

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

January 2015 Newsletter



**Important
DATE!**

2015 Annual Meetings

Z - The Annual Meeting for First Congregational UCC is scheduled for **Sunday, February 8, 2015 after 10:00 worship service (Note the time change for worship). Following the meeting we will gather for pot luck lunch and fellowship. A reminder to all committee chairs: *please have your annual reports in by Sunday, January 25th to give Sue ample time to assemble.* Copies of report should be placed in file on the desk in her office.**

O - The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **February 1, 2015 during worship service. We will follow the meeting with a pot luck lunch. A reminder to all committee chairs: *please have your annual reports in by Sunday, January 18th for Sue to assemble.* Copies of report should be placed in file on the desk in her office.**

All members are encouraged to attend!



The Pastor's Page

Disclaimer: I realize that what I'm about to say is region-specific. It's not necessarily as applicable for other parts of this country let alone other parts of the world. However, it is in this part of the world – the great-yet-frozen state of Minnesota – that I live, and so these are my observations.

The new year is upon us. 2014 is over, and 2015 lays spread out before us like an open book, ready and waiting for us to make our mark upon its blank and expectant pages.

May people use the new year as an opportunity to start anew – to hit the “refresh” button on some aspect of their lives or another. We want to be a better version of ourselves, and what better time to seek out and embrace that new “self” than the new year? It's no coincidence that so many ad campaigns capitalize on some variation of the phrase “A new year, a new you!” It speaks to that deep longing we have in our hearts to make a change – to learn something ... do something ... be something fresh and new and different.

Who am I going to be?
What am I going to do differently?
How am I going to enact **real** change in my life?

Often, these questions spur new year's resolutions.

“This year, I'm going to get healthy.”

“This year, I'm going to quit smoking.”

“This year, I'm going to learn to be financially responsible.”

“This year, I'm going to be more organized.”

“This year, I'm going to be more patient/
compassionate/generous/kind.”

I find it both interesting and ironic that this laser-focus on a new version of life comes in the midst of a season that seems so devoid of life.

The ground is frozen.

The trees are leafless.

The days are short and the nights oh, so long.

Any plants left over from last season lie dormant in the ground at best, and at worst, are shriveled and brown and dead.

And the only life we witness outside – human or otherwise – moves quickly from one warm space to another in an attempt to not freeze.

In the midst of this season in which the world seems on hold at best, we focus on ways to renew our lives.

Immense in mercy and with an incredible love, God embraced us. God took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. God did all this on God's own, with no help from us! ~ Ephesians 3:4-5 (The Message)

From death, life.

And more than just a lackluster existence. As Jesus says to the disciples in John's gospel, “I came so that they can have **real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of**” (Jn 10:10).

Friends, this is the essence of the Good News that we share – that in the midst of the coldness and darkness and deadness of sin, Christ came to bring life and forgiveness and grace.

To all.

For all.

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So as you think about what your new year's resolutions and how to start afresh in the year ahead, remember that God has made you alive in Christ, giving you a love that never ends, a forgiveness that never fades, and a peace that cannot be surpassed. Let this reassurance be your warmth in the cold ... your light in the darkness ... your inspiration and encouragement in days, weeks, and year ahead.

Pastor Lisa

In Our Prayers



I pray that you may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Ephesians 3:17,18

The friends and family of Bev (Judy Wilder's sister-in-law), Joanne Schenck, Eunice Markham, Pat & Julie (friends of Sue Johnson), Dick Wedge (Jim's brother), Dorothy French, Karen Vallejo, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, the friends and family of Paulette Barnhart as they mourn the loss of her mother.

(O) Presbytery Meeting

The next presbytery meeting is **Sat., Jan. 24, 2015**. It starts at **9:00 a.m.** and will be held at **Oak Grove Presbyterian Church** in Bloomington. Pastor Lisa will be going, so anyone wanting to ride along is more than welcome! Just give me a call.

Annual Meetings – Mark Your Calendars! O – February 1st Z – February 8th

A reminder to all committee chairs: *please have your annual reports in at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting for Sue to assemble.*

Reports may be emailed to the church office, or paper copies may given to Bob Hawley (Z) or Mike Rand (O) for forwarding. Thanks to all who will be submitting reports. Without your good work, we

would have a less complete record of the year's activities.

(O) Tithing by Direct Deposit

Our ability to tithe by direct deposit is up and running. Hoorah!! If you're interested in making your financial contribution electronically, please contact Kim Stanton or Kay Erdahl. Thanks.

(O) POC December Bake Sale

Thanks to all who contributed goodies for the December bake sale and also to those who made purchases. We raised a total of \$232 for our POC outreach programs. What a great way to end the year!

In Appreciation



(O/Z) Thank you to everyone for the Christmas gifts. You all are special and I am honored to be your organist.

Katha

(O) Thank you for your gift of \$200 to the Christmas Cheer program. Clients receive Christmas gifts with his money. Have a wonderful holiday season and thanks for being able to help.

SPRTC
Christmas Cheer Program

(O/Z) Thank you so much for the Christmas gift of money. May the New Year bring you all beautiful moments, treasured memories and all the blessings a heart can know.

Your secretary,
Sue

Thank you all so much for your wonderful Christmas gifts. You truly know how to make Peter, the boys and me feel appreciated and blessed.

Pastor Lisa

(O/Z) Taizé Worship Service

The Worship Team wants to try something a little different. We've gotten feedback from a lot of people who enjoy joint services, so we're going to attempt a few more of those a year. In January, we're going to try a joint Taizé service. This is a type of service that originated in a monastery in France that was founded by Brother Roger Schutz (a Reformed *Protestant*) in 1940. Taizé services are more quiet, contemplative, candlelit services. Yes, I said *candlelit*. For this reason, we'll be holding this service in the evening instead of on a Sunday morning. Here are the details for the service:

Date: **Sat., Jan. 24, 2015**

Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Place: **Oronoco church**

As church will be on Saturday night that week, the worship team wants to encourage you to use your Sunday time as a day of Sabbath for rest, renewal, and deepening your relationship with God.

All parenting turns on a crucial question: to what extent should parents accept their children for who they are, and to what extent they should help them become their best selves. Drawing on ten years of research and interviews with more than three hundred families, Solomon mines the eloquence of ordinary people facing extreme challenges.

Elegantly reported by a spectacularly original and compassionate thinker, *Far From the Tree* explores how people who love each other must struggle to accept each other—a theme in every family's life. *The New York Times* calls it a "wise and beautiful" volume, that "will shake up your preconceptions and leave you in a better place."

Please join us on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Coleen Johnston (47421 County Road 11 Boulevard, Mazeppa). Because this is a fairly large book, we have agreed that all will read the first and last chapters and any of those in between that we choose.

(O/Z) Food Shelf Sunday

Food Shelf donation Sunday for both O and Z is January 4, 2015. Non-perishable food items and paper products are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are always welcome. Your generosity is appreciated more than you know.

(O/Z) Worship Advisory Team

NEXT MEETING: TBD

Just a reminder that the Worship Advisory Team consists of:

Lance Sorensen (O)

Linda Sorensen (O)

Peter Johnson (O)

Connie Hawley (Z)

Hailey Vath (Z)

Sue Wedge (Z)

We are continuing to discuss a number of different things, so if you have any ideas or feedback about worship, please feel free to share your thoughts with one of these people.

(O/Z) Readers of OZ



The book selection for January is "*Far From the Tree*" by Andrew Solomon.

Barnes & Noble has this to share about the book:

A winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, The Dayton Peace Prize, and one of *The New York Times Book Review's* Ten Best Books of 2012—"a brave, beautiful book that will expand your humanity".

Andrew Solomon's startling proposition in *Far From the Tree* is that being exceptional is at the core of the human condition—that difference is what unites us. He writes about families coping with deafness, dwarfism, Down syndrome, autism, schizophrenia, or multiple severe disabilities; with children who are prodigies, who are conceived in rape, who become criminals, who are transgender. While each of these characteristics is potentially isolating, the experience of difference within families is universal, and Solomon documents triumphs of love over prejudice in every chapter.

OZ Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day Team

We are up and running ... well ... walking. J We've put together a joint O/Z team to walk the Breast Cancer 3-Day in the Twin Cities next year. A few facts:

- Dates: Aug. 21-23, 2015
- Registration cost: \$70
- Distance: 60 miles walked in 3 days
- Requirements:
 - * must be able to walk 60 miles
 - * must be willing to either overnight in the tents (provided by 3-Day organization) or in a local hotel
 - * must raise \$2300 as a participant
- More information: <http://www.the3day.org>

I know that \$2300 is a lot of money, but we'll do a lot of fundraising together. There are also a number of personal fundraising tips that can be found on the website including letters, Facebook resources, e-cards, and your own personal fundraising page that allows people to contribute electronically.

If you're interested in walking with us:

- à Go to <http://www.the3day.org>
- à Click on "Register"
- à Click on the Twin Cities 2015 link
- à Click on "Register and join a team"
- à Search for team "OZ Faith Walkers"

You can also find our Facebook page – search for "O/Z 3-Day Team." Even if you can't walk, there will be plenty of ways that the congregations can help and support this effort, so stay tuned!

(O/Z) Pastor out of Town

Pastor Lisa will be out of town **Fri., Jan. 16-Sun., Jan. 18, 2015.** I will keep my cell phone on me, so if you need to get a hold of me, please feel free to do so. Thanks.

Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson
Secretary: Sue Johnson
Custodians: (O) Sue Johnson
(Z) Debbie Floan
Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

UCC Leadership Team

Bob Hawley, Moderator
Linda Magdsick Quammen, Clerk
Connie Wendt, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
David Pahl, Trustee
Rex Wiederanders, Trustee
Jim Wendt, Trustee
Gary Ofstie, Deacon
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Chad Vath, Deacon
Connie Hawley, Deacon
Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Coleen Johnston, Deacon

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Judy Wilder, Clerk
Kay Erdahl, Treasurer
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Ruling Elder
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder
Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder
Ellen Simon, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Kim Stanton, Ruling Elder
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Ted Midthin, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Vivien Midthin, Deacon
Carol Tiede, Deacon
Larry Glasenapp, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator
Judy Wilder, Co-Moderator
Joanne Schenck, Secretary
Judy Wilder, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

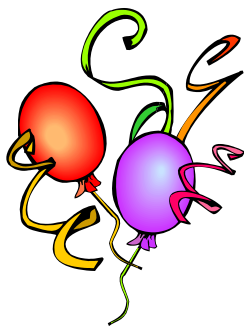


**Tuesday in Oronoco 10-3:00
Thursday in Oronoco 10-3:00**

**Office Phone (507) 367-4711
Email address: oronocopc@bevcomm.net**

Birthdays for the Month of January

1/1 Lisa Johnson
1/3 Jayna Lee Hartzell
1/4 Matthew Biever
 Hailey Vath
 Robert Rueber
1/6 Robert Rolland
1/9 Andrew Pahl
1/11 Skylar Olson
1/12 Jack Rucker
 Ava Tiede
1/14 Coleen Johnston
1/25 Mitchell Watkins
 Nickolas Vath
1/27 Cayden Olson
1/28 Gerry Webster
 Janice Ostrom
1/31 Larry Smith



(O/Z) Peace Camp 2015 Planning

It's that time again! We're gearing up for Peace Camp 2015. The initial planning meeting will be **Sun., Jan. 11 at 4:00 p.m.** at Z church. Anyone interested in being a part of this planning committee is welcome to come!

Scripture Reading for January 2015

Sun., Jan. 4

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-12

Sun., Jan. 11

various readings

Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Sun., Jan. 18

guest preacher

Sat., Jan 24

Taize service ***note, this is a SATURDAY***

(O) Clearwater Forest Summer Camp

Registration for summer has opened! We are busy preparing for yet another incredible year of outdoor ministry and personal growth for those who attend! Our theme, "POWER UP: Living in the Spirit!" will allow for campers to grow in their faith throughout the week. We have added three new programs; Jr. High Night Owl, Jr. High Week 7 and Discovery Week 7. Plus we have made changes to the Grands Camp and First Timer Camp schedule to provide new opportunities that will have incredible life-changing experiences!

Mark your calendars now for our Friends and Family Day, Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. instead of the traditional date of mid-July to provide opportunities for our first-timer campers to explore camp, meet the staff, and sign up for some of our earlier programs. We will be commissioning the staff during the program!

For more camp registration information, visit <http://www.clearwaterforest.org> or contact us directly at 218-678-2325.

(O) 2015 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's Association of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities is hosting a spring gathering at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis** on **Apr. 25, 2015**. Morning speakers will be Rev. Bebe Baldwin and Rev. Dr. Alike Galloway. They will be talking about their book "Living Waters: Living Stories of African American Women and Their Biblical Sisters." In the afternoon, we will be talking about the volunteer positions that need to be filled for the National Gathering in the Twin Cities, June 18-21, 2015.

If you're interested in attending this gathering, please contact pw@ptcaweb.org.

Daily Lectionary Readings ~ January 2015

Thursday January 1

Morning: Ps. 98; 146
Evening: Ps. 99; 8
Gen. 17:1–12a, 15–16
Col. 2:6–12
John 16:23b–30

Friday January 2

Morning: Ps. 48; 147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 9; 29
Gen. 12:1–7
Heb. 11:1–12
John 6:35–42, 48–51

Saturday January 3

Morning: Ps. 111; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 107; 15
Gen. 28:10–22
Heb. 11:13–22
John 10:7–17

Sunday January 4

Morning: Ps. 20; 148
Evening: Ps. 93; 97
Exod. 3:1–5
Heb. 11:23–31
John 14:6–14

Monday January 5

Morning: Ps. 99; 149
Evening: Ps. 96; 110
Josh. 1:1–9
Heb. 11:32–12:2
John 15:1–16

Tuesday January 6

Epiphany of the Lord
Morning: Ps. 72; 150
Evening: Ps. 100; 67
Isa. 52:7–10
Rev. 21:22–27
Matt. 12:14–21

Wednesday January 7

Morning: Ps. 46 or 97; 145
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 52:3–6
Rev. 2:1–7
John 2:1–11

Thursday January 8

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47; 146
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 59:15b–21
Rev. 2:8–17
John 4:46–54

Friday January 9

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47;
147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 63:1–5
Rev. 2:18–29
John 5:1–15

Saturday January 10

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47;
Ps. 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 65:1–9
Rev. 3:1–6
John 6:1–14

Sunday January 11

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47; 148
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 65:13–16
Rev. 3:7–13
John 6:15–27

Monday January 12

Morning: Ps. 46 or 97; 149
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 66:1–2, 22–23
Rev. 3:14–22
John 9:1–12, 35–38

Tuesday January 13

Baptism of the Lord
Morning: Ps. 104; 150
Evening: Ps. 29
Isa. 40:1–11
Heb. 1:1–12
John 1:1–7, 19–20, 29–34

Wednesday January 14

Morning: Ps. 5; 145
Evening: Ps. 82; 29
Isa. 40:12–24
Eph. 1:1–14
Mark 1:1–13

Thursday January 15

Morning: Ps. 42; 146
Evening: Ps. 102; 133
Isa. 40:25–31
Eph. 1:15–23
Mark 1:14–28

Friday January 16

Morning: Ps. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 1; 33
Isa. 41:1–16
Eph. 2:1–10
Mark 1:29–45

Saturday January 17

Morning: Ps. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 16; 62
Isa. 41:17–29
Eph. 2:11–22
Mark 2:1–12

Sunday January 18

Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity Begins
Morning: Ps. 51; 148
Evening: Ps. 142; 65
Isa. 42:(1–9) 10–17
Eph. 3:1–13
Mark 2:13–22

Monday January 19

Morning: Ps. 104; 149
Evening: Ps. 138; 98
Isa. (42:18–25) 43:1–13
Eph. 3:14–21
Mark 2:23–3:6

Tuesday January 20

Morning: Ps. 19; 150
Evening: Ps. 81; 113
Isa. 43:14–44:5
Heb. 6:17–7:10
John 4:27–42

Wednesday January 21

Morning: Ps. 135; 145
Evening: Ps. 97; 112
Isa. 44:6–8, 21–23
Eph. 4:1–16
Mark 3:7–19a

Daily Lectionary Readings - January 2015

Thursday January 22

Morning: Ps. 123; 146
Evening: Ps. 30; 86
Isa. 44:9–20
Eph. 4:17–32
Mark 3:19b–35

Friday January 23

Morning: Ps. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 48; 4
Isa. 44:24–45:7
Eph. 5:1–14
Mark 4:1–20

Saturday January 24

Morning: Ps. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 80; 27
Isa. 45:5–17
Eph. 5:15–33
Mark 4:21–34

Sunday January 25

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends
Morning: Ps. 130; 148
Evening: Ps. 32; 139
Isa. 45:18–25
Eph. 6:1–9
Mark 4:35–41

Monday January 26

Morning: Ps. 56; 149
Evening: Ps. 118; 111
Isa. 46:1–13
Eph. 6:10–24
Mark 5:1–20

Tuesday January 27

Morning: Ps. 67; 150
Evening: Ps. 46; 93
Isa. 47:1–15
Heb. 10:19–31
John 5:2–18

Wednesday January 28

Morning: Ps. 57; 145
Evening: Ps. 85; 47
Isa. 48:1–11
Gal. 1:1–17
Mark 5:21–43

Thursday January 29

Morning: Ps. 54; 146
Evening: Ps. 28; 99
Isa. 48:12–21 (22)
Gal. 1:18–2:10
Mark 6:1–13

Friday January 30

Morning: Ps. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 125; 91
Isa. 49:1–12
Gal. 2:11–21
Mark 6:13–29

Saturday January 31

Morning: Ps. 143; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 81; 116
Isa. 49:13–23 (24–26)
Gal. 3:1–14
Mark 6:30–46

(Z) Ethical Choices in Clothing with Sonja Parr



**Adult Sunday School Presentation
Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**

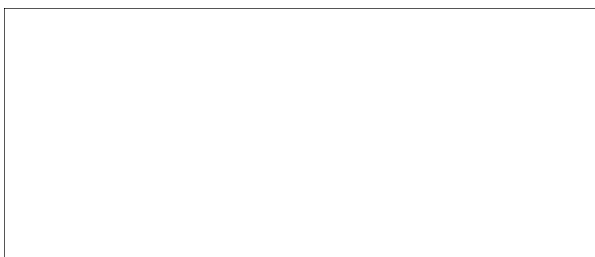
Sonja Parr, former pastor and now fair trade clothing educator, tells the story of those who make our clothing and the ethics behind our clothing choices. Do you remember the Bangladesh factory collapse killing garment workers? Do you know which companies signed on to higher safety standards? Did you know there are companies that can name the person who sewed your clothing or companies that are conscientious about chemicals used in our clothing production? Sonja brings a message of hope that can help us make more informed, ethical choices about the clothing we purchase.

Come find out more!

First Congregational UCC
455 East Avenue
Zumbrota, MN 55992
(507) 732-7015



Presbyterian Church of Oronoco
PO Box 118
Oronoco, MN 55960
(507) 367-4711



Check out our websites at:

www.pcomn.org

www.ucczumbrota.com

Worship Times for the Month of January 2015



1/4 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

1/11 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

1/18 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

1/24 Taize Worship 7:00pm at Oronoco

(O) Nursery available during worship for ages 6 weeks through pre-K

(Z) Sunday school for all grades at 10:15

Pastor Lisa Johnson—Contact Information

Cell Phone (507)696-8753 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com

Pastor's Blog: pastorlisaj.wordpress.com