

A Message from Our Pastor



Yesterday, I was sitting in my office working on a number of different things and listening to the "Christian Folk" radio station on Pandora.com when an interesting song came on. It's a song called "Thank You God" by a new group called GreatStreet. (For more information, you can check out their website: http://greatstreetmusic.com/ourmusic.cfm.) Here's a sample of the lyrics for you:

Thank You God For rainy days and Mondays Thank You God For parking on the street Thank You God For this car I hate to drive It takes me to the job that waits for me Thank You God, thank you God Thank You Jesus For all the things that You have given me Thank You God For four-by-four foot cubes Thank You God For office meetings drive thrus Thank You God For this boss who's got it out for me And people who can't seem to get along

Yes ... you read that right. The whole song is about thanking God for all those little things that drive us crazy throughout the day – all those things that get us riled up and get under our skin.

Wait ... what?!

Why would we be thanking God for the things that bother us? Why would we be thanking God for a car that we hate to drive, for Mondays, for a boss who's got it out for us? From where we sit, these are the things that we ask God to fix in our lives, not the things we say, "Thank you" for.

But maybe we need to change our vantage point. Maybe we need to shift our point of view.

In recent weeks, we have been reminded all too often of the things that can go *really* wrong in the world: mass shootings in both Washington D.C. and Chicago, devastating flooding in Colorado, the hostage situation at the shopping mall in Kenya, the violence and political turmoil in Syria ... sadly, even this long list could go on and on. Lately, it feels like every time we check the news – be it TV, radio, online news source, or the good old-fashioned newspaper – things around the world are getting worse. From this vantage point, all those minor irritants that are a part of our days don't seem quite so earth-shattering, do they?

This doesn't mean that we have to act happy when that boss that has it out for us comes down on us for something. It doesn't mean that we have to walk around on Mondays acting as exuberant as we do on Fridays. It doesn't mean we can't fantasize about a new car instead of the one we're driving.

But instead of spending all our free time griping about those little inconveniences, remember how blessed we are to live in this land of freedom. Remember how blessed we are to have the ability to write to our leaders with words of support or criticism, praise or complaint without fearing retaliation. Remember how much we have in comparison to the vast majority of the world.

Towards the end of "Thank You God," GreatStreet sings this:

'Cause my worst day could not outweigh
This world of suffering
So quiet me 'til I can be
A grateful offering
Just what did I do to deserve
This day I'm living in
I know that I could never earn
The choices and the chances that
You've given
Forgive me

Remember that even on our worst days, God loves us. God cares for us. And God has given us grace upon grace. Hallelujah. What a thing to be thankful for.

Blessings,
Paster Sina

* "Thank You God" was written by Joy Clevenger and Michael Warner and can be found on the GreatStreet debut album produced in 2010. *

O/Z Readers of OZ

The October book selection is "Wish You Well" by David Baldacci. We would love to have you join us for discussion at the home of Judy Wilder (100 Sandy Point Court NE) on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 P.M. If you need directions, call Judy at 367-4997.

The Barnes & Noble book review has this to say about our selection:

In 1940s New York City, twelve years old Louisa Mae (Lou) Cardinal hero-worships her father, a Pulitzer Prize winning writer. Lou's dream is to become as highly regarded as he is, but she is unaware of how little money her dad Jack earns. Considered by critics one of the best authors of his generation, Jack is considering Hollywood in order to feed his family of four. Lou's idyllic world crashes when her beloved father dies in a car accident. With her mother in shock, Lou and her younger brother Oz are displaced and move to their great-grandmother's remote Virginia farm. The two siblings begin to heal, but a new fight to save their new home is on the horizon. WISH YOU WELL is a powerful character-driven historical novel that provides the audience a look at the bone marrow of emotions of the key players during tragedy. Readers will take to heart Lou, Oz, their mom, and their great-grandmother. The supporting cast augments the tale with even deeper glimpses of the Cardinals. WISH YOU WELL is a great look at daily survival during a period of intense grief and displacement.

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

The friends and family of Dave Tri, Bonnie Rolland, Karen Vallejo, Gary Ofstie, Judy Wilder, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, Mary Larson, Larry Glasenapp, and Dave Midthun's long-time friend, Scott, who has undergone brain surgery.

In Gratitude

(O) Thank you so much for hosting the September Birthday Party here at Pine Haven Care Center. The residents love bingo and your breads are a real treat for them! Thank you for sharing your time with us.

Char Tewalt & the residents at Pine Haven

(O) A Flash From the Past



Any idea who these people are? Find the answer elsewhere In the newsletter.

(O/Z) Textile Group

We met for the first time on Sat., Sept. 21 at Pastor Lisa's house at 2:00 p.m. Those of us who were present decided to continue meeting on Saturdays for now, so our next meeting is **Saturday**, **Oct. 12** at **10:00 a.m.** We'll also be meeting at Jo Ludington's house in Zumbrota. However, we didn't come up with a name since we were missing so many people. That's on the docket for October!

Names proposed so far: Sew What?, In Stitches, The Stitchery Belles, and Craftacular

Keep thinking, and we'll come up with something in October. See you then!

(O/Z) Food Shelf Sunday is Oct. 6

The Food shelf is collecting the 1st Sunday every month. Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you for your generosity!!

(O) Peacemaking Offering (World Communion Sunday) October 6, 2013

We make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October (10/6/13). The Peacemaking Offering encourages all parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to work for peace. Each congregation is invited to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. The Peacemaking Offering supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Please watch for the special envelopes and consider how you may help.

(Z) Special Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

We will receive the NIN offering on **October 6**, **2013** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance.

(O/Z) Substitute Organists Needed

If you know someone who would be available to play the organ on Sundays when Katha is on vacation or unable to attend, please notify Joy Bertsinger (O) or Bob Hawley (Z). Linda Herrick, our long time substitute is moving out of state and we are in need of an occasional substitute.

(O) Session Meeting with Presbytery Committee On Ministries Representatives

At the September session meeting, two representa-

tives of the COM met with session. Their goal is to meet about every three years with all sessions in the Presbytery. They were interested in hearing about our outreach activities (Food Shelf, luncheons, POC donations to people and organizations in need, serving Dorothy Day House meals, coordinating birthday parties at Pine Haven and collecting clothing for the nursing home residents at Christmas, community concerts, etc).

We talked about our hopes for the future: growth in numbers while retaining the small church warmth and sense of family. We talked about how we support each other and our pastor and about our relationship with the Presbytery. We also expressed our appreciation for the Presbytery grants which helped establish our food shelf and for the restoration of our sanctuary.

(O) Sunday School Program Volunteers Needed

Thanks to Vivien Midthun, the Sunday School program materials are all organized and in place for the year. This means other volunteers have little preparation to do and can step right in and help the children have a good Sunday School experience. If you would like to spend a little time observing Vivien during Sunday School, feel free to do so. Perhaps this will help you decide that you can contribute your time in this way. If you sign up, it can be for one week per month or a few weeks per year. Contact Joy Bertsinger who is coordinating the volunteer assignments.

(O/Z) Calling All Youth!!



I'd love to get a middle/high school youth group going, but I need your help. What would you like to do? When would you like to meet? If we can make this an OZ youth group, that would be great. If that logistics of that aren't going to work (driving, etc.), we'll investigate something else. Start thinking about this and we'll talk at church. If you think of something between Sundays, either call or email me.

Pastor Lisa

(O) People of the Church

The September bake sale raised \$277.00 thanks to the generosity of all who prepared items for sale, those who bought them and those who donated money. Your gifts are hard at work. Last month we donated as follows:

Habitat for Humanity Goodhue County: \$200.00 Habitat for Humanity Olmsted County: \$200.00

Oronoco Food Shelf: \$400.00

Net Church (a startup church in the Northern Il Conference whose pastor is known by Pastor Lisa): \$100.00

So far this year, we have donated \$1,300 and last year our grand total was \$2,863.00. All those luncheons and bake sales are making a difference!

(O) Fall Luncheon Help Needed

Our fall luncheon (second year) is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16 from 11:30-1:00. We will be serving casseroles, salads and desserts. Check the sign up sheet on the fellowship room bulletin board and sign up to help by preparing food, setting up, serving or cleaning up after. It's a fun time serving members of our community and others who come for good food and conversation. If you are able to help publicize by using some of our posters, there are extras on the credenza in the fellowship room.

(Z) Recycler Needed

We miss Dave Tri in so many ways at the UCC. Among them, we miss his friendly spirit and his thoughtfulness in bringing Mae Stee to church. Dave was also, for many years, the person who took care of our recycling. Now that he's gone, it's time for someone else to take over that responsibility. which involves checking the kitchen monthly or bimonthly and disposing of the recyclables, plus taking the paper from the office upstairs. Anyone (or a small team, or family) out there want to carry on this nice, green tradition? If so, please contact one of the church council members and let them know you're available. Your help will be most appreciated.

OZ Facebook Presence

For the most part, we're up and running on Facebook, so look us up!

Find Pastor Lisa: PastorLisa Johnson

Find Z church: First Congregational Church UCC

Zumbrota

We're still working on an O church presence, but keep an eye out.

(Z) Worship discussion

Are you ready for the next part of our Identity, Practices, and Stories journey? We'll be having a discussion about worship – short history, short theology, and some of our ideas for moving forward – after the service on Sun., Oct. 6. There will be snacks, and I'm sure there'll be great discussion, so join us!

(O) New Deacons Ordained/Installed

On Sun., Sept. 22, we were blessed to ordain and install Ted Midthun, Vivien Midthun, and Jen Rand as deacons. We want to thank them for their willingness to serve and offer our prayers and blessings on the ministry ahead of them. Welcome to the deacons!

Thanks Anyway God

A man is walking along when suddenly he got his foot caught in some railroad tracks. He tried to get it out, but it was really stuck in there well. He heard a noise and turned around to see a train coming. He panicked and started to pray, "God, please get my foot out of these tracks and I'll stop drinking!" Nothing happened, it was still stuck, and the train was getting closer! He prayed again, "God, please get my foot out and I'll stop drinking AND swear-

Still nothing...and the train was just seconds away! He tried it one last time, "God please, if you get my foot out of the tracks, I'll quit drinking, swearing and smoking." Suddenly his foot shot out of the tracks and he was able to dive out of the way, just as the train passed. He got up, dusted himself off, looked toward Heaven and said... "Thanks anyway God, I got it myself."

Readings for the Month of October



October 6

Various readings for World Communion Sunday

October 13

Psalm 100; John 14:1-7

October 20

Psalm 119:25-35; Mark 4:1-9

October 27

Deuteronomy 11:13-21; Hebrews 3:7-15

October Birthdays

10/1 Laurie Christopherson

10/2 Makayla Arendt

10/4 Terin Matthees

10/6 Cassie Sapp

10/8 Ted Midthun

10/10 Keanan Peterson-Rucker

10/12 Pat Webster

Molly Hunt

10/19 Dick Eick

10/21 Ron Monson

10/26 Garrett Langbehn

10/28 Ellen Simon

10/29 Lucas Pahl

10/30 Connie Hawley

In Touch With the Wider Church

United Church of Christ Contact Information

UCC national website...ucc.org

Minnesota UCC website...uccmn.org

Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact alisonb@uccmn.org

United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online at *ucc.org/ucnews*

or free subscription at United Church News, P.O.Box 247, Bellmawr, NJ 08099 or call

1-800-363-0575

Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...pcusa.org Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website... ptcaweb.org

PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact *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

(O) Flash from the Past ID

Reverend Thomas Burnet, pictured with his wife Allie, was our first O pastor. The book, "Oronoco Past and Present" by local author Elsie Boutelle, tells us "early in 1860, a young minister arrived in Minnesota from New York This newcomer was the Rev. Thomas Burnet. He began offering public religious services in Oronoco every day commencing on Thursday, June 30, 1869, and ending on the following Sabbath, July 3. In the bright sunshine of that first Sunday in July, a Sunday School picnic was held and an important decision made. There was to be a Presbyterian Church in Oronoco, Minnesota.

The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco was organized in October, 1870, with a membership roll of ten people.

The church structure was built and dedicated in March, 1873, at a cost of \$3,500 which included a gift of \$1,152 from the Scotch Presbyterian Church of New York City. The sanctuary, in which worship is conducted today, is the original sanctuary (restored)."

Directory Changes/Corrections

(O) Larry Glasenapp's new mailing address: 2004 South 69th St.
Philadelphia, PA. 19142

Community Events

Steak & Fish Fundraising Dinner

Pine Island American Legion

Friday, October 4th, 2013 5:00 - 7:30pm

Cost: \$10 Includes: Choice of Steak or Fish, Salad

& Baked Potato Benefits PIAHS

Craft Sale by Friends & Family

Thursday, Friday & Saturday October 31, Nov 1,2 & 7, 8, 9

9:00am—6:00pm

Sunday, November 3 & 10

Noon—5:00pm

Johnson's: 507-356-4079

11725 County Road 5, Pine Island

3 mile SW of Pine Island or 11 miles N of Byron Wood Signs, Wreaths, Ornaments, Fabric Items &

much more!

Harvest Home Dinner Bazaar and Silent Auction

Pine Island United Methodist Church

Saturday, October 12, 2013 4:00—7:00PM

Menu: Turkey with Dressing, Mashed Potatoes &

Gravy, Corn, Pickles, Cranberries, Fresh Roll and

Beverage

Apple, Pumpkin or Mincemeat Pie

Tickets: Adults (13+) \$12.00

Children (ages 5-12) \$5.00 Children under 5 are free.

Takeout orders available 507-356-4553

Drop Off Your Unused or Expired Medications

October 26th 2013 10:00am—2:00pm

Mayo Clinic Gonda Circle Drive, Rochester, MN

Take 2nd Street SW to 3rd Ave. SW

No questions asked

Empty Bowls

Join Channel One Regional Food Bank for a simple meal of soup and bread on October 10, 2013 from 11:00am—8:00pm at the Rochester Art Center. www.helpingfeedpeople.org

Diabetic Shoe Clinic

Pine Island Senior Center Monday, October 21, 2013 12:30pm-2:30pm No appointment necessary Sponsored by: Pine Island Area Home Services & Northmark Medical, LLC. Please contact PIAHS at 507-356-2999 for details.

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 Midthun, 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

Tuesdays in Oronoco 10:00am 3:00pm Wednesdays in Oronoco 10:00am—3:00pm

Office Phone # 1-507-367-4711 Email: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

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 October 2013



10/6 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z) 10/13 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z) 10/20 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z) 10/27 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)

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

Reverend Lisa Johnson - Contact Information Cell Phone 1-507-696-8753 Email address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com

October 2013 Daily Lectionary

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.

Tuesday October 1
Morning: Ps. 12; 146
Evening: Ps. 36; 7
2 Chron. 29:1–3, 30:1 (2–9) 10–
27
1 Cor. 7:32–40
Matt. 7:1–12

Wednesday October 2 Morning: Ps. 96; 147:1–11 Evening: Ps. 132; 134 2 Kings 18:9–25 1 Cor. 8:1–13 Matt. 7:13–21

Thursday October 3
Morning: Ps. 116; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 26; 130
2 Kings 18:28–37
1 Cor. 9:1–15
Matt. 7:22–29

Friday October 4
Morning: Ps. 84; 148
Evening: Ps. 25; 40
2 Kings 19:1–20
1 Cor. 9:16–27
Matt. 8:1–17

Saturday October 5 Morning: Ps. 63; 149 Evening: Ps. 125; 90 2 Kings 19:21–36 1 Cor. 10:1–13 Matt. 8:18–27

Sunday October 6 Morning: Ps. 103; 150 Evening: Ps. 117; 139 2 Kings 20:1–21 Acts 12:1–17 Luke 7:11–17

Monday October 7 Morning: Ps. 5; 145 Evening: Ps. 82; 29 2 Kings 21:1–18 1 Cor. 10:14—11:1 Matt. 8:28–34 Tuesday October 8 Morning: Ps. 42; 146 Evening: Ps. 102; 133 2 Kings 22:1–13 1 Cor. 11:2 (3–16) 17–22

Matt. 9:1–8

Wednesday October 9 Morning: Ps. 89:1–18; 147:1–11 Evening: Ps. 1; 33 2 Kings 22:14—23:3 1 Cor. 11:23–34 Matt. 9:9–17

Thursday October 10 Morning: Ps. 97; 147:12–20 Evening: Ps. 16; 62 2 Kings 23:4–25 1 Cor. 12:1–11 Matt. 9:18–26

Friday October 11 Morning: Ps. 51; 148 Evening: Ps. 142; 65 2 Kings 23:36—24:17 1 Cor. 12:12–26 Matt. 9:27–34

Saturday October 12 Morning: Ps. 104; 149 Evening: Ps. 138; 98 Jer. 35:1–19 1 Cor. 12:27—13:3 Matt. 9:35—10:4

Sunday October 13 Morning: Ps. 19; 150 Evening: Ps. 81; 113 Jer. 36:1–10 Acts 14:8–18

Luke 7:36-50

Monday October 14 Morning: Ps. 135; 145 Evening: Ps. 97; 112 Jer. 36:11–26 1 Cor. 13:(1–3) 4–13 Matt. 10:5–15 Tuesday October 15 Morning: Ps. 123; 146 Evening: Ps. 30; 86 Jer. 36:27—37:2 1 Cor. 14:1–12 Matt. 10:16–23

Wednesday October 16 Morning: Ps. 15; 147:1–11 Evening: Ps. 48; 4 Jer. 37:3–21 1 Cor. 14:13–25 Matt. 10:24–33

Thursday October 17
Morning: Ps. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 80; 27
Jer. 38:1–13
1 Cor. 14:26–33a
(33b–36) 37–40
Matt. 10:34–42

Friday October 18 Morning: Ps. 130; 148 Evening: Ps. 32; 139 Jer. 38:14–28 1 Cor. 15:1–11 Matt. 11:1–6

Saturday October 19 Morning: Ps. 56; 149 Evening: Ps. 118; 111 Jer. 52:1–34 1 Cor. 15:12–29 Matt. 11:7–15

Sunday October 20 Morning: Ps. 67; 150 Evening: Ps. 46; 93 Jer. 29:1, 4–14 or Jer. 39:11—40:6 Acts 16:6–15 Luke 10:1–12, 17–20

Monday October 21 Morning: Ps. 57; 145 Evening: Ps. 85; 47 Jer. 44:1–14 *or* Jer. 29:1, 4–14 1 Cor. 15:30–41 Matt. 11:16–24 Saturday October 19 Morning: Ps. 56; 149 Evening: Ps. 118; 111 Jer. 52:1–34 1 Cor. 15:12–29 Matt. 11:7–15

Sunday October 20 Morning: Ps. 67; 150 Evening: Ps. 46; 93 Jer. 29:1, 4–14 or Jer. 39:11—40:6 Acts 16:6–15 Luke 10:1–12, 17–20

Monday October 21 Morning: Ps. 57; 145 Evening: Ps. 85; 47 Jer. 44:1–14 *or* Jer. 29:1, 4–14

1 Cor. 15:30–41 Matt. 11:16–24

Tuesday October 22 Morning: Ps. 54; 146 Evening: Ps. 28; 99 Lam. 1:1–5 (6–9) 10–12 *or* Jer. 40:7—41:3 1 Cor. 15:41–50 Matt. 11:25–30

Wednesday October 23 Morning: Ps. 65; 147:1–11 Evening: Ps. 125; 91 Lam. 2:8–15 *or* Jer. 41:4–18 1 Cor. 15:51–58

Matt. 12:1–14

Thursday October 24

Morning: Ps. 143; 147:12–20

Evening: Ps. 81; 116 Ezra 1:1–11 *or* Jer. 42:1–22 1 Cor. 16:1–9

Matt. 12:15–21

Friday October 25 Morning: Ps. 88; 148 Evening: Ps. 6; 20

Ezra 3:1–13 *or* Jer. 43:1–13

1 Cor. 16:10–24 Matt. 12:22–32 Saturday October 26 Morning: Ps. 122; 149 Evening: Ps. 100; 63 Ezra 4:7; 11–24 or Jer. 44:1–14 Philem. 1–25 Matt. 12:33–42

Sunday October 27 Morning: Ps. 108; 150 Evening: Ps. 66; 23 Hag. 1:1—2:9 *or* Jer. 44:15–30 Acts 18:24—19:7 Luke 10:25–37

Monday October 28 Morning: Ps. 62; 145 Evening: Ps. 73; 9 Zech. 1:7–17 *or* Jer. 45:1–5 Rev. 1:4–20 Matt. 12:43–50

Tuesday October 29 Morning: Ps. 12; 146 Evening: Ps. 36; 7 Ezra 5:1–17 or Lam. 1:1–5 (6–9) 10–12 Rev. 4:1–11 Matt. 13:1–9

Wednesday October 30 Morning: Ps. 96; 147:1–11 Evening: Ps. 132; 134 Ezra 6:1–22 *or* Lam. 2:8–15 Rev. 5:1–10

Rev. 5:1–10 Matt. 13:10–17 Thursday October 31 Morning: Ps. 116; 147:12–20 Evening: Ps. 26; 130 Neh. 1:1–11 *or* Lam. 2:16–22 Rev. 5:11—6:11 Matt. 13:18–23

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

