



First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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

Season of Renewal



2023

In this issue of “Roots and Wings”.....

- ⇒ Our Sabbatical is here !
- ⇒ Renewal Season activities
- ⇒ Jesus in the Journey
- ⇒ Annual Spring-clean-up

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

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

One of the great temptations in life is to go faster. Culture, work, friends and even our own inner voice constantly try to keep up a fast pace. It is hard to tell that voice “no” and to intentionally slowdown in order to savor and notice moments of the holy at work in our lives. A lot can be learned about God and life if we take time to notice- really notice- what is going on around us at any given moment.

Art has a wonderful way of helping us slow down and notice details. When painting something, you have to study it, take it all in. You have to notice how the light casts shadows on the object and the nuances in the colors and shape. Art, in its varied forms allows us to study and reflect on an object and its properties.

Nature also helps us to slow down and notice the details. When taking a walk one can notice the shapes of the leaves, the various textures of bark on the trees, the spider webs and rocks and bugs. When I do this, I marvel at the seemingly limitless creativity of God seen in the extravagant variety of flora and fauna.

As we enter our Season of Sabbatical Renewal, our theme is BEHOLD! This is a call to slow down, to pay attention, and to notice what God is doing all around us. We are intentionally going to slow down the activities of the church during this season. Our Session and Deacons are not going to meet for three of the four months in our Season of Renewal. The activities we *have* planed were specially chosen to help us slow down, appreciate nature, each other and our God.

I too plan on slowing down and taking the time to notice and bask in God's presence in my life. I will do this through walks, through photography, through painting and through other everyday activities.

The invitation to slow down that this sabbatical time offers will have a significant positive impact on our church if we are willing to engage in it. The past several years since the beginning of the Covid Pandemic have been particularly challenging for us as individuals and as a church. Many of us are tired and many of us find we do not have the energy to do things that once gave us joy. So, we are giving ourselves permission in this sabbatical to rest and to reconnect with God who is our source of life. Then we can come back with renewed energy to continue our mission to be “*rooted in faith, care for our community and grow together*” in ways that meet the needs of this ever-changing world.

So, let us fully embrace this time to BEHOLD the wonders and goodness of God and I look forward to sharing stories of our renewal time when I return in September.

Pastor Brandi
revbrandi@gmail.com



BEHOLD....the Season of Renewal is underway! During the next four months let's experience and enjoy relaxation, new experiences, new fun, new discoveries, new connections, different worship leaders...and take Jesus on the journey with us!

At our sabbatical kickoff potluck lunch, we each received a "cut-out" of Jesus to carry with us as a reminder that Jesus is always with us. Wherever you might go this summer, take pictures so we can share images weekly on our website, our bulletin board, and Facebook. We will also have an OFFICIAL photographer, Ashleigh Naugle, who will take pictures documenting each of our monthly planned activities.

Our Renewal Team Outreach project is fundraising to support the cost (~\$900) of a feeder/spreader for Homesteads for Hope. You may have noticed that Chili Pres made the front page of the April 16 edition of Westside News. We paid it forward so that Homesteads for Hope would be able to use the spreader right now for spring planting chores. We hope that you will give generously (look for the Spreader/Fertilizer bin in the sanctuary to place your donations) so that we can even exceed that \$900 goal and have additional funds to support Homesteads for Hope who train and employ people of all abilities who wish to participate in the various activities of farming. Visit <https://www.homesteadsforhope.org/> to learn more about how you can enjoy many community summer activities!



BEHOLD....Mark your calendars for Renewal activities!

May 21 (Sunday) - 1:00 PM - Tour of the Memorial Art Gallery

This docent guided tour is partially funded by the Lilly Grant. Your cost will be \$5.00. (The typical tour fees are \$20 adult; \$18 Senior; Children \$9). Sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Deadline for **Sign-up is May 14th**.

May 28 (Sunday) - Last day for Children's Church

June 11 (Sunday) - Worship (10 AM) and Church picnic at Union Station Park Lodge.

The picnic is funded by the Lilly Grant and catered by Texas BBQ. The menu includes pulled chicken, pork, and beef, macaroni and potato salad, coleslaw, beans, rolls (gluten free available) and cornbread. Dessert will be cupcakes and ice cream. Iced tea and lemonade provided. All tableware provided. Just come and enjoy! Sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Deadline for **Sign-up is June 4th**.

July 14 (Friday evening, 6:30 PM) -- Alpaca Yoga at LaDue Alpaca Farm in Brockport

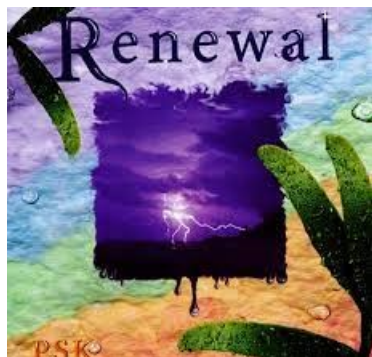
Enjoy this one-hour experience including 15 minutes learning about the alpacas and 45 minutes of gentle yoga with the alpacas. Take a selfie photo too! This is partially funded by the Lilly Grant. Cost is \$10 per person. Attendance limited to 20 people. Watch for the sign-up sheet.

July 22 (Saturday evening)- Red Wings Baseball game

Enjoy seeing Bat Dog, Fireworks and celebrating Christmas in July. Two rows behind Home Plate have been reserved for Chili Pres. Tickets are \$15.00 each. Watch for the signup sheet. Deadline for signing up is July 16th.

August 5 (Saturday at 9 AM) Devotional Walk at Homesteads for Hope

This Devotional Walk will be led by Pastor Whitney Scoville.



Our Sabbatical is Here!

... Now What?

For the last few years, we have been talking about, planning and anticipating our Sabbatical Time and it is here! Great care was taken in the planning of our Season of Renewal which is what we are calling this sabbatical period. The grant we received enables us to do all the things we put into the grant proposal and for the last several months, the Session and the Renewal Team have been putting the final details in place.

So, as we begin our sabbatical time, we recognize that this time of renewal is for all of us. It's a time for "rest with a purpose." Similar to the benefits of letting a field lie fallow for a season, that resting enables regeneration of nutrients which in turn will create healthier soil for the next season's plants. We are entering a season of rest for the purpose of renewal. We let go, we stop, we pause, we clear out, in order for God to have space to do something new in us. The Session, Deacons and Trustees have realigned their ministries in order to take a 3-month break from their monthly meetings. This pause helps us to take up activities that intentionally encourage us to behold what God is doing in our lives and the life of the church as well as create more meaningful connections with one another.

So, practically speaking what will this Time of Renewal look like? Here are some questions and answers to help us navigate this spiritual opportunity:

How long is the Sabbatical?

Our Sabbatical period begins May 1st through September 4th. Pastor Brandi will be back in the office on September 5th.

Who will lead worship?

Whitney Scoville and Fred Mollon are our Sabbatical Temporary Supply Pastors. They have created a schedule for sharing the preaching and worship leadership during these four months.

Who do we call in an emergency?

Both Fred and Whitney can be called if you have an emergency. The best way to reach them in an emergency is to call them on their cell phones.

Fred's Cell# 253-324-7553

Whitney's Cell # 585-217-2596

Who do we call for pastoral care?

Our Deacons will continue to provide regular care in their usual way. If there is a specific need for pastoral care, Fred Mollon will be the primary person to contact.

Will Whitney and Fred have office hours?

No, they will not have regular office hours. The Temporary Supply Position is 15 hours a week. Therefore, they are not taking over everything that Pastor Brandi does. Their primary responsibilities are worship leadership and emergency pastoral care. If you need to get ahold of them, you can email or call them.

What happens if I call or email Pastor Brandi?

In order to respect Pastor Brandi's time of renewal, please resist contacting her by phone or email. Instead, you can call the Church Office, Fred, Whitney, or your Deacon who will be able to assist you. The answering machine at the Church Office will also have Fred's cell phone number on it as the "first contact" in case of emergency.

Pastor Brandi's email will auto respond with the following:

"I am on sabbatical from May 1st - September 4th and will not be checking email. Please set a reminder to resend your email on or after September 4th for a reply. All emails received before September 4th will be deleted. If this is a time sensitive or urgent matter, please contact the church office to be directed to the appropriate person."

What happens if someone dies while Brandi is away?

If Pastor Brandi is truly to be able to engage in her Sabbatical, it is necessary for her to be gone from all church activities and functions during that time. She will not be responding to funerals. Our gifted Temporary Supply Pastors will be available to respond in case of such a need. And as always, our church community is good at reaching out to each other in times of grief, stress and crisis. It is also important to note that while this might be difficult for the congregation, it is also difficult for Pastor Brandi to be away from the people she cares deeply for.

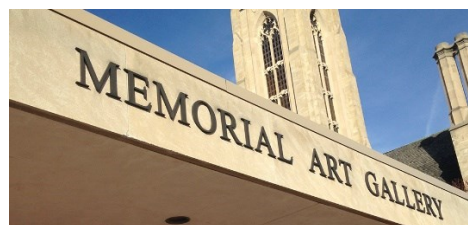
Is this an extended vacation for Pastor Brandi?

Here is how the Presbytery's Sabbatical Policy addresses this question:

"While a sabbatical is a time of rest and renewal, it is not vacation. A Sabbatical Leave is qualitatively different from "time off" or "vacation" in that there is a plan for personal and professional renewal. Proper sabbaticals involve a plan, a goal, and accountability. A Sabbatical Leave should not, however, be so tightly structured that the Spirit has no freedom to lead and reveal. The plan should have built-in flexibility. Neither vacation nor continuing education/ study leave should be affected by a Sabbatical Leave."

What will Pastor Brandi do during this time?

During the period of Brandi's Sabbatical leave, she plans to focus on creating healthy habits for her heart, mind, body and soul. She has several trips planned which will help her to nurture the various relationships in her life: a personal retreat, a trip to Italy with Dan and Mira, a trip with Mira to Nevada to visit her parents and a trip to Montreal with Dan. The focus of her sabbatical is how both the creation of and appreciation of art can be a spiritual discipline and help us connect with God. She will explore this subject by taking watercolor classes to enhance her skills, create watercolor paintings from the pictures she takes in Italy and her other trips, and work through a 6-week devotion workbook written by Julia Cameron called Seeking Wisdom: A Spiritual Path to Creative Connection.



Season of Renewal Tour of the Memorial Art Gallery

500 University Avenue, Rochester 14607

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Meet docent at 1:00 PM

The Renewal Team is purchasing tickets online
and will distribute tickets to you when you arrive at the Gallery.

Tour will begin on the 2nd floor which has ancient art--

--perhaps resonating with the works of
art that Pastor Brandi will be seeing in Italy.

After the second floor, you are free to enjoy the featured exhibit
as well as all of the art in the Gallery.

Visit maginfo@mag.rochester.edu for museum maps, etc.

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)	
Tooth paste	Bar soap	Paper towels
Shampoo	Dish soap	Toilet paper (smaller pkg)
Hair conditioner	Laundry detergent	



The Trustees have schedule our annual Spring clean-up day for **Saturday May 6 at 9:00 am.** The new windows will be installed by then, so they will need cleaning, there is light raking and yard work, etc. ALL are welcome to come and help.



Andy Atwater, Mark Enright & Jerry Huffman for installing the new sanctuary doors! Also, special thanks to Andy and Jerry for the many hours of trim work, adjusting and painting to finish the project.

We are very grateful for all your time and hard work!

June Newsletter deadline is
May 16,

As of May 1, we have received \$905.07 for One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you to those who contributed to this Presbyterian Offering.



The news windows that were ordered last fall from Comfort Windows are going to be installed starting May 1. All the rooms (offices, food cupboard room, adult lounge, fellowship room, nursery, etc.) will be under construction during that week. Please be aware that there will be a lot of commotion that week but it will be well-worth it with new, efficient windows!

Your Board of Trustees

Celebrating

each other.....

May 2023

- 6 Pat Olson
- 12 Tim Leahy
- 18 Alex Mathewson
- 24 Leah Atwater
- 20 Scoville Anniversary
- 31 Fred Schultiz & Wooten Anniversary

Worship Schedule for May 2023

May 7 - Worship and Communion
Pastor Whitney Scoville, preacher

May 14 - Worship
Fred Mollon, preacher

May 21, - Worship
Pastor Whitney Scoville, preacher

May 28 - Worship
Fred Mollon, preacher



Jesus in the Journey

The Renewal Season Team is encouraging everyone to obtain a “cut-out” of Jesus to carry with you as a reminder that Jesus is always with us. Wherever you might go this summer, take pictures so we can share images weekly on our website, on the bulletin board in the hall and on the screen on Sunday. The Jesus “cut-out” will be available on the table in the fellowship room, if you are not able to attend the Sabbatical Kick-off potluck on April 30th.

May Volunteers

May 7, 2023

Greeters: Mick & Sandy McCauley
Communion: Darla Diehl, Sharon Breeze (bread) Lori Oliver (juice)
Jr. Greeter: Henry Gernhardt
Childcare: Linda Enright & Judie McGaffick
Children's Church: Alice Zah
Host of Coffee Hour: Sue Johnson

May 14

Greeters: Geoff Wasmer & Dan Wooten
Jr. Greeter: Patrick Engelbrecht
Childcare: Sue Atwater & Gail McArthur
Children's Church: Alice Zah

May 21

Greeters: Dale & Brian Faatz
Jr. Greeter: Brooke Wilson
Childcare: Debbie Lamphron & Brenda Naugle
Children's Church: Alice Zah &
Host of Coffee Hour: Sharon Breeze & Ginny Harkness

May 28

Greeters: Mark Carden & Roger Willis
Jr. Greeter: Mira Wooten
Childcare: Grace Engelbrecht & Whitney Scoville
Children's Church: Alice Zah



Hard copies of the April 2023 Church Directory are available in the fellowship room

Leadership News

At its meeting on April 3, 2023, Session...

...in looking forward to our sabbatical, we each had fun sharing a memorable experience that we'd like to relive and feel renewed by it! For example, a Disney trip, a good book, "Hamilton", a Marine Band performance, "Phantom of the Opera", and skiing at top speed down the mountain. Pastor Brandi opened the meeting with prayer encouraging us to find opportunities for renewal that are playful and in-the-moment experiences.

...VOTED to approve the agenda with one item added.

...VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda.

...welcomed Andy Atwater, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Quarterly Review of Finances. He reviewed the current Treasurer's report as well as the Profit and Loss Statements. Andy made note of upcoming expenses. He also noted that our financial position is strong as we enter into summer.

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

...noted that Pastor Brandi has met with Fred Mollon and Pastor Whitney Scoville (Sabbatical temporary supply pastors) to discuss various procedures regarding baptisms, deaths, funerals, etc. Pastor Brandi will be commissioning Fred Mollon on April 30, 2023.

...heard a report from Pastor Brandi that she has met with Ivan Ngamyu who wishes to be baptized at a future date. Session approved adding Ivan to our Other Participants membership roll and he will be assigned a Deacon.

...noted that Pastor Brandi will be meeting with the Season Team of Reflection to begin their Season planning.

...VOTED to use Session Discretionary Funds (PE -19) to purchase the church's Zoom church subscription in perpetuity.

...placed dates on the Master Calendar

August (TBD) – Devotional Walk led by Pastor Whitney Scoville

August 14, 2023 – Session Stated Meeting

...noted that Clerk Huffman may be away on August 14, 2023 the date of our next Session meeting. Should that happen, Session, by consensus appointed Elder Barbara Wasmer to act as Clerk Pro Tem.

...VOTED to receive the Annual Financial Review prepared by Darla Diehl which stated: "I have reviewed the financial statements for First Presbyterian Church of Chili as of December 31, 2022. Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles." Session expressed deep appreciation for Darla's willingness to share her accounting expertise.

...reviewed the performance of Pastor Brandi, Sandy McCauley, and Adam Scoville.

...heard a report from Elder Tim Engelbrecht that the proposed position description for Director of Youth and Families is in the final stages of preparation. A Special Meeting of Session will be called to review the proposal.

...VOTED to approve changing the July Communion date to July 9, 2023 instead of July 2, 2023 that was previously approved.

...VOTED to adjourn at 8:37 PM. Pastor Brandi led us in a shared benediction based on the Great Commission.

Remitted by,

Elder Nancy P. Huffman, Clerk of Session

**Reminder: THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED STATED SESSION MEETING:
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023 6:30 PM**

Leadership News ...continued

At a Special Called Meeting of the Session on April 16, 2023, Session

...VOTED to approve and endorse the Food Cupboard's application for a Collaborative Ministry Grant titled, "Caring for our Community by Providing Emergency Food, Hope, and a Bridge to Self-Sufficiency".

...VOTED approve the job description for the new position "Director of Families and Youth" (which incorporates and expands the position of "Youth Director") as edited stating that if an observed Holiday falls on a Sunday, the paid holiday would be observed on the following day i.e., Monday effective August 1, 2023 for a period of five years at which time the status of the position will be re-evaluated.

...by consensus, agreed to call another Special Meeting to include the Board of Trustees to review salary for the position of Director of Families and Youth, funding the position, and the impact on Budget considering the salaries of Minister of Music and Director of Families and Youth given that Adam would serve in both positions.

...VOTED to approve the updated Pastor's job description as edited stating that if an observed Holiday falls on a Sunday, the paid holiday would be observed on the following day i.e., Monday.

...VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 PM.

Remitted By,

Nancy P. Huffman

Clerk of Session



Our Boards will be on Sabbatical too....seeking renewal

- The Board of Deacons will not be meeting in June, July and August
- The Board of Trustees will not be meeting in June, July & August
- The Session will not be meeting in May, June and July. A special meeting may be called if necessary.



“Faith”

The belief in something without proof (Webster’s Dictionary)

Confidence in something (World English Dictionary)

We throw this word faith around frequently in church circles on a regular basis. Maybe it is due to the fact that the word shows up hundreds of times in the Bible (365 times in the King James Bible). The word faith, however, seems to have become a generalized term that we tend to overlook in our church circles.

“He has a strong faith and is going to go far in this world.” “You can see her faith, and the hope she has.” These are statements that we often hear people say. You may also hear the converse of these statements, such as, “They lack faith and will struggle to succeed.” But what does it mean to use the word faith in this way?

When I think about the earliest Christians, I am amazed at what faith meant to them. In the Bible we see countless individuals, including the disciples, who were driven to live life based around the faith they had. Their faith was everything to them (and sometimes the only thing). We get the sense that their job, their travels, and even their existence were based around their faith in God. And they devoted their lives to living out their faith in God and sharing it with others. (Of course that is what Jesus tells the disciples to do in Matthew 28 during the Great Commission).

So we get the sense that the earliest Christians **job** and **calling** in life was to live out their faith. Let me restate that, their **occupation** and **purpose** in life was to live out their faith. Do we do this anymore? Sure we **HAVE** faith, but do we **LIVE** faith?

I have a cousin who has given her life to the Muslim faith. I was fascinated by her daily routine when I visited her a few years back. She wears the traditional garments of a Muslim woman, and is not afraid of what others think or say about her (including her family who does not agree with her choices). She prays to Mecca three times a day (She also prayed in private and did not make me feel uncomfortable). She spoke openly throughout the day about her beliefs and cared deeply in sharing her faith to others.

Though there are things that I do not agree with in regards to the Muslim faith, I am captivated by how devoted my cousin is to what she believes in. Her faith is so evident and strong, and experience it throughout everything she does in life. Reflecting on my visit with her, I began to question the level of faith that I have in my own life. Can people merely see that I **have** a faith based on the actions of going to church on Sunday and praying to God when something is going wrong in my life? Or do they **experience** the faith that I have as a constant moving through me? Almost like a job or an occupation that is 24/7?

As Christians (and being Americans) we don’t necessarily think like that. As Americans, we have freedom to believe what we like, and we don’t have to be challenged in our faith on a daily basis (unlike other cultures). But this should not be an excuse for us not to live out our faith the way that God intends us to, as a constant breath within and around us.

I pray that as you go through this month you would consider experiencing your faith daily. Study the bible, pray daily, and reach out to others in need. Help others to **experience** your faith through how you live and what you do. I believe that as Christians, if we live out our faith in this way, God’s blessing would overflow on this earth more than we could imagine.

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 strengthen their

May days are great days!

Thankful for the warmer weather and the sunshine! It's May and our youth are finishing up the year strong!

Thank you to all who helped out and supported the Chicken BBQ. It was another successful year and it is only possible with all the help we get from our congregation. Thank you!

April was a busy month! We began the month doing some epic lasertag at Lasertron. We also had a Joint Youth Group with Union Presbyterian and East Avon Presbyterian. We served at the Food Cupboard as well as the Chicken BBQ, and we played some fun games and had an extra-long wait in the drive thru at Taco Bell, which proved to be epic and hilarious. Having lots of fun and building our connections as a group is a big part of youth group!

As always, we appreciate the support of our Hygiene Cupboard that we have at church, and continue to ask for donations. 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. Also, after a huge donation of diapers we received from Foodlink, we do NOT need any diapers for awhile!

Below is the schedule for April! Hope to see you there soon!

Peace and love,

Adam, Whitney, McKenlee, and Ethan

St. Pauly Box Schedule

April 24-May 12 – Mira Wooten

May 8-21 – Henry Gerhardt

May 22-June – Brooke Wilson

Upcoming Schedule!

April 30 – Sabbatical Kickoff Lunch! We will join the congregation for this.

May 7 – Joint Youth Group! – Both Groups! Leaving from church @ 11:30am-2pm.

May 14 – Sr. High Youth Group! 11am-1pm.

Saturday, April 20 – Serving at church for the Chili Food Cupboard. Both Groups! 9:30-11:30am.

Saturday, April 20 – Camp Whitman Event @ East Avon. (Details to come.)

May 21 – Jr. High Youth Group! 11am-1pm.

May 28 – Memorial Day Weekend – No Youth Group.

June 4 – Joint Youth Group! – Both Groups! Leaving from church @ 11:30am-2pm.

June 11 – Church Picnic! Service @ 10am, food and games to follow.

Saturday, June 17 – Serving at church for the Chili Food Cupboard. Both Groups! 9:30-11:30am.

June 18 – Memorial Day Weekend – No Youth Group.

June 25 – Graduation Sunday! Youth participating in service!