



# Roots & Wings

First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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



2023



**seeking:**  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

In this issues of Roots & Wings.....

- \* Lent/Easter Season
- \* Ordering Easter plants
- \* Scholarship donations
- \* Hygiene item donations
- \* Daylight Savings Time reminder
- \* One Great Hour of Sharing

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

*Staff:* Pastor: Rev. Brandi C. Wooten, Minister of Music and Youth Director: Adam Scoville, Office Administrator: Sandra McCauley, Custodian: Marla Guarnieri, Media Coordinator: Rory O'Connor Accompanist: Mary Risewick

*2023 Season Teams:* Lent/Easter, Season of Renewal, Season of Reflection and Advent/Christmas /Epiphany

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

*Mission / Community Support:* Cameron Community Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Presbyterian Church special offerings, Caring For The Community, Chili Pres Food Cupboard, and much more.

*Church Information:* 3600 Chili Avenue, Rochester NY 14624 585-889-9896

*E-mail:* fpc3600@gmail.com

## Wooten's Wonderings



As we move through the scripture texts of this Lenten Season, we will discover many people who are seeking a variety of things: a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. As they come into contact with Jesus, he meets them in their seeking and begins to help them disrupt their assumptions, see a new perspective and discover a deeper faith.

Lent is often a time of introspection, a time where we can look deep inside and ask honest hard questions. The people in our scripture stories this Lent also ask questions. Sometimes those questions feel restorative like "Can these bones live?" Sometimes the questions feel like a challenge "Who will you listen to?" Other questions are curious and hopeful "How do we begin again?" When we ask questions of our faith, we may not get a complete answer and the answers we receive might lead to more questions. But, ultimately, we pray that we will gain a sense of clarity, a measure of restoration or hope, and a new perspective.

Through the Lenten season, I invite you ponder these questions. Return to them often. Unpack them in conversations. Include them in your prayers and write about them in your journal.

What is your soul yearning for?

What is holding you back from soulful, wholehearted exploration?

What do you need to know about God to trust God more fully?

Is there another question your soul needs to ask during this Lenten quest?

As we join together in seeking and asking honest questions for a deeper faith, I also invite you to post your questions and wonderings on our "Wonder Wall" bulletin board in the entryway. There are pieces of paper and writing utensils there for you to post things you wonder about (ie. I wonder where God came from) or questions you have (ie. Does God still perform miracles?)

I hope that we can walk alongside all the people who were seeking something and were met by Jesus and that we can name what we seek as we make our way to the cross.

*Rev. Brandi Wooten, Pastor*  
*revbrandi@gmail.com*

The April newsletter deadline  
is March 21, 2023

### GOD ANSWERS IN 3 WAYS:

He says yes and gives  
you what you want.

He says no and gives  
you something better.

He says wait and gives  
you the best.



# seeking:

## honest questions for deeper faith

Welcome to the season of Lent/Easter.....

During the season of Lent/Easter, we will be "Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith". In the lectionary this season there will be many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often times an unveiling occurs, assumptions are changed and a new perspective is revealed. Like the characters in scripture, we also may be seeking clarity, connection, wonder, justice balance...and much more. During this season you will be invited to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. Join us on the journey!

Our family-fellowship activity will be "Lunch, Lamberton, Lilies"  
on **Palm Sunday, April 2**

Right after the Palm Sunday worship a lunch will be served by the Lenten Team under the direction of "Chef Walt" The cost is \$5.00 per person, children under 12 Free. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall by **March 26th**

Menu will include:

Baked Chicken

Roast Pork Loin

Roasted Potatoes

Salad Bar

Rolls and Butter

Dessert and Beverages

After Lunch we will be car-pooling to the Lamberton Conservatory at 180 Reservoir Ave., Rochester. The Lamberton Conservatory was designed by Frederick Olmsted and built in 1911 and restored in 2007. You will find desert plants, floral displays, turtles, guinea hens, and a beautiful lily display.

Cost per age group: 0-5 Free

6-61 \$3.00

A package of daily devotional cards are also available in the Church Office

Your Lent/Easter Season Team,

*Carrie Horton, Lori Oliver, Walt Scott, Alice & Fred Zah*



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

"When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot."

For over 70 years. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. This offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to

work for a better world.

The three programs supported by OGHS – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. When we give to the OGHS special offering, we are restoring hope, feeding the hungry, and empowering the oppressed.

Donation envelopes are available in the pews, and the traditional fish banks are available as well. We ask that you return your contributions by Easter Sunday, April 9.

Last year, we donated \$622 to OGHS. Let's try to surpass that total this year! Thank you in advance for continuing to support this important outreach program.

Your Lent & Easter Team,  
*Carrie Horton, Lori Oliver, Walt Scott, Alice and Fred Zah*

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

Our policy at Chili Presbyterian is to have – when possible – two adults present when working with our youth. I will be teaching Children's Church during the Lent and Easter seasons and am looking for volunteers to be the "second adult in the room"!

I will prepare the lessons and gather any materials needed. As a volunteer, you need only show up on Sunday morning and be willing to follow some simple directions as you work with one or more of our children. Since our class ranges in age from four to twelve, I very much appreciate a second pair of hands!

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please see me if you have any questions.

Thank you so much!

Alice Zah



### Easter Plants - 2023

☐ Placed in memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Placed in honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Total Plants \_\_\_\_ \$ Enclosed \_\_\_\_

☐ Cash

☐ Check

Last day to order: **March 19, 2023**

### Scholarship Fund – 2023

☐ Placed in memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Placed in honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\$ Enclosed \_\_\_\_

☐ Cash

☐ Check

Last day to order: **April 2, 2023**

# Leadership News

## **At a Special Called Meeting of the Session on January 29, 2023 for the training and examination of newly elected officers, Session...**

...gathered with continuing and retiring Deacons and Trustees to enjoy breakfast.

...welcomed newly elected Deacons, Elders, and Trustees for training/orientation and preparation for work as leaders committed to the responsibility of their respective offices.

...discussed our congregation's four-month sabbatical that will begin on May 1, 2023 noting that it will be a time of *Renewal* not only for Pastor Brandi and our congregation, but for our leadership Boards-Trustees, Deacons, and Session.

...engaged in workshop led by Pastor Brandi as follows:

Discussion of a focal scripture text taken from our sabbatical grant application. "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 34:19 We identified words from the passage that resonated with "*Renewal*". For example: "Behold" meaning to take notice; "doing a new thing" meaning something different; "do you not perceive it?" meaning that we may not actually see what is before us; "I will make way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" meaning finding paths and even creating something that never existed before. We talked about how "*Renewal*" is a fresh start, recharging from empty, stepping back from what we normally do, an opportunity to think outside of the box, and not doing this alone rather, doing all with God's guidance.

Knowing that our Ordination vows ask us to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, we read and reflected on another quote, "The epicenter of creativity and imagination should be the Church, reflecting the character and glory of God." (Erwin Raphael McManus).

All of us, during this period of *Renewal* are challenged to discover what new things is God leading us into.

With *Renewal* in mind, each of our Boards (Trustees, Deacons, Session) then engaged in generative discussion covering:

What are things your Board would do if you truly followed your heart without the worry of money or skill.

What are some ways your Board could incorporate these ideas into your work?

What would be some obstacles that would keep your Board from following your heart?

What would be some ways your Board might overcome obstacles that stand in your way?

...VOTED to approve the Ordination of Fred Mollon and Rebecca Sosik as Deacon, the Installation of Sharon Breeze, Fred Mollon and Rebecca Sosik as Deacon, and the Installation of Nancy Huffman, Gail McArthur and Barbara Wasmer as Ruling Elder to take place at a Service of Ordination and Installation on January 29, 2023 during worship.

...VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Remitted By Nancy P. Huffman

Clerk of Session



# Leadership News (continued)

## **At its meeting on February 6, 2023, Session...**

...had a devotion discussion asking, "what is the meaning of discipleship". We discovered that discipleship invites us to "come" and follow God. "Come and see", "expand and continue to learn", "learn more", "come sit with me and be in my presence". The Great Commission tells us to go and make disciples but truly, it is telling us to go and make learners. We realize that we as a Session are learners through discipleship.

...VOTED to approve the agenda as published.

...VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda.

...VOTED to receive the Treasurer's report and summary for the month ending January 31, 2023.

...Noted that during the February school break Pastor Brandi will take vacation on Monday and Tuesday (2/20 and 2/21) and work from home on Wednesday and Thursday (2/22 and 2/23).

...noted Ash Wednesday service will be February 22, 2023 time at 6:30 PM.

...that Fred Mollon's service as Temporary Supply Pastor will be considered an internship as part of the Commissioned Pastor training program. Our Session will prepare his evaluation for this internship.

...VOTED to approve Session member responsibilities for 2023/2024 as follows:

-Season Team Leaders:

Lent/Easter 2023: Carrie Horton

Renewal: Nancy Huffman/Sandy McCauley

Reflection: Grace Engelbrecht/ Tim Engelbrecht

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany: Barb Wasmer

Lent 2024: Carrie Horton/Gail McArthur

-Session's Representative to the Nominating Committee: Elder Nancy Huffman

-Session's Representative to the Mission Committee: Elder Barbara Wasmer

-Elder of Responsibility Personnel Committee: Elder Tim Engelbrecht

-Elder Commissioner to Presbytery: Rotated position

...VOTED to affirm open-ended term appointments as follows:

Clerk of Session: Elder Nancy Huffman (appointed in 2013 for an open-ended term)

Church Treasurer: Sandy McCauley (elected in 2018 for an open-ended term)

...as part of our Sabbatical planning reviewed the proposed Annual Calendar of Action items for 2023 and by consensus approved the Calendar as presented noting that Session will not hold Stated meetings in May, June, and July. A Special Meeting can be called if necessary. Stated Meetings will resume in August.

...established the following calendar of dates/events for 2023 and into 2024.

Summer 2023 meeting schedule: August 14, 2023 (to be confirmed) There will be no Stated meeting in May, June, or July. A Special Meeting can be called if necessary.

Annual Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons 2023: October 9, 2023

Season Team planning and implementation dates for 2024.

Lent: Jan 3, 2024 Planning begins; Feb 14, 2024 Implementation begins.

Easter: Feb 11, 2024 Planning begins; Mar 31, 2024 Implementation begins.

Pentecost: Mar 31, 2024 Planning begins; May 19, 2024 Implementation begins.

Harvest: Jul 14, 2024 Planning begins; Sep 8, 2024 Implementation begins.

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany: Oct 13, 2024 Planning begins; Dec 1, 2024

Implementation begins.

Stewardship Sunday for 2023: November 19, 2023

Stated Session Meeting January 8, 2024 with agenda to include establishing and approval of the 2024 Budget.

# Leadership News (continued)

Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation: January 21, 2024

Orientation and Training of Newly Elected Officers (one week after Annual Meeting):

January 28, 2024

Installation of officers-worship service (one week after Annual Meeting): January 28, 2024

Presbytery meetings and Elder Commissioner for each meeting

January 28, 2023 9:30 AM (via Zoom): Nancy Huffman

April 29, 2023 9:30 AM (In Person meeting at Twelve Corners): Grace Engelbrecht

July 25, 2023 6:00 PM if necessary (via Zoom): Gail McArthur

October 24, 2023 6:00 PM (via Zoom): Brian Gernhardt

... VOTED to approve the communion schedule for

July 2, 2023 – June 2, 2024 as follows: July 2, 2023, August 6, 2023, September 10, 2023, September 10, 2023, October 1, 2023, November 5, 2023, December 3, 2023, January 7, 2024, February 4, 2024, March 3, 2024, April 7, 2024, May 5, 2024, June 2, 2024

...VOTED to authorize blanket approval to Rev. Brandi Wooten and Elder Whitney Scoville, CP for serving the Lord's Supper at church gatherings where appropriate. ...VOTED to authorize blanket approval to Pastor Whitney Scoville, CP to serve the Lord's Supper at Pray and Play events

...VOTED to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation held, January 22, 2023.

...reviewed the Personnel Committee's report of staff evaluations.

...noted that the Personnel Committee will be meeting next week to continue its work on the proposed position description: Director of Youth and Families

...heard a report from Pastor Brandi that the Committee on Ministry will be meeting tomorrow (2/7/23) to review the Sabbatical Temporary Supply Covenant Agreements and Terms of Call for Whitney Scoville and Fred Mollon.

...VOTED to allow the G. Miller/H. Miller Trust Funds to be invested with Morgan Stanley with the form of these investments to be \$100,000 in the Preferred Savings MMA, \$50,000 in a 6-month CD and the remainder of the funds in a 1-year CD.

...that all Session members have signed the Safe Sanctuary policy agreement.

...heard a report from on the January 28, 2023 Presbytery meeting from Elder Commissioner Nancy Huffman noting that Commissioned Pastor Jerry Swain will be serving Livonia First and Rev. Sheila McCullough will serve as supply and East Bethany. Eli Henry was examined and approved for candidacy to serve as a minister.

She also noted that there are 33 proposed Amendments to the Book of Order to be considered by General Assembly. Presbytery considered and voted on 23 amendments for input to General Assembly. Many of the amendments were non-controversial with the Big-Picture Team recommending "approval" to most. Others came to the floor for debate.

...VOTED to adjourn at 8:14 PM. Pastor Brandi led us in a shared benediction based on the Great Commission.

Remitted by,

Elder Nancy P. Huffman, Clerk of Session

# Celebrating

each other.....

## March 2023

- 1 Audrey Sosik
- 8 Jan Hoyt & Jill Monell
- 17 Grace Engelbrecht
- 29 Adam Scoville
- 31 Abby Wasmer

## 2023 Church Directory

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

## Annual Per Capita

### Apportionment for 2023

Presbytery	\$2,182.50
Synod	\$ 397.70
General Assembly	\$ 955.45

This is based on our active membership. We would appreciate your support of this budget cost by covering the **\$36.45** (only 87 cents more than 2022) per active member in your family.

## March Volunteers

### March 5, 2023

Greeters: Rich & Kathy Stowe  
 Communion: Sharon Breeze (bread),  
 Grace Engelbrecht, Rich Stowe (juice)  
 Jr. Greeter: Henry Gernhardt  
 Childcare: Sue Edwards & Kathy Mathewson  
 Children's Church: Alice Zah & Nancy Huffman

### March 12

Greeters: Tim & Evan Engelbrecht  
 Jr. Greeter: Patrick Engelbrecht  
 Childcare: Linda Enright & Whitney Scoville  
 Children's Church: Alice Zah & Nancy Huffman

### March 19

Greeters: Sue Johnson & Lisa Snover  
 Jr. Greeter: Brooke Wilson  
 Childcare: Debbie Lamphron & Beth Rowe  
 Children's Church: Alice Zah & Lori Oliver

### March 26

Greeters: Becky & Brian Gernhardt  
 Jr. Greeter: Mira Wooten  
 Childcare: Sue Atwater & Marla Guarnieri  
 Children's Church: Alice Zah &



## Personal Care Items needed....

Our Youth Groups are collecting FULL SIZE hygiene items. We are providing bags of these items for people who come to the Food Cupboard each month. It has been a huge gift to families who truly need it. Your donations can be placed in the collection bin in the fellowship room. Thanks for your support of this community ministry.

Tooth brush	Deodorant (men & women)	Diapers & pullups (any size)
Tooth paste	Bar soap	Paper towels
Shampoo	Dish soap	Toilet paper (smaller pkg)
Hair conditioner	Laundry detergent	Baby wipes





## Lent

**"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." -- Pope Francis**

I love this quote from Pope Francis, and it reminds me of how God has been moving in our church in recent months. From my experiences, I have noticed how my faith energy fluctuates from time to time, and I think that it can be true for all of us. We get comfortable with our faith routine, and we do not push ourselves to grow and seek what God calls us to do. Sometimes we are just looking for a positive affirmation on Sunday for an hour, but refuse to put what we hear into action during the week.

I have felt a new stirring in our church recently. God has been moving through us in new ways and I feel it and see it happening with others in the congregation. We are growing, with new faces and new adventures. It is exciting and encouraging.

Now before moving further, I want to make it clear that I am not trying to say that we have had a spirit of lethargy in the past. However, I do feel that the pandemic has shifted our energy. I have sometimes felt that Satan has used the pandemic to slow the good work of the church down. I continue to pray for a renewed energy in our church. This energy is important and I feel that we need to seek God's directions for our church and not just be content with this excitement.

I found this passage in Hebrews that speaks to our responsibilities as a body of believers and the actions we need to be taking:

Hebrews 10:19-25 (ESV)

**"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **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 love the words "Stir up one another to love and good works" in this verse. I feel we need to continue seeking God's plan for Chili Pres with excitement and boldness, and work together and encourage each other in this new excitement. We are all responsible for this in our own lives and in our church community.

So during this Lenten season, may you stop and reflect on God in your life, focus your heart back to the cross, and look for God's direction for your future. May you be "reawakened" to the faith that grows deep inside of you. May this Lenten season be a time where you stop and rejuvenate your faith, and that you focus on our Creator, looking for new ways to keep you from "lethargy" in your faith. I believe God has great plans for our church and I am excited to see where God leads us this next year!

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

# CHILI PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUP



Leader: Adam Scoville

[cpministerofmusic@gmail.com](mailto:cpministerofmusic@gmail.com)

585-269-8746

Bio: Junior High and Senior High Youth looking to strengthen their

## Dare I Say Spring?

March is here! Can you believe it? March is always the best month of year! But let's rewind and discuss February...

We started February, with a Joint Youth Group with Union Presbyterian and East Avon Presbyterian. It is awesome to start to see our youth connecting with youth from other churches! We also had a great laser tag game with the Jr. High Youth, and had an epic bowling adventure as well! And let's not forget that we also served at the Food Cupboard, and made Subs for the Super Bowl! It was a busy month for sure!

Speaking about the Super Bowl, I express my gratitude to our church family for supporting both our Sub drive and the Souper Bowl of Caring offering. We raised over \$400 for our mission funds and over \$300 for our Food Cupboard! God is awesome and using our youth to do great things!

Please continue to support the Hygiene Cupboard that we have at church! As we serve at the Food Cupboard we have been providing bags of hygiene to people who come to the Food Cupboard each month. It has been a huge gift to families who truly need it. A list of items is available at the entryway of church and feel free to contact Adam for questions about our current needs.

The schedule for March is here! Can't wait!

Peace and love,

## Upcoming Schedule

**March 5 – Joint Youth Group! – Both Groups! Leaving from church @ 11:30am- 2pm. Brandi leading.**

**March 12 – Camp Whitman Wild Wings Event @ Mendon Ponds! 12:00-4pm.**

**Saturday, March 18 – Serving at church for the Chili Food Cupboard. Both Groups! 9:30-11:30am.**

**March 19 – both Youth Groups 11am-1pm.**

**April 1 – LASERTRON! Both Groups. TBD.**

**April 2 – Joint Youth Group! – Both Groups! Leaving from church @ 11:30am-2pm.**

### St. Pauly Box Schedule

February 27-March 12 – Aidan Snover

March 13-26 – Adam Scoville

March 27-April 9 – Need Volunteers!

Another year making subs!  
Here's some of the best helpers!

