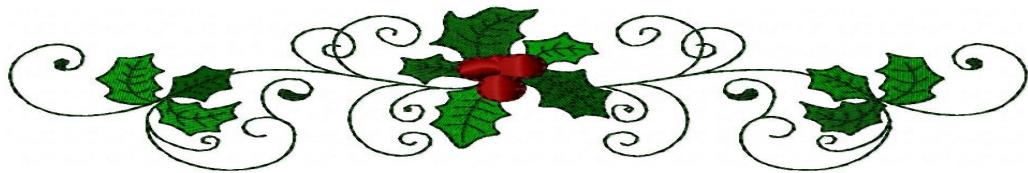


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA  
and  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

**December 2013 Newsletter**



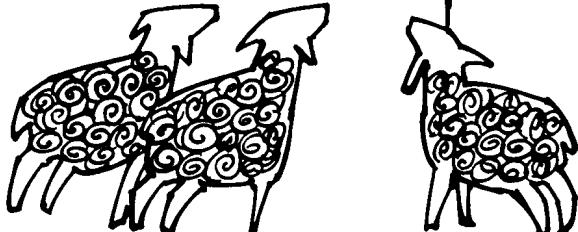
**Christmas Eve Communion  
Candlelight Worship Services**



**Tuesday, December 24, 2013  
Z—4:00 p.m.      O—7:00 p.m.**

Therefore the LORD Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

**He is coming**





## A Word from Our Pastor

*Thus says the Lord, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” ~ Isaiah 43:18-19*

December always seems to be a season of newness.

We often experience the first big snowfall of the year in December – the kind of snowfall that covers the entire countryside with a soft blanket of white. It almost looks like the slate of the earth has been wiped clean and is waiting for something brand new.

Even though it's already grown colder by December, we usher in a new season. December 21 marks the winter solstice, and though the days are short and the nights are long, each day after the solstice brings us just a little bit of new light.

And of course, we celebrate Christmas during December. We delight in the giving and receiving of new gifts with those we love. We send out the newest family photos and news in annual Christmas letters. And even though we find joy and comfort in our old holiday traditions, we create new memories in the midst of the familiar.

But we are not the only ones doing something new during the holiday season. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ – that long-anticipated Messiah, the Shepherd King for whom the people had waited for so long. But instead of sending a mighty warrior or a fierce conqueror to free Israel from oppression once more, God sent a tiny baby. God sent vulnerability and compassion and tenderness. God sent the kind of king that could only be recognized through the eyes of faith.

And God sent love ... a whole new kind of love. Before this Jesus-child, the world had never known such a self-sacrificing love. Before this Jesus-child, the world had never known such an accepting love. Before this Jesus-child, the world had never known the kind of love that could shatter even the strongest barriers that separated us from God, the barriers of sin and death.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says to us, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” When I read this passage, I picture God speaking like a small child who's so excited she can barely sit still, who's bursting with such joy and anticipation and delight that he can't contain it one minute longer. “I am about to do something *totally* new ... something that's never, ever been done before! And it's not just something boring or subdued. What I'm about to do is so sensational and captivating that it's going to SPRING FORTH. Surely, you can see this amazing thing that I'm doing ... right? Surely, you can recognize how amazing it is, know how important it is, understand the impact it's going to have on the whole world forever and ever ... right?”

As the OZ congregations, we are about to start doing new things. We are looking at doing new things in worship – trying new practices, learning new songs, introducing new elements. Some of these new things may cause us to spring forth – to get excited about the way we worship and to inspire us to be excited about the God we worship again. But some of these new things may be less successful. Some of them may feel a little strange at first ... a little uncomfortable at first ... a little foreign and uncertain.

But I encourage you to give it time.

Remember, God did something totally new and unexpected by sending the Savior of the world as a tiny baby born to an unwed mother in a dirty, dingy old stable. God did something totally new and unexpected to “make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

And it worked.

Jesus was that Way, the Truth, and the Light in the wilderness – that source of living water in the desert ... but it took time. Before he could be that amazing Savior, Jesus first had to experience the newness of life as an infant. He had to learn. He had to grow. He had to trust, all the while being loved and nurtured by his family and by God.

As we begin doing something new, may we learn. May we grow. May we trust, all the while loving and nurturing one another as this unique and blessed OZ family that we are, knowing that God is making our way in the wilderness and rivers in our desert.

*Pastor Gina*

## **In Gratitude**

(O) A special thank you to Pastor Lisa for volunteering to take out the trash on Mondays in order to have it at the curb on Tuesday mornings for early pick-up. Larry Glasenapp took on that position while living in Oronoco and we have missed the truck on occasion since he has moved back to Pennsylvania. Thank you, Lisa!

(O) Many thanks to Joyce Rucker who hired the Tilfords to trim all our church shrubbery this year. Joyce, your dedication to this wonderful memorial for your husband is deeply appreciated as it makes our church so beautiful and also calls you both to mind for your great generosity. Thank you.

## **(O) Sanctuary & Christmas Tree Decoration**

Mark your calendar for 12/8 following worship so you can join in the festivities as we decorate our Christmas tree and the sanctuary for the Christmas holiday.

## **(O) Ann Reed Concert**

Ann Reed will return to our church to present a holiday concert on Sunday, 12/8 at 2:00 p.m. Be sure to attend this free concert and bring a donation for the food shelf if you are able. Invite your friends for a wonderful afternoon of music and good humor. Watch for posters on the credenza in the fellowship room and, if you know a good place to post them, take one or more to help get the word out.

## **(O) Annual Meeting**

Our annual meeting is scheduled for January 26 during the 11:00 worship time. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend.

## **(O) Children's Bibles & Children's Pageant**

Session has authorized the gift of a Spark's Bible for each of the children in the congregation. The Bibles will be presented following the Children's Pageant on 12/22.

## **(O/Z) Christmas Worship Times**

Christmas Eve worship at Z will be at 4:00 p.m. Worship at O will be at 7:00 p.m. A Blue Christmas worship is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on 12/15 at Z. Both O and Z members who find Christmas celebrations a challenge because of loss, grief or sadness are invited to participate. All are welcome.

## **(O) Winter Weather Worship Cancellation**

Session is updating the calling list which is used when it is necessary to cancel worship due to weather. Please be sure your home/cell phone listing is current.

## **(O) New Furnaces**

With the start of cold weather, we discovered that one of our furnaces (for the fellowship room, offices and downstairs) was not functioning and could not be repaired. On investigation, session decided to replace both furnaces (the other is for the sanctuary) as they are the same age (old) and we got a better price purchasing two at once. The cost for the two was just under \$6,000. A Furnace Fund has been established for those who wish to contribute to paying for this unexpected expense. As of today (11/11), we have raised 31% of the goal after one announcement during worship! Thank you to all who are able to help and to Carol Tiede for dedicating Dick's memorial funds to the Furnace Fund. Look for the Furnace Fund envelopes in the pews.

## **(Z) Christmas Tree Sales**

There is still time to shop for one of the beautiful, fresh trees at the UCC. The tree lot will be open from 10-4 on Saturdays, and from 12-4 on Sundays. If those times don't work for you, call Mike Sapp (507-241-1603) for an appointment. Thanks to all for their support.

## **(Z) Annual Meeting is January 19— Reports Due January 1, 2014**

The date for this year's meeting is Sunday, January 27. Worship will start at 9:00 AM, followed by the meeting at 10 AM. The following reports should be sent via email or snail mail to the church office in Oronoco by January 1: Moderator's Report, Clerk's Report & 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes, Deacons' Report, Trustees' Report, Nominating Committee Report, Treasurer's Report & Budget (can be sent whenever the books are done), Christian Education Program Report, Interchurch Council Report.

A potluck brunch will follow the meeting. All are invited to come and enjoy this opportunity to help guide the future of the congregation.

## **(Z) Poinsettia Orders Available Now**

If you've missed the sign-up sheet for poinsettias at church but would like to order one to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, please contact deacon Connie Hawley, 507-250-1469. Each plant is \$14, and will be delivered directly to the church from Flowers on Main in Zumbrota. Please let Connie know if you want the poinsettia to be placed in memory of a loved one. Donors are invited to take their plants home with them after worship on Christmas Eve if they wish. Thanks to all who help beautify our worship space through this special gift.

## **(O/Z) Advent Candle Lighting Still Available**

There is a sign-up sheet at church for people who would like to participate in Advent worship through

brief readings and lighting of each week's Advent candle. If you would like to be part of this but have forgotten to sign up or can't get to church to sign up, please let Pastor Lisa know as soon as possible. You can call her at church, on her cell phone 507-696-8753, or you can email her: [pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com).

## **(Z) Goodie Bags for Our Seniors**

Goodie bags will be put together December 8th after the 11:00 worship service. We will fill the bags with goodies, like cookies, candy, breads etc. So bring your favorite Christmas goodie to share with our seniors. We will need volunteers to deliver bags as well.

## **(O/Z) New Additional Hymnals**

First Presbyterian Church in Rochester recently bought all new hymnals, and they were kind enough to pass on their used hymnals to us. In addition to that, they also sent along copies of the supplemental hymnal, *Sing the Faith!* So starting soon, we will continue to use the New Century Hymnal (the black one) but will also start singing songs out of the Presbyterian Hymnal and the *Sing the Faith* book. Thank you, First Pres in Rochester! And a special thank you to Dee Tiedemann who volunteered to haul 190+ hymnals up to Oronoco in her car!

## **(O) *The Upper Room* in Large Print!**

There will be a slight change in our subscription to *The Upper Room* in the coming months. We will continue to supply copies of this wonderful devotional booklet free of charge, but instead of the small books, we will be providing the large print version. We hope this makes your personal quiet time with God a bit easier on the eyes. :)

## **(O/Z) Special Offerings to be collected Sunday, December 22, 2013**

### **(O) Christmas Joy Offering**

Watch for the special envelopes for your Christmas Joy offering. This is the last of four special offerings collected each year by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Whether providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families or providing opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools, your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will shine the One True Light of Christ's love.

### **(Z) Christmas Fund Offering in the UCC**

The Christmas Fund offering always raises stories among us as we plan our giving for those who served the Church with their lives. The Christmas Fund: Remembering Those Who Serve Our Church Provides financial aid to retired and active ministers and their surviving spouses and children who face overwhelming financial demands, a ministry carried out by the Pension Boards. Received annually on the Sunday before Christmas.

### **(O) Food Shelf Dates in December**

#### **The Food Shelf will be open the following dates in December:**

Wednesday, December 11 5-7:00PM

Wednesday, December 18 5-7:00PM

**The Food Shelf WILL NOT be open Wednesday, December 25th.**

### **(O/Z) Textile Group**

Due to the busyness of the holiday season, the textile group has decided not to meet in December. We will resume our regular meeting time in January – Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014. We're still looking for a place to gather for this meeting, so if you're willing to host us, please let Pastor Lisa know.



### **(O) CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

This year again, we will be ordering poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas season. Plants will cost \$12.50—\$15 a piece. If you wish to order a plant in memory of or in honor of someone, please fill out this order form and return to the church by Sunday December 1st. Plants will be in the sanctuary on Sunday December 8th and can be picked up following the Christmas Eve Service.

Questions? See Carol Tiede or call Carol at 282-6273.

PLEASE ORDER \_\_\_\_\_ POINSETTIA PLANT(S)

IN HONOR

OF:

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FROM:

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PLEASE ORDER \_\_\_\_\_ POINSETTIA PLANT(S)

IN MEMORY

OF:

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FROM:

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TOTAL # OF PLANTS ORDERED = \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT METHOD: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH

## **(O) POC Luncheons**

Back by popular demand, are our winter luncheons. January 15 we'll have a variety of casseroles with salads and desserts. On Feb 19, you'll enjoy Soup, Salad & Pie and on March 19, we'll be dishing up casseroles, salads and desserts. Hours will be 11:30a.m.—1:00p.m. As we get closer to these dates, we will post sign up sheets requesting your help in preparing salads, desserts, main dishes or in serving & cleaning up. Please consider how you might help with these important fund raising activities for our outreach program. If you work on Wednesdays, perhaps you can prepare a dessert or salad ahead of time. And be sure to come for lunch if you are able.

## **(O) 2014 Per Capita Dues**

For those who like to plan ahead, the per capita dues for 2014 will be \$32.37. Our church submits this payment for every member and you can help by donating a like amount. Note on your check that it is for per capita dues and the treasurer will take note.

## **(O) POC Holiday Bake Sale**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15th, for our annual bake sale following worship. This is a chance to bake one recipe and bring home several varieties of baked goodies just in time for Christmas! Remember to bring baked items (or crafts, or jars of goodies) to donate for sale and bring your pocket book to stock up your cookie jar. All proceeds go to the POC outreach programs. If you have questions contact Brenda Longman at 951-2002 or Deb Nelson at 367-2282.

## **(Z) Annual Reports Due January 6, 2014**

Christmas trees and Christmas services are followed by, of course, the annual meeting. In order to be ready for the meeting, committee reports are needed by January 6. So, committee chairs, if your committee is or will soon be done meeting for the year, you can send your report to our secretary, Sue, either by email or regular mail at any time. **All reports are**

**due by Monday, January 6.**

Getting the reports in by January 6 gives Sue time to prepare and copy the annual reports, which is a huge job, prior to the annual meeting. The date for this year's meeting is Sunday, January 19. Worship will start at 9:00 AM, followed by the meeting at 10 AM and then the payoff—the annual potluck!

**Just a reminder: these are the needed reports—**

Moderator's Report

Clerk's Report & 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

Deacon's Report

Trustee's Report

Nominating Committee Report

Treasurer's Report & Budget

Christian Education Program Report

Interchurch Council Report

## **Scripture Readings for December Worship**



Dec. 1 – “Elizabeth’s Song” – Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 8 – “Mary’s Song” – Luke 1:46-55

Dec. 15 – “Zechariah’s Song” – Luke 1:67-79

Dec. 22 – “Servant Song” – Isaiah 42:1-9

Dec. 24 – *various readings*

Dec. 29 – *various readings*

## **In Our Prayers**

*The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
And His ears are open to their cry...*

*The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears,  
And delivers them out of all their troubles.*

Psalm 34:15, 17

Bonnie Rolland, Karen Vallejo, Gary Ofstie, Judy Wilder, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, Mary Larson, Larry Glasenapp, the friends and family of Helen Stolp and the Mankato United Church of Christ and their head pastor, Deb Celley, who has stepped down from her position because of a medical disability.

**(Z) Towers Soup and Salad Dinner**  
**December 1st at 5:00 p.m.**



It's that wonderful time of year again for our church to host the annual Towers Soup and Salad Dinner. This will be a fun filled evening spending time with people in our community and share a meal. This gives our congregation an excellent opportunity to share some of those traditional salads and maybe experiment with some new ones.

The Vath family will be providing chicken noodle soup and will be looking for someone else to make another soup. There will be sign-up sheets in the back of the church for salads, pies, and people who would like to help.

If you have questions, please speak with Chad or Nattalie. We look forward to this event and hope to see as many of you there as possible. Thank you!

**(O/Z) Readers of OZ**  
**To Meet December 10**

The church book group, Readers of OZ, will meet Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 PM, at Coleen Johnston's in rural Mazeppa. All are welcome. If you need directions to Coleen's house, please call 843-4719.

The book for December is *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*. The book contains daily readings for the season, and will be a welcome addition to your bookshelf even if you do not join in the discussion. One review described it this way: "It's hard to go wrong with 40 essays and poems from theological writers such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Madeleine L'Engle, Martin Luther, Kathleen Norris, Henri Nouwen, Philip Yancey, Karl Barth and Soren Kierkegaard. These are not frivolous, feel-good Advent readings; they are deep, sometimes jarring reflections, many with a strong orientation toward social justice (other authors include liberationists Leonardo Boff, Gustavo Gutiérrez and Oscar Romero). "The love that descended to Bethlehem is not the easy sympathy of an avuncular God, but a burning fire whose light chases away every shadow, floods every corner, and turns midnight into noon," explain the editors." – *Publishers Weekly*, 2001.

We hope you can join us for a lively discussion of these many takes on the season that calls us all to "watch for the light."

**(O) CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

This year again, we will be ordering poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas season. Plants will cost \$12.50—\$15 a piece. If you wish to order a plant in memory of or in honor of someone, please fill out this order form and return to the church along with payment made to Presbyterian Church of Oronoco by Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>. Questions? See Carol Tiede or call Carol at 282-6273.

PLEASE ORDER \_\_\_\_\_ POINSETTIA PLANT(S)

IN HONOR

OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ORDER \_\_\_\_\_ POINSETTIA PLANT(S)

IN MEMORY

OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL # OF PLANTS ORDERED = \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT METHOD: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH

## (O/Z) Blue Christmas/ Service of Longest Night



Longest Night Service is a time to recognize that at Christmastime, the constant refrain we hear about joy and love and rejoicing doesn't resonate with everyone. Some people are hurting and lonely, worried and fearful, sad and grieving during this time of year as well. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. We need to know God's presence during this season. So during this service, we invite you to experience a meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Join with us to hear scripture, offer prayers for healing and wholeness, and to hear song that acknowledges that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who grieve, for those who struggle. God's Word comes to shines light in our darkness. This is also a wonderful way to remember those you know you might be in need.

Where: First Congregational UCC – Zumbrota  
When: Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3:00 p.m.

This will be a service open to the public, so if you know of anyone – church member/friend or not – who could benefit from this service of remembrance, prayer, healing, and acceptance, please extend the invitation.

## (O/Z) Worship Team

After sorting through all your responses from the blue worship sheets, some of the most common responses include more familiar hymns, involvement of more people during worship (readers, etc.), and the possibility of adding another joint service or two. Great ideas! If you haven't already, I invite you to let me know what your favorite hymns are. Send me an email or write them down on a piece of paper for me. I'm compiling a master list.

Along those lines, I'm still looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to participate in some brainstorming session about changes that we could make in our worship service as well as help imple-

ment some of those changes. I've got some ideas, but it would be great to toss those ideas around with other and get a bunch of new ideas, too. I'm looking for at least one more person from Z church and at least 2 more people from O church. Thank you in advance!

## (O/Z) Youth Gathering

We are working on putting together an area youth group that would include the OZ youth as well as those from Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester and Community Presbyterian Church in Plainview. Our hope is to have our first shindig sometime during the Christmas break. If you could let Pastor Lisa know when you are and are not available, that would be appreciated. Thanks!

## (O/Z) Getting to Know You

A big part of being in ministry is knowing one another, and I'm still working on getting to know everyone. Names, I'm comfortable with. J But I'm still working on learning everyone's stories. In his novel *The Name of the Wind*, Patrick Rothfuss says, "It's like everyone tells a story about themselves inside their own head. Always. All the time. That story makes you what you are. We build ourselves out of that story." I would love to hear your story. What brought you to this land of OZ? Where were you before? What has your journey of faith been like?

As always, I'm available during my office hours. These are hours specifically set aside during my week for sitting and visiting with whoever would like to stop by. In other words, if you want to stop by the O church on Monday (1:00-4:00 p.m.) or by Bridget's Café on Tuesday (8:00-11:00 a.m.), you are definitely not interrupting anything. Please feel free to stop, have a cup of coffee, and talk for a while. That's why I'm here. J

At the same time, I realize that for those who work during the week, neither of those times are great. I'm more than happy to sit down after the late service in either church and talk with you as well.

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

## BEGIN YEAR 2

Sunday December 1  
First Sunday of Advent  
Morning: Ps. 24; 150  
Evening: Ps. 25; 110  
Amos 1:1–5, 13—2:8  
1 Thess. 5:1–11  
Luke 21:5–19

Monday December 2  
Morning: Ps. 122; 145  
Evening: Ps. 40; 67  
Amos 2:6–16  
2 Peter 1:1–11  
Matt. 21:1–11

Tuesday December 3  
Morning: Ps. 33; 146  
Evening: Ps. 85; 94  
Amos 3:1–11  
2 Peter 1:12–21  
Matt. 21:12–22

Wednesday December 4  
Morning: Ps. 50; 147:1–11  
Evening: Ps. 53; 17  
Amos 3:12—4:5  
2 Peter 3:1–10  
Matt. 21:23–32

Thursday December 5  
Morning: Ps. 18:1–20;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Ps. 126; 62  
Amos 4:6–13  
2 Peter 3:11–18  
Matt. 21:33–46

Friday December 6  
Morning: Ps. 102; 148  
Evening: Ps. 130; 16  
Amos 5:1–17  
Jude 1–16  
Matt. 22:1–14

## December

Saturday December 7  
Morning: Ps. 90; 149  
Evening: Ps. 80; 72  
Amos 5:18–27  
Jude 17–25  
Matt. 22:15–22

Sunday December 8  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Morning: Ps. 24; 150  
Evening: Ps. 25; 110  
Amos 6:1–14  
2 Thess. 1:5–12  
Luke 1:57–68

Monday December 9  
Morning: Ps. 122; 145  
Evening: Ps. 40; 67  
Amos 7:1–9  
Rev. 1:1–8  
Matt. 22:23–33

Tuesday December 10  
Morning: Ps. 33; 146  
Evening: Ps. 85; 94  
Amos 7:10–17  
Rev. 1:9–16  
Matt. 22:34–46

Wednesday December 11  
Morning: Ps. 50; 147:1–11  
Evening: Ps. 53; 17  
Amos 8:1–14  
Rev. 1:17—2:7  
Matt. 23:1–12

Thursday December 12  
Morning: Ps. 18:1–20;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Ps. 126; 62  
Amos 9:1–10  
Rev. 2:8–17  
Matt. 23:13–26

Friday December 13  
Morning: Ps. 102; 148  
Evening: Ps. 130; 16  
Hag. 1:1–15  
Rev. 2:18–29  
Matt. 23:27–39

Saturday December 14  
Morning: Ps. 90; 149  
Evening: Ps. 80; 72  
Hag. 2:1–9  
Rev. 3:1–6  
Matt. 24:1–14

Sunday December 15  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Morning: Ps. 24; 150  
Evening: Ps. 25; 110  
Amos 9:11–15  
2 Thess. 2:1–3, 13–17  
John 5:30–47

Monday December 16  
Morning: Ps. 122; 145  
Evening: Ps. 40; 67  
Zech. 1:7–17  
Rev. 3:7–13  
Matt. 24:15–31

Tuesday December 17  
Morning: Ps. 33; 146  
Evening: Ps. 85; 94  
Zech. 2:1–13  
Rev. 3:14–22  
Matt. 24:32–44

Wednesday December 18  
Morning: Ps. 50; 147:1–11  
Evening: Ps. 53; 17  
Gen. 3:8–15  
Rev. 12:1–10  
John 3:16–21

Thursday December 19	Evening: Ps. 98; 96
Morning: Ps. 18:1–20; 147:12–20	Micah 4:1–5, 5:2–4
Evening: Ps. 126; 62	1 John 4:7–16
Zeph. 3:14–20	John 3:31–36
Titus 1:1–16	Thursday December 26
Luke 1:1–25	Morning: Ps. 116; 147:12–20
Friday December 20	Evening: Ps. 119:1–24; 27
Morning: Ps. 102; 148	2 Chron. 24:17–22
Evening: Ps. 130; 16	Acts 6:1–7
1 Sam. 2:1b–10	Acts 7:59—8:8
Titus 2:1–10	Friday December 27
Luke 1:26–36	Morning: Ps. 34; 148
Saturday December 21	Evening: Ps. 19; 121
Morning: Ps. 90; 149	Prov. 8:22–30
Evening: Ps. 80; 72	1 John 5:1–12
2 Sam. 7:1–17	John 13:20–35
Titus 2:11—3:8a	Saturday December 28
Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)	Morning: Ps. 2; 149
Sunday December 22	Evening: Ps. 110; 111
Fourth Sunday of Advent	Isa. 49:13–23
Morning: Ps. 24; 150	Isa. 54:1–13
Evening: Ps. 25; 110	Matt. 18:1–14
2 Sam. 7:18–29	Sunday December 29
Gal. 3:1–14	First Sunday after Christmas
Luke 1:57–66	Morning: Ps. 96; 150
Monday December 23	Evening: Ps. 132; 97
Morning: Ps. 122; 145	1 Sam. 1:1–2, 7b–28
Evening: Ps. 40; 67	Col. 1:9–20
Jer. 31:10–14	Luke 2:22–40
Gal. 3:15–22	Monday December 30
Luke 1:67–80 or	Morning: Ps. 93; 145
Matt. 1:1–17	Evening: Ps. 89:1–18; 19–52
Tuesday December 24	1 Kings 17:17–24
Christmas Eve	3 John 1–15
Morning: Ps. 33; 146	John 4:46–54
Evening: Ps. 85; 94	Tuesday December 31
Isa. 60:1–6	Morning: Ps. 98; 146
Gal. 3:23—4:7	Evening: Ps. 45; 96
Matt. 1:18–25	1 Kings 3:5–14
Wednesday December 25	James 4:13–
Nativity of Jesus Christ / Christ-mas Day	
Morning: Ps. 2; 147:1–11	

## December Birthdays

12/5 Lynn Wiederanders  
Jonetta Rolland  
Daphne Langbehn  
12/7 Sandra Thomforde  
12/12 Travis Hawley  
12/17 Wendy Kyllo  
12/18 Jim McIntire  
12/19 Iva Mae Stee  
Don Ottman  
12/20 Brandon Roth  
12/27 Stacey Paulson  
12/28 Freedom Hunt  
12/30 Connie Wendt



## All Things Are Difficult Before They Are Easy



There was a teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put his boots on. He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on.

When the second boot was finally on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on -- this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off.

He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them." The teacher didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

She said, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots."

### 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 Berstsinger, Ruling Elder  
Ellen Simon, Ruling Elder  
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder  
Kim Stanton, Ruling Elder  
Jenny Rand, Deacon  
Ted Midthin, Deacon  
Deb Nelson, Deacon  
Vivien Midthun, Deacon  
Carol Tiede, Deacon

### People of the Church

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

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

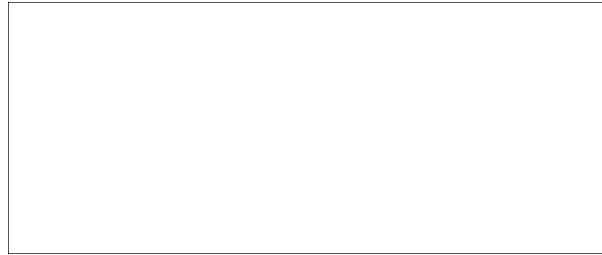
**Tuesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00**  
**Thursday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00**

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

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Oronoco  
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**Check out our websites at**  
[www.pcomn.org](http://www.pcomn.org)  
[www.ucczumbrota.com](http://www.ucczumbrota.com)



#### **Worship Times for the Month of December 2013**

12/1	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
12/8	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
12/15	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
12/22	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** 12/24 (Z) 4:00 (O) 7:00  
12/29 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)

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

**Reverend Lisa Johnson - Contact Information**  
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**Pastor Lisa's Blog [pastorlisaj.wordpress.com](http://pastorlisaj.wordpress.com)**