



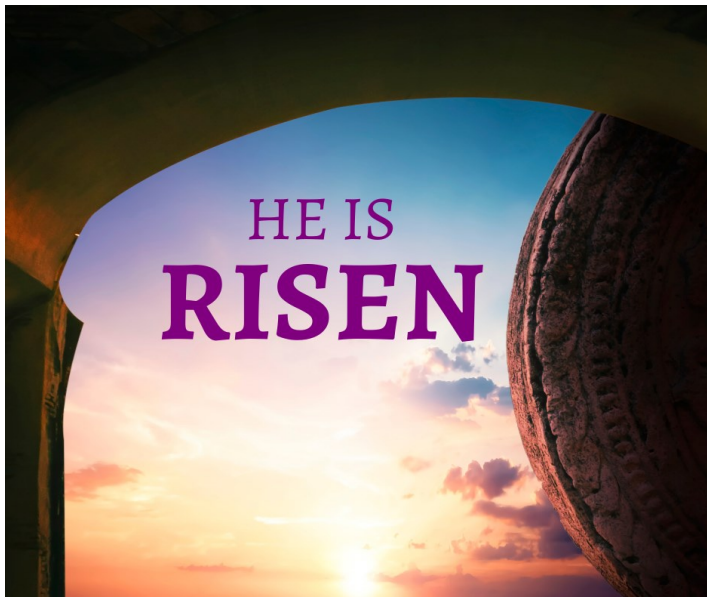
Roots & Wings

First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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



2024



In this issue....

- ⇒ Men's Saturday breakfast club
- ⇒ May 4 - Music Worship Night
- ⇒ June 1 - rummage sale
- ⇒ Pentecost begins May 19th
- ⇒ Litany for Israel

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

E-mail: fpc3600@gmail.com

Wooten's Wonderings



I have been slowly making my way through a new book entitled *A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity* by Debie Thomas. It is a beautifully written book about an ever-broadening faith. Debie Thomas is the daughter of immigrant parents from Kerala, South India. Although she grew up in Boston, she spent many summers in Kerala visiting her grandparents. In the very first paragraph, she explains the Malayalam word *nadhe* which is the foundational concept of her book. *Nadhe* means: "Birthplace. Mother country. Heart of Belonging. Home." But, she goes on to say that these attempts to translate it into English do not fully capture the love, loss and lament that are a part of an immigrant's experience of leaving their home and creating a new identity in a new country.

Throughout the book, she describes her search for a spiritual *nadhe* and what she learned of who God is in the process. In that search, she noticed that, more often than not, the language people who are struggling with their faith use is the language of narrowness, constriction, and confinement. She reminds us that scripture is full of metaphors about roominess, saying:

"If Jesus delights in preparing 'many rooms' for us, it means that the realm of God is by nature wide, abundant, and capacious. Where God dwells- and where we dwell with God- there is expansiveness. Where God reigns, there is generosity, variety, and plentitude. Space to wander. Space to explore. Space to find, lose, and find again. With their hidden corners, nooks, and crannies, each room beckons us with a warm and gentle hospitality... I wonder if God, feels caged in by our tiny, closet-sized faith lives. What if the religious worlds for which we were so carefully prepared limit God as much as they limit us? Maybe God is asking for room, too- room to exist in our lives in God's full, multifaceted complexity."

I am only a third of the way through the book, so I have a lot more to learn about her discovery of a roomy spiritual *nadhe*, but so far, I have found a lot that resonates with me. Over the course of my own spiritual journey, I have been blessed by opening my heart to listen to the stories of others whose experience differs from mine. And in that process, my faith has broadened and deepened. There are those who feel more comfortable in a faith that is simple- follow these rules, stay in this narrow lane, and God will bless you. Yet I, like Debie Thomas, find that God is, as she puts it, full of "multifaceted complexity." God's love is bigger and broader and wider than we can imagine. There is space for all of us.

In my life, I seek to practice the roominess of God's expansive love. One of the spiritual gifts of our congregation is hospitality. And in essence, that is what hospitality is about- opening the doors of not just our building, but our hearts. To say to all: "Welcome. There is space here for you." As we dive deeper into practicing radical hospitality, let us remember the roominess and expansiveness of our God. And may our church become a safe place for all who are seeking a spiritual *nadhe*.

Rev. Brandi Wooten



Welcome to the Season of Pentecost

“Living into the Creative Spirit”

The 2024 Pentecost Team, Andy Atwater, Sue Edwards, Sue Johnson, Fred Mollon, Jerry Huffman, and Co-Facilitators Nancy Huffman and Sandy McCauley met with Pastor Brandi in March to begin planning for Pentecost. To answer the question, “What is the Holy Spirit and how is it within in us”, we reviewed several scripture passages that speak to what the Holy Spirit is within us.

The Holy Spirit, through wind and fire, is energy.

The Holy Spirit is a guide and provides us wisdom and foresight.

The Holy Spirit puts breath and new life into us.

The Holy Spirit, through the dove, brings peace and comfort.

The Holy Spirit bears fruits of life within us—kindness, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness.

The Holy Spirit breathes creativity, companionship, energy, and empowerment and is always within us to be recognized and released.

As we discussed these several scripture passages, the power of the Holy Spirit through creation and creativity emerged as our theme --“Living into the Creative Spirit”.

Living into the Creative Spirit

May 19 - Pentecost Sunday.

The traditional liturgical color for Pentecost is red so you are invited to wear red on Pentecost Sunday. It represents the fiery tongues that descended upon the disciples when they received the Holy Spirit. It also represents the inward transformation by the Holy Spirit in each of our hearts.

Join the Pentecost Team for Coffee Hour following worship.

Outreach - Throughout the Pentecost Season we will be collecting money to donate to Habitat for Humanity.

June 9 (Sunday) - Church Picnic

We will meet for worship at 10 AM at Union Station Park Lodge (turn left off Union Street south of Byrne Dairy). The picnic will follow. Watch for more details and sign-up sheet.

June 29 (Saturday) Campfire

More information to follow

July 28 (Sunday) - Appetizer and Gasoline Alley Gathering at Huffman's

This will be an afternoon event. The Huffman's invite you to come and view their collection of antique cars and enjoy a ride in any one of their cars. We know that some in our church family have vintage cars and you are invited to drive your own vintage car to this event. More details to come!

August 17th (Saturday) - Red Wings Baseball Game and Fireworks

Plan to attend this early evening game and watch the Red Wings vs. Syracuse Mets. Carpools from the church will be set up so we will arrive in time to purchase food, find our seats, and get ready for some fun. Geoff Wasmer will again purchase tickets. More details to come!

Celebrating

each other.....

May

- 2 Kathy Honsberger
- 6 Pat Olson
- 12 Tom Leahy
- 18 Alex Mathewson
- 24 Leah Atwater
- 30 Scoville Anniversary
- 31 Fred Schulitz
- Wooten Anniversary



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.



The Church office will be closed
Tuesday, April 30
Wednesday, May 1
Thursday May 2

Volunteers for May

May 5

Greeters: Mick & Sandy McCauley
Communion: Barb Boerschlein (bread), Darla Diehl, Lori Oliver (juice)
Jr. Greeter: Patrick Engelbrecht
Childcare : Linda Enright & Kathy Mathewson
Children's Church: Alice Zah

May 12

Greeters: Goeff & Barb Wasmer
Jr. Greeter: Audrey Sosik
Childcare: Judie McGaffick & Beth Rowe
Children's Church: Alice Zah

May 19 – PENTECOST

Greeters: Dale & Brian Faatz
Jr. Greeter: Brooke Wilson
Childcare: Becky Sosik & Grace Engelbrecht
Children's Church: Alice Zah
Coffee Hour: Pentecost season team

May 26

Greeters: Mark Carden & Roger Willis
Jr. Greeter: Henry Gernhardt
Childcare: Lori Gittens & Marla Guarnieri



NEW Monthly Men's Breakfast
Our first gathering will be Saturday, May 11th at
The Original Steve's restaurant in
Paul Road Plaza at 7:30 am
If interested call Adam Scoville at 585-269-8746

Some great things happening at Chili Pres.....



Worship Night!

"How I Worship"
A worship testimony
presented by Adam Scoville

Chili Presbyterian Church
3600 Chili Ave. Rochester, NY

Saturday, May 4th, 6:30 pm

The event is free with refreshments afterwards.
A love offering will be taken to support refugees through World Relief.

Chili Pres Rummage Sale!

Saturday, June 1st, 9am-3pm and Sunday after church!



3600 Chili Ave., Rochester, NY 14624

Find a treasure and support our community!

All proceeds to support Habitat for Humanity in Rochester.

As someone with very close ties to Palestine, (the West Bank and Gaza,) every day the news is more and more heartbreaking. There are days when all I can do is to get on my knees and weep before God, trusting his Spirit to intercede. I would ask you to read the following prayer and join in the chorus of God's people who care for the soul of all humanity. Lord in your mercy. ~ Fred Mollon

PRAYER FOR ISRAEL, GAZA, AND PALESTINE

L: Lord, You said, "Peace, be still," and the storm was stilled. We confess that at times we feel overwhelmed by the storm. But today, we lift our eyes to you, the Maker of Heaven and earth, and we ask for a miracle – let your peace fill Gaza and Israel.

P: We lift our prayer to you, O Lord; hear us.

L: God, let violence cease in this region. Let there be no more bloodshed. We know your heart breaks for those killed, and for those left behind – orphaned children, the injured, the elderly, those abducted, and families desperate for safety. Lord, speak into this crisis.

P: We lift our prayer to you, O Lord; hear us.

L: We pray for those who have lost family members and friends. Let your peace and love wash over them and may they feel the comfort of Your embrace. Protect those who have been abducted. Let them be reunited with their loved ones.

P: We lift our prayer to you, O Lord; hear us.

L: O God, we pray that doors will open that allow food, medical supplies, and essentials for all those who are displaced and facing famine, and cold weather. May first responders be able to safely rescue the injured and comfort the bereaved.

P: We lift our prayer to you, O Lord; hear us.

L: O God, we pray for your peace and reconciliation to overcome conflict. Give courage to our world leaders, and those in positions of power, who can stop the course of this conflict. Help us to be bold advocates of peace in our own communities.

P: We lift our prayer to you, O Lord; hear us.

L: We pray for the people scattered around the globe, whose families and friends are caught in this crisis. Help us to express our love and comfort to those in our communities, churches, and places of work who are affected and to be agents of your Gospel and of peace.

P: We lift our prayer to you, O Lord; hear us.

L: Lord, we lift Palestine and Israel to you, and ask that your Spirit once again blow through this land and give comfort and protection for all those impacted by this crisis.

P: We lift our prayer to you, O Lord; hear us.

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	

The Easter Team's Mission Outreach is World Relief. Be sure to Worship with us on Sunday, May 5 when our guest speaker will be Rev. Hertitag Munuakuri from World Relief. A donations can be placed in the jar in the sanctuary or a check can be mailed to church with "World Relief" written on the memo line



Hard copies of the April 2024 Church Directory are available in the fellowship hall.

Rummage Sale Donations and Volunteers!

Looking for donations for our Rummage Sale!
Items must be clean and decent quality.
Please price items at a reasonable price.
No clothing items please!

Items can be brought and placed downstairs in the youth room starting May 19th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Setup: May 28-30th, 9am-3pm

Sale Day: June 1st - 9am-3pm, June 2nd - After church until 1pm.

Cleanup: June 2nd - 1-2pm.

Contact Roger Willis @ 293-3561 / rwillis004@rochester.rr.com
if interested in volunteering for any of these times.



Leadership News

Scheduled meeting on April 1, 2024, Session...

...Opened with a devotional and word of prayer led by Pastor Brandi

...Upon motion and second, voted to approve the Agenda, with one item added

...Upon motion and second, voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

...Heard a quarterly review of finances from the Board of Trustees, by Andy Atwater, Chair, which showed the congregation to be in good financial standing.

...Upon motion and second, voted to receive the Quarterly Financial Review from the Board of Trustees.

...Andy also reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Upon motion and second, Session voted to receive the Treasurer's report.

...Heard a report from Susan Johnson about the grant proposal she would be submitting to PGV, for funds to provide needed equipment. She reported that they had found a ministry partner with RetireesROC who had written a letter of support to go with the application. Upon motion and second, Session voted to approve the submission of the grant proposal titled "Caring for Our Community by Providing Emergency Food, Hope, and a Bridge to Self Sufficiency" and for the Clerk to write a letter of endorsement to go with the grant application.

...Heard a report from Pastor Brandi in which she noted 16 pastoral contacts. Pastor Brandi also made note that she had been in contact with 7 people who desire to become members of FPC. Plans were in place for them to meet with both Pastor Brandi, for "membership information, and with Session, who will then vote on approval.

...Heard a report from the Clerk in which several pieces of correspondence were received. Fred also stated that he had been approached a member of PGV – Committee on Ministry, and had accepted to be nominated to this committee. His place on COM will be voted on at their April meeting; his term to begin at the regular meeting of COM in May.

...Agreed to give special recognition to Mira Wooten and Henry Gernhardt for their leadership in the Good Friday worship service.

...Voted to receive Darla Diehl's report of the Annual Financial Review – 2023.

...Upon motion and second, voted to adjourn with a shared benediction led by Pastor Brandi

In Christ,

Fred Mollon, Clerk of Session



“Why Do You Believe?”

It is a question that we seldom ask, but I know the non Christians inquire even though they may not always ask it. It is a question that can bring understanding to our existence. It is a question that can bring us closer, or distance us in the dark times. The question is “Why do You Believe in God?”

There are times I have desired to hear that answer from so many people in our congregation. This question gets asked to our youth in various ways during confirmation classes, but rarely do we ask it to our adults to share. The answer can be someone’s life story, maybe a survival story, and can even be enlightening and bring hope. You start to see a glimpse of who someone really is for those who are brave enough to share. And it can even be impactful to people around you in ways you never know.

So here is my answer to the question.....

“Adam, Why do You believe in Christ, the church, and being a Christian?”

God has always been present in my life. Even since I was young, I knew that God was real, and being a Christian was something I felt called to be. All the accomplishments I have achieved have not been by chance. God is real and I have found purpose and belonging through my faith.

And my life has not always been easy. I have lived through extreme loss. I have experienced heartache and tragedy. I have had angry moments with God. I have been far from perfect. Yet I feel that God has always been patient with me, and in the hardest moments, I have still felt God near me and directing my path. God met me in the dark moments of my life and walked beside me when life seemed meaningless.

It is God who paved the way for me to be immersed in ministry here at Chili Pres. It is God who has given me an amazing wife and two amazing children. God has been a constant in my life, and has blessed me in so many ways that it is my desire to believe and serve the Lord. I want others to know that no matter what you may be going through, God is present, ready and waiting to supply whatever you need. I am proof that you can endure anything life has to throw at you with God by your side.

So I challenge you to ask and answer the tough questions of yourself and how God is present with you. The ups and downs of life are like changing seasons, and they will always come and go, but there God’s presence is always there. I pray you may find that understanding in your life.

I am going to be doing a worship night on May 4th at 6:30pm, where I will be sharing my story through worship. It is very personal, and I am thankful for the opportunity to share in hopes that God will open the hearts of those attending to the hope that we have as Christians. I would be honored to have you there or watch on livestream.

Be blessed and continue to let the music play

Adam



Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269-8746

Where is Peppa Pig?!

A question I have been asked about many times in the last month... But in other news...

Our youth have been BUSY! We had a fantastic youth led Good Friday service with our Joint Youth Group. It was very powerful and well attended! Very proud of our group for leading this service. Another highlight this month was our Mini Golf outing. It was chilly, which made it the fastest mini golf game I have ever played! It took 6 people about 10 minutes to play 18 holes. We still had fun and topped it off with a trip to Insomnia Cookies, a must try dessert place.

Our youth 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 and in this newsletter. Thank you for all of your continued support.

Our annual Chicken BBQ is THIS SUNDAY! Please come out and help us make this a success!

Getting toward the end of our youth group year. Summer is soon approaching! Check out the events below!

Peace and love, Adam

April 28 – Chicken BBQ! 8:30am-3pm.

May 5 - Joint Youth Group! – Leaving from church @ 11:30am-2:00pm.

Saturday May 11 – Youth Event TBD.

May 12 – No Youth Group. Mother's Day!

Saturday, May 18 – Serving at church for the Chili Food Cupboard. 9:30-11:30am.

May 19 - Joint Youth Group! – Leaving from church @ 11:30am-2:00pm.

May 26 – No Youth Group. Memorial Day Weekend!

St. Pauly Box Schedule

May 6-19 – Mira Wooten

May 20-June 2 - Henry Gernhardt