



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



The celebration of Easter fills our hearts with the promise of new life, healing, and hope that refuses to die. As we continue to live into the Easter Season, our theme, “**Still Alive: Encountering the Risen Christ,**” reminds us that the resurrection is not only something that happened long ago, it is something we experience even now. We worship a God who could not be contained in a tomb, a Savior who is still alive and still meeting us in the middle of our everyday lives. Christ breaks into our ordinary moments, bringing joy in the midst of sorrow, compassion in the midst of hardship, and peace in the midst of fear.

Throughout the Easter season, the Gospel stories show us people who encounter the risen Jesus in surprising ways- Mary in the garden, the disciples behind locked doors, travelers on the road to Emmaus, and friends gathered around a breakfast fire. Again and again, they discover the same truth: Jesus is still alive, and his presence changes everything. Their grief turns to hope, their fear turns to courage, and their confusion turns to joy.

Easter reminds us that God desires for us to live with that same deep joy. In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks to his disciples during the Last Supper, trying to prepare them for what is to come. He tells them, “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11). This is not a shallow happiness that depends on everything going right. It is a deeper joy that comes from knowing that Christ is alive and that nothing- not even death- has the final word.

Writer and Presbyterian pastor Frederick Buechner once said, “Happiness turns up more or less where you’d expect it to- a good marriage, a rewarding job, a pleasant vacation. Joy, on the other hand, is as notoriously unpredictable as the one who bequeaths it.” Resurrection joy often appears in unexpected places. It shows up in moments of struggle, in seasons of uncertainty, and in times when we thought hope was gone. Because Jesus is still alive, joy can find us anywhere.

The first disciples did not think resurrection was possible. Yet when they encountered the risen Christ, their lives were completely changed. Their hope was restored, their fear was overcome, and their future was opened in ways they never imagined. They became bold witnesses, traveling far and wide to tell others that they had seen and experienced that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was alive.

This Easter season, my prayer for you is that you will encounter the risen Christ in your own life. No matter what you are facing right now, the good news of Easter is that hope is still alive, love is still alive, and Christ is still alive. May you discover his joy breaking through your circumstances, and may you find yourself surprised by the new life God is bringing even now.

Rev. Brandi Wooten



Alpaca Yoga
 Saturday May 30 at 10 am
 La Due Alpaca Farm

\$20 per person, Sign up in the Fellowship Hall!

Enjoy this one-hour experience including 15 minutes learning about the alpacas and 45 minutes of gentle yoga with the alpacas. Bring a yoga mat, towel or chair.



Easter 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 (facilitator), Elena McArthur

Stephanie McArthur, Brenda Naugle



Season of Pentecost Begins Soon

The 2026 Pentecost Team met with Pastor Brandi in April to begin planning for the Pentecost Season which begins on Pentecost Sunday May 24, 2026.

Pastor Brandi led us in a study of Bible passages from the lectionary covering the Season of Pentecost. We explored Old Testament passages from Genesis and Exodus and discovered major themes: God provides in uncertainty, God calls unlikely people, God restores after failure, and God forms who we are and where we are from. We discovered that ordinary people were able to find a way to stand up to injustice. Emerging from our discussion is our Pentecost Season Theme:

"Braving the Mountains: Meeting God in the Challenges of Life"

*Consider wearing **red** on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th as we kick off the Pentecost Season with coffee hour. Watch for more details in the June newsletter about the Season's activities.*



*Your Pentecost Season Team,
 Nancy Huffman and Sandy McCauley, Co-Facilitators
 Andy Atwater, Sue Edwards, Jerry Huffman, Fred Mollon*

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 in the March & April newsletter. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact Pastor Brandi.

Celebrating

each other.....

May

- 2 Kathy Honsberger
- 6 Pat Olson
- 12 Tom Leahy
- 18 Alex Mathewson
- 21 Sheryl Jones
- 24 Leah Atwater
- 30 Scoville Anniversary
- 31 Wooten Anniversary
- 31 Fred Schulitz



The Presbytery of Genesee Valley is sponsoring a “Pulpit Exchange” on Sunday, May 31. Pastor Brandi will be preaching at Penfield Presbyterian. We will be welcoming Rev. Jeffrey Fox-Kline from Twelve Corners Presbyterian

The church office will be closed on
Wednesday, May 20

Volunteers for May 2026

May 3

Greeters: Sandy & Mick McCauley
Communion: Lori Gittens (bread), Brenda Naugle, Sharon Breeze (juice)
Jr. Greeter: Ethan Scoville
Childcare: Katie Engelbrecht & Grace Engelbrecht
Children’s Church: Stephanie McArthur
No coffee hour

May 10

Greeters: Barb & Geoff Wasmer
Jr. Greeter: Mila Sosik
Childcare: Lori Oliver & Mira Wooten
Children’s Church: Stephanie McArthur
Coffee Hour: Stephanie McArthur

May 17

Greeters: Alice & Fred Zah
Jr. Greeter: Audrey Sosik
Childcare: Elena & Gail McArthur
Children’s Church: Stephanie McArthur
Coffee Hour: Kathy & Wayne Honsberger

May 24

Greeters: Mark Carden & Dan Wooten
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville
Childcare: **We need a volunteer** & Mira Wooten
Children’s Church: Stephanie McArthur
Coffee Hour: Pentecost Team

May 31

Greeters: Jean Bartholomew & Carrie Horton
Jr. Greeter: Betsy Nganyu
Childcare: Ashleigh & Brenda Naugle
Children’s Church: Stephanie McArthur
Coffee Hour: Debbie Lamphron

June newsletter deadline is
May 19

At its last regularly scheduled meeting on April 6th, Session...
 ...Opened with prayer led by Pastor Brandi.
 ...Participated in training to review the structure of the Presbyterian Church USA.
 ...Voted to approve the Agenda as presented.
 ...Voted to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
 ...Voted to receive the Treasurer's Report ending on March 31, 2026.
 ...Received Pastor Brandi's Pastor's report.
 ...Reviewed the annual action items that are completed and upcoming for June.
 ...Recognized Ruth Heitz for her leadership during worship these past three months.
 ...Voted to receive into membership Al & Sue Conklin by reaffirmation of faith as of April 6, 2026, to be celebrated during worship on June 7, 2026.
 ...Conducted the quarterly financial review with Trustees Chair, Jerry Huffman.
 ...Voted to ratify the approval of the Food Cupboard submission of the Genesee Valley Presbytery Ministry Partnerships Grant.
 ...Voted to approve the Food Cupboard Committee positions for 2026.
 ...Adjourned at 8:33 PM, with a shared benediction based upon the Great Commission.

Grace Engelbrecht, Clerk of Session



Mark Your Calendar
23rd Annual Chicken BBQ
May 3

Drive-thru pick-up starting at 11:00 am
 (until the meals are gone)

Meals are \$15 each and include:

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

Rummage Sale Donations and Volunteers!

Looking for donations for our Rummage Sale!
 Items must be clean and decent quality.
 Please price items at a reasonable price.
NO clothing, glassware, dishes or linens are needed!

DONATIONS ACCEPTED BETWEEN MAY 16 AND MAY 30

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!! A sign-up sheet is in the fellowship room

Setup: June 1-3 9am-3pm

Sale Day: June 6th - 9am-3pm, June 7th - After church until 1pm.

Cleanup: June 7th - 1-2pm.

Contact Roger Willis @ 293-3561 /rwillis004@rochester.rr.com if interested in volunteering for any of these times.



Thoughts from the Minister of Music/Director of Families and Youth

I am back! I was so blessed to be able to take 12 weeks of paternity leave for the birth of our daughter Lillian. I can't thank the Chili Pres community enough for that time I was able to have to bond with my little girl and care for her. It was truly a gift and I am forever grateful!

As I have reflected on how I have done my newsletters in the past, I have decided to change my format and content a bit from this article going forward. I would like to share with you some of the things I have been working on each month in our church life.

Philippians 2:1-4: "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

We have been providing healthy cooking demonstrations with Foodlink for a couple years now. This is a free service that Foodlink provides for the community, and Chili Pres has provided the space for their nutrition educator to come quarterly. Our last cooking event was in March. We had 14 people present, and we learned to cook a southwestern style rice bowl, and discussed sodium in foods. Each person went home with a bag full of ingredients to make the recipe at home. These bags are purchased by our church's mission funds. All of the attendees were clients of our food cupboard. Many thanks go to Debbie Lamphron for helping me to promote and set up the event, as it happened on the first day I returned from paternity leave.

I also wanted to take a moment to remember the loss of a wonderful woman from our community, Chris Van Epps. Chris became connected to our church through our food cupboard. I had spoken to her and her husband Todd a few times on distribution days, and they always shared how thankful they were for the food cupboard. When I started putting together the cooking classes, Chris was one of the first people to say, "that sounds awesome! I want to come and I am bringing 4 friends!" And she did. She cared deeply for her friends and family, and she made sure they came to learn to eat healthy and get a bag of ingredients to make the recipe at home.

As time went on, Chris became more comfortable in our community, and was yearning for connection. She came to one of our prayer walks in the labyrinth. It was there that she shared more about the long term cancer diagnosis she had, and asked for prayers. Soon after that prayer walk, Chris came to church on Sunday. I could see God working through many people in our congregation to wrap our collective arms around her in her time of need. It was the simple kind words and encouragement that made the difference for Chris.

On Sundays, anyone can walk through our church doors, and we may never know what they are struggling with. All we can do is share God's love. And it WILL be impactful and make the difference. Chris quickly became active in many areas of our church life and church family. From weekly coffee with the ladies and being a part of our monthly prayer breakfasts, to helping facilitate some fantastic crafts at the summer fun fair last year, Chris was eager to be apart of our church life and found joy and purpose in our church.

Chris was an inspiration. As much as she was struggling with, she gave all of her life to care for her family and friends, and our church as well, and wanted to make sure everyone around her had what they needed. Chris departed this life in March after her long courageous journey with cancer. I think my main regret from Chris's passing is that we didn't get more time with her. She was such a beautiful soul.

I believe that Chris's life is proof that what we are doing at Chili Pres is truly something bigger than us. If our food cupboard didn't exist, we would have never met Chris. God is moving in big, amazing ways here. Embrace this and be encouraged as you are serving at our church.

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



Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269

I AM BACK!

May is here and I have returned from my paternity leave! It was such a gift for the Scoville family that I was able to take the time to be with our sweet little Lillian! So many thanks to everyone for that time!

So, let's get caught up! First of all, thanks to Andy Atwater and Barb Wasmer for facilitating the Super Bowl Subs this year! It was a success and it was such a help to keep that fundraiser going!

Our youth continued to have youth group with the Joint Youth Group. There were lots of gatherings while I was gone, and our youth participated in 3 different services; the Advent service that took place at the end of the year, an Ash Wednesday service and a Good Friday Service, which I was also a part of. All went well and the kids LOVE our youth gatherings.

On top of all that, we also got to join youth throughout the Presbytery to go to the Planetarium at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. This was a great event, and an opportunity to meet other youth, play games, and see a cool show at the Planetarium. There were 42 people who came!

Our youth have also been going through Confirmation Class this year. This has been in conjunction with the Joint Youth Group. We have finished that portion of the classes, and we will be doing a couple more before we have confirmation Sunday in June!

We continue to help with the Food Cupboard distribution day where we continue to provide our food cupboard clients with Hygiene items and we need some donations! A list of items is available at the entryway of the church. We appreciate all the support!

And finally, our Chicken BBQ is this coming Sunday! We will need all the help we can get. Please sign up to help, or just show up, and get the word out!

I have listed the rest of the youth events for the rest of the schoolyear below! We also have a couple of big events in the summer! - Adam

Upcoming Schedule!

Sunday May 3 – Chicken BBQ! 9-3pm.

Sunday May 10 – No Youth Group! Mother's Day!

Saturday, May 16 – Serving at church for the Chili Food Cupboard. 9:30-11:30am.

Saturday, May 16 – Confirmation Class 11:30-2pm.

Sunday, May 17 – Joint Youth Group @ Union Pres in Scottsville, 11:30am-2pm.

Sunday May 24 – No Youth Group! Adam is away!

Sunday May 31 – Confirmation Class 11:30-2pm.

Sunday June 7 – Confirmation Sunday during church!

Sunday, June 14 – Joint Youth Group Pool Party @ RevKev's in Scottsville, 11:30am-3:30pm.

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

Wednesday, July 22 – Joint Youth Group @ Seabreeze!

August 9-14 – Youth Mission Trip!