



Chili Pres Connections



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

Love Abundantly



2026

In this issue....

- ◇ Fun Family Bonfire
- ◇ Annual Trunk or Treat
- ◇ Six week Bible Study Series
- ◇ Cooking with Foodlink
- ◇ Staff Appreciation Sunday
- ◇ Special Congregational Meeting
- ◇ Food Cupboard support opportunities
- ◇ World Communion Offering

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

Season Teams: Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest, and Advent/Christmas /Epiphany

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.

Wooten's Wonderings



October has a way of reminding us to slow down and notice what is around us. The leaves begin to change, gardens give up their final harvest, and the rhythm of the season invites us to pay attention to the abundance that surrounds us. And yet, even in a season that calls us to notice, our lives can remain remarkably busy.

From the moment our feet hit the floor in the morning, many of us are already thinking about everything that needs to get done. Work, family, appointments, errands, responsibilities, and the countless little things that fill our days can leave very little room for stillness. Prayer is often one of the first things we postpone. We tell ourselves, “When I finish this, I’ll pray,” or “When things settle down, I’ll take some quiet time with God.” But somehow, the list is never quite finished.

Joan Chittister offers a beautiful way of thinking about prayer in her book *40 Day Journey*. She writes, “When we are young religious, we ‘say’ our prayers. When we get older in the religious life, we ‘go to prayer.’ But when we begin to see prayer as the undergirding of life, the pulse of the universe in the center of the soul, we become a prayer.”

I love that phrase: **we become a prayer.**

Perhaps that is part of what it means to love abundantly. Prayer is not simply one more thing we are supposed to squeeze into an already crowded schedule. It is a way of becoming more attentive to God’s presence in the ordinary moments of our lives. It is learning to recognize that God’s abundance is already being poured out around us and allow our hearts to respond.

Of course, there are times when we need to stop, become quiet, and intentionally spend time with God. Those moments matter. But prayer can also happen while we are living our ordinary lives.

When you prepare a meal for someone you love, give thanks for the food and the people gathered around the table. When you work in the garden, notice the miracle of growth and offer a word of gratitude. When you drive through the countryside and see the changing colors of October, let the beauty of creation become a prayer. When you sit beside someone who is hurting, allow your presence to become a prayer. When someone makes you laugh, pause for a moment and give thanks.

These moments may not look much like prayer as we usually imagine it. There may be no folded hands, bowed heads, or carefully chosen words. But perhaps this is what it means to grow into that “heart without words” Chittister describes. It is a heart which has learned to recognize God’s presence in the midst of everyday life.

During this Harvest Season, as we reflect on what it means to **Love Abundantly**, may we also become more aware of the abundance already present in our lives. May gratitude become more natural. May compassion become more generous. And may prayer become less about finding the perfect time to talk to God and more about learning to live our whole lives in God’s presence.

Rev. Brandi Wooten

**There will be a special meeting of the Congregation of the
The First Presbyterian Church of Chili
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026**

On Sunday, October 18, 2026 following the 10 AM worship service, there will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary.

The Session is calling a Special Meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of dissolving the Board of Deacons effective immediately after the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2027.

Rationale: Over the last couple of years, it has been increasingly difficult for the Nominating Committee to fill the Board of Deacons. Our congregation is smaller (at 86 active members) which means that there are fewer people to fill positions. The Book of Order does not require a congregation to have a Board of Deacons, but it does say that there should be either individuals or a group tasked with the ministry of care. The Book of Order says, "A congregation by a majority vote may choose not to utilize the ordered ministry of deacons. If the congregation has neither a board of deacons nor individually commissioned deacons, the function of this ordered ministry shall be the responsibility of the ruling elders and the session." (G-2.0202)

Because filling the Board of Deacons has become increasingly difficult, the Session explored other ways to provide congregational care. The Session recommends that the congregation vote to dissolve the Board of Deacons. If the motion is approved, the Session will establish a six-member Congregational Care Committee. The new committee will be organized into three classes, with two members serving two-year terms in each class and a maximum of six consecutive years of service. Unlike deacons, who must be active members, this committee may include both active members and active participants, creating more opportunities for people to share in the care of the congregation. As a new committee, it will determine how best to organize its work and will officially begin after the 2027 Annual Meeting.

This change will not affect anyone's ordination as a Deacon (ordination is for life). Communion will continue to be overseen by both Deacons and Elders; the congregation will simply no longer ordain new Deacons.

Grace Engelbrecht, Clerk of Session

Family Fun Bonfire



Saturday, October 3

6:00 pm

At Engelbrechts

299 Chestnut Ridge Road



Presbyterian World Communion Offering
Donation envelopes are available in the pews



Reflections from the Pentecost Season Team: Andy Atwater, Sue Edwards, Fred Mollon, Jerry Huffman, and Co-Facilitators Sandy McCauley and Nancy Huffman

Pentecost Season was still in full swing when the mid-August deadline for the September newsletter occurred. Thus, our reflections on the season weren't ready yet!! Here they are!!

We began the season of Pentecost on May 24th by hosting Coffee Hour. Throughout the summer Pastor Brandi and guest ministers, including Elder Fred Mollon, explored Old Testament passages from Genesis and Exodus and discovered how God is always with us as we face life challenges. 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, with God's help, can find a way to make a difference when faced with life challenges.

- * Because of a threat of rain, our outdoor Church Picnic became an indoor picnic in the Dining Room – a much dryer place than an open pavilion!
- * 22 of us attended the Red Wings game in July and enjoyed seeing Bruce the Bat Dog and fireworks. And... the Red Wings won! Many thanks to Geoff Wasmer who once again organized reserved seats and ticket sales.
- * 24 of us came to the "Hobbies and Horsepower" event. Several of us shared stories and brought examples of hobbies (camera collection, painting, paint journaling, handmade Christmas ornaments, woodworking, painting fish flies, stringed instruments, quilting, cross stitching). We have many talented folks in our church family. We also enjoyed a rocket launch, antique car rides and a delicious array of appetizers, fruits, and snacks.
- * Our "Period Packs" outreach project was a huge success. We assembled over 50 packs of feminine hygiene products and collected \$273.17 to donate to Willow Domestic Violence Center in Rochester. We're very grateful for the support of our church family for this project.

Celebrating

each other.....

October

3 Mark Enright
4 Bill Hoyt
15 Tim Engelbrecht
23 James Rohr
27 Alice Zah
28 DJ Wright



Saturday, October 24

10 am to 12 noon

Church Parking Lot

Last 3 years events were so
successful....we are doing it
again !!!

Consider dressing up your car
(and maybe even yourself)
and hand out candy to our
community children

See the sign-up sheet in the
fellowship room

Volunteers for October 2026

October 4

Greeters: Mick & Sandy McCauley
Communion: Beth Rowe (bread), Lori Gittens (juice),
Paula Smith
Jr. Greeter: Ethan Scoville
Childcare: Kathy Mathewson & Vicky Leahy
Children's Church: Alice Zah & Grace Engelbrecht
Fellowship Coffee Hour:

October 11

Greeters: Fred Mollon & Linda Enright
Jr. Greeter: Mila Sosik
Childcare: Sue Edwards & Mira Wooten
Children's Church: Alice Zah
Fellowship Coffee Hour: Grace Engelbrecht & Becky Sosik

October 18

Greeters: Beth & John Rowe
Jr. Greeter: Kyle Nganyu
Childcare: Grace Engelbrecht & Elena McArthur
Children's Church: Alice Zah
Fellowship Coffee Hour:

October 25

Greeters: Marla Guarnieri & Sharon Breeze
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville
Childcare: Vicky Leahy & Mira Wooten
Children's Church: Alice Zah
Fellowship Coffee Hour:

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!

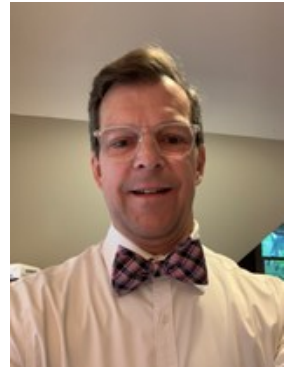


"Presbytery Links"

Article taken from the "Valley Vibes" Presbytery of Genesee Valley newsletter

Lesson from the Lawn

by [Rev. Dr. John Odom](#), Executive Presbyter



Mustard seeds. Wheat and tares. The parable of the sower. Jesus consistently found within the natural world signs of God's Kingdom. So maybe it isn't too much of a stretch for me to suggest a spiritual "lesson from the lawn."

To maximize lawn health, bluegrass, fescue, and other tall lawn grasses should never be mowed shorter than 4 inches. Why? Tall grasses are healthiest when they are allowed to do what they do best—grow tall. Not only does keeping tall grass tall make the grass stronger and more drought-tolerant, but the shade that the taller grass casts on shorter, broad-leaf weeds keeps them in check as well.

People of faith—Presbyterian congregations—are a lot like lawns. You and I are healthiest when we seek to build well-being, play to our strengths, and focus attention on where new life is already surging. Sure, we remember and mourn our individual and corporate weaknesses, deficits, and sins, but what motivates faith—what produces spiritual health—is an unwavering commitment to doing good, to recognizing and praising those places where wholeness and health and abundance of life already flourish.

Members of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, laborers in Christ's mission field, look to your lawns, and learn a spiritual lesson. Do what God has created you for. Focus your energy on developing what you were created and called to be; what you have, not what you lack; praising strengths, not mourning deficits; and watch as God's Kingdom grows green, and vibrant and tall right where you are planted.



Leadership News

At its last regularly scheduled meeting on August 31st, Session...

- ...Opened with prayer led by Pastor Brandi.
- ...Voted to approve the Agenda with the addition of the Nominating Committee report.
- ...Voted to approve the consent agenda.
- ...Received Pastor Brandi's Pastor's report.
- ...Reviewed the annual action items that are completed and upcoming for October.
- ...Recognized Darla Diehl for her hard work in creating an audit process document for the church.
- ...Voted to direct the church treasurer to train Barb Wasmer in all aspects and responsibilities of the treasurer position starting September 1st, 2026.
- ...Voted to approve spending up to \$400 from the Technology line to pay for the annual Proclaim subscription used during worship.
- ...Requested that the Personnel Committee make a recommendation on the Office Administrator's proposal to change hours.
- ...Heard a summary of the August 4th Presbytery meeting.
- ...Conducted pastor Brandi's annual performance review.
- ...Chose Sunday, June 13, 2027 as the next church picnic date.
- ...Voted to direct Pastor Brandi to share with the Deacons the Session's preference for transitioning from a Deacons board to a congregational care committee.
- ...Adjourned at 9:10 PM, with a shared benediction based upon the Great Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Engelbrecht, Clerk of Session



Bible Study

Tuesdays 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

It will be a six-week series studying the book of Revelation.

All are Welcome!

A promotional poster for a cooking event. The background is a wooden cutting board with various kitchen items: a pepper mill, a garlic press, a small bowl of green herbs, a knife, and some chopped green peppers. The text is overlaid on the right side of the board.

Cooking with Foodlink!

Come learn to prepare a healthy meal, and eat healthier with Foodlink's Nutrition Educator!

Free event, includes grocery bag of food to take home and try recipe on your own!

Tuesday, October 27th, 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

Annual Fall Supper



Saturday, November 7

Take Out Only

4:00 pm until sold out

*The delicious Roast Beef Dinner
with all the trimmings for \$17*

Last year we had a very successful community event. We served about 300 meals so we were able to support the Session and Trustees discretionary funds, Mission Fund and Food Cupboard. But to be able to provide that many meals and support our community— we need lots of volunteers.

Soon you will be receiving a donation letter asking for your help with either providing a certain ingredient or asking for a donation towards the purchase of the meat, pies or other items. The more items that are donated the more our event can be successful. We will also be e-blasting the list of volunteers needed.

The Volunteer sign-up sheet will be in the sanctuary soon or call the office and we will be glad to add your name to the list.

Your Fall Supper Committee,

*Andy Atwater, Linda Enright, Jerry Huffman, Nancy Huffman,
Gail McArthur, Sandy McCauley, Barb Wasmer & Roger Willis*



Sunday, October 18.

We will be celebrating our church staff during Fellowship Coffee Hour. Mark your calendar and participate in the celebration !



Wednesday, October 7

Wednesday October 14

Food Cupboard Opportunities

Grocery Run!

Please consider signing up for the East Avenue Grocery Run which will be held Saturday, November 7th under the Chili Presbyterian Church Food Cupboard. You can always do it virtually! The proceeds come back to our Chili Presbyterian Food Cupboard. If you don't want to do the run, you can always consider donating through this website. Thank you for your consideration!

Click here to register: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Rochester/EastAvenueGroceryRun>



Basket Raffle

It's not too early to start thinking of making a basket for the Food Cupboard Basket Raffle! You can get cheap items at a garage sale or online and put together a beautiful basket for the upcoming Chili Arts & Craft Sale which will be December 4 & 5.



IN-STORE & ONLINE

Boscov's
FRIENDS
HELPING
FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND 2025
8AM - 11PM

Donate \$5 to the participating non-profit of your choice to receive your 25% Off Shopping Pass!
HELP US RAISE OVER \$3 MILLION
FOR YOUR LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS!

EXTRA
25% OFF
Lowest Sale Prices

Please consider some opportunities to donate to the Food Cupboard.

Make a \$5 (or more!) donation to the Chili Presbyterian Food Cupboard, and we'll give you an exclusive ticket to the October 21, 2026 discount shopping pass (25% off)!

Message Debbie Lamphron (lamphron@frontier.com) if you're interested in a ticket or want to sell some tickets to this exciting event.

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

Announcements:

Choir Rehearsal is on Wednesday nights at 7pm! Please come out and sing with us – we would love to have anyone and everyone! We can always use more male voices as well!

Bell Choir – Bell choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6pm! If you are interested in playing, please come to talk to me!

Calling all singers and instrumentals! I would love to put together some duets, trios, etc. of any mix of voices and instruments. If you are interested, please see me!

It Was Just One of Those Days...

Have you ever caught yourself saying, “It was just one of those days”? Typically when this is said, it is a statement implying that nothing on a particular day went right for a person.

I had one of those days recently. Mine included going to the dentist (don’t all of these stories start with the dentist?) and finding out I need fillings, spilling water all over my pants so it looks like I had a different type of accident, and then breaking a button on the pants! This all happened in the span of about an hour. It’s that type of start to a day when you feel like it wasn’t worth getting out of bed for! Needless to say, I went home and started over (I had to or my pants would’ve fell off)!

I am pretty sure that everyone has days like this from time to time. Some days just don’t go exactly how we plan them. My recent morning is pretty comical looking back on it! The very basic reality is that we cannot control everything that happens in our lives. However we CAN control how we respond and act to the things happening to us.

It says in 1 Peter 1:6-7 that “In everything you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed”

So God’s Word says we need to rejoice through our trials?!?! “But God, nothing is going as planned?!” Sometimes, when I am struggling with something, I know I am not in the mood to praise God. And in those moments God understands that, and is still there.

Also, God did not design us to be put in bubble wrap to keep us safe from the trials of human life. As the verse above says, trials are a part of life to test and strengthen the “genuineness of our faith.” Trials and tough times will come to all of us at some point of our lives. It’s how we respond to the struggles we have.

I’ve learned so much about my faith in God through some of the hardest trials of my life. I’ve learned firsthand that God is always there, and understands pain. I mean, the physical pain Jesus endured from the cross is very apparent, but how apparent is the emotional pain God had as the Father having to send His Son to the cross, watching Him die, and even having to turn away because the emotional pain was too heavy to see. God has experienced trials and struggles and knows what we are going through. Knowing this about God can bring us comfort and peace in our tough times.

Now there are many who have huge trials to endure. My little dentist trial is nothing compared to people who lose a loved one, or find out they have cancer. It is sometimes hard to see that God is beside us in those moments and I know it can be tough to give any sort of praise. Know that God has a plan for us through the trials and struggles we go through. Prayer is an easy form of feeling connected to God – acknowledging God’s presence in our lives and asking Him to reveal His plans is a great way to strengthen our faith in tough times.

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



Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269-8746

Youth Group has all the fun!

We are back at it with our Joint Youth Group! We have 5 churches participating and have a good amount of youth joining the fun! We had a couple events in September and we ramping up to more events in October!

Our youth also help out at various events going on at the church. We help load cars at the Food Cupboard distribution day and continue to provide diapers and wipes to families in need. Side note: we could always use baby wipes, if you were looking for a way to donate! We are also helping at Trunk or Treat and the Fall Supper in the coming weeks!

Check out the events below! Lots of things to get excited about!

Peace and Love,

Adam

Upcoming Schedule!

**Saturday, October 17 – Serving at church for the Chili Food Cupboard.
9:30-11:30am.**

Sunday, October 18 – Joint Youth Group @ Stokoe Farms! , 12-4pm.

Saturday, October 24 – Trunk or Treat! 10am-noon.

Sunday October 25 – Joint Youth Group! 11:30am-2pm.

Saturday, November 7 – Serving @ Fall Supper! 4-7pm

St. Pauly Box Schedule

September 21 through October 6 - Kathy & Wayne Honsberger

October 7 through October 18 - Paula Smith

October 19 through November 1 - Barb Wasmer