

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

January 2014 Newsletter



**Important
DATE!**

2014 Annual Meetings

Z - The Annual Meeting for First Congregational UCC is scheduled for Sunday, January 19, 2014 after 9:00 worship service. Following the meeting we will gather for pot luck lunch and fellowship.

O - The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco's Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2014 during worship service. We will follow the meeting with a pot luck lunch. Reports should be submitted in time for the January 8th session meeting. Copies of report should be placed in file in Sue's office. Thank you.

All members are encouraged to attend!



The Pastor's Page

Well ... the baby Jesus has been born.

Hurray! Rejoice! We've sung with the angels. We've knelt with the shepherds. We've sought out the Christ-child with the magi.

But ... now what?

At our house, the Christmas decorations are even now making their way back into the red-and-green plastic totes that store our holiday stuff. The garbage bin is full of the used wrapping paper and bows, and the Christmas tree that fit so perfectly in our living room now resides on the curb, waiting for the wonderful city workers to come and haul it away. The new toys are put away on the shelves, and the new clothes have been washed and put away in closets and drawers. Holiday vacations are over, and we're back at work. It feels like life is starting to return to "normal" after all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.

But where does that leave our faith? We've boxed up our little baby Jesus figurines with the rest of the nativity sets, but what about the Christ-child who made such a powerful and poignant entrance into our lives just a few days ago? What do we do with that Christ-child now that Christmas is over?

We could take the approach of the shepherds. Luke tells us that after they found Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, they returned to their sheep in the fields, "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them" (Lk 2:20). After their Christmas encounter, the shepherds went back to their "normal" lives, but at the same time, their lives were anything but normal. They left that stable ... they left Bethlehem ... they returned to the setting that was familiar to them, but they went with God's Word in their hearts and on their lips. They shared that Word with anyone and everyone even as they went about the routines that were already so well-known to them. Like the shepherds, we can go away from this

year's encounter with the Christ-child with God's Word on our lips, sharing that Word of love and peace and fulfillment with all those we encounter in the midst of our everyday routines.

Then again, we could take the approach of the magi. These advisors were sent to find Jesus at the behest of King Herod and were tasked with bringing news of this foretold baby back to Herod – his whereabouts and any other pertinent information that would help Herod do away with this child because Herod feared Jesus was a threat to his earthly power. The magi followed that bright, shining star to Bethlehem, and when it finally stopped over the stable, Matthew tells us the magi "were overwhelmed with joy ... and they knelt down and paid [Jesus] homage" (Mt 2:10-11). But when they finally turned their faces toward home again, the magi took a different route because they had been warned in a dream about Herod's wrath. Their encounter with the Christ-child changed their mission. It changed their path. They went in search of Jesus for one reason but ended up finding a whole new Way. And sometimes our own encounters with Jesus do this, too. We seek out Jesus for one reason or another, but in both the seeking and the finding, we discover a whole new Way, a whole new Truth, a whole new Life.

Or we could always take Mary's approach. We could gather up all the happenings of the season – the feelings, the encounters, the memories (good and bad, new and old) – and treasure them deep within ourselves. We could continue to turn them over and over in our heads and our hearts, examining them for meaning, purpose, and that unexpected glimpse of the Holy. We could let God work on us from the inside out, opening doors within us and shining the Light of the World on those dark places where we have need.

Pastor Lisa

PASTOR LISA'S OFFICE HOURS

(O) Mondays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

(Z) Tuesdays, 8-11:00 a.m. (at Bridget's Cafe)

I'm always available outside these hours, too.

Just call my cell phone: 507-696-8753

In Our Prayers



I pray that you may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.
Ephesians 3:17,18

Bonnie Rolland, Karen Vallejo, Gary Ofstie, 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.

(O) Furnace Fund Update

We have met our Furnace Fund goal of \$6,100 with special donations from members and memorial funds! I always knew our congregation was a warm-hearted group, but it's really nice that our fingers and toes are equally warm this winter season. Thank you for your donations and a special thank you to Ron Peterson-Rucker for facilitating the replacement of our worn-out furnaces.

(O) Annual Meeting Reminder

All committee reports (Audit, Budget, Children & Youth Education, Deacons, Food Shelf, Nominating, People of the Church, Publicity and Session) & Pastor's Report are to be submitted to the secretary's office before the session meeting on January 8. Thank you for your special efforts in accomplishing this.

(O) Snow Removal

Thanks to Steve Bertsinger for taking over the responsibility for snow removal from the sidewalks. Session has contracted with Mike Fogarty for plowing the parking lot when snow depth is 2" or more.

(O) Handicap Parking Signs

Session decided to remove more of the handicap parking signs from our parking lot as we see a declining need and because they are confusing to visi-

tors. Some of the signs will be taken down one of these days when it is a bit warmer.

(O) Appreciation

Thank you to all who have contributed time, treasure and talents this past year. Our little church on the hill continues to make a difference in our community and in the world around us thanks to the special efforts of all our members and friends. Together we DO make a difference.

(O) Concert

Thanks to the Publicity Team for arranging for the Ann Reed concert last month. It was a fine performance.

(O) December Bake Sale

Thanks to all who contributed to the December bake sale by donating and/or purchasing items. We were able to raise \$271.

(O) Books for Teens

Session has approved purchase of a book for each of the teens in the congregation. It is titled: "Banned: Questions About the Bible".



In Appreciation

(O/Z) Thank you so much for the Christmas wishes and gift of money. The warm greetings that I am met with every day makes my job one of the best around. Wishing you all a new year filled with peace, good will and love.

Your secretary,
Sue

(O) January Luncheon



The January luncheon will be on Wednesday, January 15th from 11:30 to 1:00. This will be a casserole, salad and dessert luncheon. Please mark your calendars and check the bulletin board for the sign up sheet. Your contributions of food and time will be appreciated and will help support our 2014 outreach activities. All are invited. Be sure to bring your friends!

(Z) Counting Down to the Annual Meeting/Potluck

Each year, the annual meeting day celebrates our life together as a congregation, records what we have done in the past year, and looks ahead to what can be done in the year ahead. This year's worship/potluck/meeting will be held Sunday, January 19. Worship will begin at 9 a.m. (as it does in all of January.) The meeting will follow worship, around 10:15 a.m., and a wonderful potluck feast of favorite dishes from all of our cooks will follow around 11. If you're not a cook, you might like to bring a treat/drink/snack to share. And remember, all are welcome to attend, even though voting is restricted to members.

Reminder to chairs of all committees—please have your annual reports in by January 5, 2014. Reports may be emailed to the church office in Oronoco. To compile the annual report, these reports are needed by January 5: Moderator's Report, Clerk's Report & 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes, Deacons' Report, Trustees' Report, Christian Education Program Report, and Interchurch Council Report. The Treasurer's Report & Budget will be sent whenever the books are done and audited.

(O/Z) Readers of OZ



Our book selection for January is "Conversations with Myself" by Nelson Mandela. A recent review has this to say:

"The South African statesman and former political prisoner bares his mind and soul in this inspiring collection of writings and interviews. Culled from Mandela's letters, notebooks, taped conversations, prison

diaries, calendars, and an unfinished autobiography, the material includes reminiscences of the antiapartheid movement, lessons in revolutionary theory gleaned from his guerrilla training, vignettes of prison life, seething protests to authorities, tender missives to loved ones, canny political strategizing and quiet philosophical reflections. The entries recall moments of high drama, days of dreary routine and interludes of random strangeness, including a prison screening of *Revenge of the Nerds*. Mandela registers his anger at the humiliations and hardships imposed on him by apartheid, and his anguish over his long separation from his family (officials even denied his requests to attend his mother's and son's funerals). But what comes through most strongly is his steadfast resolve—"the knowledge that in your day you did your duty and lived up to the expectations of your fellow man is in itself a reward"—and a shrewd, ebullient humanity that finds and embraces the good even in his prison guards. The result is a moving account of Mandela's struggle and a testament to his triumph."

Please join us at the home of Paulette Barnhart on Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 P.M. Paulette's address is 382 First Ave North, Mazeppa. If you need directions, call Paulette at 507-272-5664. All are welcome.

(O/Z) Food Shelf Sunday

Food Shelf donation Sunday for both O and Z is January 5, 2014. Non-perishable food items and paper products are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are always welcome. Your generosity is appreciated more than you know.

(O/Z) Special Music

I will be compiling a list of possibilities for future special music that we could include in our service. If you know of anyone who might be willing to share their music gifts with us in worship, please let me know.
Pastor Lisa

(O/Z) Textile Group



Next meeting:

- Sat., Jan. 11 at 10:00 a.m.
- Meet at Jo Ludington's house: 388 E. 4th St., Zumbrota

We're still trying to think up names, so come prepared to discuss them. J Also, we've had some questions about whether people who don't attend the OZ churches can come. The answer is a resounding YES! The more the merrier, so if you have friends who like to knit, sew, crochet, etc. and would like to join us, they're more than welcome.

(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.

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.

(Z) Conversation with Rev. Shari Prestemon

Rev. Shari Prestemon, our new conference minister, will be heading down our way to get to know those of us here in the "southern kingdom" a little bit better. She'll be at **Peace UCC in Rochester on Sun., Jan. 12 at 2:00 p.m.** Peace UCC has generously offered to provide refreshments for this event, but they would like an RSVP so they know how much food to provide.

If you're interested in going to meet Rev. Prestemon and would like to carpool, please let Pastor Lisa know. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church.

(O) January Presbytery Meeting

The January presbytery meeting will be **Sat., Jan. 11** starting at **9:00 a.m.** at **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Minneapolis (1200 Marquette Ave.) The church has the option of sending up to 2 ruling elders to vote, but anyone can come as a visitor. If you're interested in going, either as a voting member or as a visitor, please contact Pastor Lisa.

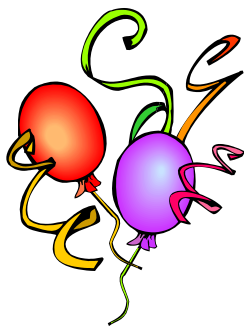
(O/Z) Worship Team

We have a team assembled! J I want to say a big thank you to Connie Hawley, Sue Wedge, Lance Sorensen, and Linda Sorensen for agreeing to go on this journey. If anyone else is still interested, too, please don't hesitate to contact me. We will be meeting sometime in January. Also, if you have any ideas, please share them with one of us. Thanks!

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words in them ourselves. The book is called opportunity, and its first chapter is New Year's day. Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Birthdays for the Month of January

1/3 Jayna Lee Hartzell
1/4 Matthew Biever
Hailey Vath
Robert Rueber
1/6 Robert Rolland
1/9 Andrew Pahl
1/11 Skylar Olson
1/12 Jack Rucker
Ava Tiede
1/14 Coleen Johnston
1/25 Mitchell Watkins
Nickolas Vath
1/27 Cayden Olson
1/28 Gerry Webster
Janice Ostrom
1/31 Larry Smith



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

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

Directory Changes/Updates

(O) Anthony Vallejo's new email address:
ajvallejo.10@outlook.com
Karen Vallejo's new email address:
karen.lynn@outlook.com

IN THE COMMUNITY

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational program designed to help family caregivers learn to take care of themselves while caring for an older relative or friend. You will benefit from this class whether you are helping a parent, spouse, and friend, someone who lives at home, in a nursing home, or across the country. Research studies find high rates of depression and anxiety among caregivers and increased vulnerability to health problems. This class will help you develop a wealth of self-care tools to reduce stress, change negative self-talk, communicate more effectively, recognize the messages in emotions, and make tough care giving decisions. **The next session begins January 11-February 15, 2014 at Autumn Ridge from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Call 507-285-5272 for a class schedule and/or register. Cost: \$20 plus \$20 for available workbook (not required). Financial assistance available if needed.**

Transportation

PSA: The Elder Network is looking for individuals who are willing to provide transportation for seniors to their vital medical appointments. Even giving a ride once or twice a month can make a huge difference. Please call the Elder Network at (507) 285-5272.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS



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

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

Daily Lectionary Readings ~ January 2014

Wednesday, January 1

Morning: Pss. 98; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 99; 8

Isa. 62:1-5, 10-12

Rev. 19:11-16

Matt. 1:18-25

Thursday, January 2

Morning: Pss. 48; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 9; 29

1 Kings 19:1-8

Eph. 4:1-16

John 6:1-14

Friday, January 3

Morning: Pss. 111; 148

Evening: Pss. 107; 15

1 Kings 19:9-18

Eph. 4:17-32

John 6:15-27

Saturday, January 4

Morning: Pss. 20; 149

Evening: Pss. 93; 97

Josh. 3:14-4:7

Eph. 5:1-20

John 9:1-12, 35-38

Sunday, January 5

2nd Sunday after Christmas Day

Morning: Pss. 99; 150

Evening: Pss. 96; 110

1 Kings 3:5-14

Col. 3:12-17

John 6:41-47

Monday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 72; 145

Evening: Pss. 100; 67

Isa. 49:1-7

Rev. 21:22-27

Matt. 12:14-21

Tuesday, January 7

Morning: Pss. 46 *or* 97; 146

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; *or* 114

Deut. 8:1-3

Col. 1:1-14

John 6:30-33, 48-51

Wednesday, January 8

Morning: Pss. 46 *or* 47; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; *or* 114

Exod. 17:1-7

Col. 1:15-23

John 7:37-52

Thursday, January 9

Morning: Pss. 46 *or* 47; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; *or* 114

Isa. 45:14-19

Col. 1:24-2:7

John 8:12-19

Friday, January 10

Morning: Pss. 46 *or* 47; 148

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; *or* 114

Jer. 23:1-8

Col. 2:8-23

John 10:7-17

Saturday, January 11

Morning: Pss. 46 *or* 47; 149

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; *or* 114

Isa. 55:3-9

Col. 3:1-17

John 14:6-14

Sunday, January 12

Baptism of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 104; 150

Evening: Ps. 29

Gen. 1:1-2:3

Eph. 1:3-14

John 1:29-34

Monday, January 13

Morning: Pss. 5; 145

Evening: Pss. 82; 29

Gen. 2:4-9 (10-15) 16-25

Heb. 1:1-14

John 1:1-18

Tuesday, January 14

Morning: Pss. 42; 146

Evening: Pss. 102; 133

Gen. 3:1-24

Heb. 2:1-10

John 1:19-28

Wednesday, January 15

Morning: Pss. 89:1-18; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 1; 33

Gen. 4:1-16

Heb. 2:11-18

John 1:(29-34) 35-42

Thursday, January 16

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 16; 62

Gen. 4:17-26

Heb. 3:1-11

John 1:43-51

Friday, January 17

Morning: Pss. 51; 148

Evening: Pss. 142; 65

Gen. 6:1-8

Heb. 3:12-19

John 2:1-12

Saturday, January 18

Week of Prayer for Christian

Unity begins

Morning: Pss. 104; 149

Evening: Pss. 138; 98

Gen. 6:9-22

Heb. 4:1-13

John 2:13-22

Sunday, January 19

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Morning: Pss. 19; 150

Evening: Pss. 81; 113

Gen. 7:1-10, 17-23

Eph. 4:1-16

Mark 3:7-19

Monday, January 20

Morning: Pss. 135; 145

Evening: Pss. 97; 112

Gen. 8:6-22

Heb. 4:14-5:6

John 2:23-3:15

Daily Lectionary Readings - January 2014

Tuesday, January 21

Morning: Pss. 123; 146

Evening: Pss. 30; 86

Gen. 9:1-17

Heb. 5:7-14

John 3:16-21

Heb. 8:1-13

John 4:43-54

Tuesday, January 28

Morning: Pss. 54; 146

Evening: Pss. 28; 99

Gen. 15:1-11, 17-21

Heb. 9:1-14

John 5:1-18

Wednesday, January 22

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 48; 4

Gen. 9:18-29

Heb. 6:1-12

John 3:22-36

Wednesday, January 29

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 125; 91

Gen. 16:1-14

Heb. 9:15-28

John 5:19-29

Thursday, January 23

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 80; 27

Gen. 11:1-9

Heb. 6:13-20

John 4:1-15

Thursday, January 30

Morning: Pss. 143; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 81; 116

Gen. 16:15-17:14

Heb. 10:1-10

John 5:30-47

Friday, January 24

Morning: Pss. 130; 148

Evening: Pss. 32; 139

Gen. 11:27-12:8

Heb. 7:1-17

John 4:16-26

Friday, January 31

Morning: Pss. 88; 148

Evening: Pss. 6; 20

Gen. 17:15-27

Heb. 10:11-25

John 6:1-15

Saturday, January 25

Week of Prayer for Christian

Unity ends

Morning: Pss. 56; 149

Evening: Pss. 118; 111

Gen. 12:9-13:1

Heb. 7:18-28

John 4:27-42

Sunday, January 26

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Morning: Pss. 67; 150

Evening: Pss. 46; 93

Gen. 13:2-18

Gal. 2:1-10

Mark 7:31-37

Monday, January 27

Morning: Pss. 57; 145

Evening: Pss. 85; 47

Gen. 14:(1-7) 8-24

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

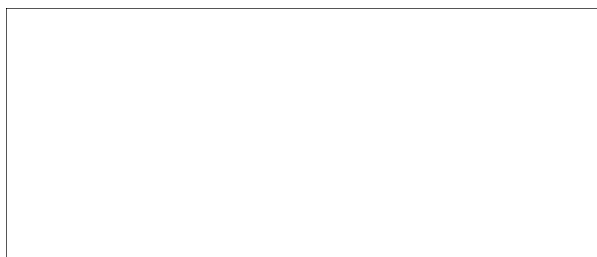
Joanne Schenck, Secretary

Judy Wilder, Treasurer

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 January 2014



1/5	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/12	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/19	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/26	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

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

Pastor Lisa Johnson—Contact Information

Cell Phone (507)696-8753 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com

Pastor's Blog: pastorlisaj.wordpress.com