



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA and PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO



## May 2017 Newsletter

The spring flowers are beginning to blossom. The trees are starting to display that bright green blush that they have when their leaves are just starting to bud. There is newness all around us - sort of like the earth is taking one big, deep, cleansing breath. But in order for all that beautiful, inspiring newness to happen, things have to change. The planted seeds of the flowers, the trees, the vegetables, and the crops in the fields need to shed their outer shells so the shoots can burst out of the ground and flourish. In order for the beauty and the new life to shine through, there has to be that difficult moment of change.

This will be the last installment of the OZ newsletter as both churches navigate their own difficult moments of change to find beauty and new life on the other side. Both the O and Z churches have been sources of support, learning, and growth for one another over the past 50 years, and both congregations have expressed their hopes that the other will continue to grow and thrive after they've gone their separate ways. And both the O and Z congregations have expressed their appreciation for all that these 50 years have been to both communities of faith. We are forever a part of each other's history, a history that has certainly included struggles and challenges but has also been a source of fun, connectedness, and joy.

In this season of Easter - a season of surprisingly empty tombs and new hope and a risen Savior - we rejoice in what has been even as we look to an uncertain future with Paul's words etched on our hearts: "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9)



## (O) Pastor Out of the Office

Pastor Lisa will be out of the office Mon., May 22 and Tues., May 23, but you will be able to contact her via cell phone or email.

## In Our Prayers



**Matthew 21:22** *And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.*

Joanne Schenck, Karen Vallejo, Joyce Rucker, Eunice Markham, Bob Rolland, the friends and family of Sue Wedge.

## (O) Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery meeting is **Tues., May 9 at 4:00 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church in Rochester. Yes ... you read that right ... ROCHESTER! Right in our backyard! This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the Presbytery meeting NOT being an hour away! As always, Presbytery meetings are open to anyone. Dinner tickets will be available for \$8. If you're interested in coming, please contact Pastor Lisa.

## (O) Dorothy Day Dinner

The Spring Dorothy Day House dinner will be served on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. A sign-up sheet for food and serving is on the bulletin board. Please see Jenny Rand or Brenda Longman if you have any questions. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## (O/Z) Readers of OZ

Our May selection is "*Hillbilly Elegy*" by J.D. Vance. The Barnes & Noble review has this to say. "From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. *Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D.

Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck." We will gather at the home of Paulette Barnhart (381 First Ave N., Maz-eppa) on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to join us.

## (O) Spring Clean Up



Since we understand how quickly calendars fill up (especially this time of year), we won't be planning a spring clean up day this year. Instead, we will be posting a list of cleaning duties - inside and outside - that need to be done around the church. When you have some time, please take a look at the list on the bulletin board and do what you can. We thank you in advance for your hard and dedicated work.

## (O) New Vacuum

Our vacuum is starting a slow decline, so we're hoping someone has a used but still fully-functioning vacuum they'd be willing to donate to the church. If you have a vacuum you'd be willing to get rid of, please let someone on session know. Thanks.

## (O) All Around the Campfire

We had so much fun with our campfire gatherings last summer that we're at it again this summer! One Sunday a month, we'll be gathering in the evening on the church lawn. There will be a campfire. There will be lawn games. There will be s'mores. This is a chance for us to spend some fun, relaxed, unstructured time together, and to invite people who may not be as comfortable coming through the church doors for the first time. Bring your neighbors and friends. Bring kids. Let's have fun!

- June 25: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- July 23: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Aug. 27: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Sept. 24: 6:00-8:00 p.m.



## (O) Confirmation Schedule

**Wed., May 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Tues., May 16, 6:30 p.m.**

May session meeting (*required*)

**Wed., May 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Wed., May 31, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

## (O) Mowing Schedule

We have posted another lawn mowing schedule on the bulletin board. There's a space for every week, but we trust everyone to use their best judgment. The lawn mower was recently serviced and should be ready to go in the shed. If you need the key, talk to Pastor Lisa or one of the session members.

## (O) Mother's/Father's Day Event

We will be combining celebrating all those who have played significant mother and father roles in our lives - those we were born with and those who have taken us into their hearts by their own choice and generosity - on **Sun., May 21** following 11:00 a.m. worship. There will be refreshments available in the fellowship area after the service, to plan to stick around and share some of your favorite mother/father memories and stories. If you would like to help provide the food, talk to either Lance Sorensen or Ron Peterson-Rucker.



## (O) Annual Spring Bake Sale

We will hold our annual bake sale on Sunday, May 7th, following worship. Bring your goodies for others to enjoy and take home someone else's goodies, in return. Everyone wins!

## Birthdays for the Month of May

5/1 Carol Eick  
5/2 Dick Scheerer  
5/3 Sara Hartzell  
    Ian Johnson  
    Luke Johnson  
5/8 Jim Wendt  
    Mindi Arendt  
5/10 Michael Sapp  
5/12 Jenny Rand  
5/13 Michelle Pahl  
5/14 Joy Bertsinger  
    Nancy Scheerer  
    Madelyn Rand  
5/23 Bob Larsen  
5/28 Jo Ludington  
    Deb Larsen



## (O) Vacation Bible School

This year, we're going to try something new. We'll be doing a shortened, 3-day vacation Bible school experience right here in Oronoco. This year's theme will be "Camp Out: Getting S'More Out of Jesus" – pretty perfect considering how much we enjoy our summer campfire gatherings! Here's the details:

**Where:** Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

**When:** July 17-19, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Ages:** 4-12

**Cost:** \$15/person or \$30/family

We will be serving the kids dinner from 6:00-6:30 p.m., then enjoying some really fun programming after that. Registration is required, so check out [www.oronocochurch.org/vbs](http://www.oronocochurch.org/vbs) for the registration link as well as more information.

We will be looking for volunteers to help and volunteers to provide some of our supplies later on, so be on the lookout for more details!

## (O) Clearwater Forest Summer Camp!



The boats are ready to get in the water, the high ropes are ready to be traversed, the trails are cleared, the cabins are cleaned, the arts and crafts have been sorted, and this can only mean one thing: camp starts next month! Here at Clearwater Forest we are getting ready for our favorite time of year, and we can't wait for you to join us!

Visit [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org) for the camp schedule and online registration, with programs for youth in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through recent graduates, as well as intergenerational programs like Family Camp and Grand Camps. There is sure to be something for everyone! Our theme this summer is "Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ," and we will be exploring the many ways that our relationship with Christ can connect us with individuals and communities for the rest of our lives.

Too old to come to Clearwater but still love camp? Consider one of our family programs, volunteering a week this summer, sponsoring a counselor, or financially supporting a family member, friend, or community member to come to Clearwater. For more information, visit [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org) or give the office a call at 218-678-2325.

## **(O) Readings for the Month of May 2017**



Sun., May 7 – Psalm 23; John 10:1-16

Sun., May 14 – *guest preacher,*  
*Rev. Laurene Lafontaine*  
**Mother's Day**

Sun., May 21 – Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22

Sun., May 28 – Psalm 27; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
**Memorial Day weekend**

## **(O) Pastor's Cell Phone Change**



In an attempt to make life a little bit easier and to save the congregation some money on the pastor's cell phone bill, we've made some changes. So the old pastor's cell phone number (507-696-8753) no longer works. Here is the new pastor's cell phone number: **507-995-7310**. As before, you can call or text anytime.

## **IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH**

### **United Church of Christ Contact Information**

UCC national website...[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

Minnesota UCC website...[uccmn.org](http://uccmn.org)

Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact [alisonb@uccmn.org](mailto:alisonb@uccmn.org)

United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online at [ucc.org/ucnews](http://ucc.org/ucnews)

### **Presbyterian Church Contact Information**

Presbyterian national website...[pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...  
[ptcaweb.org](http://ptcaweb.org)

PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto:communications@ptcaweb.org)

Presbyterians Today monthly magazine...subscribe (at cost) to Presbyterians Today, P.O. Box 5178, Brentwood, TN 37024-9931 or call 1-800-558-1669

## **Church Staff**

Organist: Katha Johnson

Secretary: Sue Johnson

Custodians: (O) Sue Johnson

(Z) Debbie Floan

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

## **UCC Leadership Team**

Chad Vath, Moderator

Amy Pahl, Financial Clerk

Bob Hawley, Treasurer

Connie Hawley, Trustee

Hailey Vath, Trustee

Jim Wendt, Trustee

Bill Wendt, Deacon

Jo Ludington, Deacon

Molly Hunt, Deacon

Marlene Kosobucki, Deacon

Kay Wilshusen, Deacon

Wendy Kylo, Deacon

## **Presbyterian Leadership Team**

Kay Erdahl, Treasurer

Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer

Mike Rand, Clerk of Session

Ron Peterson Rucker, Ruling Elder

Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder

Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder

Mike Rand, Ruling Elder

Linda Sorensen, Ruling Elder

Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder

Deb Nelson, Deacon

Joanne Schenck, Deacon

Karen Peterson Rucker, Deacon

Jenny Rand, Deacon

Gail Rucker, Deacon

## **People of the Church**

Janice Ostrom, Co-Moderator

Jenny Rand, Co Moderator

## **Secretary's Office Hours**

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

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

**Office Phone# 507-367-4711**

**Email: [oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)**



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Check out our websites at  
[www.oronocochurch.org](http://www.oronocochurch.org)  
[www.ucczumbrota.org](http://www.ucczumbrota.org)

### Worship Times for the Month of May 2017



5/7	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/14	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/21	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/28	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

**Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information**  
Cell Phone (507) 995-7310 E-mail address: [pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com)  
Pastor Lisa's Office Hours: Mondays 1-4:00 p.m. in Oronoco  
Pastor Lisa's blog: [pastorlisaj.wordpress.com](http://pastorlisaj.wordpress.com)