



# Roots & Wings

First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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

# February

# 2021



Look what is inside.....

- \* Installation/Ordination of Officers
- \* Souper Bowl Sunday
- \* Cabin Fever III
- \* Per Capita Information
- \* What is coming up during Lent
- \* Continued conversation on racism
- \* A new book to read and discuss

*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



Hello Church Family! I found this little story called “Look” written by Renee Roederer that I wanted to share with you:

## **LOOK**

*“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built... Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.” (Jeremiah 31:3–4)*

“LOOK!”

“Mom – Grandma! Look!”

This is the phrase I heard so many times while I was in the grocery store. A young girl – maybe eight or so – kept requesting her Grandma’s attention. She kept accidentally calling her Mom but then correcting herself.

“Mom – Grandma! Look!” Then Grandma would look, and she did so with affection every single time. And that’s when the little girl would break into song. I wonder what sort of personal connection they had to this song. It was known to just about everyone in the store, but it seemed to have particular meaning to them.

“Oh, when the saints! Go marching in! Oh, when the saints go marching in!”

“Mom – Grandma! Look!” The girl opens the ice freezer.

“Oh, when the saints! Go marching in! Oh, when the saints go marching in!”

They laugh.

“Mom – Grandma! Look!” The girl picks up a grocery bag and starts marching.

“Oh, when the saints! Go marching in! Oh, when the saints go marching in!”

Grandma sings, too.

“Mom – Grandma! Look!” The girl turns around in place.

“Oh, when the saints! Go marching in! Oh, when the saints go marching in!”

People watch them interact, but the girl mostly just notices her grandma.

Over and over again, she is expressing a need to be seen, perceived, and known, and Grandma is seeing, perceiving, and knowing with affection. This is such a profound, human need. Certainly, we don’t all shout “Look!” and break into song in the grocery store, but I don’t think we ever outgrow this need to know and be known – held in the steadfast love of God and the deep love of one another. It is a joy to recognize the moments when we are held in a loved one’s attention, and it is a joy to be attentive toward loved ones with the same kind of affection and connection.

I find myself resolving to this: We need connection. We need moments of rejoicing. We need moments to return to ourselves, one another, the deep dreams of God. May we perceive people joyfully – in their discoveries, in their element, in their vulnerability (when invited), and in their joys. And may we be seen, perceived, and known in these ways too.

“Look!”

“Look” by Renee Roederer. Seasons Fusion Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2021. Used by permission.

## Two ways to Worship

### In-Person Worship

Every Sunday at 10:00 am. There is no child care available at this time, but we do have Children's Church. Below is a reminder of the parameters of attending Worship in person:

- ◇ You will need to call or e-mail the office to PRE-register your attendance. All pre-registrations need to be requested **no later than 1 PM on the Thursday** before Worship. You will receive confirmation
- ◇ Use the main entrance only and sign-in on the check-in list.
- ◇ You are invited to bring your own pen, but sanitized ones will be provided
- ◇ Wear your mask at all times
- ◇ Bring your own Bible (optional)
- ◇ Sit only in the designated pews/chairs in the sanctuary with your family unit

### Live-Streaming

To access the live stream on Sunday mornings simply open your favorite web browser (i.e., Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, etc.) and access <https://www.facebook.com/firstpreschili/live/> around the 10 AM hour when the Worship Service will begin. Once it begins, you will be able to see the Worship Service live and send comments when you wish.

Shortly after the Worship Service ends, the stream will be stored on Facebook Live for access at a later time using the same web address (URL) <https://www.facebook.com/firstpreschili/live/>

NOTE: You do not need to have a Facebook account to view the live or stored streams. Simply ignore the box instructing you to login or create an account and scroll the Facebook Live page to access the desired live or stored stream.

We encourage viewers of the live stream or the stored stream to comment with Joys and Concerns, as well as any other comments about the Worship Service.

### **Annual Per Capita Apportionment for 2021**

Presbytery	\$2294.24
Synod	\$426.40
General Assembly	<u>\$933.92</u>
Total	\$3,654.56

This is based on our active membership. We would appreciate your support of this budgetary cost by covering the **\$35.14** (only 46 cents more than 2020) per active member in your family.



The Board of Deacons have a few of their dark blue Chili Presbyterian face masks left. If you are interested, they are located in the church office. The Deacons ask that you place a donation in the envelope to help defray the cost.

*-Your Board of Deacons*

“But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

March newsletter deadline is

February 16

# Leadership News.....

## At its Meeting on January 12, 2021, Session...

...opened the meeting with a prayer for peace meditation from the book, Prayer Seeds by Joyce Rupp. We held our hands to our heart to feel our inner peace. We prayed for various groups of people. As we prayed for each group, we opened our hands with palms outward to share and spread our prayer for peace. We prayed for people who live in fear, for people who are suffering, for loved ones, for people who need help, for people who challenge us, for people who consider us an enemy, and finally for ourselves.

...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 December 31, 2020

...heard an update from Pastor Brandi on the status of grant applications for her scheduled sabbatical in 2022. Given a change of deadline for a major grant application, as well as potential for a state of affairs in 2022 that could impact travel and health, she would like to postpone her sabbatical to 2023. Upon motion and second, Session VOTED to change Pastor Brandi's four-month sabbatical leave from 2022 to 2023.

...heard from Pastor Brandi that some staff members have been receiving phishing emails supposedly from her (Pastor Brandi) asking them to "email" her to discuss an item of concern. Session agreed that an eblast should go out from our office alerting church family of this scam and cautioning them to not respond.

...placed activity dates on the Master Calendar

-February 3, 2021 – Orientation and Training of Newly Elected Officers via Zoom at 6:30 PM

-February 7, 2021 – Installation and Ordination Service

-February 13, 2021 –Cabin Fever III virtual fellowship activity via Zoom 2-4PM

...received a final report from Geoff Wasmer, Nominating Committee Chair, that the Committee has completed its work and has submitted its report for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation. Session expressed its appreciation to the Nominating Committee for securing candidates to fill leadership positions.

...reviewed the final report of the Stewardship Campaign prepared by Jerry Huffman. He reported that 56 pledges were received for 2021 totaling \$152,186 which represents an increase of 8.5% over last year's pledging commitments. Average 2021 pledge commitment per week is \$52.26. Average 2021 pledge commitment per year is \$2717.

...VOTED to confirm members of the Mission Fund Committee as Required by the Mission Fund Policy as follows:

Session Member: Barbara Wasmer

Trustee Member: Roger Willis

One Congregation Member: Andy Atwater

One Youth Director: Adam Scoville

Youth Delegate: Ashleigh Naugle

...VOTED to appoint Darla Diehl to conduct the Annual Financial Review for 2020. Session expressed its appreciation for Darla's willingness, once again, to share her accountancy skills and talent in this way.

...VOTED to receive the 2020 Statistical Report for PC/USA prepared by Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session.

...reviewed the report of the Endowment Committee noting the recommendation that a total of \$23,576 from 2020 net proceeds be distributed in 2021 as follows as per policy: \$7858.00 each to Session (Inside the Walls); Trustees (On the Walls); and Mission Fund (Outside the Walls).

## Leadership News continued...

...discussed logistics for holding the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation virtually including counting Active Member participants for the quorum, managing call for motions, handling voting, etc. There will be two tutorials offered prior to the meeting so participants can be prepared for this new and different experience.

...discussed the Orientation and Training of newly elected officers which will occur on February 3, 2021 at 6:30 PM at a Special Called Meeting of the Session via Zoom. Newly Elected officers are required to attend this meeting for training and orientation. Current, and Retiring members of Deacons, Session and Trustees are also invited to this meeting to assist in the training of newly elected officers.

...noted that Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders and recognition of Trustees will take place during worship Service for the Lord's Day on Sunday, February 7, 2021.

...discussed holding the "traditional" sale of subs sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday. Given the current circumstances associated with COVID 19, closure of our building, and health protection protocols, Session by consensus, agreed that sale of Super Bowl subs will be cancelled this year.

...VOTED to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Pastor Brandi led us in a shared benediction based on the Great Commission.

Remitted by,

*Elder Nancy P. Huffman, Clerk of Session*

### Ordination/Installation of Officers

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Deacons and Elders elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 31st will be Ordained/Installed on February 7, 2021. While Trustees are not formally ordained or installed, newly elected Trustees will also be recognized during the worship service.

Deacons to be Installed are Barb Boerschlein, Sue Edwards, and Judie McGaffick.

Elders to be Ordained are Linda Enright and Gail McArthur. Elders to be Installed are: Sharon Breeze, Linda Enright, Brian Gernhardt, and Gail McArthur

Newly elected Trustees who will be recognized are: Brian Faatz and Jerry Huffman

*Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session*



### SUBS.....

Given the current circumstances associated with COVID 19, closure of our building, and health protection protocols, Session by consensus, agreed that sale of Super Bowl subs will be cancelled this year.

### DONATIONS....

We will still receive financial donations towards the Presbyterian initiative to provide support for a local foodbank or organization who help those who are in need of food in our area. A container will be provided for your donation or you can send a check (making a note on the memo line "Souper Bowl"). Donations will be accepted through the month of February



## Again & Again...A Lenten Refrain

The 2021 Lent Season Team (Andy Atwater, Carrie Horton, Jerry Huffman, Nancy Huffman, Sue Johnson, Kathy Leasure, Sandy McCauley, Alice Zah, Fred Zah) has plans underway for the Liturgical Season of Lent that begins on February 17, 2021.

The Team met in early January for a review and discussion of the scripture texts led by Pastor Brandi. Pastor Brandi pointed out that Lent is a time for reflection and preparation for Easter and Pentecost. As we studied each of the scripture texts, we asked ourselves, “what are the people doing in this passage” and “what is God doing”.

We talked about how this time of year we sometimes feel like we are in a desert. We find ourselves (especially this year as we hit the one-year anniversary of the start of the pandemic) recycling feelings of doubt, uncertainty, chaos, ongoing changes in what we can and cannot do and find ourselves lamenting “Again???”. Yet, God always is walking with us, again and again, and God breaks the cycle by meeting us again and again. This brought us to our theme “Again & Again...A Lenten Refrain”.

You will see the ampersand, “&” as our Lenten symbol throughout the Season. Why? It symbolizes the power of “and”. We walk along in the desert of times...**and** Gods meets us along the way; we deal with uncertainty...**and** God guides us; we may feel broken...**and** God restores hope; ...**and**...again **&** again we are changed.

Again **&** Again...A Lenten Refrain

### Season Plans and Activities

- ◆ Wednesday, February 17, 2021 -- Ash Wednesday --- This is the beginning of the Season of Lent. Experience a home-based service **&** an opportunity to reflect and pray by yourself or with family at your own convenience.
- ◆ Weekly devotionals – You will receive a printable devotional guide **&** the opportunity to be inspired from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. Hard copies will also be available.
- ◆ Sunday, February 21, 2021 – Children’s Church at 10:00 AM continues with Alice Zah and Ashleigh Naugle assisting. Our children will have “Again **&** Again opportunities through Zen coloring work **&** shared stories.
- ◆ Get started right now with Liturgical Art for Fellowship Hall. We will all decorate the bulletin board. We will provide you with artful **&** symbols. You will receive some electronically **&** we will have some printed **&** available for you to pick up here at church. There’s even one here in this newsletter for you. Color it **&** bring it in so we can cover the bulletin board in collage fashion.
- ◆ **&** you’ll be surprised when you see the Sanctuary Art on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

- ◆ Mission & Outreach will be twofold. There will be the *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* that is a Presbyterian denomination-wide offering & we will support the Open Door Mission by collecting items for “Blessings Bags”. They are sorely in need of travel size items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, shaving cream, etc. See a complete listing below. We will have a bin ready for you where you can place your items.
- ◆ An opportunity for Fellowship is to join in our church’s Book Club discussion. On Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM we will be discussing The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison. This book group got started as an outgrowth of our Deacons Little Free Library project. This is a virtual discussion set up via Zoom so be sure to contact the church office if you wish to participate. This is open to the community friends as well.
- ◆ On Sunday, February 21 at 1:00 PM let’s all go sledding/snowshoeing/hiking at the Genesee Country Village in Mumford (back up date is February 28). Sledding takes place on the Meadow (bring your own sled) along with snow painting. Watch for a flyer with more details and a sign-up sheet. Go to the Museum website [www.gcv.org](http://www.gcv.org) for more information.
- ◆ Stay tuned. ...And...yes... & we are looking for ideas for other Fellowship Activities. Do you have an idea? Please contact anyone on the Lent Team. March is a long month and is often spring like!
- ◆ An opportunity for Adult Education is to join in on our Racism discussion series. Our next discussion will take place on March 3, at 6:30 pm. You do not have to have participated in previous discussions. You can jump in on any date.

Participate in the Season knowing that God is with us

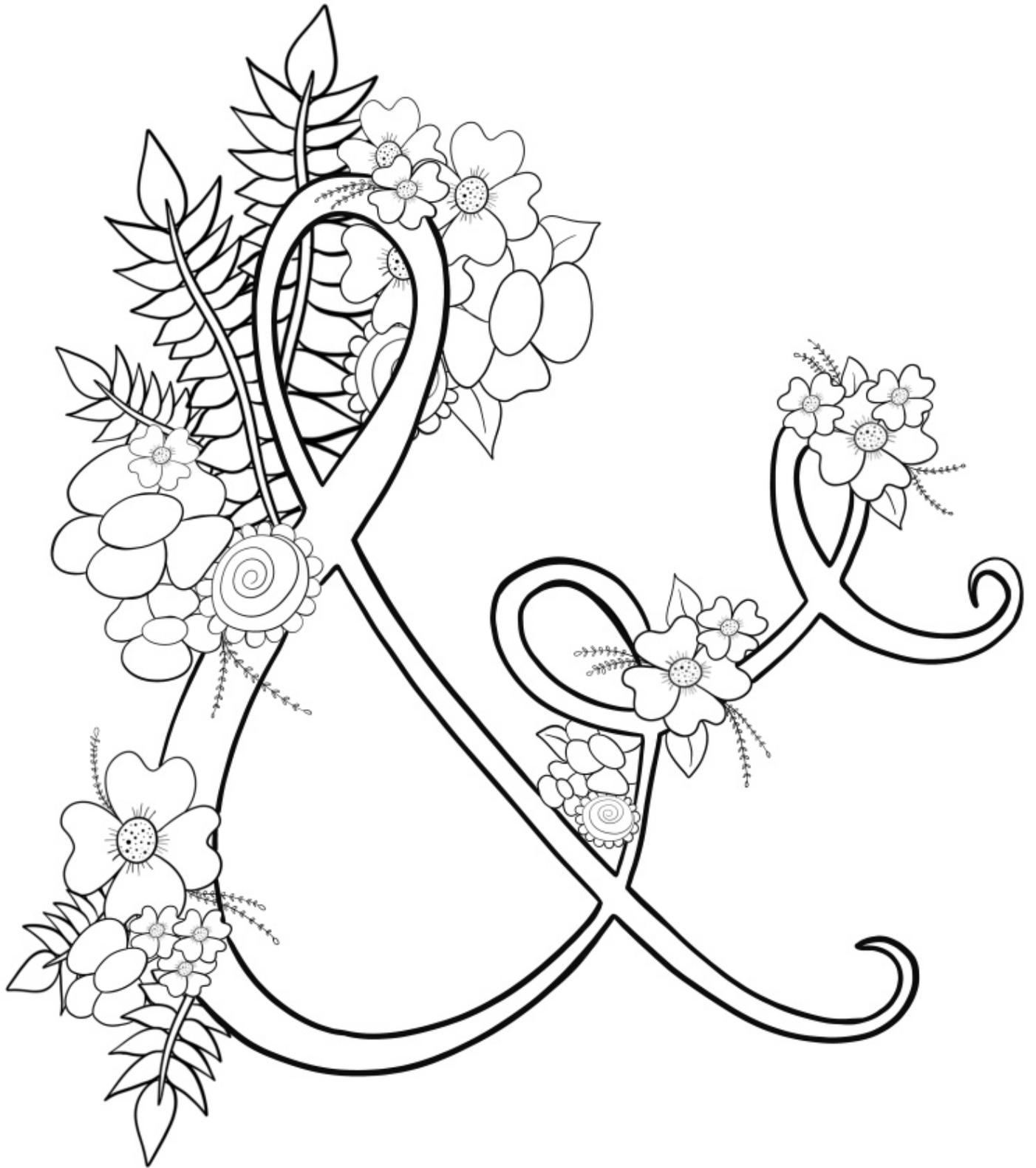
Again & Again....a Lenten Refrain

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The Lent Team will be collecting travel size items for the Open Door Mission to use in their Blessings Bags. Here is a list. The Lent Team will have a bin available for you to place your

TRAVEL SIZE items

- |                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| toothbrush                         | nail clippers       |
| toothpaste                         | hand sanitizer      |
| soap                               | lip balm            |
| shampoo                            | razors              |
| conditioner                        | body powder         |
| feminine hygiene (tampons, liners) | foot powder         |
| deodorant (men & women)            | band aids           |
| lotion                             | kleenex             |
| body wash                          | shaving cream       |
| combs/brushes                      | Q tips/cotton balls |



# Celebrating

each other.....

## February

- 1 Mick McCauley/Marge Tucker
- 2 Becky Sosik
- 8 Eric Boerschlein  
Huffman's Anniversary
- 9 Connor Snover
- 10 Barb Boerschlein
- 11 Kristen Milner
- 12 Vicky Leahy
- 16 Milner's Anniversary
- 18 Marla Guarnieri / Becky Gernhardt
- 25 Becca Wasmer
- 26 Bruce Olson



Contact Sharon Breeze at 293-1340

(sbreeze @ frontiernet.net)

or the office at 889-9896

(fpc3600@gmail.com)

## Worship Greeters in February

February 7

Kathy & Rich Stowe

February 14

Linda Enright & Bill Horne

February 21

Alice & Gary Alger

February 28

Marla Guarnieri & Tim Engelbrecht



## *Cabin Fever III*

*Saturday, February 13, 2021 from*

*2:00 PM to 4:00 PM*

Sign-up your household by Sunday, February 7, 2021 12:00 PM

You MUST have a device that can access Zoom (Tablet, Smart Phone, Computer, Laptop) with Video, Sound, and Microphone – Call in will NOT work.

You MUST be able to accept materials via email and/or Zoom chat to print at your household before and during the Game Event. Sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship room or contact the office. Hosted by "Team Wasmer" and brought to you by the 2020-2021 ACE Season Team



## “It’s okay, it happens. Try again!”

I love being a dad. As a parent, we get a front row seat into the development of a child and the glimpses our own youth experiences time and again in their lives. Nothing can prepare you for being a parent, and nothing can prepare you for the random entertaining moments that will occur on a daily basis.

My daughter has always loved building towers. Whether it is with blocks or books or pillows or even stuffed animals, she will find a way to stack them up as high as she can. The reality with building towers with a toddler is that eventually they will fall down. So as she works hard to make a tower that falls down, the typical response from her is a meltdown of crying and screaming. For months this has happened, and my response has always been, “Oh, it’s ok, it happens. Let’s try again, honey!”

So this week, my daughter in typical fashion asks to build a tower. So I join her on the floor and we begin to build a tower. I always try to build a cool and unique tower, yet every time I start to build something cool, she would kick it over and take my blocks away for her tower. With several attempts to build something and her destroying it, I turned to her and jokingly said, “Awe that makes me sad!” Her response to me – “No don’t be sad. It’s okay, it happens. Try again daddy!” Clearly she’s listening to me.

Sometimes in my ministry I have found myself trying to build a tower and it just keeps falling over. Whether it is kicked over or the wind knocks it over, it can be really draining to feel like the effort you put into something just isn’t coming together the way you want it to. Maybe you have felt that way about something going on in your own life.

When we are putting effort into something that we feel that God has called us to, and things are just not working out the way we intend, it can be so damaging to our psyche. It can even go as far as challenging our faith and pushing us away from God. Wouldn’t it be nice in times like these to hear the sweet voice of a small child saying “Don’t be sad. It’s okay, it happens. Try again!”

Listen to these words from James 1:12. “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”

I think about how our church has been during this pandemic. There have been a lot of trials. If you asked me at the start of the pandemic if we would be able to do anything in worship and sustain anything substantial long term, I would say, “No way!” But here we are. And getting to where we are now has come with a lot of trial and error, and trying different things that have not gone as well as we hoped.

If you are struggling to find direction: “Don’t be sad. It’s okay, it happens. Try again!” If you are drained because everything you are looking to do seem to have impossible barriers to overcome: “Don’t be sad. It’s okay, it happens. Try again!” If you are feeling lost and alone and struggling to connect with God: “Don’t be sad. It’s okay, it happens. Try again!”

We all have been in moments like these. It is part of our journey in faith. But don’t lose hope. Remember James 1:12 and keep attempting different ways to build the tower that God has entrusted to you.

*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.

## WINTER.....

The snow has arrived in Rochester. But that hasn't stopped us from having some fun! We started the New Year with a few youth meetings at church. The Sr. High youth meetings have involved games and a study on the book of Ephesians. The Jr. High youth are learning about Genesis, and were introduced to laser tag in the church. Needless to say, we are finding ways to have fun as we continue to stay safe.

And due to the pandemic, Adam and the Session decided to cancel the Super Bowl Sub drive this year. We will be back at it next year for sure!

Check out the events coming up! Have a great February everyone!

*-Adam, Whitney, McKenlee, and Ethan ☺*

## Upcoming Schedule!

February 6 - Jr High Youth Event - 1-3pm! More details to come!

February 7 - No Youth Group!

February 14 - Sr. High Youth Group - 1-3pm!

February 21 - Jr. High Youth Group - 1-3pm!

### St. Pauly Box Schedule

Feb 1 - Feb 14 = Henry Gernhardt

Feb 15 - Feb 28 = Brooke Wilson

AND SUDDENLY  
YOU JUST KNOW  
IT'S TIME TO START  
SOMETHING NEW  
AND TRUST  
THE MAGIC  
OF BEGINNINGS

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The text is written in a white, hand-drawn font over the image.