



Chili Pres Connections



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

Epiphany



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



A little over a year ago, the Session partnered with Lisa Bennett, the Presbytery's Communications Coordinator, to perform a Communication Audit. The information in her report was helpful for us to see the blind spots we had in the ways we communicate with each other and with the greater community outside our church. As our church continues placing a stronger focus on outreach, how we communicate is more vital than ever.

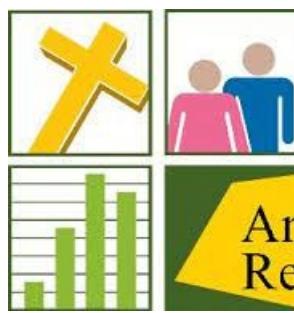
Effective communication depends on a clear and compelling vision. For this reason, our church leaders dedicated significant time to two leadership retreats, seeking to discern and clarify God's vision for our church's identity and calling. Through these efforts, we reaffirmed that our Mission Statement truly reflects who we are, and we celebrated the deep sense of connection, care, and welcome that defines our community.

Thanks to the generosity of a Presbytery grant, we hired Mark Bennett (no relation to Lisa Bennett) to design a new church logo and to revamp our church website. The redesigned site aims to provide newcomers with a clear sense of our identity, values, and what they can expect when visiting our church. I hope you take some time to check it out! In the coming months, you will also see changes in the variety of platforms we use to communicate, including the new name and look of this newsletter.

Our new logo captures the essence of our mission statement: **Rooted in Faith, Growing Together, Caring for the Community**. The visible roots of the tree remind us that everything we do is grounded in the Good News. From these strong roots, we grow together as Christ's disciples. The raised arms in the logo symbolize both praise and care, emphasizing that our growth is not just for ourselves, but for extending God's love and shelter to all. The colorful leaves represent the diversity we cherish within the body of Christ.

We have also adopted a new tagline: "The small church with a big heart." Leading with warmth and hospitality is at the core of our community's identity. Our greatest spiritual gift is the welcome we offer to all. Much like the Clifton Strengths philosophy, which encourages honing one's strengths, that is what I hope we do with our hospitality strength. I hope we continually ask ourselves: what does it look like to fully lean into being a caring community rooted in the good news? As we move forward into the coming year, I pray we continue to nurture the gift of hospitality and explore how we can expand the many ways we show God's love.

Pastor Brandi Wooten



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.



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

Annual meeting for the Congregation and the Corporation of The First Presbyterian Church of Chili SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 immediately following Worship

On Sunday, January 25, 2026, 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 shall take place for the purpose of electing Trustees, as the following Trustees have concluded their 3-year term: Andy Atwater and John Sosik. Financial reports will be received for 2025, 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 2025, 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 25, 2026

Grace Engelbrecht

Clerk of Session

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 2026

January 4

Greeters: Sue Edwards & Linda Enright
Communion: Grace Engelbrecht (bread), Brenda Naugle, Lori Oliver (juice)
Jr. Greeter: Betsy Nganyu
Childcare: Sue Atwater & Vicki Leahy
Children's Church: Barb Wasmer & Beth Rowe
Coffee Hour:

January 11

Greeters: Jan & Bill Hoyt
Jr. Greeter: Aurey Sosik
Childcare: Lori Oliver & Mira Wooten
Children's Church: Barb Wasmer & Beth Rowe
Coffee Hour: Carrie Horton & Walt Scott

January 19

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

January 26

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

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 its December 1, 2025 meeting, Session...

...Opened with prayer led by Pastor Brandi.

...Voted to approve the Agenda with the addition of Driveway Fund, Church Safety, Endowment Report, and November 17th Minutes.

...Voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

...Heard a report from Pastor Brandi about the new website design.

...Reviewed the annual action items that are completed for December including announcing the annual meeting of the congregation and corporation.

...Recognized Darla Diehl for the many years of service to the church as the finance data inputter.

...Reviewed Adam Scoville's parental leave plan as relayed by Pastor Brandi.

...Voted to use the \$21,086.67 currently in the Memorial Fund to be used towards the driveway project if the way is clear with approval from the specific families.

...Voted to pay up to \$17,108.40 of the remaining balance for the driveway project out of the Session Discretionary Fund, noting that any future donations that come in for the driveway project will be left in the general fund.

...Voted to receive the minutes report from the Clerk of Session.

... Heard the Presbytery Meeting report from Elder Guarnieri.

...Adjourned at 8:03 PM, with a shared benediction based upon the Great Commission
Respectfully,

Grace Engelbrecht, Clerk

The Church Office
will be closed on
Wednesday, January 1

Annual reports are due
January 13
February newsletter deadline
is
January 20