



Roots & Wings



First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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

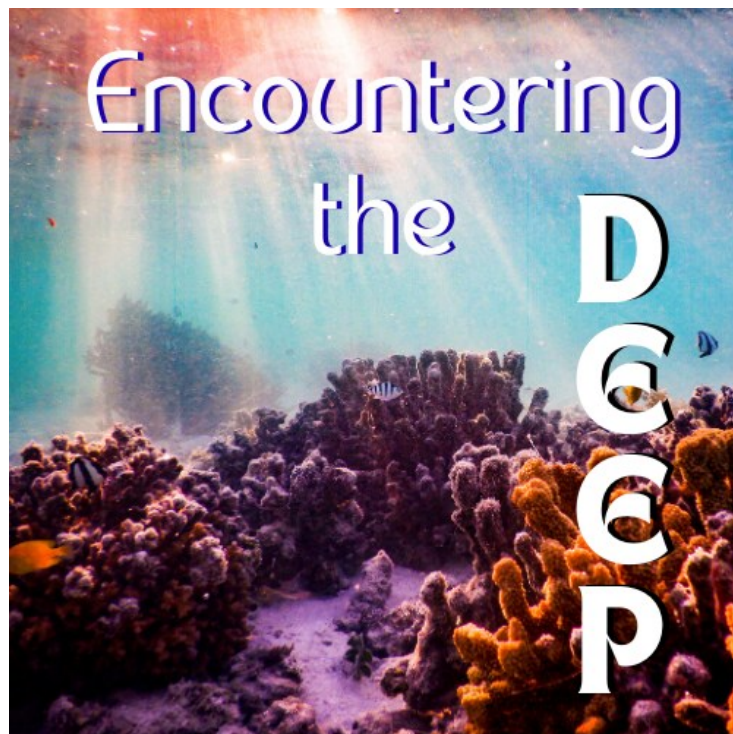
SEPTEMBER

2025

In this issue of Roots and Wings....

- Harvest season events
- Coffee hour beings
- Children's Church starts again
- Position open on the finance team
- Bible Study begins on September 14
- Peace & Global Witness offering
- Food Cupboard fund raisers

And much more



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 Guarneri, Accompanist: Ruth Heitz, Facebook Livestream Technician: Ishai Nardia

2025 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



The roughly six months between the Day of Pentecost and the beginning of Advent is traditionally known as Ordinary time. This is a time when we, as followers of Jesus, are especially called to a clearer understanding of what it means to be a disciple.

As we journey into September, our hearts are drawn to this month's theme: "Encountering the Deep." This theme invites us to move beyond the surface of our faith and to courageously follow God's call into deeper waters – places of trust, surrender, and profound relationship.

In Luke 5:4-7, after a long night of fruitless labor, Simon Peter and his fellow fishermen were weary and ready to give up. Yet Jesus, stepping into their everyday routine, asked them to do something unexpected: "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Though logic and experience told them otherwise, Simon responds, "Because you say so, I will let down the nets." The result was an overwhelming catch – so abundant that their nets began to break.

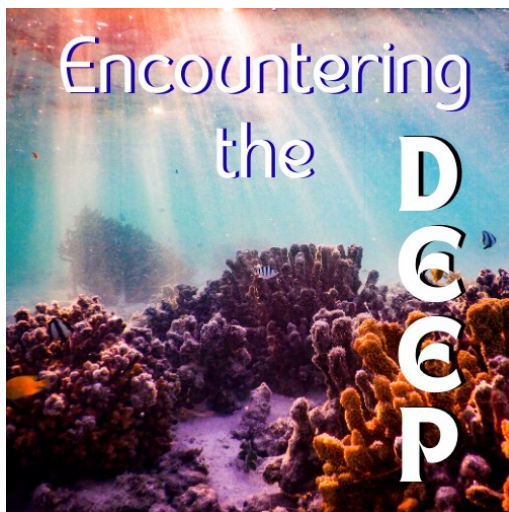
This passage beautifully illustrates God's invitation to each of us. Often, we find ourselves content to remain in the shallow end – where it feels safe, familiar, and manageable. Yet Jesus calls us into the deep, where faith is required and the outcome is out of our hands. The deep may seem daunting, marked by uncertainty and risk. But it is precisely there – beyond our comfort zones – that we encounter God in new, life-changing ways.

To "encounter the deep" means to listen for God's voice, even when it challenges our assumptions or disrupts our routines. It means saying, like Simon, "Because you say so, Lord," and daring to trust God's promises over our own understanding. In the deep waters of faith, we discover abundance – of grace, purpose, and connection – that we could never have imagined from the shore.

This month, may we each accept God's invitation to wade deeper, to trust a little further, and to experience the fullness of what God has prepared. Let us not be content with surface-level faith, but instead, let us venture out – knowing that Jesus meets us there and fills our nets beyond measure.

May your September be marked by courage, trust, and awe as you encounter the deep with God.

Rev. Brandi Wooten



Harvest season theme this year is "Encountering the Deep." The Harvest Team invites you to spend the season engaging in worship, activities, and conversation around discipleship and the unique ways you can go deeper in being a disciple of Jesus.

Mission Outreach

We will be supporting the Peace & Global Witness Offering this Harvest season. Envelopes can be found in the pew rack. We also are encouraging donations to the church repaving project.

Fellowship Activities

Kick-Off Bonfire at the Labyrinth

Saturday, September 13th starting at 6:30pm

Enjoy each other's company, a walk, and bonfire and s'mores at the church labyrinth on Chili Ave.

Harvest and Halloween Game Day

Sunday, October 19th after church

Following a lunch provided by the Harvest team, enjoy some friendly competition with a themed game day lead by Geoff Wasmer. (The Bills are off this week!)

Trunk Or Treat

Saturday, October 25th, 10:00am-12:00pm

This is the 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat that will be tons of fun for families! Adam will be providing details and looking for volunteers for folks who want to decorate trunks for the event.

Your Harvest Team,

Grace Engelbrecht (facilitator), Tim Engelbrecht, Marla Guarnieri, Roger Willis

""ReShaped: What We Were Made For""

Thoughts from the Pentecost Season Team, Andy Atwater, Sue Edwards, Fred Mollon, Jerry Huffman, Christina Van Epps and Co-Facilitators Sandy McCauley and Nancy Huffman

We began the season of Pentecost in June with the Church Picnic. We gathered in an outdoor pavilion, and we were blessed with a perfect summer day. Pastor Brandi's worship service involved all of us as we explored the meaning of "ReShaped". Our worship throughout the season focused on change, a constant part of life since Biblical times, and how God works within us to find renewed purpose through change and "ReShaping".

Seventeen of us attended the Red Wings game in July. It was an exciting winning finish for the Wings and of course, the fireworks were spectacular. Many thanks to Geoff Wasmer who once again organized reserved seats and ticket sales.



28 of us came to "Munchies and Motor Cars" to enjoy antique car rides and a delicious array of appetizers, fruits, and special cakes.

Three of our church family drove their own vintage cars and shared their interesting car's story. Bill Horne's stunning 1948 Ford pick-up is for sale in case anyone is interested!!

Thanks to all who contributed to "Pave the Way" our Season's Outreach Project. So far, \$11,000 has been donated to support the Trustees' drive to raise \$55,000 to cover the cost of our church's new driveway and re-marking. The yellow dump truck with the donation box will remain in the sanctuary through the end of December 2025. Donation envelopes can be found in the pews. Many from the community come through our church driveway (Roast Beef Dinner, Food Cupboard activities, group meetings, Chicken BBQ, and other activities. Feel free to share donation envelopes with your friends and families in the community.



Saturday, October 25

10: am to 12 noon

Church Parking Lot

Last 2 years events were so successful....we are doing it again !!!

Consider dressing up your car (and maybe even yourself) and hand out candy to our community children



Board of Deacon's will be resuming Fellowship Hour after Worship in the lower hall starting September 7. They are looking for folks to volunteer to host this 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.

**The October newsletter
deadline is September 16**

Celebrating

each other.....

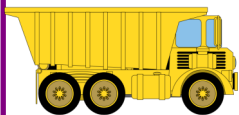
September

2 Mira Wooten
7 Sue Atwater
9 Ethan Scoville
15 Brian Gernhardt
15 Bill Horne



Children's Church will kick off on Sunday, September 7. This program is open to all children 4 years old and up. As is the policy, we try to have two adults present, and we are reaching out to the congregation for volunteers.

It would help with consistency, if the main teacher could commit to teaching our young disciples for at least a month. All the lessons and materials are already ordered and in the closet for the fall season. The lessons also include an activity sheet. A second adult helper is also needed each week.



Donation envelopes and the yellow truck will remain in the sanctuary through December for your contributions to cover the cost of the parking lot paving

Volunteers for September 2025

September 7

Greeters: Dale & Brian Faatz
Communion: Mark Carden (juice), Nancy Huffman (bread), Fred Mollon
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville
Childcare: Elena McArthur & Brenda Naugle

September 14

Greeters: Andy & Sue Atwater
Jr. Greeter: Patrick Engelbrecht
Childcare: Lori Gittens & Mira Wooten
Children's Church
Coffee Hour:

September 21

Greeters: Jean Bartholomew & Dan Wooten
Jr. Greeter: Betsy Nganyu
Childcare: Gail McArthur & Barb Wasmer
Children's Church
Coffee Hour:

September 28

Greeters: Becky & Brian Gernhardt
Jr. Greeter: Audrey Sosik
Childcare: Katie Engelbrecht & Mira Wooten
Children's Church
Coffee Hour:

"A new Sunday school teacher wanted to find out how much her second-grade students knew about God. "Can anyone tell me something about God?" she asked.

He's all-wise and all-knowing, so He's really smart," one student said.

"He can see the future," another said.

Then little Johnny said, "I know something no one else knows."

"Really? Please tell us," the teacher said.

"God is left-handed," Johnny said.

"Really? How do you know that?" the teacher asked.

"Easy... 'cause Jesus sits on God's right hand!"

Johnny replied.



Financial data entry position open.

We would like to thank Darla Diehl for the long-time service that she has provided entering the church's financial information into a financial software program. She is stepping down from this service, therefore we are looking for a replacement. The position consists of receiving the income information from Barb Wasmer, the church's Financial Chair and the outgoing monies information from Sandy McCauley, the Treasurer, each month providing a report for Session and Trustees to review at their monthly meetings.

If you are interested, please contact any of the following individuals:

Andy Atwater Chair Board of Trustees,

Barb Wasmer Financial Chair

Sandy McCauley Treasurer

*Psalm 119:11
Thy word have I hid
in mine heart,
that I might not sin
against thee.*



BIBLE STUDY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025, 9:00 AM

The Adult Bible Study will resume on
Sunday, September 14.

We'd love to have you join us for
45 minutes before Church to take
A deeper dive into the Scriptures.



This year's theme for the annual
Presbyterian Peace & Global Witness
Offering is "Pursue What Makes For Peace"

"Let us be peacemakers. Let us be called the children of God, speaking boldly with moral conviction to the nation and to the world, building, with God's grace, a new moral order in the world community; and acting now for world peace, an enterprise of justice an outcome of love."

25% of the offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community

25% of this offering goes our local presbytery to join with other congregations to support peacemaking in our region

50% of this offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Food Cupboard News



Please consider signing up for the East Avenue Grocery Run which will be held Saturday, November 1st under the Chili Presbyterian Church Food Cupboard. You can always do it virtually! The proceeds come back to our Chili Presbyterian Food Cupboard. If you don't want to do the run, you can always consider donating through this website. Thank you for your consideration!

Click here to register: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Rochester/EastAvenueGroceryRun>

Food Cupboard Basket Raffle

It's not too early to start thinking of making a basket for the Food Cupboard Basket Raffle! You can get cheap items at a garage sale or online and put together a beautiful basket for the upcoming Chili Arts & Craft Sale which will be December 5 & 6. We will have a basket craft night in October to put our baskets together. So gather your items!

Exciting news is coming to Greece Ridge Mall and you can be a part of this history!

You can have an opportunity to attend the GRAND OPENING of Boscov Department Store (the only Boscov Store in Rochester) on Thursday, October 30 from 10am-10pm.

Make a \$5 (or more!) donation to the Chili Presbyterian Food Cupboard, and we'll send you an exclusive ticket to the opening day celebration! Be one of the first to shop this exciting new store. There will be refreshments, entertainment, a free gift, amazing register-to-win prizes, and - best of all - first pick at all of the grand opening specials.

I had the pleasure of meeting Jim Boscov, CEO of Boscov's Department Stores, who was in town to share information about the new Boscov's opening at Greece Ridge Mall (where the old Burlington used to be) in October 2025!

Jim hosted a special luncheon for local nonprofits, and I was honored to be there representing Chili Presbyterian Food Cupboard. I could tell Jim was a special kind of leader; genuine, mission-driven, and deeply invested in the community.

He took the time to personally connect with each organization and reminded us how important our work is. That kind of intentional leadership truly makes Boscov's stand out.

Message me if you're interested in a ticket or want to support a great cause while being part of something brand new coming to our community. Thank you....*Debbie Lamphron*

Check out their website: www.boscovs.com

Leadership News

Summary of the August 4, 2025 Session Meeting

At its last regularly scheduled meeting, Session...

...Opened with prayer led by Pastor Brandi.

...Voted to approve the Agenda with the addition of the Presbytery Meeting Report.

...Voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

...Pastor Brandi reported 32 pastoral care contacts.

...Discussed that following the Leadership Groups two-part retreat and discernment process, there is agreement to keep our current mission statement.

...Voted to approve \$350 in spending for professional expenses for Pastor Brandi to attend a nine week course on Digital Ministry.

...Confirmed that the joint meeting of the Session and Deacons is Monday, October 6th.

...Elder Engelbrecht reviewed the annual action items that are completed for August and upcoming in September.

...Recognized Kathy and Wayne Hornsberger for all they've done to beautify the church, especially cleaning and painting the entire basement. The Session also recognizes the Personnel Committee for their time and work completing staff reviews.

...Voted to receive the 2025 Staff Reviews Report from the Personnel Committee.

...Voted to approve the payment of 33% of Adam's salary for his paternity leave to be used from January-March, 2026. The rest is covered by insurance.

...Met with the Chair of Trustees, Andy Atwater, for the quarterly financial review.

...Discussed options for replacing Darla Diehl as the Finance Data Inputter, who is stepping down as of December 31st.

...Heard a report from Pastor Brandi and Elder Wasmer about the July Presbytery meeting.

...Adjourned at 8:53 PM, with a shared benediction based upon the Great Commission.

Respectfully submitted

Grace Engelbrecht, Clerk



Announcements:

Choir Rehearsal – because of our upcoming baby delivery, we will begin choir a little later than normal this year, starting on Wednesday, October 8th at 7:00pm. Please come out and sing with us – we would love to have anyone and everyone! We can really use more male voices!

Bell Choir because of our upcoming baby delivery, we will begin bell choir rehearsals on October 8th at 6:00pm. If you are interested in playing Bells this year, please let me know!

Calling all singers and instrumentals! I would love to put together some duets, trios, etc. of any mix of voices and instruments this year. If you are interested, please see me!

Waiting!

The Scoville's are expecting another little bundle of joy! Our baby girl is due in mid-September, and we have been in full nesting mode at our house. From cleaning and organizing to throwing out all the extra junk we don't need, we are getting ready to be a family of five!

We are also waiting in anticipation. McKenlee and Ethan ask many questions each day about the whole process. They have picked names fun they want to name the baby (Kid, Fireball, etc). They have said a couple times, "Why does it take so long?!" They are excited to be big sister and brother.

We are in waiting mode. When I am waiting for something, I sometimes reflect on the Psalms to give me patience.

Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord."

Psalm 33:20 "Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield."

Psalm 37:7 "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes."

Psalm 37:34 "Wait for the Lord and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it."

Psalm 40:1 "For the choir director. A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry."

Psalm 130:5, 6 "I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord, More than the watchmen for the morning; Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning."

This is just a few of many verses about waiting in Psalms. I am not the best at waiting, but we all experience times when we are in waiting. David seemed to have a real handle on waiting and giving things up to God, as we see in his writings of the Psalms. May we find peace in these scriptures knowing that God is in control, and as we wait we can lift praise to the heavens for what God's plan is for the future.

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



Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269-8746

HERE WE GO!

It is time! Youth Group starts up again this fall! We will continue to work with other youth groups in our area to create some awesome programming! We will also be doing confirmation classes this year as well for our youth. We will also be providing monthly support during the Food Cupboard Distribution days. And we definitely won't forget to do some awesome fun events as well!

Having said all that, things will look a little different this year. We are expecting our third child in September! So, I will need to take some time to be with the family as we adjust to becoming a family of five. So, we will have some meetings listed below, and things will ramp up as we get into October.

So, if you have a youth 5th grade to 12th grade and are interested in being a part of all the fun, please contact me! And pray for our youth as the school year begins.

Peace and love!

-Adam

Upcoming Schedule!

Sunday September 7 – Youth and Parent Meeting after church!

**Sunday, September 14 – Joint Youth Group @ Union Pres in Scottsville.
After church until 2pm.**

Saturday, September 20 – Serving at church for the Chili Food Cupboard. 9:30-11:30am.

Sunday September 21 – No Youth Group!

**Sunday, September 28 – Joint Youth Group @ Union Pres in Scottsville.
After church until 2pm**

St Pauly Box Schedule

August 25 through September 7 – Barb Wasmer

September 8 through 21 – Andy Atwater

September 22 through October 5 – James Rohr