

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA  
and  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

August 2016 Newsletter

Joint Worship Service  
Sunday, August 14, 2016  
10:00 AM Community Service  
Presbyterian Church of Oronoco



After much discussion at the May ICC meeting, we've decided to relinquish our spot at the Goodhue County Fair. We will still be having our joint worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in August, but we will go back to having an outdoor service (weather permitting) followed by a picnic and lawn games. We will alternate churches year-to-year, so here's the information for this year:

Where: **O church**

When: **Sun., Aug. 14 @ 10:00 a.m.**

The hosting church – O church, this year – will provide the meat and the beverages. The other church – Z church, this year – will provide the salads and the dessert.

***IN SEARCH OF Bluegrass Music ...*** For the joint service in August, we'd like to find a bluegrass band that could provide some music both during the service and possibly also during the picnic afterward. If you know of any bluegrass bands in the area that we could contact, please let Pastor Lisa know. Thanks.

## *A Message from Our Pastor*



*Peter Yachi Clark/Seeds of Hope*

Jesus' story of the prodigal son ...

A familiar story, familiar words.

A father has two sons. The younger son decides he wants his inheritance early, so the father divides all he has and gives the younger son his share. The younger son goes off and squanders his early inheritance on "extravagant living." When his money runs out and he begins to be in need (desperate, *desperate* need!), he decides to return home to his father and beg for forgiveness. While the younger son is welcomed home with open arms and a feast to end all feasts, the story ends with the older son frustrated by this welcome and the father reminding the older son that what was lost has been found. (Luke 15:11-32)

Often, a reading of this story is accompanied by a message about forgiveness – about redemption and being welcomed home. And yes, that's certainly something we hear in this story.

But the story of the prodigal son is also a story of hope. We see the first glimmer of hope in the younger son's initial "bright and shiny" vision for an amazing future full of all those things that he didn't think he could find back home on the farm: excitement, adventure, and a lavish lifestyle.

Then reality comes screaming in in the form of pig food that is starting to look appetizing.

The reality that has come screaming in for us lately has been far worse – much more devastating, much more sobering, and much more painful. We've seen senseless and unnecessary deaths – in Orlando, in Baton Rouge, in Roseville, in Dallas, in Turkey, in Nice, and in so many other places. We're caught in the throes of grief and loss, frustration and anxiety, distrust and shame.

Do we feel like we've been trampled down in the muck and the mud and the filth?

Do we feel soul-weary and spirit-worn?

Do we look up and out, and like the son in Jesus' story, say, "God, I just want to go home?"

And therein lies the hope. Out of the muck and the mud and the filth – out of the appalling circumstances and the suffering – is a way out ... a way forward.

HOPE lies in the younger son's journey home. Every step is filled with anticipation and apprehension, dreams and doubts. Every step grows a little stronger, a little lighter, a little surer. Every step carried him further and further away from rock bottom.

HOPE lies in the home itself. It's a safe place to land. It's a place that holds all the sacredness and familiarity of memories as well as all the potential for new beginnings – a place to come back to as well as a place to start out from, a place of turning and returning, a place of repentance and renewal. Home is where we come together. Sometimes it's uncomfortable. Sometimes it's messy. But it's the place where we come together.

HOPE lies in the father's waiting. "While he was a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion" (Lk 15:20). I'd be willing to bet that the father didn't just happen to glance up at the right time. That father was waiting, hoping for a change of mind, hoping for a change of heart, hoping for his son to return to that place of deepest love and sincerest welcome.

HOPE even lies in the snarky, crotchety older brother. There is hope in the accountability that we find in his presence – someone to keep us honest, someone to read us as we are, whether we like it or not. And there is hope in the relationship-building and rebuilding that is yet to be: bridges to be built, hearts to be mended, and futures to be imagined together.

Friends, is any of this striking a chord? Is any of this sounding familiar? God calls us to hope, to freedom, to love and grace. May we open our eyes – in the midst of the muck and the pain, the mud and the anger, the filth and the fear. May we open our eyes and step out together to follow God's call into hope.

*Pastor Gina*

## (O/Z) Pastor Out of the Office

Pastor Lisa will be out from July 24-Aug. 7. The first week, I will be out of town for continuing ed at Synod School in Storm Lake, IA. The following week will be vacation. I will also be out Aug. 14 (after worship and the picnic) – Aug. 18.

## (O/Z) Twins Game Outing

On Thurs., Sept. 1, the yellow brick road will lead from OZ to Target Field! We're headed back to another Twins game to watch the Twins take on the Chicago White Sox!



Date: **Thurs., Sept. 1**

Time: **game time – 7:10 p.m.**

*\*\*We'll be carpooling up and parking somewhere to take the light-rail to the field. Leave time is TBD.\*\**

Ticket cost: **\$16** per person (This is the same section we were in last year, but because of the schedule, we had to bump up from an Extra Value game to a Value game, hence the ticket price increase.)

The more, the merrier, so invite family, friends, neighbors, or anyone you like. We've reserved 30 tickets but can get more if we need to (though they may be in another section from the first group of tickets), **so please contact Pastor Lisa by Tues., Aug. 2 with the number of tickets you need. Thank you.**

## (O/Z) Blessing of the Backpacks – Aug. 28

Believe it or not, it's already time for our students (and teachers) to start thinking about heading back to school again. As they do that, we want them to go back knowing that we are holding them in prayer because there are a lot of things that they face at school each and every day. So if you're heading back to school in some capacity – as a student (elementary school, middle/high school, or college) or as a teacher (or support staff person), we want to pray for you. **Please remember to bring your backpack** (or something else that you take with you every day) **to the worship service on Sun., Aug. 28.**

## (O/Z) Contacting Pastor Lisa

Pastor Lisa has a new phone!!! The phone number remains the same (507-696-8753), but **now you can text me!**

A big thank you to the ICC for helping me get this all sorted out and to Lance Sorensen for donating a phone for me to use. Here we go, into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

## (O/Z) 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, un-structured time together, and to invite people who may not be as comfortable coming through the church doors for the first time. It's also an opportunity for us to participate in the relationship of the yoke – O people can come to the campfire at Z, and Z people can come to the campfire at O. Bring your neighbors and friends. Bring kids. Let's have fun!

### **Zumbrota:**

Sun., Aug. 14 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### **Oronoco:**

Sun., Aug. 28 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 25 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

*\*\*NOTE: The O church has decided to include roasting hot dogs and brats as part of this time of fellowship, so the time has changed. Instead of starting at 7:00 p.m., we'll be starting at 6:00 p.m. Brats/hot dogs will be provided. Feel free to bring anything else – salad, chips, etc. And come hungry!\*\**

## (O/Z) Communion date changes

Both the Oronoco session and the Zumbrota council have voted to move the celebration of communion for the month of Sept. due to our "usual" communion Sunday falling on a holiday weekend. Because of the Labor Day holiday weekend, both OZ congregations will be celebrating communion on Sun., Sept. 11. **Please note: We will still have worship on Sun., Sept. 4.** We simply will not celebrate communion that day.

## 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

Joyce Rucker, Eunice Markham, Sue Wedge, Jo Ludington and Monica Blue (sister-in-law to Dick & Janice Ostrom).

## (O) The Chocolate Affaire

The Chocolate Affaire ... it's BACK!! And ONCE AGAIN, it will be a fun-filled night of great live entertainment and delicious chocolate.

**WHAT:** We're asking everyone to bring their favorite chocolate concoction divided up into small portions. The evening will be a chance to come, sample a wide variety of dishes (plus coffee, sparkling cider, and, of course, milk) and enjoy some live music. Free will donations accepted at the door, and boxes can be purchased to take some of your favorite goodies home with you!

**WHEN:** Fri., Oct. 28 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Children are welcome as well! There will be a "Decorate your own brownie" station for the kids.

Keep an eye out for the Chocolate Affaire sign-up sheet on the bulletin board!

## (O) National Night Out

Oronoco is hosting a National Night Out party at the Oronoco City Park on Tues., Aug. 2. National Night Out was started as a way to heighten awareness about safety and crime prevention and to enhance community relations. This year, the O church will have a table at National Night Out. Once again, we will be hosting a couple bean bag toss games and 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 Mike and Jenny Rand.

## (O) People of the Church News

We will once again be filling the busy bags for Ronald McDonald House and the Women's Shelter. Fleece material works best for the busy bags. Be watching for early school sales to pick up crayons, markers, notebooks, games, coloring books, cars, puzzles, etc. Donations can be dropped off in the fellowship room. If you have any questions, please call Joanne Schenck at 289-0093. Thank you!



## (O/Z) Readers of OZ

Our book discussion group will gather again on September 13 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at the home of Ellen Simon who has moved to Gramercy Senior Cooperative located at 1333 Arthur Lane NW.

Our selection for September is "*Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*" by Atul Gawande. Gawande, a practicing surgeon, addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. Gawande, a practicing surgeon, offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person's last weeks or months may be rich and dignified. Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, providing not only a good life but also a good end.

If you want to read ahead, the selection for October is "*The Road to Character*" by David Brooks. This selection is described as his most eye-opening and deeply personal book yet. David Brooks—*New York Times* bestselling author of *The Social Animal*—tells the story of ten great lives that illustrate how character is developed, and how we can all strive to build rich inner lives, marked by humility and moral depth. In a society that emphasizes success and external achievement, *The Road to Character* is a book about inner worth. It sounds like a worthy read!

So, enjoy your summer by adding a few good reads and plan to join us in September for stimulating discussion.



## (Z) Coming Soon: Outdoor Labyrinth

We will be installing an in-ground walking labyrinth on our lawn. Walking the labyrinth in a meditative practice that has been used for more than 4000 years. So how do I walk the labyrinth? How do I use this as a spiritual practice? *“The entrance can be a place to stop, reflect, make prayer or intention for the spiritual walk you are about to take. The walk around the design to the center can be a “letting go” – a quieting of the thoughts, worries, lists of tasks to do, a letting go unto the experience of being present in the body. Arrival at the center rosette – a place of prayer/meditation – “letting in” Gods guidance, the divine into our lives. When ready, the walk out “letting out” takes us back into our lives, empowered by spirit to transform our lives and actions.”* (from *“Guidelines for Walking a Labyrinth,”* <http://sacredwalk.com/guidelines>)



Our labyrinth will be roughly 40' in diameter and will have a bench in the middle, giving you the opportunity to sit and pray, think, meditate, or listen for God as long as you like before journeying out again. We will also have a sign explaining the purpose and function of a labyrinth to anyone that chooses to stop by. So keep an eye out!!

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Yoke

Believe it or not, we are coming up on this incredible milestone – on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OZ yoke!! We are in the process of planning a joint celebration (including a joint worship service) for April 2017, but we need your help ... especially those of you who have stories about the yoke. Maybe it's a story of your own experience. Maybe it's a story that you heard from one of our dearly departed saints of the church who was present during the yoking. Please feel free to share those stories with Pastor Lisa or anyone on our planning committee:

- Z: Nattalie Vath, Hailey Vath, Bonnie Rolland
- O: Jenny Rand, Gail Rucker

Also, if you're interested in being a part of this planning committee, please let Pastor Lisa know. The more, the merrier!

## (O/Z) September 11 Worship

This year is the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11, and Sept. 11 happens to be a Sunday. We're going to commemorate this day in both congregations with a special worship service – a time of prayer, of reflection, of silence, and of communion.



## Readings for the Month of August

### Sunday, August 7

guest preacher, Rev. Julie Beck



### Sunday, August 14

Matthew 18:1-5; 1 Corinthians  
12:12-27

*Joint Worship service and picnic at O*

### Sunday, August 21

Esther 6:13-7:10

*Gold Rush Days*

### Sunday, August 28

Esther 8:1-9, 11; 9:20-22

## (O/Z) August Birthdays

8/1 Amy Pahl  
8/2 Sandy Bowers  
8/3 Katha Johnson  
Siddha Hunt  
8/5 Mary Sapp  
8/7 Don DeBlicke  
8/11 Bob Hawley  
8/12 Ardith Ottman  
8/13 Nancy Tiedeman  
8/18 Matthew Pahl  
8/20 Joanne Schenck  
Gary Ofstie  
8/22 Cindy DeBlicke  
8/27 Rachel Stanton



## Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson  
Secretary: Sue Johnson  
Custodians: (O) Sue Johnson  
(Z) Debbie Floan  
Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

### UCC Leadership Team

Chad Vath, Moderator  
Cindy DeBlicke, Clerk  
Amy Pahl, Financial Clerk  
Parker Quammen, Treasurer  
Connie Hawley, Trustee  
Bob Hawley, Trustee  
Arlen Kylo, Trustee  
Sandy Pahl, Deacon  
Nattalie Rolland-Vath, Deacon  
Hailey Vath, Deacon  
Marlene Kosobucki, Deacon  
Kayn Wilshusen, Deacon  
Wendy Kylo, Deacon

### Presbyterian

#### Leadership Team

Kim Stanton, Treasurer  
Kay Erdahl, Asst. Treasurer  
Ron Peterson Rucker, Ruling Elder  
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder  
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder  
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder  
Peter Johnson, Ruling Elder  
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder  
Sandy Bowers, Deacon  
Deb Nelson, Deacon  
Joanne Schenck, Deacon  
Karen Peterson Rucker, Deacon  
Jenny Rand, Deacon  
Gail Rucker, Deacon

### People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator  
Joanne Schenck, Secretary

## (O/Z) Summer Sermon Series

Throughout the summer this year, we're going to be reading our way through the book of Esther. Esther is an odd little book in the Old Testament that tells the story of Esther, Haman, King Ahasuerus, and Mordecai. It's a captivating story of deception and intrigue. It also happens to be the only book in the Bible in which God is not actually involved on an active level. God isn't really even mentioned very much. So what does this ancient story of royal romance and political conspiracy have to tell us about our faith? Come to church this summer, and you'll find out!

## Pastor Lisa's Office Hours

Mondays in Oronoco 1-4:00PM

## Secretary's Office Hours

Tuesdays in Oronoco 10am—3pm  
Thursdays in Oronoco 10am—3pm

Office phone# 1-507-367-4711  
Email: [oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)

## August 2016 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.*

### Monday, August 1

Morning: Pss. 62; 145  
Evening: Pss. 73; 9  
Judg. 6:25–40  
Acts 2:37–47  
John 1:1–18

### Tuesday, August 2

Morning: Pss. 12; 146  
Evening: Pss. 36; 7  
Judg. 7:1–18  
Acts 3:1–11  
John 1:19–28

### Wednesday, August 3

Morning: Pss. 96;  
147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 132; 134  
Judg. 7:19–8:12  
Acts 3:12–26  
John 1:29–42

### Thursday, August 4

Morning: Pss. 116;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 26; 130  
Judg. 8:22–35  
Acts 4:1–12  
John 1:43–51

### Friday, August 5

Morning: Pss. 84; 148  
Evening: Pss. 25; 40  
Judg. 9:1–16, 19–21  
Acts 4:13–31  
John 2:1–12

### Saturday, August 6

Morning: Pss. 63; 149  
Evening: Pss. 125; 90

Judg. 9:22–25, 50–57  
Acts 4:32–5:11  
John 2:13–25

### Sunday, August 7

12th Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Morning: Pss. 103; 150  
Evening: Pss. 117; 139  
Judg. 11:1–11, 29–40  
2 Cor. 11:21b–31  
Mark 4:35–41

### Monday, August 8

Morning: Pss. 5; 145  
Evening: Pss. 82; 29  
Judg. 12:1–7  
Acts 5:12–26  
John 3:1–21

### Tuesday, August 9

Morning: Pss. 42; 146  
Evening: Pss. 102; 133  
Judg. 13:1–15  
Acts 5:27–42  
John 3:22–36

### Wednesday, August 10

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;  
147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 1; 33  
Judg. 13:15–24  
Acts 6:1–15  
John 4:1–26

### Thursday, August 11

Morning: Pss. 97;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 16; 62

Judg. 14:1–19  
Acts 6:15–7:16  
John 4:27–42

### Friday, August 12

Morning: Pss. 51; 148  
Evening: Pss. 142; 65  
Judg. 14:20–15:20  
Acts 7:17–29  
John 4:43–54  
**Saturday, August 13**  
Morning: Pss. 104; 149  
Evening: Pss. 138; 98  
Judg. 16:1–14  
Acts 7:30–43  
John 5:1–18

### Sunday, August 14

13th Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Morning: Pss. 19; 150  
Evening: Pss. 81; 113  
Judg. 16:15–31  
2 Cor. 13:1–11  
Mark 5:25–34

### Monday, August 15

Morning: Pss. 135; 145  
Evening: Pss. 97; 112  
Judg. 17:1–13  
Acts 7:44–8:1a  
John 5:19–29

### Tuesday, August 16

Morning: Pss. 123; 146  
Evening: Pss. 30; 86  
Judg. 18:1–15  
Acts 8:1–13  
John 5:30–47

### Wednesday, August 17

**Friday, August 19**

Morning: Pss. 130; 148

Evening: Pss. 32; 139

Job 2:1–13

Acts 9:1–9

John 6:27–40

**Saturday, August 20**

Morning: Pss. 56; 149

Evening: Pss. 118; 111

Job 3:1–26

Acts 9:10–19a

John 6:41–51

**Sunday, August 21**

14th Sunday after

Pentecost

Morning: Pss. 67; 150

Evening: Pss. 46; 93

Job 4:1–6, 12–21

Rev. 4:1–11

Mark 6:1–6a

**Monday, August 22**

Morning: Pss. 57; 145

Evening: Pss. 85; 47

Job 4:1; 5:1–11, 17–21,  
26–27

Acts 9:19b–31

John 6:52–59

**Tuesday, August 23**

Morning: Pss. 54; 146

Evening: Pss. 28; 99

Job 6:1–4, 8–15, 21

Acts 9:32–43

John 6:60–71

**Wednesday, August 24**

Morning: Pss. 65;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 125; 91

Job 6:1; 7:1–21

Acts 10:1–16

John 7:1–13

**Thursday, August 25**

Morning: Pss. 143;

147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 81; 116

Job 8:1–10, 20–22

Acts 10:17–33

John 7:14–36

**Friday, August 26**

Morning: Pss. 88; 148

Evening: Pss. 6; 20

Job 9:1–15, 32–35

Acts 10:34–48

John 7:37–52

**Saturday, August 27**

Morning: Pss. 122; 149

Evening: Pss. 100; 63

Job 9:1; 10:1–9, 16–22

Acts 11:1–18

John 8:12–20

**Sunday, August 28**

15th Sunday after

Pentecost

Morning: Pss. 108; 150

Evening: Pss. 66; 23

Job. 11:1–9, 13–20

Rev. 5:1–14

Matt. 5:1–12

**Monday, August 29**

Morning: Pss. 62; 145

Evening: Pss. 73; 9

Job 12:1–6, 13–25

Acts 11:19–30

John 8:21–32

**Tuesday, August 30**

Morning: Pss. 12; 146

Evening: Pss. 36; 7

Job 12:1; 13:3–17, 21–27

Acts 12:1–17

John 8:33–47

**Wednesday, August 31**

Morning: Pss. 96;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 132; 134

Job 12:1; 14:1–22

Acts 12:18–25

John 8:47–59



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

### **Worship Times for the Month of August 2016**

8/7	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
8/14	Joint Worship at O at 10:00AM	
8/21	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
8/28	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)



**Reverend Lisa Johnson - Contact Information**  
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Pastor Lisa's Office Hours: Mondays 1-4:00p.m. in Oronoco  
Pastor Lisa's blog: [pastorlisaj.wordpress.com](http://pastorlisaj.wordpress.com)