



Chili Pres Connections



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



2026

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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

2026 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

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This month, I want to share a meditation by Rev. Cameron Trimble from her “Piloting Faith: an (Almost Daily) Meditation” because it speaks to our Lent theme reminding us to stay grounded in the Good News.

The Story We Need to Remember

“One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” Psalms 145:4

In many African traditions, elders tell a beautiful story about the baobab tree.

The baobab grows enormous- its trunk wide, its branches stretching toward the sky-because it holds the stories of the village inside it.

For generations, people gather beneath its shade. They tell the stories of where they came from. They remember their ancestors. They speak aloud the struggles their people survived and the wisdom those struggles revealed.

The elders say the stories nourish the tree. The more the people remember, the stronger the tree grows. In return, the tree shelters the people. It is a simple image, but it tells us something important about how people remain rooted in difficult times. Communities grow strong when they remember their stories.

I have been thinking about that image this week.

Right now many people feel unsettled. War has expanded in the Middle East, and public life at home often feels chaotic and unpredictable. I hear the concern in conversations everywhere I go. When events move this quickly, it becomes easy to lose our bearings and forget who we are meant to be.

That is when memory becomes essential.

Spiritual traditions have always known this. Again and again the scriptures call people to remember. Remember the covenant. Remember the liberation. Remember the mercy that carried you through earlier storms.

Memory is not nostalgia. Memory is grounding.

When we remember our deepest stories, we remember what kind of people we are meant to be. We remember that courage has existed before us. We remember that compassion has carried communities through darker times than our own.

That remembering strengthens our roots. In moments of fear, societies often forget their best stories. We begin telling different stories instead- stories about enemies, about domination, about who must be defeated so that we can feel safe again. But those are not the stories that nourish life.

The stories that sustain a community are the ones that remind us of our shared humanity.

Stories of liberation. Stories of courage. Stories of people who chose compassion even when fear would have been easier.

Those stories make us larger inside.

Perhaps that is why the psalmist said that one generation must tell the story to the next. Not because the past needs repeating, but because every generation needs roots. Without roots, fear easily takes over.

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When we remember who we are, when we hold the stories of justice, mercy, courage, and love, something inside us steadies.

We become like the baobab. Rooted. Sheltering. Steady.

Strong enough to hold the stories of the people.

And strong enough to protect life beneath our branches.

Reflection Questions:

What stories have shaped your understanding of compassion, courage, or faith?

When the world feels unstable, which stories help you remember who you are?

What stories might your community need to tell again right now?

A Prayer for Remembering

God of every generation,

You have carried your people through many storms.

When fear clouds our vision, help us remember.

When we feel unsteady, remind us of the stories that have shaped us.

Let the memory of courage strengthen our hearts.

Let the memory of compassion guide our actions.

Let the memory of your presence steady us in uncertain times.

Help us become people who hold the stories of hope and pass them forward.

Amen.

Rev. Brandi Wooten



The Easter season team has chosen the theme
“Still Alive: Encountering the Living Christ”.

As Jesus came out of the tomb. Butterflies, brake out of a cocoon. Easter brings us spring, flowers and new beginnings. At this time in our lives with so much going on in the world, we need to pause and remember that Jesus is Still Alive and is always with us

Thank you for the generous contributions for Easter plants and donations towards the Scholarship Fund.

Fellowship Event

LaDue Alpacas -May 30th at 10 am

\$20 per person. Payment due by May 17.

Mission Outreach

Again this year we would like to support World Relief of Western NY

Our church worked with World Relief of Western NY to help the Poe Rah family get settled here in Rochester.

If you want to donate to World Relief of Western NY, there are donation envelopes in the pews or you can send a check to church with “World Relief” written on the memo line.

Your Easter Team

Gail McArthur

Stephanie McArthur

Elena McArthur

Brenda Naugle



Celebrating

each other.....

April

- 5 Katie Engelbrecht
 - 6 Andy Atwater
 - 6 Ken Milner
 - 6 Jane Schultiz
 - 7 Barb Wasmer
 - 15 Judie McGaffick
 - 21 Dodi Kasiske
 - 25 Sue & Andy Atwater
- Anniversary
- 20 Carrie Horton



Coffee Fellowship

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

Prepare coffee and tea already provided (if you need help with coffee prep please ask a Deacon). If you wish, provide a cold beverage, snacks (such as gluten free pretzels) and cookies (both regular and gluten free).

The sign-up sheet is in the fellowship room.
Let us know if you have any questions.
As always, we appreciate your help!

Volunteers for April 2026

April 5 – Easter

Greeters: Carrie Horton & Walt Scott
Communion: Sharon Breeze (juice), Sue Edwards, Gail McArthur (bread)
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville
Childcare: Lori Oliver & Mira Wooten
Children's Church:

April 12

Greeters: Judie McGaffick & Roger Willis
Jr. Greeter: Betsy Nganyu
Childcare: Sue Atwater & Beth Rowe
Children's Church:
Coffee Hour: Alice & Fred Zah

April 19

Greeters: Kathy & Wayne Honsberger
Jr. Greeter: Audrey Sosik
Childcare: **Need a volunteer** & Mira Wooten
Children's Church:
Coffee Hour

April 26

Greeters: Kathy & Rich Stowe
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville
Childcare: Grace Debbie Lamphron & Mira Wooten
Children's Church:

May newsletter deadline is
April 21



The new church directory was sent out electronically to everyone. Hard copies are available in the fellowship room.

Church Treasurer Needed

As we prepare to transition to a new Church Treasurer, the Session is seeking someone who can begin collaborating with Sandy in June to become familiar with the responsibilities of the role prior to assuming the position in January 2027. A summary of the duties associated with this position is provided below. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact Pastor Brandi.

The Church Treasurer is responsible for:

- Paying all the bills from the general fund (checking account).
- Documenting debits and credits on the general fund Excel spread sheet.
- Transferring funds to and from the savings account as necessary and documenting all transactions on the savings accounts Excel spread sheets.
- Reconciling monthly bank statements and preparing the monthly treasurer's report.
- Sending staff payroll information to the CPA.
- Preparing monthly financial summaries for the Mission Fund and Pray & Play.



Mark Your Calendar

23rd Annual Chicken BBQ

May 3

Drive-thru pick-up starting at noon

(until the meals are gone)

Meals are \$15 each and include:

½ chicken, salt potatoes, cole slaw, roll
and homemade chocolate chip cookie

More information and the volunteer sign-up sheet will be available soon



Saturday, April 25

9:00 am

Trim bushes, rake, wash
windows, etc.

Everyone one is welcome to help!

Leadership News

At its last regularly scheduled meeting on March 2nd, Session...

...Opened with prayer led by Pastor Brandi.

...Participated in training to develop a covenant for Session

...Voted to approve the Agenda with the addition of Facebook Livestream Considerations

...Voted to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

...Voted to receive the Treasurer's Report ending on February 28, 2026.

...Received Pastor Brandi's Pastor's report.

...Reviewed the annual action items that are completed and upcoming for April.

...Recognized the ACE team for their hard work during the season and gorgeous sanctuary decorations.

...Received the report from the Presbytery meeting.

...Voted to update the job description for the Director of Youth and Families.

...Voted to appoint Elder Paula Smith as the Mission Fund Committee Chair.

...Discussed updates for the worship livestream.

...Adjourned at 7:44 PM, with a shared benediction based upon the Great Commission.

Grace Engelbrecht, Clerk



April 2

6:00 pm

At Chili Pres



Good Friday Service - April 3

7:00 pm

At East Avon Presbyterian Church

5605 E Avon Lima Rd, Avon, NY 14414

It will be youth led, by our Joint Youth Group and will be similar to last year's service we held at Ogden Baptist