

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

August 2018 Newsletter

Summer sermon series: “Gifts of the Dark Woods”



Gifts of the Dark Woods: Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics is an incredibly book written by Dr. Eric Elnes, a pastor, author, and speaker who hosts an online community (“Darkwood Brew”) “for an engaging exploration of Convergence Christianity.” His book explores the different ways our experiences in the Dark Woods are not something to be feared but instead are gifts and ways to encounter God. The seven gifts/blessings that Dr. Elnes addresses are: the gifts of uncertainty, emptiness, being thunderstruck, getting lost, temptation, disappearing, and the gift of misfits. “This is a book for anyone who feels awkward in their search for God, who seeks to find holiness amid their holy mess, who prefers practicality to piety when it comes to finding their place in this world.”

Throughout the summer, we will be tackling one of these gifts each Sunday – talking about what it is, where we find its presence and blessing in Scripture, and how we can embrace it instead of shying away from it in our own walks of faith.

A Message from Our Pastor



I'm at Synod School as I sit and write this month's newsletter article, and one of the classes that I'm taking this year is a class on the enneagram.

The enneagram is "a study of the nine basic types of people. It explains why we behave the way we do, and it points to specific directions for individual growth. It is an important tool for improving relationships with family, friends, and co-workers." Each of the nine types – the Reformer, the Helper, the Achiever, the Individualist, the Investigator, the Loyalist, the Enthusiast, the Challenger, and the Peacemaker – comes with its own prescriptions and predictions for a person's motivations, personality traits, strengths, pitfalls, etc. It originated in the Sufi tradition in the Middle East hundreds of years ago but has been adapted throughout the centuries by monks, spiritual directors, and those in the business world ... just to name a few.



Of course, the enneagram is by no means the only personality test/explanation tool out there. Most people are familiar with the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (<http://www.myersbriggs.org>). Others have taken the DiSC Inventory (<http://www.discprofile.com>). On my journey through the ordination process, I had to take the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). And those are just a few of the other tools out there that people have used, are using, and will continue to use to try to gain insight into who they are and why they act/think/behave the way they do.

As humans, we seem to be obsessed with the idea of peeling back whatever layers we think we have to better understand what's underneath. What undergirds our emotions? Our actions? Our reactions? Why are we the way we are? Who are we really? People have spent their whole lives and thousands of dollars trying to figure this out. There's something innate within us that strives to better understand ourselves. We want so desperately to know who we are – who we *really, truly* are inside.

And yet even as we strive, Paul's words to the Christians in Rome echo through the eons in our heads and in our hearts:

All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. ~ Romans 8:14-16

Friends, no matter who we are or what a zillion different personality tests say about us, we are children of God.

Period.
End of story.
Beginning of story.
Middle of story.
All the story.

This is an identity that cannot be taken away from us. It cannot be tarnished. It doesn't need to be unraveled or tweaked. So whether you identify as an introvert or extrovert, a 7 or a 4, or some other personality designation that hasn't even been invented yet, we are one thing for sure: children of God.

But just in case you're wondering, your pastor is an INFJ and an enneagram 9 with a strong 1 wing. 😊

Pastor Sha

In Our Prayers

Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6-7

Joan Swarthout, Joyce Rucker, Eunice Markham

Update from Revs. Shelvis & Nancy Smith-Mather

Revs. Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather are the missionaries serving in South Sudan and Uganda who we support with our 2nd Sunday Spare Change Sunday funds. Shelvis, Nancy, Jordan, and Adalyn welcomed another daughter/sister into their lives in October – baby Nicole. If you would like an update on the incredible work that Shelvis and Nancy are doing with RECONCILE International and how their family is doing, please go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/shelvis-and-nancy-smith-mather/>. In the top right portion of the screen you will find a box with link to their 10 most recent update letters. Also on this page, you can find links to contact both Shelvis and Nancy as well as information on how to contribute financially as an individual to their mission.

Gold Rush Care Tent

This year, we're going to be hosting a care tent during Gold Rush. (GIANT thank you to Paul and Julie Pendergrass for giving us the space on their lawn and letting us use their tent!!) This will be a space for people to sit in the shade, have a cup of water, water their dogs, and change babies' diapers. All for free! We'll have cards introducing who we are as a congregation that we can hand out to people as well.

We will need people to help staff this tent – 2 people for each shift from 10:00a-2:00p and 2:00-6:00p on both Fri. and Sat. and 11:00a-2:00p on Sun. If you can help out, please either sign up on the bulletin board at church or contact Sue at the church office so she can add your name to the sign-up sheet. All necessary materials will be provided.

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!

- Aug. 26: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

- Sept. 23: 5:30-8:00 p.m.



Mowing Sign-Up

The sign-up sheet for sharing in the lawn mowing duties is up on the bulletin board. If you can help, please sign up for the week you intend to mow. The church mower is in the shed. Talk to Ron Peterson-Rucker or Pastor Lisa if you need the shed key.

National Night Out

Oronoco is once again hosting a National Night Out party at the Oronoco City Park on Tues., Aug. 7. National Night Out was started as a way to heighten awareness about safety and crime prevention and to enhance community relations. As in recent years, we will have a table at National Night Out and will be giving out church cups and candy for anyone interested.

Celebration starts at 5:00 p.m. at the park. If you'd like to come join us at our table, please contact Pastor Lisa.

Pastor Out of the Office

Pastor Lisa will be out from July 22-Aug. 5 and Aug. 13-17. The first week, I will be out of town for continued at Synod School in Storm Lake, IA. The rest is vacation.

Readings for the Month of August



Sun., Aug. 5 – *guest preacher, Rev. Tammy Rider*

Sun., Aug. 12 – Luke 22:39-46; Romans 7:14-25

Gifts of the Dark Woods #6

Sun., Aug. 19 – Luke 1:5-25, 57-64; Ephesians 2:1-10

Gifts of the Dark Woods #7

Gold Rush weekend

Sun., Aug. 26 – Ruth 1:8-18; Matthew 5:1-16

Gifts of the Dark Woods #8

August Birthdays

8/2 Sandy Bowers

8/3 Katha Johnson

8/12 Ardith Ottman

8/13 Nancy Tiedeman

8/20 Joanne Schenck

8/27 Rachel Stanton



Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson

Secretary: Sue Johnson

Custodian: Sue Johnson

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Kim Stanton, Treasurer

Kay Erdahl, Asst. Treasurer

Mike Rand, Clerk of Session

Ron Peterson Rucker, Ruling Elder

Ellen Warner, Ruling Elder

Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder

Mike Rand, Ruling Elder

Linda Sorensen, Ruling Elder

Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder

Ellen Simon, 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

Tuesdays 10am—2pm

Thursdays 10am—2pm

Office phone# 1-507-367-4711

Email: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

Children's Letters to God

I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions.
Ruth M.

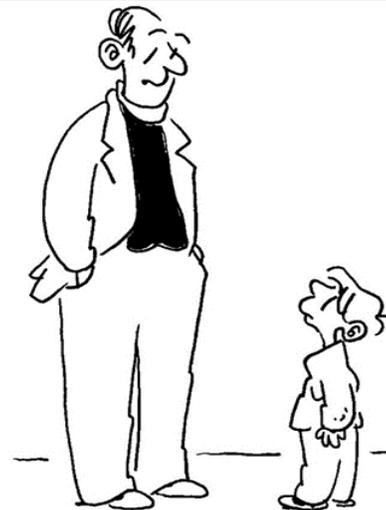
Did you mean for a giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? Norma

You don't have to worry about me. I always look both ways. Dean

Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp this year. Peter

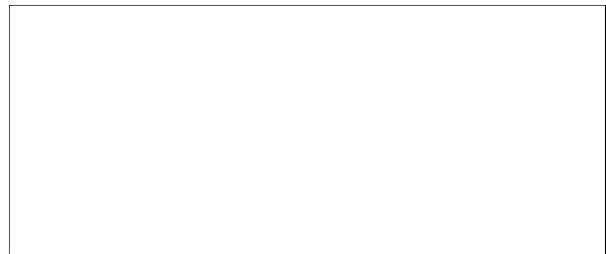
Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy. Joyce

I do not think anybody could be a better God. Well I just want you to know but I am not just saying that because you are God. Charles



"Because you can't take your camera phone with you.
That's why nobody knows what heaven looks like."

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



**Check out our website at
www.oronocochurch.org**

**Worship is held at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday
Communion is on the first Sunday of each month**



**Reverend Lisa Johnson - Contact Information
Cell Phone (507) 995-7310 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com**