

Sunday, January 24, 2016

right after the 10:00 a.m. service.

~Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Just as a train cannot move without an engine, our governing bodies (Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly) require a power source to enable them to provide services which support our mutual mission as the Body of Christ.

In theory, per capita covers the ecclesiastical expenses of the denomination—judicial, legislative, and related functions of the church. This means the organizational costs of administering the church's government as opposed to "mission" expenditures.

In practice, it is hard to draw a precise distinction between administration and mission. The custom of identifying funds for administrative costs has been one way governing bodies monitor such expenditures and is honest with God's people about them.

What does the *Book of Order* say about Per Capita?

"Each governing body above the session shall prepare a budget annually for its operating expenses, including administrative personnel, and may fund it with a per capita apportionment among the particular churches within its bounds. The presbyteries shall be responsible for raising their own per capita funds and for timely transmission of per capita funds to their respective synods and to General Assembly. The presbyteries may direct per capita apportionments to the sessions of the churches within their bounds." (G-9.0404 d)

Is Per Capita payment a requirement of churches or of individuals?

Different denominations have different ways of collecting revenue. Some receive a "head tax" of as much as \$50 per member. Others receive a certain percentage of a congregation's receipts (up to 25%). In the Presbyterian Church (USA), per capita is not a tax or an assessment that imposes financial obligation. Rather, it is a religious and moral commitment made by individuals and particular churches. It establishes a minimum level of financial participation in the vital work of our connectional church as the Body of Christ. Many churches include per capita for each member in their operating budget. Some churches encourage each member to contribute per capita beyond regular giving. The Presbytery receives all per capita contributions. It retains Presbytery per capita for its own needs, and sends Synod and General Assembly per capita to these respective governing bodies.

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley affirms the interdependent nature of our church by paying the full per capita apportionment to Synod and General Assembly regardless of income from the churches. (by action of Presbytery, December 16, 1992).

What are the consequences if a church does not contribute?

The majority of congregations in the Presbytery contribute per capita in full every year. Some churches are not able to contribute the full amount requested because of financial hardship. It is helpful if the member church notifies the Presbytery of these difficulties. Very few churches do not contribute in order to protest certain denominational decisions. When particular churches do not contribute, a greater burden of responsibility is placed on sister churches in the Presbytery. This means that the Presbytery must rely on funds normally reserved for mission. In the long run, it results in less money being available for mission. Whenever there is a shortfall in any budget line, it directly impacts our ability to support our mutual mission goals.

Why is there a difference?

The formula for determining per capita varies from Presbytery to Presbytery. For instance, in Geneva Presbytery all programmatic staff salaries are included in per capita. Meanwhile in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, the only staff position that is fully funded by per capita is the Stated Clerk. All other staff positions are funded all or in part by mission dollars, as are committee expenses. Your Presbytery tries to be very prudent about expenses charged to per capita.

Do we have to pay Per Capita in January?

Paying the entire per capita contribution in January has always been the "custom." Receiving these funds in January gives the Presbytery a head start on the year so it is both helpful and appreciated. However, this can be a heavy financial burden to some member churches. The Administration Committee has developed a "giving plan option" that offers congregations an opportunity to spread out the contributions over the year.



Thoughts from the Minister of Music – January 2016

It's 2016! Let's take a moment to reflect on 2015. As you are doing this, you can answer some of the questions below to yourself or by writing them down, but either way, meditate on your thoughts for a few minutes.

What were some of the big events that happened in your life in 2015?

What made you smile?

What made you laugh?

What brought you tears?

What was lacking for you in 2015?

Where was God working and using you in 2015?

Where did you see/feel God on earth? Did you see/feel God this year?

What were some of the big things that happened for us as a church?

Now look ahead to 2016 and meditate on the future God has for you.

What are you excited for in 2016?

What concerns/worries do you have for the new year?

What hopes and dreams do you wish to accomplish in this new year?

What kind of relationship do you wish to have with God? How do you maintain that relationship?

Where do you feel that God is leading you? What is God leading you to do?

I like to look back over a period of time and think about where God has taken me. Sometimes it helps me to realize that God is using me to make a huge impact on the world. Other times, I feel lost and distant, and reflection helps me to see this, and fuels me to work harder to find God in the things that I am doing. Also, knowing the events that I was a part of, both good and bad, remind me of the amazing joys of 2015, but also keep me grounded on the struggles I had to endure.

When you have completed a list of each of these things, lift it up in prayer. Thank God for the gift of living the life you have. If you are struggling to connect with God, pray that the Holy Spirit fill your heart in new ways this year. Try to name each answer you gave above through prayer to God.

Then close by praying for 2016. Each year we are given is already predestined by God, with many ups and downs. Pray that you can stay connected to our Creator throughout it all. Pray for spiritual growth in your life. Be in the spirit of God and pray. Great things can happen when we just sit and pray.

~Be blessed and continue to let the music play, Adam

CHILI PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUPS



@CHILIYOUTHGROUPS
January 2016 Newsletter

Name: Chili Presbyterian Youth Groups
Location: Rochester, New York
Web: chili-presbyterian.org
Bio: Looking to strengthen our faith in Christ and build lifelong relationships with others.

190
Following

159
Followers



2016!!!

We have made it to the New Year – and 2016 is going to be epic!

In December, we had an awesome Christmas party, where we played games and did our annual Christmas gift exchange! During the party, we helped put together a Christmas care package for a needy family in our area as well.

We are also continuing to combine with other churches in the Presbytery once a month for our combined Presbytery Youth Group. In December, we met at Downtown Presbyterian and created Christmas stockings with gifts for people in need at Open Door Mission.

We will have a youth group parent meeting on January 3rd after church! Please come out and get ready for 2016!

UPCOMING SCHEDULE!

Youth Group Parent Meeting – January 3rd
After Church - 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



Questions? Contact Adam Scoville / cministerofmusic@gmail.com / 585-269-8746

Just for fun



Color Me!



insert January calendar

insert back postage page