



# Roots & Wings

First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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



2023



# How does a weary world rejoice?

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

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

*2024 Season Teams:* Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest, and Advent/Christmas / Epiphany (ACE)

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

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

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

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## Wooten's Wonderings



There is a lot of chaos and hurt in our world right now, isn't there?  
Wars wage and innocent civilians get caught in the crosshairs.  
Natural disasters destroy homes, businesses, neighborhoods and lives.  
Violence is perpetrated against people groups as well as strangers.  
Anger, fear, loneliness, hunger, and failing health is all around us.

We are weary and it is ok to admit that. So, in the midst of our weariness, how can we, as people of faith, respond?

That is the question our Season Theme this year seeks to answer. The theme is **"How Does a Weary World Rejoice?"** This series was developed by *A Sanctified Art* and here is what they said about this year's Advent theme:

"Sara Speed, one of our founding creative partners, referenced a poem she had written a few years ago. In it, she lists many seemingly mundane actions that fill our days: like stretching your body awake, looking at the night sky, making room on the subway, helping a neighbor and so on. In the last stanza of the poem, she concludes:

*How does a weary world rejoice?  
I would guess  
soul by soul  
and day by day.  
but if you ask me,  
I bet most of it counts.*

In this poem is the answer- it all counts. We need to acknowledge the weariness of our world while also seeking real and daily moments of joy. We need to remember that all of life can be a prayer."

Each week we will respond to this question with a statement inspired by scripture. Each text helps us find rhythms for rejoicing even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

To aid us in seeking joy, there is a devotional booklet based on the theme and an Advent calendar for adults as well as a separate one for children and families. I hope you will pick these up and use them to guide you through this season of preparation.

As we move through the series, let us create space to acknowledge the weariness of the world while celebrating God's closeness with great joy.

## Food Cupboard Committee Says, “Thank You!”

The Food Cupboard Committee would like to say, “Thank You!” to all the people who registered and/or donated money towards the Grocery Run 2023. The Cupboard earned \$690 from team registrations and \$265 dollars from online donations. Early next year, the Cupboard will also collect bonus funds based on the size of our team (23 members!) and the overall proceeds of the event. Here are some team members who participated in our Virtual Run/Walk on Sunday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. Fun was had by all!



Roger Willis did his virtual run with a friend who has Parkinson's disease. His friend can no longer drive, so they walk once a week with Roger's dog Casey.

## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – 2023**

*Option 1 – Poinsettia (\$10.00)*

☐ Placed in memory of:

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☐ Placed in honor of:

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Presented by

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

☐ Cash    ☐ Check

*Last day to order is **December 3rd***

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2023**

*Option 2 – Scholarship Fund*

☐ Placed in memory of:

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☐ Placed in honor of :

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Presented by

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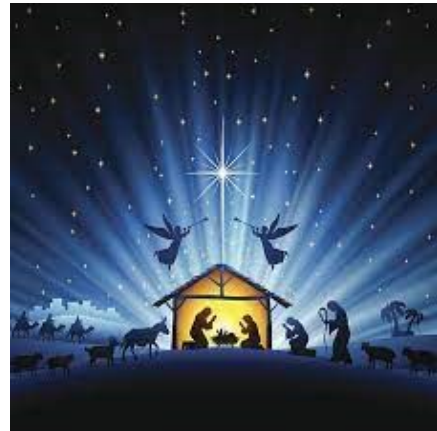
\$ Enclosed \_\_\_\_    ☐ Cash    ☐ Check

*Last day to donate is **December 19th***



### **Advent Wreath "Lighters"**

12/3        John & Leah Atwater  
12/10      Judie McGaffick & Barb Wasmer  
12/17      Roger Willis  
12/24am  
12/24pm   Bruce & Pat Olson



### **December 24th Worship Services**

This year we will be celebrating the fourth Sunday in Advent at the morning service on the 24th. This will be a "family celebration" with a breakfast and Worship Service in the lower hall. More details will be available soon.

At 7:00 pm we will have our traditional Christmas Eve Worship.





# How does a weary world rejoice?

The ACE team has been busy planning for this upcoming season. Listed below are some of things we hope that you will join in as we share the joy and love from our church family.

**Mission Project:** We have adopted 3 families from our neighboring school Chestnut Ridge. On the Christmas tree please find a tag with an item that has been requested by a needy family. We are requesting that you purchase and wrap the gift. Please remember to place the tag back on the wrapped gift so we are able to get it back to the correct family. All of these families are working with counselors from CRS and they are very grateful for our help in supporting these families.

**The Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ. This offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. You can contribute to the Joy Offering during the month of December.

Several church members will be lighting the **Advent Wreath** during this month. We want to give those families a special thank you for participating during this special time.

**January 14 - Winter Cabin Party.** This year we will be holding our winter cabin party at the Sanford Road Lodge. Please come and join us for a time of worship and fellowship as we share the best potluck lunch ever!! You won't be disappointed

# Leadership News

## **At the ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE SESSION AND THE BOARD OF DEACONS, October 9, 2023**

...met in the Lower Hall and enjoyed appetizers and cider together as we gathered.

...welcomed Adam Scoville, Director of Families and Youth

...engaged in a discussion with Adam about his new Director of Families & Youth position.

Adam feels we are on a new journey, and he is very thankful that our church is willing to embrace change. He said he has been dreaming about different ideas, and has implemented a few of them:

- Mission Trip to Houston
- A new sign for the labyrinth trail.
- Gatherings with other church groups.
- Upcoming Trunk or Treat. There has been a lot of excitement, and he looks forward to us getting to know our neighbors.
- He has started the process for Foodlink to come to the church to do food demonstrations. He would like to offer them to church members and food cupboard recipients.
- He has been helping with the Food Cupboard.
- Adam feels his job is to reach out to others, and to invite them to do things with our church family. SERVE THE COMMUNITY!!!

### Possible ideas:

- Pancake Breakfast with the youth to serve.
- Tables at community events.
- Getting the land so it is tax exempt.
- Community Garden.

The town did not recognize this as Faith Based.

A lot of hard work.

There are grants.

Town would be willing to help.

- Monthly prayer walks with reflective faith-based topics. "A Mile in My Shoes" by Trevor Hudson >> pilgrimage to BE!
- Shopping for families or shopping days of used items at our church.
- Advertise events.

If we want to sustain, we need to be Visible and There!!

Adam feels we are on the threshold of the church's future. He looks forward to working with everyone and encourages the church leaders to work together. He is open to suggestions, and right now he is in the office on Wednesday & Thursday.

... Session and Deacons VOTED to adjourn the Joint meeting at 7:22 PM.

Remitted by:

Elder Barbara Wasmer, Clerk Pro-Tem

# Leadership News ...continued

## **At its meeting on October 9, 2023, Session...**

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

...VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda.

... VOTED to receive the Treasurer's Report and summary for the month ending September 30, 2023.

...noted that Pastor Brandi will be taking October 22<sup>nd</sup> as vacation. Elder Fred Mollon will be covering for her.

...noted that Pastor Brandi has been in contact with Sue Johnson, Chair of the Food Cupboard Committee to establish a date for Session and the Food Cupboard Committee to meet informally and share thoughts, questions, infrastructure, and goals as we move forward.

...noted that the Stewardship Committee (Tom Leahy, Nancy Huffman, and Jerry Huffman) met on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The following people have agreed to do a minute for mission to speak about how our church changes lives.

- Food Pantry (Sue Johnson October 22<sup>nd</sup>)

- New Family & Youth Director (Barb Wasmer October 29<sup>th</sup>)

- Labyrinth Trail (Tim Engelbrecht November 5<sup>th</sup>),

- How our church impacts us spiritually -Prayer time, Bible study, etc (Fred Mollon, November 12)

...VOTED to use the Session Fund monies in Designated Funds in Savings to pay \$994.00 for the Proclaim Subscription.

...VOTED to rename the Community Garden Designated Fund to "3551 Chili Ave Community Outreach" and to transfer the Community Garden designated funds to the renamed 3551 Chili Ave Community Outreach Fund.

... VOTED to use Memorial Fund monies designated as Option 1 (Contributions are placed in the Fund with no restrictions. Session determines both time and use of funds.) for signage along the Labyrinth Path.

...VOTED to use Session Fund monies in Designated Funds in Savings to pay \$500.00 to cover the cost of advertising in Westside News for 2024.

... agreed to table a technology discussion on "Amplify Media", until a time to be determined.

...VOTED to nominate Ruling Elder Nancy Huffman for election to the 2024 Nominating Committee.

...VOTED to use up to \$100 from the General Fund to purchase of a projector for use with Bible Study and other gatherings/meetings.

...VOTED to call the Annual Meetings of the Corporation and Congregation on January 21, 2024 immediately following worship.

...VOTED to remove Joseph Gerard Harkness from the Active membership roll, because of his passing on September 12, 2023....VOTED to adjourn at 8:49 PM.

# Leadership News ...continued

...VOTED to pay Ruth Heitz, our new Piano (organist) Music Accompanist, \$125.00 per service and \$100.00 per rehearsal. Personnel will be reporting to Session regarding Ruth's employment.

... approved by consensus, adding Adam Scoville as an Administrator on the Church's Facebook page.

...in preparation for Season Team Sign-up, updated Season Team Facilitators as follows:

Lent- Planning 1/3/24; Start 2/14/24 .... Carrie Horton and Gail McArthur  
Easter- Planning 2/11/24; Start 3/31/24 ...Gail McArthur & Brenda Naugle  
Pentecost- Planning 4/1/24; Start 5/19/24 ...Nancy Huffman & Sandy McCauley  
Harvest- Planning 7/21/24; Start 9/8/24 ...Grace Englebrecht & Tim Englebrecht  
Advent/Christmas/Epiphany- Planning 10/13/24; Start 12/1/24 .....Barb Wasmer  
Lent- 2025 .....Carrie Horton

...VOTED to adjourn at 8:49 PM.

Remitted by,

Elder Barbara Wasmer, Clerk Pro-Tem

## **At Its Meeting on November 6, 2023, Session...**

...engaged in a reflection discussion answering the question, "Since our last meeting, how has the church blessed you?" Our responses included "receiving cards, phone calls, meals from church family", "having a special coffee hour -baby shower for us", receiving positive feedback about the labyrinth trail and its development", "a comment from a Scoutmaster that our church has a welcoming Boy Scout/Cub Scout atmosphere", "knowing I have a peaceful, comfortable place/sanctuary to come to", "how the church makes me and my family feel like family", "receiving positive feedback about my presentation on creating a Director of Family and Youth position", "being recognized in the community as the "Scooby Do lady from Chili Pres'", "seeing how a couple coming to work on the dinner was embraced by so many", "all the support I received returning from my sabbatical", "how the church family embraces my daughter and all kids for who they are". We are truly blessed.

...VOTED to approve the Agenda with an item added.

...VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

...noted that Pastor Brandi will be having foot surgery on November 17, 2023. Elder Fred Mollon will lead worship on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Fred will also lead worship on November 26<sup>th</sup> if needed.

...reviewed plans for the morning worship and Christmas Eve service on 12/24.

...received correspondence as follows:

- email from Nadia Mullin introducing herself as our Committee on Ministry liaison
- email from Nadia Mullin forwarding Terms of Call and Mission Funding forms
- letter from Susan Orr, regarding our Annual Minutes review on October 22, 2023. Noting no exceptions.



# Leadership News ...continued

-note from Rev. David Kilgore, Presbytery's Budget, Development, and Oversight Committee, thanking Chili Pres for paying 100% of our Per Capita apportionment.

-letter from Susan Orr, regarding our Annual Minutes review on October 22, 2023. Noting no exceptions.

...noted that Session and the Food Cupboard Committee will meet to discuss the status of the Food Pantry on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

...VOTED to approve hiring Ruth Heitz to fill the position of Piano (organist) Music Accompanist at a rate of \$125.00 per Sunday and \$100.00 for rehearsals pending background check and completions of the annual NYS Sexual Harassment Training.

...heard a report from the Nominating Committee that many positions have been filled by people agreeing to "re-up" for a second term. The Committee is continuing its work and has called several persons offering them the opportunity to serve on various committees and boards. The Committee is tracking reasons expressed as to why people are not choosing to serve. Further, the Committee is looking at some of our policies in the Manual of Administrative Operations that specify requirements for who can serve on committees and service requirements. The Committee may be making recommendations to Session for revisions.

...noted that at the October Presbytery meeting, Cliff Genge, who completed an internship with us several years ago, was ordained.

...VOTED to receive the report from Presbytery that the Session minutes were approved with on October 21, 2023 with no exceptions and the minutes book was stamped. There was a notation that the list of those who completed Mandated NYS Workplace Harassment in 2022 was not indicated.

... discussed different ways we might formally acknowledge and receive the offering given that we no longer take a collection during the service and bring it forward with singing of the Doxology.

...VOTED to adjourn at 8:36 PM.

Remitted by

Elder Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session

# Celebrating

each other.....

## December

- 1 Lori Oliver
- 3 Nancy Huffman
- 8 Aidan Snover
- 9 Roger Willis
- 13 Aaron Atwater
- 14 Scott Oliver, Brandi Wooten
- 16 Gage Oliver
- 18 Ginny Harkness, Nicole Mathewson
- 26 Terry Edwards, Darla Diehl
- 29 Gail McArthur



Reports for the 2023 Annual Meeting booklet will be due in the church office by Tuesday, January 9. The booklet is distributed the week before the Corporation and Congregational meetings, which will take place on Sunday, January 21, 2024. If you have any questions, please call the office.

## Volunteers for December

### December 3

Greeters: Mark Carden & Carrie Horton  
Communion: Sue Atwater, Mark Carden (juice), Carrie Horton (bread)  
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville  
Childcare : Sue Edwards & Lori Oliver  
Children's Church: Alice Zah

### December 10

Greeters: Judie McGaffick & Dale Faatz  
Jr. Greeter: Patrick Engelbrecht  
Childcare: Gail McArthur & Elena Castillo  
Children's Church: Alice Zah

### December 17

Greeters: Sue Johnson & Brenda Naugle  
Jr. Greeter: Audrey Sosik  
Childcare: Becky Sosik & Barb Wasmer  
Children's Church: Alice Zah

### December 24 (AM)

Greeters: Bill Horne & Debbie Lamphron  
Jr. Greeter: Brooke Wilson  
Childcare: Linda Enright & Brenda Naugle  
Children's Church: Alice Zah

### December 24 (PM)

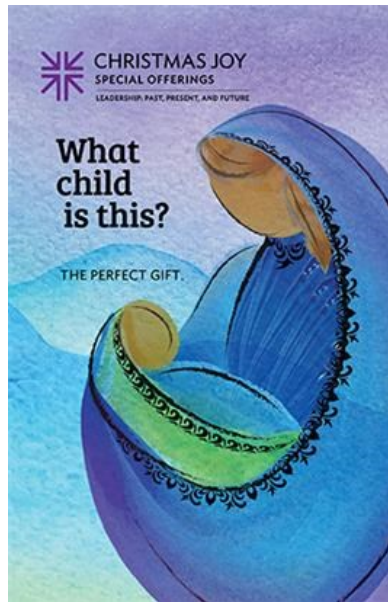
Greeters: Sue & Andy Atwater  
Nancy & Jerry Huffman



## Prayer Time

**is offered**  
**every Tuesday at**  
**2:00 pm**  
in the sanctuary

All are welcome



## Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Offering envelopes can be found in the pew racks or you can send a check to church with "Joy Offering" written on the memo line.

January newsletter deadline —

December 19

Annual Reports due — January 9



### **Paper bags needed**

The Food Cupboard committee are looking for regular size paper grocery bags for packing food for distribution.

If you get paper bags at the grocery store and don't need them, we would be glad to take them off your hands!

The Board of Deacon are looking for folks to volunteer to host fellowship time after Worship in the lower hall.

General suggestions: provide coffee, tea, cold beverage, snacks (such as gluten free pretzels) and cookies (both regular and gluten free). Grab a friend and sign-up on the sheet in the fellowship room.

### **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
Shampoo	Dish soap
Hair conditioner	Laundry detergent
Paper towels	



## An Aspiring Grinch

Christmas is coming! And as we have been preparing for the holidays, doing all the decorating and shopping, the television at the Scoville house has been showing round the clock Christmas movies. So that basically means that we have been watching the Grinch round the clock! (Truthfully, Grinch has been on since July...)

As the story goes in Dr. Seuss's classic Christmas tale, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the Grinch suffers from having a small heart, in which he lacks the joy for Christmas. So he tries to put a stop to Christmas by taking anything and everything Christmas related away from the town of Whoville, but in the end, he comes to understand what Christmas is all about and his heart grows three sizes! This heart change makes a big difference in his life and he returns Christmas to everyone.

We can never be sure of what Dr. Seuss' intentions were when he wrote the story back in 1957, but it seems like it could come across as a parallel to the change that takes place in a person's life when they encounter the profound Christ in their lives for the first time. In Ezekiel 36:26 it says that "I (God) will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I (God) will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the apostle Paul wrote "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!"

There are moments in our faith journey where we experience God in a new way, and it is life-changing. Our hearts are challenged in new ways, and we are molded into a new way of thinking, a new way of living.

The other interesting thing about the Grinch, is that when he returns and confesses to the Whos of Whoville, then don't get angry, or seek revenge, or persecute him. Like the return of the prodigal son, the Grinch is greeted with loving and forgiving arms, and they even let him cut the roast beast at the head of the table. Think about that. How many times have you been wronged and haven't been upset about it? That is Godly forgiveness. No pointing fingers. No holding grudges.

It is through the eyes of this simple Christmas movie that we can be inspired to be kind, forgiving others, and willing to admit our wrongdoings. We can set ourselves apart from the world around us by living out the true meaning of Christmas.

"Welcome Christmas - While we stand - Heart to heart - And hand in hand." During this holiday season, may you allow God to mold you into a new creation again. May you experience profound joy and spread it to those around you. It might just make all the difference in the world.

*Be blessed and continue to let the music play.*

*Adam*



## Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269-8746

FA LA LA LA LA!

It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost here! So many things to prepare and get ready for! And also so many youth things planned! But first...

November was a busy month and we did a lot of serving! We served at the Fall Supper, and the Food Cupboard. Both were very busy, but we had lots of helpers and both events went very smoothly. We met with our Joint youth group multiple times in Scottsville and had great discussions and played some fun games.

We continue our support of the Food Cupboard with our Hygiene Cupboard. We are in need of pretty much ALL hygiene items! A list of items is available at the entryway of church. Thank you for all of your continued support.

There are some fun things happening in December! Check out the schedule below! Happy holidays!

*Blessings,*

*Adam*

### Youth Events Schedule!

**Saturday, December 2 – Laser Tag! Leaving church @ 2pm, Return @ 5pm.**

**December 3 - Joint Youth Group! – Leaving from church @ 11:30am-2pm.**

**December 10 – Youth Group Christmas Party! 11-1pm.**

**Saturday, December 16 – Serving at church for the Chili Food Cupboard. 9:30-11:30am.**

**December 17 - Joint Youth Group! – Leaving from church @ 11:30am-2pm.**

**December 24 – No Youth Group! Christmas Eve!**

**December 31 – No Youth Group! New Year's Eve!**

### Pauly Box Schedule

Nov 20-Dec 3 – Mira Wooten

Dec 4-17 – Henry Gerhardt

Dec 18-Jan 1 – Brooke Wilson