



# Roots & Wings

First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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



2024

What is happening this month.....

- Easter Season events
- One Great Hour of Sharing offering
- Cabin Worship and Potluck
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Plant orders
- Scholarship donations
- Family and Youth activities
- Day Light Savings Time begins



*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



While recently spending a couple of days at an Episcopal Retreat Center, I came across a book in their gift shop which has blessed me as I continue to read through it. It is called Spirit Wheel: Meditations from an Indigenous Elder by Steven Charleston.

Charleston has a unique and interesting background. He is an Episcopal Priest who has served as bishop of Alaska, president and dean of the Episcopal Divinity School, and professor of systematic theology at Luther Seminary. He is a member of the Choctaw Nation and has appeared on *ABC World News Tonight*, *BBC World News* and other outlets as a leading voice of justice for indigenous peoples, the environment, and spiritual renewal. He is also an author of several books on theology and spirituality.

In the introduction to this book, Charleston describes himself as “living between two spiritual worlds: the traditional faith of America’s indigenous people and the Christian faith.” (pg. 5) He invites the readers of this book to read his meditations and prayer in “the context of your own faith, but with a curiosity, an openness, to hear what Native America has to say, to teach, to share.” (pg. 9)

Here is one of the many meditations I have read so far that inspired my own prayer life:

### Never Prayers

I have some never prayers, Spirit:

Never let me grow too old  
To lose the delight of a child’s imagination.  
Never so disappointed in life  
I stop believing each morning is a new beginning.

Never too concerned with my own burdens  
To fail to help another.  
Never so busy making a living  
That I forget what living is about.

Never so certain I have all the answers  
That I stop asking the questions.  
Never having so much to say  
That I cannot be still and listen.

Never so far from you  
That I do not hear when you call my name.

While I have prayed in several different ways, I have not thought to focus on naming “never prayers”. This poem inspired me to spend time writing my own “never prayers” and I encourage you to take some time to do the same. What would you ask God to help you never to do or be?



## Lenten Movie Night Sunday, March 3 @ 4 pm to 8 pm

In addition to our Lenten Activity, we have another opportunity for us to gather and move along in our Lenten journey towards Easter. There is a film titled "Killing Jesus," based upon the book of the same name. The film chronicles the life of Jesus of Nazareth through the retelling of the political, social, and historical conflicts during the Roman Empire that ultimately led to his crucifixion.

Fred Mollon owns a copy of the film and is offering his home as a chance to share it with any who are interested. He has seating for 12 in his apartment and there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship room. [If more than 12 should be interested we'll schedule an additional time.]

Pizza and popcorn will be provided

## Palm Sunday Service and Special Event

When: March 24<sup>th</sup> Service at 10:30 am

Where: Mahar Lodge Riga Town Park  
836 S. Sanford Rd., Churchville

What: Following the Service we will have a Pot Luck Lunch followed by an afternoon of playing your favorite board games

What to Bring: A Dish to pass and your favorite board game  
(place setting and beverages will be provided)

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the fellowship room

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Let our "wandering hearts" focus on One Great Hour of Sharing this Lenten Season. Please take a Fish Bank home or put your quiet money in the envelope found in the pews and prayerfully consider all the wonderful good that will come from your donation to those who are hungry, facing disaster and need help with development throughout the World.

Last year Chili Presbyterian Church raised \$927, we are challenging our congregation to raise \$1500, we can do it!!

# Celebrating

each other.....

## March

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



## Save the date

A celebration of life service for Joe Harkness will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 11 a.m. More details will come in the April newsletter.



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

## Coffee Fellowship

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 March

### March 3

Greeters: Katie Engelbrecht & Tim Engelbrecht  
Communion: Sharon Breeze (bread),  
Tim Engelbrecht (juice), Nancy Huffman  
Jr. Greeter: Audrey Sosik  
Childcare : Beth Rowe & Barb Wasmer  
Children's Church: Alice Zah & Jane Schulitz

### March 10

Greeters: Grace & Evan Engelbrecht  
Jr. Greeter: Brooke Wilson  
Childcare: Becky Sosik & Linda Enright  
Children's Church: Alice Zah & Vicky Leahy  
Coffee Hour: The Sosiks

### March 17

Greeters: Lori & Cecil Gittens  
Jr. Greeter: Henry Gernhardt  
Childcare: Kathy Mathewson & Brenda Naugle  
Children's Church: Alice Zah & Cindy Blair

## March 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday Cabin Worship and Potluck

### March 31 - Easter

Greeters: Darla & Dave Diehl  
Jr. Greeter: Patrick Engelbrecht  
Childcare: Sue Edwards & Debbie Lamphron  
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.

## 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	

### 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 Easter 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.

### 2024 Church Directory

During the month of March, we will be working to complete the Church Directory for distribution in April.

If you have had an address, telephone number or e-mail address change, please contact the church office (889-9896 or fpc3600@gmail.com).

We would like the directory to be as accurate as possible.

*Thank you!*

### Easter Plants - 2024

(\$10 each)

☐ Placed in memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Placed in honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by

\_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Cash

☐ check

Last day to order: **March 17, 2024**

### Scholarship Fund - 2024

☐ Placed in memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Placed in honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by

\_\_\_\_\_

\$ Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cash

☐ check

Last day to donate: **March 24, 2024**



## Celebrating Our Endowment Fund

On February 18, 2024, a Yellow Rose was placed on the Communion table by the Endowment Committee. The Yellow Rose signifies that a donation to the Endowment Fund has occurred. On February 18th, we acknowledged a donation from Jerry and Nancy Huffman which they made in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on February 8th. It is with thanks and gratitude that we receive and celebrate the Huffman's gift.

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Our Endowment Fund has grown since its inception in 1997. The Fund is invested by the Housing and Investment Committee and it has generated income to perpetuate the work of our church "Inside the Walls" (Programs and projects that enhance the ongoing fellowship of the Church and the Church's mandate to nurture and grow the members of the congregation in their spiritual lives), "On the Walls" (Projects related to the physical plant and facilities of the congregation, including any facilities of organizations tied directly to the church), and "Outside the Walls" (Mission Projects benefitting persons or organizations outside the congregation and having no direct tie to the church).

Over the years the Fund has received checks for varied amounts ranging from \$50 to amounts in the thousands. The kinds and types of donations have ranged from gifts of cash to the Fund, an Honorarium of celebration, a Memoriam on the passing of a friend or family member, bequests, beneficiary of a trust, beneficiary of an insurance policy, etc.

Perhaps you would like to contribute to the Endowment Fund. There are several ways. You can simply write a check to "First Presbyterian Church of Chili – Endowment Fund" and claim your donation as an income tax deduction. You could name First Presbyterian Church of Chili-Endowment Fund in your will, create a charitable gift annuity, a charitable annuity trust or simply specify the First Presbyterian Church of Chili Endowment Fund as a Memoriam or Honorarium for a friend or family member.

The Endowment Committee would like to gratefully and thankfully acknowledge those who had the foresight to create this Fund in order to sustain our dear church and those who have donated over the years.



**Friday, March 29 @ 7:00 pm at Chili Pres**

Led by the youth of Chili Pres, Union Presbyterian and East Avon Presbyterian

*"I have learned that when ever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision"*

*- Maya Angelou*



# Leadership News

## **At its meeting on February 5, 2024, Session...**

...listened as Pastor Brandi read a meditation from Spirit Wheel: Meditations from an Indigenous Elder, by Steven Charleston. This reading, focused on being "Open" – open minds, open hearts, open to new ideas was our prayer as we prepared for our work tonight.

...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 January 31, 2024.

...heard a report from Pastor Brandi that she and Pastor Whitney Scoville, Odgen Presbyterian have been planning the Ash Wednesday service which will be held at the Legacy on February 14, 2024.

...heard a report from Pastor Brandi that she and Pastor Whitney Scoville have been discussing holding joint worship services with Odgen Presbyterian during the summer months of July and August. There are several options under consideration. Session favored gathering at Chili for one month and at Odgen for the other month.

...placed activity dates on the Master Calendar

March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday Worship at Maher Lodge 10:45 AM

April 28, 2024 Chicken BBQ

...distributed and reviewed the Session's Annual Action Items Calendar for 2024 Pastor Brandi, Sandy McCauley, Nancy Huffman, and Fred Mollon had met to update Session's action items for each month.

...noted the very successful Food Link Cooking Demonstration that drew 30 participants from the community.

...noted that Tim Engelbrecht will be taking the Labyrinth trail sign-in book to the Town of Chili to document the trail's use.

...recognized the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Season Team for implementing their theme over several weeks

... VOTED to approve Session members' responsibilities for 2024-2025 as follows:

-Season Team Leaders:

Lent 2024: Carrie Horton

Easter 2024: Gail McArthur and Brenda Naugle

Pentecost 2024: Nancy Huffman and Sandy McCauley

Harvest 2024: Grace Engelbrecht and Tim Engelbrecht

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2024/2025: Barb Wasmer

Lent 2025: Carrie Horton

Easter 2025: Brenda Naugle and Gail McArthur

Pentecost 2025: Nancy Huffman and Sandy McCauley

Harvest 2025: Grace Engelbrecht and Tim Engelbrecht

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

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

-Elder of Responsibility Personnel Committee: Elder Tim Engelbrecht

-Elder Commissioner to Presbytery: Rotated position

# Leadership News ...continued

...confirmed appointed positions

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

Clerk of Session: Elder Fred Mollon

...VOTED to appoint Elder Frederick Mollon as Clerk of Session for an Open-Ended Term effective immediately.

...VOTED to accept Elder Nancy Huffman's retirement as Clerk of Session with heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

...established Annual Calendar of Dates/Events for 2024 and into 2025 as follows:

**Summer 2024 meeting schedule:** No Stated Meeting in July; Stated Meeting in August to be scheduled.

**Annual Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons 2024:** October 7, 2024

**Season Team planning and implementation dates for 2025**

Lent: Jan 6, 2025 Planning begins; Mar 5, 2025 Implementation begins.

Easter: Mar 6, 2025 Planning begins; April 20, 2025 Implementation begins.

Pentecost: April 20, 2025 Planning begins; June 8, 2025 Implementation begins.

Harvest: Jul 13, 2025 Planning begins; Sep 7, 2025 Implementation begins.

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany: Sep 12, 2025 Planning begins; Nov 17, 2025 Implementation begins.

**Stewardship Sunday for 2024:** November 17, 2024

**Stated Session mtg in January 2025** (agenda item to approve budget: January 9, 2025)

**Annual Meeting for next year:** January 26, 2025

**Orientation and Training of Newly Elected Officers for next year** (one week after Annual Meeting): February 2, 2025

**Installation of officers-worship service** (one week after Annual Meeting) February 2, 2025

**Communion Schedule and blanket approval of Lord's Supper**

...VOTED to approve the communion schedule July 2024 through June 2025 as follows:

July 7; Aug 4; Sep 1; Oct 6; Nov 3; Dec 1; Jan 5, 2025; Feb 2; Mar 2; Apr 6; May 4; Jun ...

VOTED to grant permission to Pastor Brandi to administer communion at any church related function (including home communion) per her discretion.

**Presbytery meetings and Elder Commissioner for each meeting**

January 30, 2024 6:00 (via Zoom) Nancy Huffman

April 20, 2024 9:30 AM (In Person meeting at place TBD) Tim Engelbrecht

July 30, 2024 6:00 PM (via Zoom) Gail McArthur

October 26, 2024 9:30 AM (via Zoom) Grace Engelbrecht



# Leadership News ...continued

...discussed options for serving communion (served in the pews, intinction, current process) and number of people who must be involved in preparing and serving communion and by consensus, agreed to continue the current process for serving communion

...VOTED to add the Deacons Fund to the list of Donation Options in the Special Gift and Fund Allocation Policy.

...noted that Nancy Huffman will convene a committee to include Dale Faatz (Special Gift and Fund Allocation Coordinator), Fred Mollon (Clerk of Session), Sandy McCauley (Treasurer), Barb Wasmer (Finance Chair) and Sue Johnson (Food Cupboard Committee) Debbie Lamphron, Chair, (Board of Deacons) to review and update the Special Gift and Fund Allocation Policy

...VOTED to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation held, January 21, 2024.

...heard a report on the January 30, 2024 Presbytery meeting from Elder Commissioner, Nancy Huffman. She noted that a search for three positions is taking place: Presbytery Leader, Stated Clerk, Pastor of Leader Care and Development. Positions are anticipated to be filled by August 1, 2024. The annual Necrology tribute during the worship service recognized Elders and Ministers of the Presbytery including Joesph Harkness and Beverly L'Hommedieu of Chili First. The Presbytery celebrated its new logo that represents it connectional and collaborative nature and radiates outward.

...VOTED to approve Rev. Kevin Hershey to preside at communion at the service on Good Friday, March 29, 2024.

...VOTED to approve all the youth in the joint youth group with Chili Presbyterian and Scottsville Presbyterian to serve communion at the Good Friday Service on March 29, 2024.

...VOTED to close the Stephen Ministry Designated Fund and disburse the fund as follows:

Transfer \$1000.00 to the Families and Youth Ministries Designated Fund

Transfer \$1000.00 to the Food Cupboard Ministry Designated Fund

Transfer the \$856.50 to the Deacon's Fund

...noted and expressed appreciation for the energy and creativity that Adam Scoville is bringing to his position as Director of Families and Youth. With that in mind, Session by consensus, will ask Adam to prepare a Quarterly Report to not only include activities and data but to also include community and church family response such as feedback from participants who may share the impact of his activities through storytelling, receipt of notes of thanks/appreciation, etc.

...VOTED to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Pastor Brandi led us in a shared benediction based on the Great Commission.

Remitted by, Elder Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session



## No Strings Attached

It is March, and we are now into Lent – a time when we prepare for Easter, and remember all the amazing things Jesus did for us. It is a time when many Christians sacrifice (give up) something earthly to remember that God comes first over all, and can sustain us.

When thinking about Lent, I am reminded of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in the book of Genesis. Sodom and Gomorrah was a rich city which Lot (Abraham's brother-in-law) lived in. The city had everything, and could be compared to our present day Las Vegas. But the people were evil! With riches came corruption. Some even believe that the code in the city was to be overly cruel to visitors.

God told Abraham that He was going to destroy the city, but that Lot and his family would be spared. God sent angels to Lot that told him to get out of the city immediately and not to look back! But Lot lingered. These angels would eventually drag him and his family out of the city to safety. And as the city was destroyed, Lot's wife turned to look back on all she had and she turned to a pillar of salt.

I find this story fascinating. God told her to walk away and not look back – to trust God completely in the future – yet Lot's wife didn't want to let go or even forget all that she wanted and love. And because she did not obey, and couldn't let go, she was punished.

Now how far away are we from being Lot's wife. We yearn for control, security, money, riches, and stuff. We covet others' things and want to get our own way. It would be very hard to let go of things that we think make us better, to trust God.

This can be seen in people with addictions. For those who struggle to quit smoking, yet cannot permanently let go of the habit. They may have a great life, but the cost of smoking causes pain in the family as finances are struggling. The person tries to quit, and may be temporarily successful, but eventually falls back into it again and again. I consider these different parts of life like strings that are attached to us or strings that we hold onto. Now if a smoker feels they need to let go of a string, they can try, and simply let go of the string. But if smoking is deeply rooted in them, the string may be attached to them, and they may linger or turn back again and again.

Now Satan knows our weaknesses. When you feel God saying, "this isn't right, walk away" do we linger or turn our backs on God? In our smoker example, it isn't always that easy. Same goes for Lot's wife.

I believe part of Lent is saying to God, "I am not going to let anything in this world control me. God is #1 in my life." And then not only saying this, but living it wholeheartedly. No turning back for a glimpse of the old life.

It is definitely easier said than done. As we seek God in this Lenten journey, I hope that you will find the things in your life that are keeping you from God, and that you let go of those strings and find new life in Christ.

*Be blessed and continue to let the music play*

*Adam*



# Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269-8746

## Let's march into March!

Spring is almost here. I cannot wait. I love to see the colors of Spring and the warmth of the sun! We have a lot of events coming up this spring. But let's first reminisce about February...

We did a lot of things in February. We had a couple of Joint youth group meetings which are always fun and exciting. Pastor Kevin from Union Presbyterian and Pastor Michelle from East Avon Presbyterian Church always provide thoughtful conversation and faith building activities. We also got to experience the retro video games at Swillburger.

We 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.

Thank you to all who came out and supported our Souper Bowl Sub drive and the Souper Bowl of Caring. We raised a lot of money to go to our Mission Funds and our Food Cupboard.

The schedule for March is below! Take note that we are planning a Youth-led Good Friday Service on March 29<sup>th</sup>! Also our annual Chicken BBQ is on April 28<sup>th</sup>!

*Peace and love,*

*-Adam*

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

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

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

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

**March 24 – Palm Sunday Church and Potluck at Maher Lodge, Riga Town Park – 10:30-12:30pm.**

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

**March 31 – No Youth Group. Easter Sunday!**

**April 6 – Youth Event TBD.**

**April 28 – Chicken BBQ!**

### St. Pauly Box Schedule

Feb 26-Mar 10 – Brooke Wilson

March 11-24 – Adam Scoville

March 25-April 7 – Leahy's