



Chili Pres Connections



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



2026

In This Issue....

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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



At the August Presbytery Meeting, participants divided into groups to have a Courageous Conversation about the “Top 7 Issues Before the Church in 2026.” We discussed each of these issues and were invited to add any that were missing. Afterward, we ranked the challenges, with number 1 representing the most difficult. My group of four had a meaningful discussion, and I appreciated the time set aside from regular business to engage in an important conversation with other Presbyterians.

In a recent Valley Vibes, John Odom, our Executive Presbyter, revealed the results of the rankings, from most to least important:

- 1. Pastoral Leader Shortage** 25% of pastors likely to retire by 2030, only 466 in the pipeline
- 2. Aging Congregational Leaders** More Presbyterians are over 65 than under 35
- 3. Evangelism is Virtually Non-Existent** Presbyterians invite someone to church about once every 17 years
- 4. Church is Less Important in People's Lives** Only 25% of Americans say that they “practice their faith” and engage in Christian faith formation
- 5. Algorithmic Discipleship** 60hrs/wk spent online disciplined by algorithm vs. 2hrs/wk disciplined by church
- 6. Property is an Albatross** Maintenance of property is diverting resources from mission
- 7. Religious Content is Everywhere; Religious Connection is Not** People are lonely and seek community

The groups also offered the following as missing topics:

- Connection—people to people, people to God, people to the world
- Welcoming handicapped and diversity in general
- Polity structure
- Diversity— Churches not working together
- Ugly Christian behavior in social media

Mainline churches across the country are wrestling with these issues. As you review the list, you might rank them differently for our congregation. The presbytery called these discussions “courageous conversations,” and I believe that name fits. It takes courage to face challenges within our church community, but without honest conversation and action, we cannot thrive as God desires. John emphasized that this was only the beginning of the Presbytery's work on these concerns. The Presbytery has committed to offering learning opportunities on each topic, and I hope we will take part, learn from them, and grow as faithful disciples.

Rev. Brandi C Wooten



The Harvest theme is Love Abundantly, a tribute to abundance and what harvest offers us, and a call to action from Jesus on how to love the people of the world.

Look for these fellowship and mission opportunities!

Abundant Bonfire at Tim & Marla's

Saturday, October 3rd starting at 6:00pm

Enjoy each other's company, bonfire and snacks & s'mores at the Engelbrecht's' on Chestnut Ridge Rd.

"Blessings Under the Tree" Gift Shop

Saturday, December 5th

The Harvest team, in partnership with Adam and Paula, will be hosting a gift shop for up to 30 families to choose free holiday gifts for their kids. Look out for more information soon for the gift suggestions or monetary donations we will be collecting throughout the fall. We will also have a volunteer sheet available for anyone wanting to help that day, including greeters, gift wrappers, and children's activities volunteers.

Harvest Kick-Off Coffee Hour

Sunday, September 13th after workshop

Join us in the lower hall for the first coffee hour of the Harvest season!

Your Harvest Team,
Grace Engelbrecht (chair) Tim Engelbrecht, Lori Gittens
Marla Guarneri, Ed Jones, Sheryl Jones

Celebrating

each other.....

September

- 2 Mira Wooten
- 3 Conklin Anniversary
- 7 Sue Atwater
- 9 Ethan Scoville
- 15 Brian Gernhardt
- 15 Bill Horn
- 20 Lillian Scoville

Bible Study



Our Bible study has not met in a while. I would like to start it again, but I want to do it a little differently. Instead of meeting at 9 AM, before church, I want to meet a few times during the year, but only for 6-8 weeks at a time. Also, I'd like to meet during the week to include more people than we could on Sunday mornings. My thought is to meet on either Tuesday or Thursday from 11:30-1, 12:30-2, or 1-2:30. I'd like to know which day and time would work better for you. Please send your response to my email at fredmollon@yahoo.com. I'll decide based on the responses that I receive. Thank you ~ Fred Mollon

Volunteers for September 2026

September 6

Greeters: Kathy & Rich Stowe
Communion: Mark Carden (juice), Barb Wasmer (bread), Barb Boerschlein
Jr. Greeter: McKenlee Scoville
Childcare: Marla Guarnieri & Mira Wooten

September 13

Greeters: Andy & Sue Atwater
Jr. Greeter: Audrey Sosik
Childcare: Sheryl Jones & Tom Leahy

September 20

Greeters: Vicky Leahy & Gail McArthur
Jr. Greeter: Betsy Nganyu
Childcare: Lori Gittens & Mira Wooten

September 27

Greeters: Becky & Brian Gernhardt
Jr. Greeter: Tristan Engelbrecht
Childcare: Elena McArthur & Becky Sosik

Cardboard Disposal

If you obtain any items in card board boxes please do NOT place them in the recycling can behind the church building. This can has limited space and we are using it for other recyclable items.

Thank you !

The October newsletter deadline is
September 18

"Presbytery Links"

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

The Ministry of the Leftovers

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



"Do you understand the meaning of leftovers?" This was Jesus' question to the original disciples, and it is his question for the Church today.

After Jesus multiplies the loaves and the fish and feeds 5,000 and 4,000, the disciples get into a boat and grumble about not having enough bread for themselves.

When they begin to discuss their sorry plight, Jesus says, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand?" (Mark 8:17).

What didn't they understand? They didn't understand the ministry of leftovers. As Jesus' disciples take care of others, Jesus takes care of them, too.

"When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." And Jesus said, "Do you not yet understand?" (Mark 8:19-21)

Understand what? The leftovers.

The leftovers are for the servers. At the first multiplication, there are twelve servers and twelve basketfuls left over (Mark 6:43)—one whole basket for each server. The second time there are seven basketfuls left over—seven, the Biblical number symbolizing abundant completeness.

The lesson—then and now—for Jesus' disciples? What is it that you and I often fail to understand? The simple truth: as you and I care for others, Jesus takes care of us. You and I cannot out-give Jesus. The church always has enough and to spare to do the ministry to which Jesus calls. When we spend our lives for others, Jesus supplies our every need through the ministry of the leftovers. All those who have ears, listen.

"Presbytery Links" ...continued



With Heartfelt Thanks

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

Per Capita in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a foundational, equitable, and historically rooted system dating back to 1734 where congregations contribute a set, per-member amount to support the missional work of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly. The 2026 per capita figure is \$40/member.

As of June 30, 2026 (the half-way point of the year), the following 26 PGV congregations have contributed anywhere from 50% to 100% of their 2026 per capita total: Avon (First), Barre Center, Bethany, Brockport, Byron, **Chili**, Covington, DUPC, Geneseo, Holley, Honeoye Falls, John Calvin, Lima, Livonia, Mt. Morris, Ogden, Ossian, Perinton, Pittsford, Scottsville, Stone (Bergen), Summerville, Tuscarora, Victor, Webster, and York.

PGV is grateful to the above congregations for your example and faithful commitment to the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Thank you!

If you do not find your congregation's name on the list, we encourage you to speak with your session and consider ways to meet your annual per capita obligation.

Leadership News

At its last regularly scheduled meeting on June 1st, Session...

...Opened with prayer led by Pastor Brandi.

...Voted to approve the Agenda with the addition of Quarterly review of finances.

...Voted to approve the consent agenda.

...Voted to receive the Treasurer's Report ending on July 31st, 2026.

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

...Voted to approve a working Sunday for Pastor Brandi on October 25th, 2026, as she is traveling back from Synod Assembly.

...Reviewed the annual action items that are completed and upcoming for September & October.

...Received correspondence from PCUSA thanking the church for the Peace & Global Witness offerings.

...Voted to accept Dale Faatz's resignation from the Special Funds & Gifts Coordinator role and to appoint Elder Gail McArthur to that position.

...Voted to approve the Memorial Fund Policy as presented.

...Voted to approve spending \$620 from OE-06 - Maintenance to pay for the replacement parts for the AED.

...Performed a quarterly review of finances with Barb Wasmer, Finance Chair; Jerry Huffman, Chair of Trustees; and Sandy McCauley, Church Treasurer.

...Voted to transfer \$18,031.04 from the Session designated fund into the general fund to support operating expenses.

...Adjourned at 9:05 PM, with a shared benediction based upon the Great Commission.

Respectfully submitted, Grace Engelbrecht, Clerk of Session



WORLD COMMUNION

The Presbyterian Church (USA) changed their annual fall offering from Peace and Global Mission to World Communion Offering.

All of God's people gather around the Table to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Part of the atonement that happens around this Table is reconciliation, which is the focus of the World Communion Offering. Experience the grace that comes from reconciling all peoples from all nations around the corner and around the globe through the ministry of this offering.

This offering supports: Racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, ecumenical & interfaith relations.

More information will be available in the bulletin inserts this fall and donation envelopes will be in the pew racks



Board of Deacon's will be resuming Fellowship Hour after Worship in the lower hall starting September 6. They 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.

Getting to know more about our Chili Pres Food Cupboard.....

Our summer season has been another busy time, and our church family and volunteers have continued to bless our community. It is amazing to think of all the people this mission has been able to support.

Our recent impact includes:

June: Supported 133 households and fed 398 individuals

July: Supplied food to 99 households and fed 301 individuals

August: Served 90 households and fed 263 people

We would not be able to offer this support without the help of our church family and community volunteers. I want to take a moment to thank and highlight the numerous people who make this mission possible.

First, a very special thank you goes to **Debbie Lamphron** for her insight and organizational skills. She continues to keep the wheels turning, relying on 40-46 church members and community volunteers each month to serve our neighbors and friends:

- **Jane Schultz** emails and provides Deb with the volunteer list each month
- **Sue Edwards** and her crew of 6-8 volunteers meet the Foodlink truck on Thursdays to unload and shelve food for the next distribution
- **Packing Day Crew:** 16-20 people are needed to bag groceries
- **Distribution Team:** 25-30 volunteers are needed to hand out food
- **Traffic Control:** 3-4 volunteers are needed to help with parking and traffic flow
- **Sharon Breeze:** Spends time talking with the families, sharing in their joys and concerns
- **Intake Team:** 2 volunteers record client information on attestation forms to verify facts and collect signatures

A very special thank you goes out to all of our leaders and volunteers. Because of your desire to help those in need, this mission will continue to serve our community,



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

It has been a busy week at Chili Pres! Tuesday, we hosted a Cooking Demonstration with Foodlink. We had 19 people attend and learned how to make a healthy meal. Then Wednesday we had our Fun Fair, which was well attended and there was lots of food and fun! I express my deep gratitude to all who have helped out this week to provide these great events to our community!

I also wanted to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, meals and patience when I went into the hospital in July. I am so lucky to have such great support from my church family. Your care for me and my family is truly amazing and came at a time when we really needed it.

My hospital stay was caused by poison ivy in my eye that eventually cause a terrible cellulitis infection in my leg, along with some pneumonia. It came on very fast, and there was some great concern that it could get much worse. Luckily it didn't, however the recovery has taken much longer than I was expecting.

This was not apart of the plan for this summer. However, our plans are not God's plans, and I had to step back, slow down and take care of myself. In Proverbs 19:21 it says "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." I am learning that my health is vital to being the person I need to be in all the other areas in my life – my family, my marriage, my work, and my spiritual life.

"You're gonna lead me from glory to glory. You're not done writing the best of my story," These are lyrics from the song "Plans" by Brandon Lake. I pray that you will hold to your faith in Christ, even when the road is rocky. God still has a plan for you!

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



Families and Youth

Director Adam Scoville

cpministerofmusic@gmail.com 585-269-8746

LET'S GET IT STARTED!

Our school year is about to begin again, and so does Youth Group! We are still working out the fall schedule and will have that available soon.

What I would like to share is a brief reflection from our Youth Mission Trip this summer to Ocean City, Maryland. We went in the beginning of August and spent a week doing various projects. This was in conjunction with our Joint Youth Group, as 3 other churches participated with us. We had 7 youth and 4 adults. We were able to stay in a retreat center that is across the street from the ocean, so the youth had many opportunities to enjoy the sun, sand and ocean – except many got stung from jellyfish that had come close to shore! But everyone was ok. We did various mission projects – preparing meals and serving at 2 different soup kitchens, spending time in a nursing home, and doing some cleaning projects in a vacation home for children with chronic illnesses. Our theme for the week was to “Go Out” and we had a great devotion time in the morning and evening. We even did a service on the beach! It was a fantastic trip and it was awesome to see our youth grow on the trip! Thank you to all who support our trip financially and through prayer!

Next month's newsletter will have more information for the youth group schedule!

Peace and Love,

Adam

St. Pauly Box Schedule

August 24 through September 6 - Henry Gerhardt

September 7 through September 20 - Andy Atwater

September 21 through October 4 - Wayne & Kathy Honsberger