



Roots & Wings

First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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

April 2021

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Good Friday Service - April 2

Easter Season News

2021 Church Directory

Worship volunteers needed for 2021-22

Chicken BBQ . . Yes, we are having it!

Pursuing a Grant



Logo by Mira Wooten

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

As you receive this newsletter, we will be in the midst of Holy Week. During this important week in the Christian year, we accompany Jesus as he is arrested, tried, sentenced and then willingly suffered an excruciating death on a cross. This is a grim week and one that many of us want to skip over. We don't want to be confronted with the pain or suffering of another person. It reminds us too much of our own pain and suffering as well as our own frailty. We don't want to be confronted by our own complicity in Jesus' death. That his choice to walk willingly toward this end was a choice made in order to bring us closer to the God who loves us, to show us by example what love looks like.

But the joy of Easter cannot fully be appreciated if we have not first boldly faced the events of Holy Week. How can we join in our joyful refrain "Christ is risen! Christ is alive!" if we did not even recognize he was dead?

That is why this year the Easter Season has chosen the theme "Turning Graves into Gardens". The theme boldly proclaims the heart of what makes Easter so important- that the grave could not contain Jesus, that God is more powerful than death and that through Christ new life can always spring up from the ashes of what we thought was dead.

As we move into a new Easter season, as we open up our windows and let the milder spring air in, as we venture outside once more to enjoy the growing and greening of the landscape, let us consider what in our lives is holding us bound. What is keeping you from fully living into the person God wants you to be- is it fear, the scars of a past hurt, lack of self-confidence, or something else? Only by first naming and identifying those places in your life that have become lifeless or have you bound in a tomb can you ask God to help you cast it off.

Friends, Christ is alive! Let us celebrate the good news of Easter- that Jesus

turns **graves** into *gardens!*



Leadership News.....

At its meeting on March 9, 2021, Session....

...opened the meeting with a breathing exercise to settle us. While breathing in, we silently prayed "I am not done". While breathing out, we silently prayed "I am not alone". Pastor Brandi continued with a prayer called "1 CRZYR" (One Crazy Year). This prayer is from a web application, "Everyday Sanctuary", featuring daily faith-based practices. We returned to the breathing exercise to close our devotion and begin our meeting.

...VOTED to approve the agenda with items added.

...VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda.

... VOTED to receive the Treasurer's report and financial summary for the month ending February 28, 2021.

...heard a report from Pastor Brandi on pastoral contacts

...heard a report from Pastor Brandi that she will be taking Continuing Education leave April 26, 2021 – May 2, 2021. She will secure pulpit supply and pastoral care contact.

...heard a report from Clerk Huffman regarding correspondence received from Presbytery
...received a note from Whitney Scoville thanking the church for supporting her coursework at Dubuque Seminary. Now that her studies are completed, she noted that \$163.33 remained in the money Session allocated for her education and asked that it be released to the General Fund.

... Session VOTED to release/transfer the remaining \$163.33 in the "Whitney Scoville Education" Designated Fund to the General Fund

...placed activity date on the Master Calendar

April 2, 2021 – Good Friday service 7:00 PM

...heard a report from Clerk Huffman that she and Sandy McCauley are working on updating the Church Directory so that adult children will have separate listings and contact information. This will increase visibility of our Active Members.

...heard a report from Elder Engelbrecht that he has an Eagle Scout who's project will be building benches on the labyrinth trail. Elder Engelbrecht will coordinate with Andy Atwater as this project develops.

...noted that the Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) congregation group will be meeting March 17, 2021. Pastor Brandi is our representative to the Pastor's VCI group, Geoff Wasmer is the representative to the congregation group.

...conducted the Annual Review of Membership rolls as required by PC/USA

Heard a report from Clerk Nancy Huffman who reviewed the categories of membership and history of changes regarding membership classifications. In 2011, 10 years ago, PC/USA eliminated the then "Inactive Member" category. They created a new category called "Other Participants" to include people who actively participate but are not formally affiliated as a "member". In coming into compliance with the New Form of Government, we did not want to disenfranchise those ~50 people already in the now old "Inactive Member" category. Thus, we created two sub-categories of "Other Participants": "Other Participants- Active" and "Other Participants-Inactive". We have been slowly reducing the numbers on the "Other Participants-Inactive" category by not placing former active members in this category. In 2017, Session by motion, "approved effective immediately, that persons currently on the Other-Participants-Inactive roll longer than five years be dismissed, and further; that in the future, persons placed on the Other Participants-Inactive roll be removed from the membership roll.

Leadership News continued...

This does not preclude taking a person off the rolls prior to the five-year mark. At this point in time, 10 years into the PC/USA's New Form of Government, we are at a point where we can confidently move to coming into full compliance with and adhering to the current PC/USA's membership categories, "Active Member" and "Other Participants".

...VOTED to no longer use our current modified membership categories, "Other Participants-Active" and "Other Participants-Inactive" (created in 2012 to respond to the PC/USA New Form of Government definitions eliminating the category "Inactive Member"), and, to now use the current PC/USA membership categories: "Active Member" and "Other Participants". Clerk Huffman will follow-up by removing those persons designated "Other Participants-Inactive" from the membership register. These persons will continue to receive all electronic communications from the church if they wish to provide the church with their email address. Florence Horton will be added to the now current Other Participants roll.

...discussed the capabilities of our Church Windows program. The program has fields for Active Members, Other Participants, and persons (such as friends) who are not in these two categories. Clerk Huffman will work with Sandy McCauley to confirm the various categories. Session also discussed reviewing other data currently stored on Church Windows and whether some data is unnecessary. Elder Wasmer will assist in reviewing and perhaps exporting historical information.

...agreed to send a letter to our church family about membership and our church family.

...VOTED to approve the Communion schedule July 2021 – July 2022 and, further, granted permission for Pastor Brandi to administer communion at any church related function (including home communion) per her discretion.

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| July 4, 2021 | Intinction | August 1, 2021 | Intinction |
| September 5, 2021 | Intinction | October 3, 2021 | Intinction |
| November 7, 2021 | Intinction | December 5, 2021 | Served |
| January 2, 2022 | Served | February 6, 2022 | Served |
| March 6, 2022 | Served | April 3, 2022 | Served |
| May 1, 2022 | Served | June 5, 2022 | Served |
| July 3, 2022 | Intinction | | |

...discussed a proposal from Ginny Harkness, now living in Texas, for holding a cake sale in May of 2022. Ginny proposes that her idea might serve as a fundraiser for the church. Session will continue discussion of the proposal after gathering more information from Ginny Harkness regarding her idea.

...noted that as a result of our application for Employee Retention Credit (ERC) in January 2021, we have received a check for \$3127.73. We expect another check as well.

...VOTED to create a Designated Fund, "Community Garden" and to place this Employee Retention Credit (ERC) check for \$3127.73 and, the next forthcoming check into this Designated Fund supporting the development of the property owned by the Church on Chili Avenue. Elder Engelbrecht continues to be in touch with the Town of Chili regarding tax exemptions for church use of this property. Currently the property has a labyrinth trail for community use.

...VOTED to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Pastor Brandi led us in a shared benediction based on the Great Commission.

Remitted by,

Elder Nancy P. Huffman, Clerk of Session

Easter Team

The small but mighty 2021 Easter Team, Mira Wooten, Roger Willis, Geoff Wasmer and Barb Wasmer, started planning for the season at our March 11th meeting with Pastor Brandi. She read to us John 20:1-18 and we talked about how it was still dark when Mary Magdalene come to the tomb. How she felt when she noticed the stone has been rolled away, and how she ran to tell Simon Peter and another disciple. Upon returning to the tomb, she wept.

Our world is going through a dark time right now, but we see the light and want to help to bring the world back to life. With this in mind we have chosen as our theme for the 2021 Easter Season:



On Easter Sunday, April 4th, we will see the tomb with the stone rolled away on the table in the front of the sanctuary. But we will also see life in the form of a beautiful garden surrounding the tomb. Let us all share the life we receive through Pastor Brandi's sermons throughout the Easter Season.

What else is in store:

- The Habitat Harvest Coalition along with Thrivent Financial is scheduled to start its 6th Habitat Home in June 2021. The home will be on Jay Street, here in Rochester, and the 2021 Easter Season Team would like to ask for your support. In the past we have had multiple members help with the actual build. For example: Roger has been ever faithful in helping and Andy has now become part of the Hammer and Saw group. Some of us help thru financial gifts, but we all know it is a Team Effort. Our fund is currently at \$28.94, and our goal this year is \$2500.00.

Flower City Habitat for Humanity

Habitat Support 2021 Building Houses, Building Hope

- Children's Church will be led by Alice Zah. (Thank you, Alice!) Let her know if you are willing to help out.
- We are hoping to have an excursion in late April or May. Stay tuned for more information as we weave our way through covid restrictions.

Pursuing a Grant continued.....

The Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program offers an opportunity for Pastor Brandi and our church to apply for a grant to support Pastor Brandi's 4-month sabbatical in 2023. The program provides grants of up to \$50,000 directly to congregations for the support of a renewal program for their pastor. And, up to \$15,000 of the awarded grant may be used to help the congregation fulfill pastoral duties during the pastor's absence and/or to support activities that enable the congregation as a whole to be renewed in its ministry. While 2023 seems like a long way off, the grant application journey has begun. Stay tuned and be sure to check out the Lilly Foundation National Clergy Renewal Program visit lillyendowment.org and the drop-down "For Grant Seeker."



I want to express my deep gratitude for your love, guidance, and support as I have continued to discern my calling in ministry. This December I completed a Certificate in Congregational Leadership for Commissioned Pastors at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Doing this program part time while working full time and growing a family has been challenging but rewarding. This three and a half year journey has been supported by the First Presbyterian Church of Chili and the Genesee Valley Presbytery with prayer, encouragement and financial support.

THANK YOU Chili Presbyterian Church for \$876.67 spent to help cover the costs of the academic program. I am grateful and humbled. The next step for me is an internship that is with Union Presbyterian Church in Scottsville, New York. Please continue to pray for me in this ministry role. Many thanks to you all!

With love,

Whitney Scoville



Chicken BBQ

May 16, 2021

More details
coming soon!



April 2 at 7:00 pm

In-person and live streamed

Celebrating

each other.....

April Birthdays

- 6 Andy Atwater, Ken Milner,
Jane Schultiz
- 7 Barb Wasmer
- 15 Judie McGaffick
- 21 Dodi Kasiske
- 30 Carrie Horton



In April, the 2021 Church Directory will be created and distributed. If you have had an address or telephone number change, please contact the church office (889-9896 or fpc3600@gmail.com).

Thank you for your assistance.

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

– *Martin Luther King Jr.*



Contact Sharon Breeze at 293-1340

([sbreeze @ frontiernet.net](mailto:sbreeze@frontiernet.net))

or the office at 889-9896
(fpc3600@gmail.com)

Worship Greeters in April

April 4

Sharon Breeze & Judi McGaffick

April 11

Alice & Fred Zah

April 18

Ashleigh & Brenda Naugle

April 25

Jean Bartholomew & Pat Jones



Even though in 2020 did not need all the volunteers we usually require on a Sunday morning, it is with hope and a positive outlook that we will fully "open" soon and will need everyone's help again. So with that in mind, the volunteer schedule for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 will be created in late spring. If you already know dates that you will not be available, please contact the office. If you are not presently a greeter or child care provider and would like to be added to the schedule, please let us know. Once we are fully functional again, we will be needing more folks to step-up and participate.

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 1:30 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.

Easter Trivia

(little-known...but very important facts!)

- Easter eggs are decorated and displayed to symbolize new life, fertility and re-birth.
- The first Easter baskets were designed to give the appearance of birds' nests.
- Legend has it that the pretzel was invented by an Italian monk in the year 610 A.D. To reward young children learning their prayers. The shape represents folded arms in prayer. Over time pretzels became associated with Lent and Easter.
- Americans consume 16 million jelly beans on Easter.
- The legend of the Easter bunny started in the 700's in Germany.
- Cadbury makes 500 million creme eggs a year.
- The custom of having candy and chocolate at Easter was first begun in the Victorian era.
- When eating a chocolate bunny, 76% of people eat the ears first.

Pastor Brandi will be on vacation
April 26 through May 2.

May newsletter deadline is
April 20

1 Corinthians 15:58

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”



When I hear this verse, I am reminded of summer camp growing up. I attended a great Christian camp from when I was 8 to 16 years old, and then became a counselor for the camp for 3 summers to complete my teen years. These were amazing times in my life, where I learned so much about God, youth ministry, and how to connect with youth of all ages.

And, there are hundreds of stories I could tell of adventures I experienced through camp! Everything from foxes to skunks, rabid kittens and oversized turtles, wonderful friends and sleepwalking children. The experiences never fade, and if you ask me about my experiences at camp, I will talk your ears off until you are sick of me, and you will hear some EPIC Adam stories.

During camp, we sang a camp song called 1 Corinthians 15:58. Recently, I shared this verse with the youth group, along with the song (which basically ended with me getting very puzzled looks). And this song and verse has stuck with me for years, and I am living proof of its truth.

Be steadfast - someone who is very devoted and loyal to a belief or cause. Be immovable - firmly fixed in place, not being able to be changed or persuaded. Be abounding in the Lord's work, always. Then the verse affirms our abounding work by telling us that the faith we have, this steadfast, immovable faith is not in vain.

Now I know that there are times when you may question the reason for being a part of the various ministries that we have at church. It is human nature. In discussion with the youth recently, they brought up the pointless parts of schoolwork that they don't feel will have purpose in their life. It's true, there are things we do in life that just don't feel like they have any meaning or purpose.

When I was 17 years old, starting as a counselor in training, I had no idea that 20 years later I would be in youth ministry at all. That was not part of my plans or goals. I merely had a fun summer job that I enjoyed doing. And during my time at camp, I know God was using me to reach out to youth, but I had no idea that God was training me into the leader I currently am. My labor at camp was not in vain, and I learned so much that I have carried on to our youth group here at Chili. I am living proof that God uses us, if we are steadfast, and abounding in the Lord's work. We do not live in vain emptiness.

So whatever the Lord is calling you to do, do it with vigor and purpose. Doing God's work is never in vain. And if you have feelings of emptiness, pray. Look for the things God is trying to teach you through the work you are called to do. Maybe it is reaching out to others and sharing your faith. Maybe you're the only glimpse of light and joy that someone else needs.

May you find God this Easter Season, and feel validated for the abounding work God is doing through 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.

Marching into spring quickly!

It was a fantastic March! The weather was nice, and we were able to start getting back outside again after winter! The Sr. High youth went mini golfing in March (never thought I would ever say mini golf in March). Our Jr. High got to experience God's creation as we travelled to Owl Woods together and found 3 owls resting in the wild! Needless to say, we have had some great memories!

For those wondering, the Chicken BBQ is happening this year and will be on May 16th! Mark your calendars and let your family, friends and neighbors know! It will be first come, first serve until we run out!

We are also starting to plan our summer mission trip! This year, based on the pandemic, we are going to do our mission trip as an intergenerational trip to Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake. It will be for our Sr. High youth and adults to participate in, and we will have the potential to do various projects there. It will be sometime between July 31 and August 7, so if you are interested, please let Adam know.

Check out the schedule below for the upcoming youth events!

Adam, Whitney, McKenlee, and Ethan ☺

Upcoming Schedule!

April 4 - EASTER SUNDAY! No Youth Group!

SATURDAY, April 10 - Jr High Youth Event TBD!

April 11 - Sr. High Youth Group - 1-3pm!

April 18 - No Youth Group! Scoville's are away!

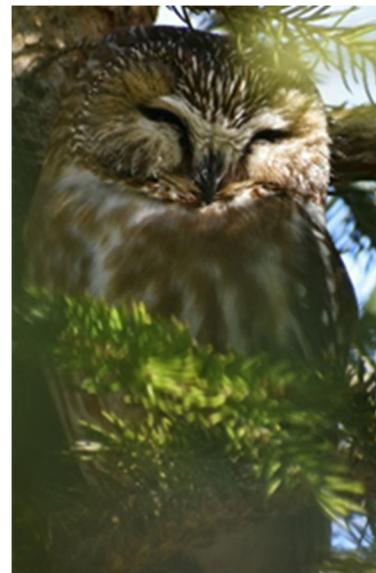
April 25 - Sr. High Youth Group - 1-3pm!

St. Pauly Box Schedule

March 29 to April 11 – Ashleigh Naugle

April 12 to April 25 – Aidan Snover

April 26 to May 9 – Adam Scoville



A Northern Saw Whet Owl from our trip to Owl Woods!