



Roots & Wings

First Presbyterian Church of Chili

“Rooted in Faith, Growing Together, Caring for the Community”



The ACE Team and Sister Grace Miller would like to

thank our very generous congregation for their support of the House of Mercy. Along with a check for \$205, we delivered a truckload of coats, hats, and gloves, all of which filled a huge need. Sister Grace said that because of us, many men, women and families who experience homelessness and severe poverty in our community will be helped. Our gifts were truly appreciated.



“Dance For Life”

Office hours

During this time while we are physically distant, I am working in the office Monday through Thursday. I am usually at the office around 9 AM. I work until the tasks for that day are completed - somedays it is an hour, others it may be 3 hours.

If you should need anything and I am not at the office, you can contact me at 615-1911 and we can work out a convenient time for me to help you with what you need.

- Sandy

Our Officers: Session, Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees

Our Committees: Endowment, Finance, Mission Fund, Nominating, Personnel, Scholarship

Our Season Teams: Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Advent/Christmas /Epiphany

Our Music Program: Choir, Glorious Ringers, Chili Worship Team

Mission Support: Cameron Community Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Open Door Mission, Presbyterian Church special offerings, SWEM, Vision for Camasca, Caring For The Community, and much more.

Wooten's Wonderings

It is now May and we are still in the same situation we were in April and much of March. By now, we have been sheltering-in-place for so long that you may be getting bored or it might feel harder and harder to stay home, not see friends and be so distanced from others when we do go out. Our plans and the way we anticipated spending these early spring months and maybe even summer are unraveling.

When our plans unravel into loose threads, we need to know God is near. I have been reading a little devotional book entitled, "Answered Prayers: Love letters from the Divine" written by Julia Cameron. This book is structured so that each reading is written as if God is speaking directly to you. I have found great comfort and solace in these words on various topics, but I want to share one with you now that I think is particularly helpful in our current circumstances. So listen deeply and slowly to these words from God, let them sink into your soul and know that they are for you.

"You are frightened and feel yourself unbalanced. You dread the future and doubt your capacity to face it. Calm yourself. Today is the day we must deal with, and for today I can be your strength. Rely on me. Allow me to ease your fears. Permit me to bring you balance. As the future unfolds, I will be your unshakable ally and friend. There is nothing you must face alone. I am with you always. I am your fortress, your harbor, your home. In me lies all protection. Come to me...Bring to me the knotted skein of your life. I can untangle your affairs. I can weave for you a new and beautiful tapestry."

The reality of this global pandemic is that we cannot simply flip a switch and life will just go back to normal as if nothing happened. Things have changed and things will continue to change as we slowly and at the right time, open things back up again. But even when we do that, we as a church community along with many other businesses and communities will have to ask a lot of questions and maybe even permanently change how we do certain things.

None of us knows exactly what that will look like yet, but this love letter from God reminds me that I can give over the "knotted skein of my life," and God will untangle it. It reminds me that although life circumstances and patterns may change, God does not change. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. And with God holding us firmly in the hands of love, we can get through this together.

Leadership News.....

At its Meeting on April 14, 2020, Session....

...met electronically via a ZOOM platform because of the Coronavirus Pandemic and National and State restrictions for social and physical distancing

...discussed a passage from the book Answered Prayers, by Julia Cameron,

“Love Letters from the Divine”. A passage where God is speaking to us. It was so meaningful to hear God’s voice during this time when our lives are in upheaval, disarray, and filled with uncertainty as we cope with this pandemic. God said to us, “rely on me”, “let me ease your fears”, “I am here”. Pastor Brandi opened the meeting with prayer

...VOTED to receive the Treasurer’s report and financial summary for the month ending March 31, 2020.

...welcomed Andy Atwater (Chair Board of Trustees), Barb Wasmer (Chair, Finance Committee), and Sandy McCauley (Church Treasurer) for our Quarterly Review of Finances. They led a discussion in which we reviewed the church budget, Profit & Loss statement, and the Treasurer’s statements through the first quarter ending March 31, 2020. The budget is on track and people are sending in their pledges. Funds are such that bills are being paid. Finance Chair, Barb Wasmer noted that she is preparing First Quarter giving statements.

...VOTED to approve, with regret, Elder Ken Milner’s resignation from Session, effective March 24, 2020, and expressed thanks and appreciation for Elder Milner’s leadership and contributions to the church’s ministry as a member of Session.

...heard a report from Elder Engelbrecht that with the Town Offices being closed, he was unable to obtain information on permits required for the Community Labyrinth

...noted that Pastor Brandi and Clerk Huffman will be meeting at a future date with Sandy McCauley, Treasurer and Barb Wasmer, Chair of the Finance Team to work on the revision of the Finance Team document.

...noted that the Presbytery Valley Neighborhood group has not met due to the COVID-19 restrictions on social distancing and that a Valley Neighborhood Mission project that was under discussion, will not take place.

...noted that Pastor Brandi has been holding the weekly VCI Bible study sessions, “Seven Marks of Vital Congregations”, via a ZOOM platform. Each week, the study is offered at a time either during the day or in an evening. Pastor Brandi reported that interest, attendance, and discussion has been good. In fact, Pat Olson attended from Arizona and Melanie Chase attended from California!

... discussed how COVID-19 has dramatically changed how we communicate with and within the congregation. We have responded to change by quickly instituting virtual worship via YouTube (1st Presbyterian Church of Chili), virtual Fellowship Coffee Hour via ZOOM, and other meetings using ZOOM. Our Facebook presence has increased with members and friends sharing pictures, pastoral thoughts, and other notifications. Session expressed appreciation for Pastor Brandi, Adam Scoville and Geoff Wasmer for their technological creativity and leadership.

...noted that Elder Engelbrecht reported that he will exploring using a ZOOM platform for staff evaluations.

Leadership News continued....

...VOTED to approve the Communion Schedule for July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 as follows

July 5, 2020 - Intinction
August 2, 2020 - Intinction
September 6, 2020 - Intinction
October 4, 2020 - Intinction
November 1, 2020 -Served
December 6, 2020 -Served
January 3, 2021 - Served
February 7, 2021 - Served
March 7, 2021 -Served
April 4 , 2021—Intinction
May 3, 2021 -Served
June 6, 2021 -Served

...VOTED to authorize blanket approval for serving the Lord's Supper at home communions, Session approved events, etc.

...discussed how to hold Communion when it cannot be done in person. We discussed "virtual" communion via a ZOOM platform (like we have done Coffee Hour). One option would be to prepare and distribute purchased individual Communion packets consisting of a wafer and juice. Another option would be for participants to provide their own bread and juice at home. Pastor Brandi is planning of offer a virtual communion on Sunday, May 3, 2020.

...discussed how COVID-19 has made it clear to us and other churches in the Presbytery that we need to adopt an electronic meeting policy. Elders Gerhardt and Huffman have researched the topic as it is discussed in the *Book of Order, Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised 11th Edition)* and the *Presbytery Handbook for Clerks of Session (2020 Edition)*. Elder Huffman also attended a ZOOM meeting for Clerks of Session hosted by our Stated Clerk, Susan Orr, where this was discussed. The Presbytery has an electronic meeting policy which Susan Orr made available as a template. She noted that the next Presbytery meeting this month will be an electronic meeting! Clerk Huffman volunteered to prepare a draft electronic meeting policy for Session's consideration.

Remitted by,

Elder Nancy P. Huffman, Clerk of Session



Church Directory

The April 2020 Church directory was e-mailed to everyone at the end of April. Hard copies are available in the fellowship room.

“Dance For Life”

A Very Different Easter Season



As we proceed through this Easter Season we are collectively and individually living out our theme, “Dance for Life”. Because of the pandemic, our plans have been upended. The “Dance” is choreographed in new and ever-changing ways with different dips, spins, jumps, and quiet rest stops. But...we are Easter people who believe in the resurrection and new life.

Our pulpit is beautifully decorated with vibrant color and will remain so throughout the season. It symbolizes the beauty and radiance of the resurrection. We are so grateful that before all this happened, team members Sandy, Andy and Brandi created this dramatic backdrop. Was there divine intervention that resulted in our lifted spirits? Roger Willis created some lovely images that we are seeing in Sandy’s weekly updates as well as the newsletter. Alice and Fred Zah have connected with our children for a Children’s Church activity. We have enjoyed virtual worship and yes, Fellowship with a virtual Fellowship coffee hour offered each week. We continue to have the opportunity to grow spiritually by attending the virtual Bible Study series offered each week at two different times. Our Outreach activities are occurring by us all continuing to collect products for Keeping Our Promise that will be distributed at a future date. And, our Outreach is occurring among us all as we connect with church family members and friends, and, our own families and friends through phone calls, cards, Zoom gatherings, Facebook, emails and all the media available to us to stay in touch while staying-in-place.

Mid-May seems to be the next benchmark for us to learn about what lies ahead in terms of gathering again. Meanwhile, Easter Season is alive and well at Chili Pres – just in new form. Thanks be to God.

Your Easter Team,

Andy Atwater, Jerry Huffman, Roger Willis, Alice Zah, Fred Zah
and Co-Facilitators Sandy McCauley and Nancy Huffman.



Easter Outreach

The Easter team will continue with the Lent Team's mission project: Keeping Our Promise- Rochester. Remember to fill the boxes and tubs with products, listed elsewhere in this newsletter, to support individuals and families who are resettling in Rochester. You can learn more about this organization at the following website - <https://www.keepingourpromise.org/>

Items needed for the "Welcome Baskets" for these families. Items needed for the baskets are listed below along with a suggested store where they can be bought at a reasonable price.

- oval bucket – Dollar General
- mop (Mr. Clean) - Dollar General
- broom (Mr. Clean) – Dollar General
- kitchen trash basket (11 gal.) – Dollar General or Walmart
- bathroom trash basket – Dollar Tree
- box of 32 trash bags (13 gal. bags) - Dollar General or Walmart
- laundry baskets – Dollar General
- kitchen counter cleaner – Dollar Tree
- bathroom counter cleaner – Dollar Tree
- floor cleaner (all purpose – at least 48 oz.) - Dollar General or Walmart
- paper towels (6 rolls) - Dollar General or Walmart
- rim scrubbing toilet brush - Dollar General or Walmart
- 4 pack: Ocello (multi-pack sponges) - Dollar General or Walmart
- 3 pack Scotch Brite scrubbies - Dollar General or Walmart
- dish pan - Dollar General or Walmart
- dish drainer - Dollar General or Walmart
- children's shampoo – Dollar Tree
- hand lotion (16 oz.) – Dollar Tree
- panty liners – Dollar Tree
- kleenex - Dollar General or Walmart
- band-aids - Dollar General or Walmart
- Bacitracin or Neosporin (expiration date in one or two years) - Dollar General or Walmart
- Curad brand first aid kit – (Seniors can get 6% off on this kit on the first Tuesday of a month at Tops Supermarkets)
- Gift cards for Dollar General, Dollar Tree or Walmart are also helpful.

Once we are gathering together again at church, a box will be placed in the main entrance, fellowship room and sanctuary to collect your contributions. Any help you can give to Keeping Our Promise – Rochester during the Easter season is greatly appreciated.

Your monetary donations are welcome as well!



The volunteer schedule will be created in late spring to take affect July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. If you already know dates that you will not be available, please contact the office. If are not presently a greeter or child care provider and would like to be added to the schedule, please let us know.



Please share your prayers of joy and concern by Tuesday morning each week so that we can include them in the video worship.

Either call or e-mail

889-9896 fpc3600@gmail.com



Thank you to everyone that has included a personal note in their giving envelope. All the "Miss Everyone", "Stay Well", "Love to All" and the many other notes are greatly appreciated and another reminder that we are a loving church.

Stay well and we will see you soon!!!

God Bless,

Barb Wasmer

Due to the Corona virus, no deliveries were made to the food cupboard in April. Hopefully the situation will improve soon and we can collect and deliver food to SWEM.

A notice from a worker from SWEM stated that a shipment of Food Link emergency food supply boxes were made available to SWEM in April. That means that assistance can be given to seniors and folks who are out of work. Presently the need for food assistance is great and likely will continue for quiet a while. Thank you for all your support for SWEM and we will keep you updated about future needs.

- Jane & Fred Schultz



Possibly consider a monetary donation to SWEM. A check made payable to church will provide us with a nice donation to SWEM from Chili Pres!

Celebrating

each other.....

May

- 6 Pat Olson
- 12 Tom Leahy
- 18 Alex Mathewson
- 30 Scoville Anniversary
- 31 Fred Schulitz
- Wooten Anniversary



Save the date:

October 23 – 25

Adult Retreat at
Asbury Camp

More information

coming soon!

*“May every sunrise hold
more promise and every
sunset hold more peace.”*

-Unknown

**Just in case we are able to open our doors
again in May, here is the volunteer
schedule for May**

May Worship Volunteers

May 3

- Greeters: Dale & Brian Faatz
- Communion: Darla Diehl (juice), Dave Diehl, Dale Faatz
Ken Milner (bread), Lori Oliver
- Jr. Greeter: Brooke Wilson
- Childcare: Barb Boerschlein & Sue Edwards
- Children’s Church:
- Fellowship Hour:

May 10

- Greeters: Debbie Lamphron & Gail McArthur
- Jr. Greeter: Mira Wooten
- Childcare: Marla Guarnieri & Alice Zah
- Children’s Church:
- Fellowship Hour:

May 17

- Greeters: Barb & Geoff Wasmer
- Jr. Greeter: Harry Gernhardt
- Childcare: Linda Enright & Kathy Mathewson
- Children’s Church:
- Fellowship Hour:

May 24

- Greeters: Sandy & Mick McCauley
- Jr. Greeter: Brooke Wilson
- Childcare: Dale Faatz & Grace Engelbrecht
- Children’s Church:
- Fellowship Hour:

May 31

- Greeters: Mark Carden & Roger Willis
- Jr. Greeter: Mira Wooten
- Childcare: Becky Gernhardt & Portia Westfall
- Children’s Church:
- Fellowship Hour:

“New Normal?”



It has been a historic and unforgettable month in our country. Never in our history have we been told that our lives depend on staying home and away from other people. This has not been easy for some – accepting this reality of being antisocial for an uncertain amount of time can be gut wrenching and downright depressing.

And to top it off, each week has a new instruction. The latest being a mandate in New York State that all people must be wearing a mask in public. Is this for real?! Why has it come to this? I put on this uncomfortable mask and I am always reminded of the invisible sickness that could be all around me. I simply cannot get away from it.

I think we all have these moments. I would say that 85% of the time, I am confident that things are okay. Then I see a news article, and that other 15% creeps in and leave me feeling hopeless. I just cannot come to terms with this being the new normal for our lives.

In the midst of all of this, it was a children’s board book that I was reading this week to McKenlee that brought me clarity and peace to all of it. The book is call “King of Me” and is a picture book written to coincide with the song “King of Me” by the worship band Rend Collective. The book tells the story of David, Daniel and Jonah in the Bible. And the chorus states that “My God’s the king of the giants. My God’s the king of lions. My God’s the king of the creatures of the deep. My God’s the king of me.”

Each story in this book has an obstacle; a hardship. David knew God was with him and had confidence in taking down the giant. Daniel wasn’t going to give up his faith, and he knew God was there with him amongst a pit of lions keeping him safe. Jonah made a few mistakes along the way and ended up in the belly of a creature in the deep, and yet God still protected him. And God is the King of me. The same God that has carried generations through many obstacles, hardships and the unknown is the God that is present now alongside of us in this new normal.

In Matthew 6:26 it says “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” YES! Each spring I fill the bird feeders and watch the many birds come to eat around my house. And how true it is, that they don’t plan for the unknown of food, a basic necessity. Every year, I see God’s protection and care through the birds of the air, and have peace knowing that God is taking care of me and my family much more than even I am aware of.

Obstacles and hardships are going to come in life. Maybe we have just been overly lucky not having a pandemic in our world for several generations. This is a new challenge, but let me remind you God is here and is the King of you. You don’t have to figure all of this out. God’s got it taken care of. Don’t be disheartened by the daily grind of this new normal, but embrace it, knowing that God has it under control.

That doesn’t mean, however, that we have the right to disobey the governmental recommendations for safety. We have a civil right to keep ourselves and others around us safe, but we do not need to live in fear of the unknown. I like to think of this time as a moment in history when the world put everything else aside and came together in a profound way to work together for the betterment of humanity. When was the last time that happened on a global scale?

May you let go of the big things that have you stuck in a rut today, and find comfort and peace knowing that God is present and in control.

Be blessed and continue to let the music play. -Adam

CHILI PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUP



Leader: Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com
585-269-8746

Bio: Junior High and Senior High Youth looking to strengthened their faith in Christ and build lifelong relationships with others.

STAY HOME!

We are all still in quarantine! Who knew that one month would turn into two months or more, but we have got this! No need to panic – just stay smart and healthy and we will be back together in person before you know it! If anyone needs anything or just someone to talk to feel free to contact us, we are here to serve you in any way we can.

So our youth group has been meeting weekly on the Zoom App! We have been catching up together and processing life living in a pandemic! We have also been playing some games and learning all the fun features that Zoom has. It has been fun to see everyone virtually and we will continue to catch up throughout the spring through Zoom!

My monthly announcements: Our church services will be video recorded for our congregation. Look for email blasts and Facebook posts to these online resources. These are on our YouTube page. Also, if anyone needs any hygiene items, including toilet paper, we do have some available at the church in our stock. Please feel free to raid the cupboard for what you need!

Our schedule is still on hold! Stay home, stay healthykeep trusting in God!

Adam, Whitney and McKenlee ☺

St. Pauly Box Schedule

Apr 27 – May 10th – Leahy's

May 11-24th – Ashleigh Naugle

May 25- June 7th – Nicole Mathewson