

*May  
2019*



# *Presbyterian Church of Oronoco*

## Spring Clean-up

There is a spring clean-up list posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship room. We're not scheduling designated "Spring Clean-Up Day" this year. Instead, if you have some extra time and would like to help out, please take a look at the list and choose one (or more!) of the tasks. Once it's done, you can check it off! And thank you for helping keep our building beautiful!

## Congratulations, Graduates!

We want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Mackenzie Luhman who is graduating from Goodhue High School this year and Ted Midthun who is graduating from Tufts University. Hooray and God bless!! We will be honoring Mackenzie and Ted during worship and June 23 and with a reception after worship. Congratulations, Mac and Ted!



## June Scripture readings

Sun., June 2 - Joel 2:18-28;  
1 Corinthians 2:6-16  
Greatest Showman #2  
Sun., June 9 - Ezekiel 37:1-14;  
Acts 2:1-21 Pentecost,  
Greatest Showman #3  
Sun., June 16 - Jonah 2:1-3:3a;  
Matthew 19:16-30  
Greatest Showman #4  
Sun., June 23 - Psalm 136;  
John 14:1-14, 27-31a  
Greatest Showman #5  
Sun., June 30 - Psalm 139;  
Matthew 5:13-16  
Greatest Showman #6

## Next Session Mtg:

Wednesday, June 5  
6:30 p.m.

## Next Presbytery Mtg:

Tuesday, September 10  
Time: TBA  
Associated Church, Owatonna

## From the Pastor...

### *A Tale of Two Women*

*So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. ~ Hebrews 12:1-2a*

**Her name was Rachel.**

**She was 37 years old.**

**Her husband's name is Dan.**

**Her children: Henry, age 3, and Harper, who turned 1 at the end of May.**

**In mid-April, she went into the hospital for very banal, routine reasons: a UTI with a maddening influenza chaser. While in the hospital, she jokingly Tweeted about missing the much-anticipated *Game of Thrones* episode that kicked off the show's final season. Also while in the hospital, she was given an antibiotic to help treat her illness ... an antibiotic to which her body reacted badly ... which sent her brain into constant seizures and caused her doctors to put her into a weeks-long medically-induced coma ... a coma from which she would not wake up.**

**She died surrounded by family and friends on May 4, 2019.**

**Her name was Rachel.**

**Rachel Held Evans.**

**Her name was Vivian.**

**She was 94 years old.**

**Her husband's name was Gerald ... Gerry, as she always called him.**

**Her children: Alan, Steve, Mark, and Keith. (We'll leave out their ages ... to be prudent.)**

**Sixty-nine years ago, she lost a set of twins at and just after birth. Fifty-six years ago, she lost her husband. Fifteen months ago, she lost her oldest surviving son to cancer. Over the last month, her health began to decline. A heart that had endured so much loss and grief and yet had given so much love and direction and compassion and encouragement to so many was tired.**

**She died peacefully with family around her on May 19, 2019.**

**Her name was Vivian.**

**Vivian Phyllis Pinney.**

**My own heart aches as I write these words today, friends. Both of these women shared a powerful, mountain-moving, hardship-enduring, inspiring faith in God, and they've both been immeasurably influential in my own journey of faith.**

**Through her books, her blog, and her public speaking, Rachel's words gave not just permission but encouragement to wrestle ... to wonder ... to question ... to explore the growing edges of my faith in ways that seemed scary and uncertain but also illuminating and uplifting. She was a voice of hope and inclusion. She spoke to the "nones and dones" – those with no experience of church as well as those whose negative experiences drove them out of the church – of the blessings and hope that can be found in the midst of the real struggles and complications of faith. She spoke to those who've been unceremoniously shoved to the margins – people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and so many others – to reassure them that they are, indeed, welcome in God's family and God's house. She spoke to and emboldened women like herself who grew up in conservative Christian traditions and had been told their whole lives that they could not speak for God because of their gender somehow exempted them from divine inspiration. She spoke genuinely and eloquently and fiercely of the all-inclusive love of God.**

**Vivian lived through incredible hardship and loss. After losing her husband when she was just 38 yrs. old, she had four boys to raise on a farm all alone. Somehow she manage to keep them from killing each other (despite their best efforts sometimes), got them all through school and into college, all while going back to school herself to complete a 4-yr. teaching degree. She gave and gave of herself and her heart to her children and grandchildren, to the students that she taught for 3+ decades, to the many organizations she volunteered with after her retirement. We always joked that Grandma didn't get an answering machine until *after* she retired because *that* was when her life got busy. But it was true. And in the midst of it all – the loss, the hardship, the giving, the busyness – Grandma's faith was both central and strong. God wasn't some abstract concept to be debated and dissected. God was with her – a constant companion holding her up, making her strong, getting her through, bringing light to the darkness.**

**Through these women, I have learned and grown. By these women, I have been challenged and encouraged. For these women, I grieve and mourn. And also, I am forever grateful to have such a stirring and sacred cloud of witnesses. May their souls rejoice in heaven while their legacies of faith and hope live on through generations.**

*Pastor Lisa*



### Summer Fun Nights

This summer, instead of trying to organize a vacation Bible School for one particular week and hoping it's a week that works out for everyone, we're going to try something different. We're going to host a weekly summer fun night open for everyone — ages 9 months to 99 years! These weekly summer fun nights will include an activity, a snack, and a take-home devotional.

### 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 23: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- July 28: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- August 25: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- September 22: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

## June Summer Fun Nights

- ☀ June 12: Scavenger Hunt
- ☀ June 19: Lawn Games: Big & Small
- ☀ June 26: movie night: *Inside Out*





### **Summer sermon series - “The Greatest Showman”**

**In December 2017, Twentieth Century Fox put out a movie musical that became both a smash hit and a life-changing experience for a lot of people. “The Greatest Showman” is a movie loosely based on the life of 19<sup>th</sup> century circus innovator P.T. Barnum. As Barnum builds his troupe of performers, he pulls from all the oddballs and outcasts of society, proving to them that they deserve to be valued and celebrated just as much as everyone else. Not only did this family-friendly, “it’s okay to be different” message resonate with people of all ages, the soundtrack struck powerful chords with people from all walks of life as well.**

**So this summer, we’re going to work our way through “The Greatest Showman” soundtrack one sermon at a time. We’ll be kicking this series off on Memorial Day weekend – Sun., May 26 – and running it through Sun., Aug. 11. And for those who have never seen the movie before, we’ll be watching it together as a congregation in the fellowship area after worship on Memorial Day weekend. We’ll order pizza so we can eat some lunch and enjoy the movie at the same time.**

### **150th Anniversary POSTPONED**

**After looking at more of our historical material as well as the celebration material from previous anniversaries, I realized that, while the first worship service was held in 1869, the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco wasn’t commissioned by the presbytery until 1870. That’s the date that’s been used for all of our other anniversary celebrations, so we will wait a year and hold our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrating next year.**

**The good news is we now have more time to collect pictures, stories, memories, and other ideas you have for ways to make marking this milestone a truly special occasion for our congregation!**



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### Directory

The 2019 Directory is finished!! If you would like a paper copy, please feel free to pick up either a regular-sized one or a large print version at church. We're also putting a password-protected version on our website so you can access our directory information on the go. If you would like the password, please talk to Pastor Lisa.

### 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.

Synod School 2019



Cultivating  
Civil Community

### Why do they Keep returning to Synod School?

- Christian fellowship
- Inspiring worship and song
- Growth in knowledge and faith
- Personal and spiritual renewal
- Fun for families and singles of all ages



July 21-26, 2019

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

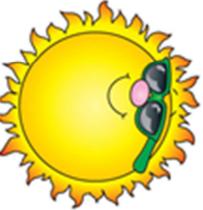
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800-328-1880, ext. 207

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF ORONOCO  
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**June 2019**  
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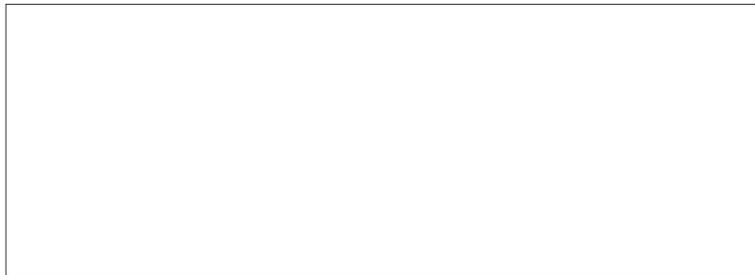
P.O. Box 118  
20 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW  
Oronoco, MN 55960  
507-367-4711

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10 a.m. Worship	3 Ellen Warner's Birthday	4 	5 6:30 Session Mtg	6 Mike and Rachel Rand's Birthday	7 Dianne Pinney's Birthday	8 
9 10 a.m. Worship 11:30 Confirmation Kay Erdahl's Birthday	10	11	12 5 p.m. Food Shelf	13	14 	15 Cindy Tiedeman's Birthday
16 10 a.m. Worship Father's Day	17 Todd and Melissa Wickre's Anniversary	18	19 	20	21	22
23 10 a.m. Worship 11:30 Confirmation	24 	25 Lisa and Peter's Anniversary	26 5 p.m. Food Shelf	27	28	29
30 10 a.m. Worship						

**Presbyterian Church of Oronoco**

P.O. Box 118

Oronoco, MN 55960



Website: <http://www.oronocochurch.org>      Facebook: Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

**Worship—10:00 a.m.**

**Communion—1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month**

**Fellowship hour following worship**

**Sunday School—2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays**

**Rev. Lisa Johnson—contact information:**

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