



Roots & Wings



First Presbyterian Church of Chili

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



2025

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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

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

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Wooten's Wonderings



The first few lines of Madeline L'Engle's well-known poem "First Coming" says:

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.

It does not take a stretch of the imagination to see that the need globally and nationally is deep and great: climate change, dehumanization, ongoing conflicts, and deep social divisions are just a few of the many things which weigh on our hearts and minds.

While it is important all year round, Advent is especially a season when we imagine a world shaped by greater justice, love, and peace. The scripture readings during this season focus on God's hopes for what our world could become, and we are invited to be caught up in that dream, that vision.

Often, we think of dreams as a way to escape reality or as something unlikely to come true. Yet, dreaming is a sacred act—it opens us to new possibilities and lifts us out of despair and fear. It encourages us to turn our gaze upward, toward God, and to participate in shaping the world as God intends. Especially in times of uncertainty and division, dreaming reminds us that there is enough love, mercy, and courage for all.

As we journey into the expectation of Advent, the wonder of Christmas and the revelations of Epiphany, can we embrace the courage, the will, to dream and envision a better future and make steps toward making those dreams a reality? We need hope and imagination to navigate life's challenges and make the world a more just and compassionate place. Without it, we fall into despair.

The last lines of L'Engle's poem says:

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Let us not wait. Let us have the will to dream of a more compassionate, more just world and raise our voices in praise to the God who comes once again to be born on the earth, sharing in our pain and showing us the way of Love.

Rev. Brandi Wooten



In this time, we find trust is fragile, truth contested and spaces between us feel harder to cross. Divisions stretch far and wide and may leave us feeling anxious and uncertain. Some hearts are weary and souls unsettled and people of all perspectives searching—not just for answers, but for understanding, healing and hope. This ache is not weakness, it is a *holy longing* - a *sacred desire for a world made whole*. From this longing comes the will to dream. A persistent courage to imagine, resist and rebuilding a better world. **“The Will To Dream”** invites us into an Advent, Christmas and

Epiphany season rooted in prophetic imagination—a theological framework powerfully explored....*to be a sacred practice to see beyond what is and move toward what could be !*

Children’s Church

During Advent the children will be making their own dream catchers and learning about their connections with the stars

Mission Outreach

Presbyterian Joy Offering - envelopes are in the pews

For Christmas we will be supporting three families from Chestnut Ridge Elementary School – take a tag off the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and bring the wrapped gift (with the original gift tag taped to the package) by December 14

Your ACE Team,

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

**ADVENT PRAYER
GATHERING**

**Need a Moment of Peace This Busy
Season?**

Come and join us for a time of prayer,
scripture reading, reflection, and shared
dreams as we center ourselves on the
significance of Christ's birth in our lives
and the world around us.

Thursdays at
11:00am on
December 4th,
11th and 18th.

Tuesday at
11:00am on
December 23rd



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Reports for 2025 that are placed in the Annual meeting booklet will be due in the church office by Tuesday, January 13. The booklet is distributed the week before the Corporation and Congregational meetings, which will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2026. If you have any questions, please call the office.



The Deacons 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.



Advent Wreath "Lighters"

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| November 30 | Beth & John Rowe |
| December 14 | Jan & Bill Hoyt |
| December 21 | The Scoville Family |
| December 24 | The Wooten Family |

SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2025

Option 2 – Scholarship Fund

☐ Placed in memory of:

☐ Placed in honor of :

Presented by

\$ Enclosed _____ ☐ Cash ☐ Check

*Last day to donate is **December 14th***

Leadership News

At its November 3, 2025 regularly scheduled meeting, Session...

...Opened with prayer led by Pastor Brandi.

...Voted to approve the Agenda with the addition of Church Safety.

...Voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

...Reviewed the annual action items that are completed for October and upcoming in November.

...Recognized The Board of Trustees for all their labor and coordination in moving out the basement stove and replacing it with the new one.

...Received the 2026 Personnel Compensation recommendations from the Personnel Committee

...Voted not to renew the church's Westside News advertising subscription.

...Nominated Elder Guarnieri for election as the session representative to the Nominating Committee.

...Voted to appoint Becky Sosik to fill the Financial Data Entry position for an open-ended term starting January 1, 2026.

...Voted to use \$132.92 from the session discretionary fund for QuickBooks Pro Desktop 2024 for two indefinite use licenses.

...Adjourned at 9:08 PM, with a shared benediction based upon the Great Commission.

Respectfully Submitted.,

Grace Engelbrecht, Clerk



December 24

7:00 pm

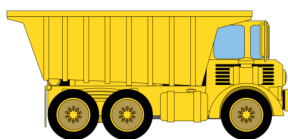


Celebrating

each other.....

December

- 1 Lori Oliver
- 3 Nancy Huffman
- 8 Aidan Snover
- 9 Roger Willis
- 13 Aaron Atwater
- 14 Scott Oliver
- 14 Brandi Wooten
- 16 Gage Oliver
- 18 Ginny Harkness
- 18 Nicole Mathewson
- 26 Terry Edwards
- 29 Gail McArthur



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

The Church Office will be closed
on Thursday, December 25 and
January 1



Volunteers for December 2025

December 7

Greeters: Lori & Cecil Gittens
Communion: Sue Atwater, Tim Engelbrecht (juice),
Carrie Horton (bread)
Advent Wreath Lighters: Barb & Geoff Wasmer
Jr. Greeter: Ethan Scoville
Childcare: Kathy Mathewson & Beth Rowe
Children's Church:
Coffee Hour:

December 14

Greeters: Bill Horne & Debbie Lamphron
Advent Wreath Lighters: Jan & Bill Hoyt
Jr. Greeter: Mila Sosik
Childcare: Sue Atwater & Mira Wooten
Children's Church:
Coffee Hour:

December 21

Greeters: Kathy & Wayne Honsberger
Advent Wreath Lighters:
Jr. Greeter: Patrick Engelbrecht
Childcare: Katie Engelbrecht & Marla Guarnieri
Children's Church:
Coffee Hour:

December 24 - 7 :00 pm

Greeters: Nancy & Jerry Huffman
Sue & Andy Atwater
Advent Wreath Lighters:

December 28

Greeters: Sharon Breese & Ashleigh Naugle
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville
Childcare: Becky Sosik & Mira Wooten
Children's Church:
Coffee Hour:

The January 2026 newsletter
deadline is Tuesday, December 16

Thoughts from the Minister of Music



Meeting You

Merry Christmas everyone! It's that time of year to reflect on the birth of Christ! Here is a song I wrote a few years ago specifically for advent! As the season is upon us, try to stop and take some time with the Spirit of God, remembering the importance of the manger this Christmas season.

A cold December morning
The snow begins to fall into place
The season is upon us
And joy begins to fill my face

With blankets and hot chocolate
And movies we all can enjoy
This melody is Christmas
A song I've loved since I was a boy

Through unwrapping presents and playing with toys
And bringing a smile to those who need joy
But let's not forget all the reason we sing
The birth of our Savior, please hold me again...

Prepare my heart for reaching You in the darkness
Prepare my mind for seeking Your holy face
Prepare my soul for finding You in each moment
this Christmas
And prepare me for meeting You

Remembering the story
Of how you came to be on this earth
A joyous celebration
And an unforgotten birth

A thousand generations
Pay tribute to You each year
The miracle that happened
When love came down so near

But it's easy to get wrapped into all of the things
That happen at Christmas beyond what we sing
So Lord I am praying with all of my heart
To help me remember You right from the start

Prepare my heart for reaching You in the darkness
Prepare my mind for seeking Your holy face
Prepare my soul for finding You in each moment
this Christmas
And prepare me for meeting You

So even through snow fall and lengthy store lines
Please do not forget what we share in this time

Prepare my heart for reaching You in the darkness
Prepare my mind for seeking Your holy face
Prepare my soul for finding You in each moment
this Christmas
And prepare me for meeting You

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



Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269-8746

Season's Greetings!

And just like that we are already to the holiday season! This year is flying by! We have been having lots of fun during our youth events as well! Joint Youth Group with the other church is always a great time, and we have been having great discussions and forming lasting friendships. Our youth also started in confirmation class! Our first class went well, and we are meeting once a month throughout the year.

We continue to provide monthly support during the Food Cupboard Distribution days. It is a great opportunity to help in our community and provide community service opportunities for youth who need to fill those requirements for school as well.

Many of you may already know, but I will be taking paternity leave from January through March. During this time, our youth will still have regular meetings joint youth group, and our confirmation class will continue. Next month, I will have a schedule ready for the youth for the times I am away!

Check out the events below! Lots of fun opportunities coming up!

Peace and love!

-Adam

Upcoming Schedule!

Sunday December 6 – Youth Group Lasertron! Meet at 11:30am @ church!

Sunday December 7 – Confirmation Class @ Union Pres in Scottsville. Leave @ 12:15pm-2:45pm.

Sunday, December 14 – Joint Youth Group CAROLING @ Union Pres in Scottsville. Noon-2:30pm.

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

Sunday December 21 – Youth Group Christmas Party! 11-1pm.

Sunday, December 28 – NO YOUTH GROUP. Christmas Break!

St Pauly Box Schedule

December 1 through December 14 - Paula Smith

December 15 through December 28 - Barb Wasmer

December 29 through January 11 - Andy Atwater