



# Roots & Wings

First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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

# February

2024



*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*



Peter has always been one of my favorite disciples. He is relatable. He is earnest. He wants to know more about who Jesus is and to dive deeper into a heart forward faith. Over time and through the lectionary cycles, we get glimpses here and there of Peter. But they are often told out of order and some parts of his story are not told as much as others. If you read a novel out of order, the story would not make much sense. Our Lent Team and I focused our bible study this year on the life of Peter. As we considered, in order, the different parts of his story, a new understanding about Peter and his wandering faith journey emerged. It renewed our enthusiasm for this relatable disciple.

And so, we decided to use Sanctified Art's new Lent theme "Wandering Heart: Figuring out faith with Peter." Peter is often "all in". Sometimes, he gets it right, sometimes he is way off base. He is not polished nor perfect, but he always seeks the heart of God. He has, as our theme suggests, a wandering heart. His journey of faith, like ours, has its ups and downs, its ins and outs. Sometimes we feel so close to God and at other times, we wander off in a different direction.

So, this Lent we are joining Peter in figuring out faith. As Sanctified Art describes this series, "we are hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus and ourselves by stepping in his shoes." So, let us take up the journey and wander with Peter as he seeks to know Jesus better.

*Rev. Brandi Wooten*

### Helpers needed for Children's Church



As is the policy, we try to have two adults present, and we are reaching out to the congregation for volunteers during the Lenten season. Anyone wishing to help will not have to do any preparation. We have Children's Church curriculum, and any additional plans, activities, materials, etc., will be taken care of the teacher,, Alice Zah.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider volunteering for one or more Sundays.

# Celebrating

each other.....

## February

- 1 Mick McCauley,  
Marge Tucker (102 years young)
- 2 Becky Sosik
- 8 Eric Boerschlein, Huffman's Anniversary
- 9 Connor Snover
- 10 Barb Boerschlein
- 11 Kristin Milner
- 12 Vicky Leahy
- 16 Milner Anniversary
- 18 Marla Guarnieri, Becky Gernhardt
- 25 Becca Buell
- 26 Bruce Olson
- 28 Tristan Engelbrecht



## Coffee Fellowship

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 lower hall.

## Volunteers for February

### February 4

Greeters: Kathy & Rich Stowe  
Communion: Fred Mollon (juice), Rich Stowe, Barb Wasmer (bread)  
Jr. Greeter: Brooke Wilson  
Childcare : Sue Edwards & Katie Engelbrecht  
Children's Church: Alice Zah

### February 11

Greeters: Kathy & Jay Mathewson  
Jr. Greeter: Henry Gernhardt  
Childcare: Vicky Leahy & Judie McGaffick  
Children's Church: Alice Zah

### February 18

Greeters: Carrie Horton & Walt Scott  
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville  
Childcare: Gail McArthur & Elena Castillo  
Children's Church: Alice Zah

### February 25

Greeters: Alice & Fred Zah  
Jr. Greeter: Patrick Engelbrecht  
Childcare: Lori Oliver & Lori Gittens  
Children's Church: Alice Zah

## Annual Per Capita

### Apportionment for 2024

Presbytery	\$2,111.40
Synod	\$ 377.20
General Assembly	\$ 901.20

This is based on our active membership. We would appreciate your support of this budget cost by covering the **\$36.85** (only 40 cents more than 2023) per active member in your family.

Letter from St. Pauly Textile, Inc:

January 2024

Dear Friends,

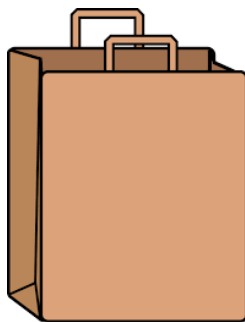
Happy New Year! We 're excited to share with you the impact your clothing shed made over the last year....

- ♦ 120,125 pounds of clothing donated to your shed in 2023
- ♦ This was enough to clothe an estimated 22,128 people all over the world
- ♦ Based on this volume of clothing , your organization received \$4,805

Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers and your communities do to support the clothing shed program!

Sincerely,

The team at St. Pauly Textile



### **Paper bags needed**

The Food Cupboard committee are looking 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!

### **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	

# Leadership News

## **At its meeting on January 4, 2024, Session...**

...opened the meeting with Prayer with a passage from the Book of Common Courage by J.K. Ramsey.

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

...VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda (attached to these minutes).

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

...noted that Pastor Brandi will be attending a Synod meeting January 8-11, 2024.

...recognized Andy Atwater for his leadership in preparing the 2024 church budget.

...VOTED to transfer \$4528.22 from the Designated Fund "Interest" to the newly named Designated Fund: "Previous Excess and Interest" (Formerly "2023 Budget #") to balance the 2024 Budget.

...VOTED to approve the 2024 budget. Session expressed its deep appreciation to Andy Atwater, Sandy McCauley, Barbara Wasmer and Darla Diehl for their work in analyzing 2023 income and expenses in order to facilitate preparation of the 2024 budget.

... VOTED to receive the report on Paid and Unpaid Employees who have and have not completed the NY State Sexual Harassment Training for 2023.

...VOTED to approve the report of the Nominating Committee.

...to receive the final report of the Stewardship Committee.

...VOTED to confirm the Members of the Mission Fund Policy Committee as follows:

Session Member: Barbara Wasmer

Trustee Member: Andy Atwater

One Congregation Member: Roger Willis

One Youth Director: Adam Scoville

Youth Delegate: Unfilled because currently no youth are eligible.

...VOTED to appoint Darla Diehl to conduct the Annual Financial Review for 2023.

...VOTED to receive the Annual Statistical Report for 2023 with financial information forthcoming.

...planned for the Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation

...Planned for breakfast meeting of the Session for Training/Ordination of Newly Elected Officers on January 28, 2024.

...VOTED to thank Elder Brian Gerhardt, for his 6 years of service (two 3-year terms) on Session. Brian's many insights and contributions to the work of Session over the years are very much appreciated.

...VOTED to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Pastor Brandi led us in a shared benediction based on the Great Commission.

Remitted by, Elder Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session

# Leadership News ...continued

## **At a Special Called Meeting of the Session for training and examination of newly elected officers Session...**

...welcomed current Deacons, Trustees, Session members, newly elected officers, and those completing terms, to discuss our work as leaders committed to the responsibility of our respective offices as we orient, prepare, and examine newly elected officers prior to their installation.

...studied a passage titled “The Recklessness of Faith” from The Balancing Act: A Daily Rediscovery of Grace by Robert Schnase. The passage opened with a quote, “I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap and then you grow wings”. The author noted how leaders often make or have to make decisions that are “radical, passionate, intentional, risk taking, and extravagant—and all are dangerously edgy”. As Pastor Brandi facilitated our discussion, we shared how some or all of these adjectives applied to our Boards’ work. We realized that when called to be a leader we may feel unqualified and saying “yes” to the call can be edgy. Pastor Brandi reminded us that “God does not call the qualified: God qualifies the called”!

We shared examples of how we leaders have made decisions that are “radical, passionate, intentional, risk taking, and extravagant” and how wonderfully powerful these decisions have been for our church’s health and well-being. Some past and more recent examples that resonate with one or more of these practices are hosting a St. Pauly’s box, creating a Seasonal Structure, installing an elevator, creating a Mission Fund Committee, supporting the “Pray and Pray” worshipping community, launching a Food Cupboard for the community, pursuing a Lilly grant to support our sabbatical, hosting a Food Link cooking demonstration, creating a Director of Families and Youth position, organizing and participating in Mission Trips, developing our Labyrinth Trail, and discerning use of the Miller Trust. Most importantly we recognized the passion and trust our Boards have in going about their ministry. The Deacons’ passionate caregiving and support for our church family; our Trustees who faithfully oversee and monitor our financial health and work to care for and preserve our historic structure; and our Session who oversees program growth and development within our Presbyterian polity.

... VOTED to approve the Ordination of Lori Gittens as Deacon, the Installation of Lori Gittens, Judie McGaffick, and Lori Oliver as Deacon, and the Installation of Grace Engelbrecht as Ruling Elder to take place at a Service of Ordination and Installation on January 28, 2024 during worship.

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

As our closing prayer, we read aloud, “Disturb us Lord” a prayer attributed to Sir Frances Drake that challenges us to be “disturbed” to dare more boldly to venture more on wider seas.

Remitted By,  
Nancy P. Huffman  
Clerk of Session





This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out- just like us.

More details about what will be offered during the season of Lent will be out soon!

## Ordination/Installation of Officers

Following a delicious breakfast and Special Meeting of the Session for orientation, Deacons and Elders elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 21st were Ordained/Installed on January 28, 2024 during worship. While Trustees are not formally ordained or installed, newly elected Trustees were also recognized during the worship service.

- ◇ Ordained as Deacon was Lori Gittens
- ◇ Installed as Deacons were Lori Gittens, Judie McGaffick, and Lori Oliver
- ◇ Installed as Elder was Grace Engelbrecht
- ◇ Newly elected Trustees who were recognized are: Jerry Huffman, Tom Leahy, and John Rowe

Congratulations to all as you participate in these important ministries at Chili Pres.

Nancy Huffman,  
Clerk of Session



Since 1990, the Souper Bowl of Caring has been a national movement across the nation working together to fight hunger and poverty in local communities. The youth of

our congregation have been sponsoring this worthy cause for many years. There are two ways to support this worthwhile outreach:

- ⇒ Make a donation of non-perishable food and/or a monetary donation
- ⇒ Order a "homemade" sub (or as many as you want) from our Youth group. They make FRESH ingredient subs the morning of February 11 for only \$12. You can sign-up on the sheet in the fellowship room or contact Adam Scoville at [cpministerofmusic@gmail.com](mailto:cpministerofmusic@gmail.com) **by February 5**.
- ⇒ Sub pick-up will be on February 11 following church.

Proceeds will go to the Food Cupboard



Wednesday, February 14

4:00 pm

This year we will have a special Ash Wednesday service at the Legacy. This will be a joint service for the folks at Ogden Presbyterian, Chili Presbyterian and the residence of the Legacy.

The service will be lead by Rev. Brandi Wooten and Pastor Whitney Scoville.

All are Welcome !!



## DREAM BIG

We all have dreams. We all desire more for our lives. It doesn't matter what stage of life you might be in, I know so many people who strive for more in their lives. And yet so many people get stuck, settling for where they are at, even though they desire more. Dreams die, hopes fade. There was a time when I did this, in which I will share.

For many years, I lived my life feeling like the world was against me. I also lived with a lot of self-doubt. I felt like I was never good enough. I was never good enough to buy a home, to have good finances, to find love, to have a family, and even to be successful. These feelings would take over my life, even to the point that something as silly as someone cutting me off in traffic would be the end of the world for me. And then the bigger pains, like my father

Many years ago, Whitney encouraged me with a verse from Matthew 19:26b which states, "With God all things are possible." As much as I knew and found hope in that verse, I found myself doubting this verse too. I wanted to believe it, but there were so many things that weren't going my way in my life. It's like I put God's plans in a box. I knew God could do

This is the same God that miraculously sent His Son to earth, who healed the sick, fed 5000 people, and was raised from the dead. These are big unbelievable things. Why do we doubt that God couldn't do the big things for us?

But that doesn't matter to God. No matter how many mistakes we make, God still shows up. Grace and mercy abounds more than we deserve. And I have come to the realization that God can do the impossible, even if we have lost hope.

My list of doubts have faded over time. Slowly I gained confidence in myself. And with this confidence, I began to step out and think bigger. And in the last year, many of the dreams I have had, the things I felt were impossible, happened. I have marveled at God's plan for my life and have been filled with praise. I no longer feel that the world is against me, because

I think it is because we feel unworthy. We feel that we are not good enough for God to take time to care for our dreams and desires. God has better things to do. We get discouraged of mistakes we've made. And the truth is, we are not good enough for God.

So I can honestly say, dream big. Live in a world where the word impossible doesn't exist with God. Pray for God's direction in your life. Put yourself out there and don't get discouraged. The world is not against you. Have confidence knowing that God is on your side and has amazing plans for you.

*Be blessed and continue to let the music play*

*Adam*





# Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269-8746

## February is here!

It may be a little cold outside, but that hasn't slowed us down much! The sicknesses have been running rampant which has slowed us down a little, but we have still been able to have some fun!

Our joint youth group continues to be busy combining about 10-12 youth each gathering! It has been a great group, who loves to connect, and play a lot of Sardines!!! We have 2 bigger events coming – a Lock In in March, and a youth led Good Friday service. Details are below!

We also continue to help at the Food Cupboard Distribution Day. With that, we will also continue to provide hygiene items through our hygiene cupboard. We are always pretty much in need of ALL hygiene items! A list of items is available at the entryway of church. Thank you for all of your continued support.

Every February we do a Super Sub Drive. The subs are \$12 and the proceeds go to our Mission Funds. If you are interested in ordering a sub, please contact Adam @ 585-454-9939 or [cpministerofmusic@gmail.com](mailto:cpministerofmusic@gmail.com) by February 4<sup>th</sup>. Pickup day is February 11<sup>th</sup>. We are also collecting an offering of canned goods and money for the Souper Bowl

The schedule is listed below! Check out some of the bigger events on the way!

### Youth Events Schedule!

**February 3 – Youth Event TBD.**

**February 4 - Joint Youth Group! – Leaving from church @ 11:30am-2pm.**

**February 11 – SUPER BOWL SUBS! Be to church at 9:30am. No Youth Group after!**

**Saturday, February 17 – Serving at church for the Chili Food Cupboard. 9:30-11:30am.**

**February 18 - Joint Youth Group! – Leaving from church @ 11:30am-2pm.**

**February 25 – No Youth Group. Adam is away!**

**March 8-9 – JOINT YOUTH GROUP LOCK IN @ East Avon. Contact Adam for details.**

**Friday, March 29 – Youth Led Good Friday Service @ Chili Presbyterian – 7pm. Youth rehearse 4pm.**

**April 28 – Chicken BBQ!**

### Pauly Box Schedule

January 29 through February 11 - Mira Wooten

February 12 through February 25 - Henry Gernhardt

February 26 through March 10 - Brooke Wilson