



Roots & Wings

First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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



2020

Summer Office Hours

The Board of Trustees and Session agreed for this summer the church office would be open Tuesday through Thursday at 9:00 am. Depending on the workload for that day the closing time will vary but will be open until at least 10:30 am. If clerical assistance is needed outside those hours please call 889-9896 or 615-1911.

Pastor Brandi will be on vacation July 15 through August 5 and August 28 through September 5.

If emergency pastoral services area needed during that time please call 615-1911

”Smell the sea, feel the sky, let your soul spirit fly”

- anonymous

Happenings this summer:

- ◇ “Keep Our Promise-Rochester” donation drive through opportunities
- ◇ The Deacon’s new free library

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 Wanderings

The transition from winter to spring and then summer always makes me feel free. I feel like I am emerging from a cocoon- venturing outside, shedding the extra layers of clothes, hearing the birds sing and the flowers bloom. These physical changes in habit echo my internal feeling of coming out of hibernation and alive to the world around me. This year there seems to be another layer to coming alive. With the winter quarantine that lasted through the spring, we had to stay sheltered longer than usual. Now, as we enter into July, things are slowly beginning to open up and we are cautiously able to gather in small groups while practicing social distancing.

As we make this transition into the summer, we have an opportunity to contemplate what "coming alive" means in terms of our faith. I am reminded that life is a verb- it is something to be embraced and lived fully. In this summer season, and in the midst of this pandemic crisis, we are still called to come alive to the things God is doing in our midst. And so, we can ask ourselves:

- * What are we being called to come alive to?
- * What is the Spirit beckoning us to step into?
- * Is it to say yes to something?
- * To speak up?
- * To be generous?
- * To love more?
- * To trust yourself?
- * To slow down?
- * To learn something new?
- * To be aware of the wonder all around you?

Even in the midst of all that is going on in our community, country and the world, God still beckons us to come alive. And perhaps, in such a time as this God is *especially* calling us to come alive- to not be numb to what is going on inside of us, in our community, with our neighbors, our country and the world. May we take this opportunity to pay attention to God's still small voice nudging us forward on the path as we seek to follow Jesus.

Leadership News.....

At its meeting June 9, 2020, Session...

... held devotion which was a period of “checking in” and reflection on current events that are surrounding us. We shared what was on our hearts given the climate of protests and racial unrest in our country as well as being on the midst of a pandemic. We talked about how we need to step back, view varying perspectives, keep an open heart, and have the courage to pursue and live with hope to forthcoming change.

...VOTED to approve the agenda as published.

...VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda.

...VOTED to receive the Treasurer’s report and financial summary for the month ending May 31, 2020 and noted that giving statements are being prepared.

...heard a report from Pastor Brandi that she is not taking vacation days in June. She will be taking three weeks of vacation in July/August (July 15 – August6) and a possible week of vacation at the end of August. Plans are underway for worship, Fellowship Hour, and pastoral care coverage.

...placed on the activities calendar: June 16, 2020 - Session and Trustees discussion on reopening church

...heard a report from Elder Engelbrecht that he has cleared a 40-foot circle in the middle of the woods on our property across the street from the church. This will be the center of a planned prayer path. A Boy Scout working on an Eagle project is assisting.

...noted that the Deacons will register our book and puzzle exchange program with “Little Free Library”. We noticed that our library box is quite visible from the highway as a miniature of our “Little White Church on the Hill”. Thanks to Andy Atwater and Jerry Huffman who built the library box.

...postponed its discussion of the structure of the Nominating Committee until its July meeting.

...discussed October 5, 2020 as a proposed date for the Annual Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons

...heard a report from Personnel Committee Chair, Elder Engelbrecht that the Congregation and church family were invited to participate staff reviews via Zoom. Reviews were held June 3, 2020. The Personnel Committee is meeting June 11, 2020.

The Committee plans to complete staff reviews the month.

Remitted by,

Elder Nancy P. Huffman, Clerk of Session

Pentecost Season—”Come Alive.....”

The Pentecost team will continue with the Lent/Easter Teams’ mission project: “**Keeping Our Promise- Rochester**” 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>.

The following items are needed for the “Welcome Baskets” for these families. They can be found at Dollar General, Dollar Tree, and/or Walmart.

Oval Bucket
Mop (Mr. Clean)
Broom (Mr. Clean)
Kitchen Trash Basket (11 gal.)
Bathroom Trash Basket
Box of 32 Trash Bags (13 gal.)
Laundry Baskets
Kitchen Counter Cleaner
Bathroom Counter Cleaner
Floor Cleaner (all purpose – at least 48 oz.)
Paper Towels (6 rolls)
Rim Scrubbing Toilet Brush
4 pack: O Cello (multi-pack sponges)
3 pack Scotch Brite Pads
Dish Pan
Dish Drainer
Children’s Shampoo
Hand Lotion (16 oz.)
Panty Liners
Facial Tissues
Band-Aids
Bacitracin/Neosporin (expiration in 2 years)
Curad Brand First Aid Kit
Gift cards for Dollar General, Dollar Tree or Walmart

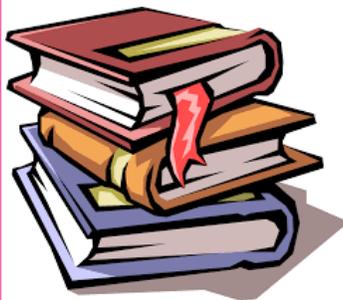
The Pentecost team has set up the following drive through of days and times for contributions to the “**Keeping Our Promise-Rochester**” mission project from 10 am to 12 pm on the following dates:

- ◇ Wednesday, July 15
- ◇ Saturday, July 18
- ◇ Wednesday, August 12
- ◇ Saturday, August 15



South West Ecumenical Ministry (SWEM)
Wonderful Outstanding Way-to-go!

Not only was the day a glorious one on Wednesday, June 17 but the donations that came in for the SWEM food cupboard between the hours of 10-1 was a beautiful reminder of how generous God's family is. We received over 200 food items, plus cash donations. A HUGE thank you to our church and community for your support of this very worthwhile mission. Your donations have truly helped those in need.



The First Presbyterian Church of Chili "Little Free Library"

*If you haven't seen our new little "church on the hill" library, go around the driveway and check it out! A **HUGE** thank you to Jerry Huffman and Andy Atwater for building our "Little Free Library" for all in the area to use and enjoy. This project was constructed from the **deacons'** funds that were given in memory of Mel Olver. Mel was a long-time member of CPC and an avid reader. It will house books for adults and children and will be available to anyone who enjoys reading! The idea is to take a book and leave a book so there is always something new and interesting available. Sue Johnson and Becky Gerhardt are taking care of registering our library. Once we are registered, we can post a picture on the Little Free Library website map and tell how it came about and how we **anticipate** the library will be used to better serve the community. A memorial plaque in Mel's memory will be attached to the library. We hope that a dedication can take place on Mel's birthday, August 9th. More details will be posted regarding **this event** as the date draws closer.*

In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about "Little Free Libraries" you can go to <https://littlefreelibrary.org> and check it out!

Your Board of Deacons:

Sue Atwater, Barb Boerschlein, Sharon Breeze, Sue Edward, Dale Faatz, Becky Gernhardt, Jan Hoyt, Sue Johnson, Debbie Lamphron

Celebrating

each other.....

July

- 1 Evan Engelbrecht
- 2 Henry Gernhardt
- 12 Beth Rowe
- 18 Sue Johnson
- 21 Kathy Mathewson
- 22 Jerry Huffman
- 25 Brenda Naugle
- 31 Doug McArthur

August

- 3 Sharon Breeze
- 5 Dale Faatz
- 6 Dan Cuffe
- 7 McCauley Anniversary
- 9 Sara Heer, Lisa Snover
- 10 Sherman Gittens, Pat Jones
Dan Wooten
- 11 Harkness Anniversary
- 13 Faatz Anniversary
- 16 Jay Mathewson
- 17 Bev L'Hommedieu
- 18 Sue Edwards
- 30 Gary Alger
- 31 John Engelbrecht

The Session and Trustees continue to monitor the evolving situation regarding Covid-19. We met via Zoom on Tuesday, June 16th and decided to keep the building closed and to continue to provide virtual worship services and activities through the summer months. In August, the Session and Trustees will meet again to reevaluate the situation and plan for the fall. As always, we will keep you informed of any changes. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandi, a Session member or a trustee.

In these difficult times, we remember the many places in scripture when God says, "do not fear, for I am with you." God is with us today, tomorrow and into the future. We are the church and always will be even when we cannot gather in our building for it is the Holy Spirit which binds us together.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Brandi, the Session and the Trustees



Contact Sharon Breeze at 293-1340

(sbreeze @ frontiernet.net)

or the office at 889-9896

(fpc3600@gmail.com)

"If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all. And so today I still have a dream"

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We regret to inform you that Fall Retreat Adult Retreat that was originally scheduled for October 23-15 has been cancelled. We hope to be able to reschedule it in 2021.



Reality Check.

As we enter into summer this year, I sometimes feel like we have been on a roller coaster on a different planet that doesn't stop! We are reassessing how we live our lives in the midst of a

pandemic. We have seen racial inequality and people desiring a culture change. We have witnessed police brutality. We have seen protests, some turning into riots even in our own city. This reality check has gone to the deepest darkest parts of our society, and the layers that are being uncovered have not been pretty.

We all have our own views and perspectives on all of it. I have spent many moments in the last month trying to make sense of it, and honestly, I have come to the conclusion that I never will. The world we live in is unfortunately rooted in inequality in so many forms; these roots need to be uprooted. We have seen social injustice with race, gender, sexual orientation, and religion just to scratch the surface.

In the midst of all of this, I found a quote from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, a famous basketball player who is an advocate for racial equality. In response to the Black Lives Matter protests he writes: "Yes, protests often are used as an excuse for some to take advantage, just as when fans celebrating a hometown sports team championship burn cars and destroy storefronts. I don't want to see stores looted or even buildings burn. But African Americans have been living in a burning building for many years, choking on the smoke as the flames burn closer and closer. Racism in America is like dust in the air. It seems invisible — even if you're choking on it — until you let the sun in. Then you see it's everywhere. As long as we keep shining that light, we have a chance of cleaning it wherever it lands. But we have to stay vigilant, because it's always still in the air."

I think with the privileges I have being a white male, I have been oblivious to the prejudices that exist in the world, even the ones that I am unaware that I have. As part of my spiritual growth over the last 10 years, I noticed some of the prejudices I had and have made changes. Being raised in a small town country Baptist church, it always felt like that church made many judgments and took stances that were rooted in prejudice. It was (and is) still very prevalent today, specifically to gender and sexual orientation inequalities.

In Hebrews 10:24-25, it states, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

I have come to realize, that God did not call us to point out everyone's flaws or tear people apart. God calls us to have respect for every human life and to love one another and to build each other up. In Hebrews scripture noted, we are encouraged to come together, I encourage you to come together with those who are not like you, to build relationships, to love, to see the world through their eyes. God made us all unique in His image, and we all have unique lives and beliefs. We can coexist knowing that God made each one of us unique. Furthermore, we need to stand together with those who are being mistreated in this world.

Please know that I am fully aware that I do not totally understand the injustices that exist in the world. I am also aware that I still have prejudices within me that I have yet to uncover. But in this moment, I stand, and I hope you will as well, and walk with our brothers and sisters who face these hardships daily. Jesus gave His life by coming to earth to break down barriers and injustices. It is our duty to show the love that Jesus modeled to those around us.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "That's love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There's something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive. So love your enemies."

Lord, help me to become aware of my prejudices and not be oblivious. Help me to be present, active and intentional for those living in injustice. And help us find ways in our society to make lasting change for the equality of all people, no matter the circumstance.

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.

SUMMER!

That is right, it is summertime. Time to be outside and enjoying the warm, fresh air! Because of the continued pandemic in our country, we have not been able to meet in person with youth group. Please continue to pray for our youth as they prepare for whatever school will look like in the fall.

We need some volunteers to care for the St. Pauly box in July. If you are interesting in helping, please contact me to help fill in the spaces.

If you think of it, please pray for Whitney, McKenlee and I as we prepare to have our baby boy this summer! His due date is coming quickly!!!

And finally, we are still supporting local families in need of community hygiene items. If there is anyone that you know would need some of these items please contact me and I can put things together. We have been able to support a few families in need by sending gift cards these last few months, and we still have supplies in our cupboard to give out including toilet paper!

Enjoy the summer! Hoping to see you all soon!

Adam, Whitney and McKenlee ☺

St. Pauly Box Schedule

June 22- July 5 – Adam Scoville

Month of July – need volunteers!

Aug 3 – Aug 16 - Vicky/Tom Leahy

Aug 17 – Aug 30 - Ashleigh Naugle

Aug 31 – Sept 13 - Nicole Mathewson