

MARCH 11, 2026

Getting to know Rev. Chris Fantuzzo, our pastoral candidate

After our worship service on Sunday March 15, Council encourages all congregants to attend a meeting during which Rev. Fantuzzo will share some of his story, answer questions, and have opportunities to meet people individually.

We will gather in the Fellowship hall for sandwiches and dessert immediately after the service. The meeting will run from approximately 11:30am to 1pm. Adult Sunday School classes will not meet.

Please submit the questions you would like to ask Rev. Fantuzzo by writing them on a card and dropping the card in the box on the welcome center in the narthex. Those questions will be collated and used first during the question and answer part of the session.



Rev. Fantuzzo also will meet with various church leaders and ministries during his visit. He and his family will attend the Lasagna Dinner and Dessert Auction on Friday evening.

See page 3 for his biography. You may pick up a copy of his full professional resume/cv on the welcome center.

TONIGHT!

March 11: CRCNA's Annual Day of Prayer:

Meet in the council room after Koinonia dinner. We will begin at 6:40 and end by 7:20. For those who wish to join from home, click on the event on the [church calendar](#) for the link. A host will let you in beginning at 6:35. Besides topics listed on the [CRCNA webpage](#), we will also pray for our upcoming pastoral candidate visit.

The family of **Phyllis Steensma** thanks you for the cards, visits, and words of encouragement during the this grieving period. She was born into the Rochester CRC and was true lover of the Lord.

Becky Bivone, sister



Youth Group Fundraiser
**Lasagna Dinner
&
Dessert Auction**
Rochester Christian Reformed Church

Our youth will serve delicious lasagna and salad. When you arrive, sign up for an auction paddle so that you can join in the fun of the silent and live dessert auctions!

All proceeds go towards sponsoring youth service projects, to help our youth attend Flower City Work Camp and other youth events and retreats.

**Friday, March 13
at 6 pm**

Sign up in the narthex or contact the church office (585) 381-7861 to attend and/or to donate a dessert.
Questions? Contact Julie at julievandebake@gmail.com

Calling a full time pastor: A brief summary

The Christian Reformed Church guidelines for calling a pastor are outlined in a document called the Church Order. As we seek a full-time pastor, we must follow those guidelines under the supervision of our classis counselor, Michael Saville.

Here are the next few steps involved in that process:

1. A candidate visit, occurring for us this weekend.
2. A council meeting to discuss whether to nominate the candidate for election by the congregation.
3. If nominated, a vote at a congregational meeting which must be announced at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting.
4. If elected, extension of a call by the council.
5. Approval of the counselor who acts on behalf of classis.

In our case, the council will meet during the week after the visit. If the council decides to nominate the candidate, the council will announce a meeting. The meeting and voting must be in person. Because the council wants to have as many members as possible participating in the meeting, and enough present to make a quorum, council plans hold the meeting after a Sunday morning worship service.

However, this makes the first two possible Sundays for our congregational meeting the Sundays at the beginning and end of the April school break, when many families travel. And, the Sundays are Palm Sunday and Easter. The meeting therefore might be scheduled on the first "regular" Sunday after the visit.

This may feel like a long time between the visit and the call. Our classis counselor assures us that this interval is well within the usual range. Please watch for updates and continue to ask God to guide us clearly as this process unfolds.

Your Council



MONDAY VISITORS: Charity Homeschool meets on Mondays. So, for security reasons, please limit visits and enter the church through the office doors until May 4.

Pulpit Schedule

March 15: Chris Fantuzzo
March 22: Nick Monsma (from Palmyra)
March 29 (Palm Sunday) Bethany Miller
April 3 (Good Friday) to be determined
April 5 (Easter) Bethany Miller

Serving this Sunday

Nursery

Heidi Zinkand
Elle Hall

Children and Worship

Chrissy Null

Ushers

Tony LaPolla & David Dill

Coffee Service & Cleanup

Ruth Machiele & Joyce Ostberg
John or Katie Singleton

thank you

Rev. Chris Fantuzzo Bio Sketch

I am an ordained teaching elder in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (a denomination in communion with the CRCNA). I have six years' experience as a pastor with a background in discipleship ministry and in academia (PhD, Hebrew Bible).

I was baptized at Browncroft Community Church and graduated from Webster High School; my alma mater is the University of Rochester (Biology). I came to affirm the Reformed faith through personal study, guided by a Presbyterian pastor serving in Charlotte, NY. He encouraged me to attend Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia).

I see the role of pastor as the calling to lead a local congregation in witnessing to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I promote the flourishing of disciples in knowing God, becoming like him, and doing his will in imitation of our Lord's own model of self-giving love (Philippians 2:5-11). I therefore prioritize relationships, realizing that my ability to serve is enhanced through hospitality and visitation, praying with and for church members and friends.

Leadership is conducted with patience, humility, and integrity; conflicts get resolved by putting people before issues, empathetic listening, and the exercise of peacemaking processes. I encourage every member towards the maximal exercise of their spiritual gifts in regional and global service. And I see the faithful administration of word and sacrament as the ordinary means for extending God's grace throughout his world.

My hope is that even visitors will find my gospel messages clear and convincing, while seasoned saints will also find them theologically grounded, culturally informed, and personally edifying.

Incredibly important to me are my relationships with and care for my wife and family. I am married to Emily, a general music teacher, church worship director, and piano instructor. We have two children, Catherine and Thomas. Catherine is a scholar of Russian language and literature. Tommy studies music education and classical guitar. We also love Snickers; he is our 13-year-old Brittany Lab.

To read Reverend Fantuzzo's full resume/cv, pick up copies on the Welcome Center in the narthex.