



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

E-mail: fpc3600@gmail.com



Wooten's Wonderings



Church is one of the few places where people of different ages, backgrounds, politics, personalities, and life experiences intentionally gather together. That is a gift and it is also why conflict sometimes shows up in our life together.

Conflict, in itself, is not a sign of failure. In fact, the New Testament makes it clear that even the earliest Christian communities struggled to live faithfully with one another. Disagreements arose about leadership, culture, theology, and practice. What mattered then, and what still matters now, is not whether conflict happens, but how we respond when it does.

We often think of conflict as something to avoid at all costs. We fear it will hurt relationships, damage trust, or threaten unity. But when we refuse to acknowledge conflict, it doesn't disappear. It simply goes underground, where it can harden into resentment, suspicion, and silence. Unaddressed conflict has a way of shaping us in ways we never intended.

Scripture invites us to a different way. Jesus teaches us to speak truth with love, to listen before we react, and to seek reconciliation rather than victory. The goal is not to "win" an argument or prove ourselves right, but to remain faithful to one another as members of Christ's body. As I have said several times over the years, unity in the church does not mean uniformity of opinion; it means a shared commitment to love one another even when we disagree.

We have talked a lot about change over the last year and we know that we, as a church, will continue to change as we address the needs of our community. And any time change is made, conflict is a possibility. Healthy conflict can actually be a place of growth. When handled with humility and grace, it helps us clarify what matters most, deepen our understanding of one another, and learn how to live out our faith more fully. Conflict can stretch our patience, refine our compassion, and remind us that we are all still learning how to follow Jesus.

So what does faithfulness look like when conflict arises?

- It looks like pausing before speaking, and praying before reacting.
It looks like listening to understand, not just to respond.
It looks like addressing concerns directly and respectfully, rather than through gossip or assumption.
It looks like remembering that the person we disagree with is not our enemy, but our sibling in Christ.
- Above all, it looks like trusting that God is at work even in uncomfortable moments. The Holy Spirit does not abandon the church when tensions rise. Often, the Spirit is inviting us to deeper honesty, deeper love, and deeper dependence on God's grace.

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Wooten's Wonderings continued

My prayer is that when conflict comes, we will meet it with courage, compassion, and faith. May we be a community that chooses relationship over being right, grace over judgment, and hope over fear. In doing so, we bear witness to a world desperately longing to see what reconciling love looks like.

Pastor Brandi Wooten

The Lent season team's theme this year is

“Tell Me Something Good.”



Ash Wednesday is the first day in Lent which is Wednesday, February 18th. This year we will be having the Service prepared by our Community Presbyterian Youth at Union Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM. (see details below)

Our **Mission** is One Great Hour of Sharing which helps people around the World who lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by OGHS – disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees -serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. The donations help to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. Fish Banks will help us to reflect during Lent about “Creating Something Good” for those in need in our World.

The Lenten Season Team will be providing a **Winter Picnic** after church in the Lower Hall on February 22nd.

We pray that during this season you will reflect on the Good that is.

Lenten Season Team Members:

*Jean Bartholomew, Carrie Horton (Facilitator), Walter Scott,
Brandi Wooten, Alice and Fred Zah*



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm
Union Presbyterian Church
1 Brown Avenue
Scottsville NY
Service led by our Community Presbyterian Youth

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 1. 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.

Grace Engelbrecht

Clerk of Session

Cooking with Foodlink!

Come learn to cook a healthy meal with Foodlink's Nutrition Educator!
Free event, includes grocery bag of food to take home and try recipe on your own!

Tuesday, March 24th, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Chili Presbyterian Church
3600 Chili Ave, Rochester, NY 14624

Space is limited! Contact Adam @ 585-454-9939 or
sign up @ www.chilipres-events.com

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who donated funds to support our driveway replacement project.

- Your Session

Souper Bowl Sub Sunday!

Sunday February 8, 2025

1. Bring can goods or money as an offering for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Donations will go to our Food Cupboard.
2. Order a homemade sub from our Youth group. Sign-up on the sheet in the fellowship hall by February 1st. Sub pick-up will be on February 8th following church.



Subs are \$15!

Sub profits will go to the
Mission Funds.



Celebrating

each other.....

February Birthdays

- 1 Mick McCauley
- 2 Becky Sosik
- 8 Eric Boerschlein
- 8 Huffman's Anniversary
- 10 Barb Boerschlein
- 12 Vicky Leahy
- 16 Ed Jones
- 16 Milner Anniversary
- 18 Marla Guarnieri
- 18 Becky Gernhardt
- 25 Becca Buell
- 26 Bruce Olson
- 28 Tristan Engelbrecht



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 February 2026

February 1

Greeters: Ed and Sheryl Jones
Communion: Judie McGaffick, Fred Mollon (juice), Rich Stowe (bread)
Jr. Greeter: Brooke Engelbrecht
Childcare: Beth Rowe & Becky Sosik
Children's Church: Barb Wasmer & John Rowe
Coffee Hour:

February 8

Greeters: Tom & Vicky Leahy
Jr. Greeter: Mila Sosik
Childcare: Sue Edwards & Mira Wooten
Children's Church: Barb Wasmer & Beth Rowe
Coffee Hour:

February 15

Greeters: Jane & Fred Schultz
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville
Childcare: Lori Oliver & Marla Guarnieri
Children's Church: Barb Wasmer & Beth Rowe
Coffee Hour

February 22

Greeters: Cecil & Lori Gittens
Jr. Greeter: Betsey Nganyu
Childcare: Barb Wasmer & Mira Wooten
Children's Church:
Coffee Hour: Lenten Team "Winter Picnic"

Annual Per Capita

Apportionment for 2026

Presbytery	\$2,228.59
Synod	\$ 386.75
General Assembly	\$1,024.66

This is based on our active membership. We would appreciate your support of this budgetary cost by covering the **\$40.00** per active member in your family.

Leadership News

At a Special Called Meeting on December 21st, 2025, Session...

...Voted to withdraw an additional \$9,156 from the Session Designated fund to go towards and balance out the driveway project, to supplement Memorial Funds that could not be used.

At its last regularly scheduled meeting on January 5th, Session...

...Welcomed guests Andy Atwater & Sandy McCauley

...Opened with prayer led by Pastor Brandi.

...Voted to approve the Agenda with the addition of Endowment Report, Annual Sexual Harassment Prevention Training report, and Food Cupboard inquiry.

...Voted to approve the Consent Agenda, with corrections to past minutes, changing the term "Session Discretionary" to "Session Designated" fund.

...Voted to receive the Treasurer's Report with a note to correct two profit and loss inputs.

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

...Received correspondence from Sady thanking the Session for her Christmas gift.

...Reviewed the annual action items that are completed and upcoming for January including the annual statistical & necrology reports.

...Recognized Debbie Lamphron for all the dedicated time and care she has put in her role with the Food Cupboard.

...Approved the 2026 budget as discussed.

...Finalized Pastor Brandi's Terms of Call to be voted on at the meeting of the Congregation.

...Appointed Daral Diehl to perform the church's 2025 annual financial review, as long as Darla accepts

...Received a Nominating Committee report

...Received a Stewardship Committee report

...Received an Endowment Committee report

...Received a Sexual Harassment Prevention Training report or church staff and officers who have and have not completed annual Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

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

At the special called meeting on January 11th, Session...

...Approved the Revised 2026 budget as discussed.

...Approved a Letter of Understanding (LOU) with Adam Scoville outlining his salary, benefits, and family leave.

Grace Engelbrecht, Clerk