



Roots & Wings



First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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

Epiphany



2025

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

Staff: Pastor: Rev. Brandi C. Wooten

Director of Families and Youth and Minister of Music: Adam Scoville

Office Administrator: Sandra McCauley

Custodian: Marla Guarneri

Accompanist: Ruth Heitz

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, and much more.

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

E-mail: fpc3600@gmail.com

Wooten's Wonderings



Merry Christmas! When this newsletter goes out, we will be in the middle of the twelve days of the Christmas season and on the cusp of a new year.

There are several traditions people have around when to take down Christmas decorations. In my family growing up, we always took our decorations down on New Year's Eve so that we could have a fresh start in the new year. As Dan and I created our own family, we have come to prefer keeping Christmas decorations up until Epiphany. I love Christmas and the decorations that come with it, and want as much time to enjoy the season as I can get.

Throughout this Advent and Christmas seasons, we have been drawing near to the God who drew near to us through Jesus' birth. As the beginning of January moves us from a celebration of Christmas into the season of Epiphany, we are bringing our theme "Draw Near" into Epiphany. In this poem by Sarah Speed, she reminds us that the things we have learned about God during Christmas, do not have to be packed away. In fact, we can take Christmas into every day because even though we especially celebrate, Emmanuel, God with us, during this time of year, the truth is God draws near to us all year long. We are invited each and every day, to draw near to God and receive the grace, forgiveness, hope, inspiration, comfort and love our Lord offers. So, as we begin a new year, let us commit ourselves to drawing near to our Source of Love every day.

Draw Near to Love

created by: Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org

I know love's real,
for I have felt it in my bones
the way cold air finds my lungs
and music finds my memories –
certainly and entirely.
And I know winter is real,
for I have worn grief like a blanket –
A blanket of what once was,
covering my bony elbows
and forgotten smile lines.
Somewhere in between
those certain realities,
I find myself wishing on shooting stars
and wondering if they were the same ones
that Jesus slept under.
I find myself whistling,
"O come, O come, Emmanuel,"
followed shortly by, "All is calm, all is bright."
It's the melodic rotation I live in –
Joy and doubt.
Your love.
And So I say –
I know love's real,

Light and night.
Love and grief.
You alone and you with me.
So I'll never stop waiting for Christmas.
Every day I'll rise with the sun
and pray that today it will be Christmas again,
that today will be a day when you are here,
when you are near me,
when the blanket is ripped away to reveal the light
and my smile lines have reason to bow again.
Then the stars fall,
the sun rises,
and in my heart of hearts,
I know it is.
For ever since that day
so many moons ago,
nothing has been able to separate us from
For I have felt it in my bones,
All is calm. All is bright.

Pastor Brandi Wooten



DATE: January 25, 2025
WHERE: Mercy Spirituality Center
65 Highland Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620
TIME: 9 AM – 4 PM

On January 25, the ACE team will offer a day's retreat, "It is Well with My Soul." It will be held at the Mercy Spirituality Center on Highland Avenue. Please join us as we explore God's unending love and travel life's road with its ups and downs. It will be a day filled with love, laughter, and an opportunity to get to know each other better.

The facility is warm and inviting.

The day will begin at 9 AM with coffee and sweet goodies. Lunch will be provided, and we will close our time together at 4 PM.

We're looking forward to seeing you there.

Jan Hoyt and Fred Mollon



SAVE THE DATE !!!!!
Our annual
Winter Cabin Party
Worship and Potluck
Sunday, March 2nd

Look for more details in the February newsletter

Your ACE Team

Jan & Bill Hoyt
Beth & John Rowe
Geoff & Barb Wasmer, facilitator

In order to help keep our budgetary expense on track we ask that when you are using our facility you make sure all doors are locked and all lights are off before leaving the building.

Thank you for your attention to this.

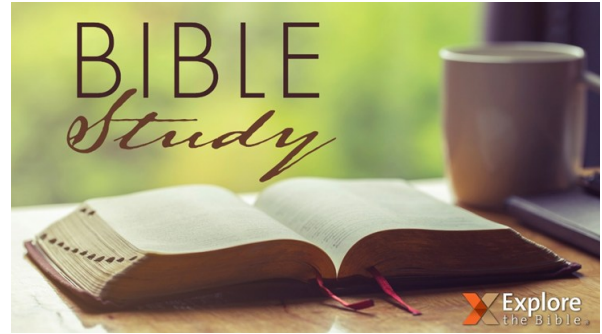
Your Board of Trustees



*"When life
gives you
snow,
make snow
angels."*



Reports for 2024 that are placed in the Annual meeting booklet will be due in the church office by Tuesday, January 14. The booklet is distributed the week before the Corporation and Congregational meetings, which will take place on Sunday, January 26, 2025. If you have any questions, please call the office.



Have you ever wondered what certain Bible stories mean? Have you read the New Testament and questioned what Jesus means when he says that he is the promised Messiah? Promised by Who? Where does it say this in the Old Testament? Have you read the Bible and feel that it seems far away and can't quite see how it relates to your life? These are the kinds of questions we try to answer each Sunday, in our adult Bible study.

**Annual meeting for the Congregation and the Corporation of
The First Presbyterian Church of Chili
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 @ 11:45 AM**

On Sunday, January 26, 2025, following the 10 AM worship service, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be conducted to elect officers, hear reports, and transact other business as appropriate. Also, the meeting of the Corporation will take place to elect trustees: Marla Guarnieri and Roger Willis, completing their 2nd 3-year terms, and Jay Matthewson, completing his 1st 3-year term. Financial reports will be received for 2024, and other business will be transacted as appropriate for the Corporation.

The meetings will take place in the Sanctuary.

The Annual Meetings are an important event in the life of our First Presbyterian Church of Chili family. It is the time of year we come together as a congregation and Corporation. The reports of committees, boards, and seasonal teams are distributed before the meeting. These reports summarize each group's activities for 2024, as well as plans for the future. As a congregation, we elect people to serve on various boards and committees, as well as recognize and give thanks to those who have completed terms. We also approve Pastor Brandi's Terms of Call. All financial reports, such as the Housing Investment Fund, Endowment Fund, Memorial Fund, Mission Fund, and others, are made available for review.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Those who are on the "Active Membership Roll" are eligible to vote, and we need a quorum of 9 "active" members. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, January 26, 2025.

Fred Mollon

Clerk of Session

Personal Care Items needed....

Our Youth Group is 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
- Tooth paste
- Shampoo
- Hair conditioner
- Men and women's deodorant
- Bar soap
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels



Ordination/ Installation of Officers

Deacons, Elders and Trustees elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will attend a special welcome and orientation breakfast hosted by Session on Sunday, February 2. Currently serving and "retiring" Board members will also be at the breakfast to assist with orientation. Following breakfast, during worship, there will be a formal service of Ordination and Installation for Elders and Deacons and recognition of newly elected Trustees.



Saturday, January 4

9:00 am

All welcome

Sign-up sheet is in the
fellowship room

Little Free Library

Thanks so much for your support of our Little Free Library!

You're welcome to keep taking our books and replacing them with one of your own if you'd like (Give One – Get One).

We don't have the space to keep large quantities of books. We know the Chili Public Library would welcome them, as they have frequent sales throughout the year.

Happy Reading !!



Celebrating

each other.....

January Birthdays

- 2 Jeff Snover
- 7 Alice Hassett
- 8 Fred Zah
- 17 Debbie Lamphron
- 17 Portia Westfall
- 20 Linda Enright
- 21 Whitney Scoville
- 28 John Sosik
- 29 Stephanie McArthur



Coffee Fellowship

Board of Deacon's are looking for folks to volunteer to host the after Worship Fellowship time.

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

Volunteers for January 2025

January 5

Greeters: Sue Edwards & Linda Enright
Communion: Sue Edwards, Brenda Naugle (bread),
Becky Sosik (juice)
Jr. Greeter: Brooke Engelbrecht
Childcare: Sue Atwater & Debbie Lamphron
Children's Church: Beth Rowe & Barb Wasmer
Coffee Hour:

January 12

Greeters: Han & Bill Hoyt
Jr. Greeter: Henry Gernhardt
Childcare: Marla Guarnieri Lori Oliver
Children's Church: Beth Rowe & Barb Wasmer
Coffee Hour:

January 19

Greeters: Kathy & Jay Mathewson
Jr. Greeter: Patrick Engelbrecht
Childcare: Grace Engelbrecht & Judie McGaffick
Children's Church: Beth Rowe & Barb Wasmer
Coffee Hour:

January 26

Greeters: Sharon Breeze & Geoff Wasmer
Jr. Greeter: Audrey Sosik
Childcare: Sue Edwards & Mira Wooten
Children's Church: Beth Rowe & Barb Wasmer

Annual Per Capita

Apportionment for 2025

Presbytery	\$2,383.49
Synod	\$ 378.25
General Assembly	\$ 964.76

This is based on our active membership. We would appreciate your support of this budgetary cost by covering the **\$38.50** per active member in your family.

Leadership News

SESSION SUMMARY

At its last regularly scheduled meeting Session...

...Opened with prayer and lectio divina reading of Romans 15:7-13, led by Pastor Brandi.

...Voted to approve the Agenda.

...Voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

...Voted to receive the Treasurer's Report.

...Pastor Brandi reported 24 pastoral calls/visits. She also attended a memorial service, not as the officiant, but simply to give a pastoral presence to Pat, and she did offer a prayer.

...She reported that following a disbursement from the Angel Fund, a donation had been received to replenish that fund.

...Pastor Brandi again noted that she will be on vacation from December 26, 2024 through January 2, 2025.

...The Clerk of Session reported that several emails had been received from PGV and had been forwarded to Session, as appropriate. One of the emails was a reminder of grant money available to aid small congregations in updating worship times. Geoff Wasmer is handling this.

...The Clerk noted that our annual review of the minutes was completed with no exceptions.

...Elder Tim Engelbrecht noted some possible minor damage at the Labyrinth Trail and would check on it and take care of it. He is also hoping to get the stone base work on the benches done before winter sets in.

...The Stewardship Committee will be issuing a final report once all pledges have been received.

...Voted to approve the new Food Cupboard Policy

...Voted to approve a donation of \$1000 to the Presbytery Mission Fund.

...adjourned at 8 PM, with a shared benediction based upon the Great Commission.

In Christ's service

Fred Mollon

Clerk of Session

The Church Office
will be closed on
Wednesday, January 1

Annual reports are due
January 14
February newsletter deadline
is
January 21

Thoughts from the Minister of Music



Happy New Year my dear friends of Chili Presbyterian! I hope you have had a wonderful holiday season, and are ready for the new year!

I have decided to start off the year by sharing a couple of my favorite verses and why they are special to me.

The first verse is from Acts 20:24. "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace."

I guess I would consider this to be my “life verse.” I first remember hearing this verse at the summer camp I worked at many years ago. I find Paul’s words so fascinating due to how much evangelizing he did, and how much persecution he had to endure. As he is sharing these words, he is aware that people are after him and knows he will be arrested and thrown into prison soon!

To me, it shows how life is a continuous journey, and that we always have a purpose in sharing the love of God in all we do. Easier said than done at times, but it reminds me to be an example to those around me of a faithful Christian no matter where I am. This verses also speaks to me when I am struggling to find purpose and direction in my life. Our lives on earth are a gift given by God, and our purpose here should always be to put God first in our lives, and to help others find God in their journeys.

The second verse is appropriate for the New Year and comes from Proverbs

Proverbs 16:3. “Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”

This verse was first introduced to me when I was making the important decision of going back to college. Whitney snuck it into a notebook of mine when I had taken the plunge to finish my college degree. I had doubts about going back, and nervous that I would fail. But this verse stayed with me through some tough college years and helped me go beyond what I thought I was capable of. At the time, I merely hoped to complete my Bachelor’s degree, never thinking I could go on to finish a Master’s degree as well.

So as we head into the 2025, I pray that you would commit your lives to the Lord through all you do, and find your purpose through our God. The Lord has great things for you to learn this year. May you be receptive to God’s call in your life and have a prosperous year filled with the continuous love of Christ in your heart.

Be blessed and continue to let the music play. -Adam



Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269-8746

It's a brand new year! Woo hoo! Hope that 2025 is an amazing year filled with fun and spiritual growth in our youth!

We ended 2024 with a bang! We did a few fun events, including our annual Christmas Party, where all the crazy and fun gift exchanges happened! Always a fun time. We tried to end the holiday season with some caroling in the village of Scottsville, but the 9 degree temperature did not allow us to do it! So instead, we had a singalong and I even broke out in my unique version of Rudolph. Epic fun for sure.

We continue to help with the Food Cupboard distribution day where we continue to provide our food cupboard clients with Hygiene items and we need some donations! A list of items is available at the entryway of the church. We appreciate all the support!

There are a bunch of fun events below! Looking forward to it!

- Adam

Upcoming Schedule!

Sunday, January 5 – Youth Group 11am-1pm.

Sunday, January 12 – Joint Youth Group @ Union Pres in Scottsville, 11:30am-2pm.

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

Sunday/Monday January 19, 20 – Youth Group LOCKIN @ E. Avon! 7pm Start, Return Mon. @ 10am.

Sunday, January 26 – Joint Youth Group @ Union Pres in Scottsville, 11:30am-2pm.

Saturday February 1 – Lasertron event! TBD!

Sunday, February 2 – Youth Group 11am-1pm.

Saturday, February 9 – SUPER BOWL SUBS! 9am start!

PAULY BOX

December 30-January 12 – Adam Scoville

January 13-26 – Leahy's

January 27-February 9 – Mira Wooten