



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG MISSION

May 2022

## In Memoriam

It saddens me to have to share with you that we've learned that Larry Glasenapp passed away in January of this year. His family will be holding a short interment of Larry's ashes in his family ploy in the Oronoco Cemetery on Thursday, May 19 at 3:00 p.m.



Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

### Church Staff

Secretary: Brianna Clement

Organist: Katha Johnson

### Church Leadership

Mike Rand, Clerk of Session  
Ellen Warner, Ruling Elder  
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder  
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder  
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder  
Todd Wickre, Ruling Elder  
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder

Kim Stanton, Treasurer  
Gail Rucker, Deacon  
Ellen Simon, Deacon  
Joanne Schenck, Deacon  
Cindy Luhman, Deacon  
Karen Peterson-Rucker, Deacon



## From the Pastor ...

Due to the busyness leading up to Holy Week... and the busyness of Holy Week itself... and the busyness of family birthdays... and then finally vacation, there is no pastor's message this month.

See you next month!

*Pastor Lisa*

## Scripture readings for May

**Sunday, May 1**– Guest Preacher Reverend Susan Li

**Sunday, May 8**– Acts 16:16-34

**Sunday, May 16**– Acts 17:16-31

**Sunday, May 22**– Philippians 1:1-18

**Sunday, May 29**– Guest Preacher Reverend Tammy Rider



## Current Worship Requirements

It is such a joy to be back together for worship!! I love not being the only one in the building on Sunday mornings!

Just a reminder about the main requirements for coming back to worship in the building:

- Until further notice, masks are **optional** for those who have been fully COVID- 19 vaccinated. *If you have not been vaccinated, please continue wearing a mask*
- Sanitize your hands upon coming into the building
- Maintain social distancing in the building, both the sanctuary and the fellowship area

We will be returning to fellowship time after worship on Sunday, May 1. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for fellowship treats for May through July. The deacons will also be returning to passing the communion elements via the trays.

And, of course, if you're not comfortable coming back to worship in person yet, we will continue to livestream our worship services on our website.



## Keeping Up with the Smith-Mathers



First, the update: According to their last newsletter, Shelvis has finally been able to return to Oxford University in England to resume his doctoral work in peacebuilding strategies. Nancy and the kids – Jordan, Addie, Nicole, and Alice – remain here in the United States.

For the last few years, we’ve been helping to support Shelvis and Nancy and their family with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Spare Change offering and our prayers. A few times a year, our treasurer would deposit whatever had accumulated from that offering in the bank, then send the total as a donation directly to the Smith-Mathers’ Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) account.

Recently, however, PMA has decided to change the way they distribute their mission funds. Instead of individual people and/or congregations contributing directly to the accounts of specific mission co-workers, all contributions will go into a general fund and distributed to all mission co-workers from there. This change has been made in an attempt to make mission co-worker support more equitable, especially for those co-workers who may be serving in areas that are especially remote or even dangerous and therefore cannot easily relay updates or connect with supporting individuals/congregations.

Donations can still be made in honor of specific mission co-workers – Shelvis and Nancy, in our case. And of course, we can always pray for them and their family in all times and places. But if you can’t be here in person to contribute to our Spare Change offering, you can still help support Shelvis and Nancy. Visit their Presbyterian Mission Agency page:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/shelvis-and-nancy-smith-mather/>. From there, you can click on the green box under their (completely adorable) family picture that says, “Give in honor of the ministry of Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather.” This will redirect you to the PMA donation page.

You can also click on the blue box that says “Subscribe to our letters” to start receiving Shelvis and Nancy’s occasional updates in your inbox. They send a wonderful, entertaining, touchingly personal update roughly quarterly.

**Next Session meeting.:**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022  
6:30 p.m.**

**Next Presbytery Meeting:**

**May 20, 2022  
Time and Location TBD**

## Spring Clean-Up Days

We need to do a little sprucing up! We've set two separate spring clean-up days, one outside and one inside.

- Outside: Sunday, May 1 (weather permitting)
- Inside: Sunday, May 15

Please consider sticking around after worship on one or both of these days. Thanks!



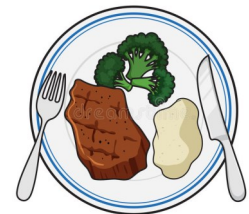
## Still Seeking Musicians

We are still seeking 1-2 more musicians willing to play for worship on a rotational basis. That could mean playing the organ or the piano or even a guitar! Pay is \$85 per Sunday. Anyone interested can contact Pastor Lisa via email ([pastorLisaJ@gmail.com](mailto:pastorLisaJ@gmail.com)) or on her cell phone (507-995-7310).



## Dorothy Day Dinner

We will be returning to providing and serving dinner at the Dorothy Day House in Rochester on Wednesday, May 25. Janice Ostrom is coordinating the event and will be looking for 5-6 people willing to provide food and 3-4 volunteers to help serve. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board. See Janice for the meal plan.



This is a great way to "Pay It Forward" and experience God's love. Your help is greatly appreciated by all the Dorothy Day residents .

## 150th Anniversary

Friends, in 2020, our beloved Presbyterian Church of Oronoco turned **150 yrs. old!!** (That's pretty amazing!) But because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to celebrate in person. The current plan is to celebrate 150+2 this year in July. (It actually sort of works out since the building was completed in 1872 ... which makes our **building** 150 yrs. old this summer.) The Session is working on the details right now, so if you have any ideas for ways to celebrate, please don't hesitate to share them with Pastor Lisa or any of our Session members.

# 150+2

We know that we'll be celebrating on **Sunday, July 10, 2022**

- celebration during worship at 10:00 a.m.
- continue catered lunch and dessert (hopefully on the lawn) following worship

## Unconventional Ways to Give



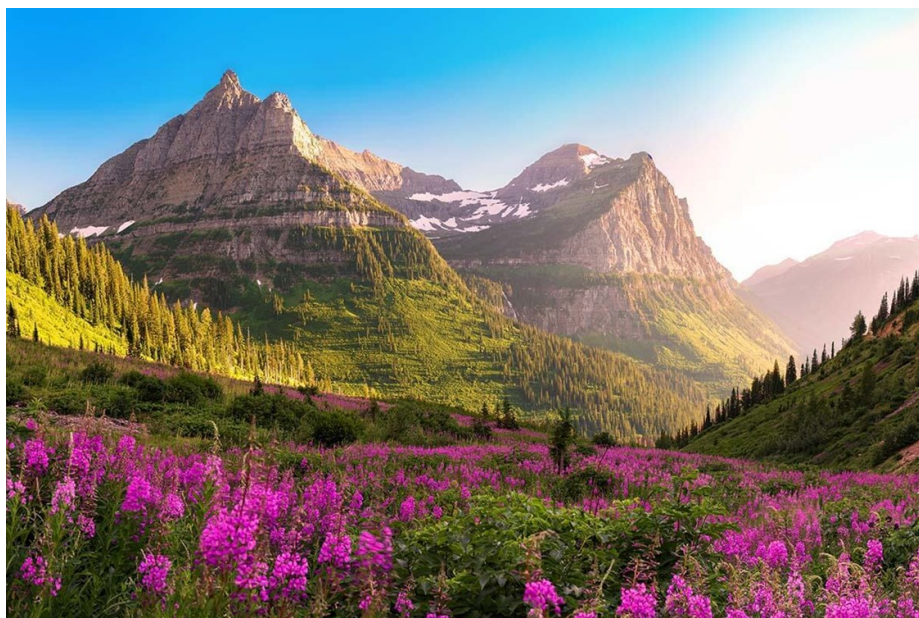
- Designate “Presbyterian Church of ORONOCO” as your Amazon Smile organization, and 0.5% of all your eligible Amazon purchases will come back to the church on a quarterly basis.
- Give online through our Presbyterian Foundation account using either the link on our website ([www.oronocochurch.org](http://www.oronocochurch.org) at the bottom of the homepage) or this QR code:



## Summer Sermon Series Prep

This summer, we’re going to embark on a (hopefully!) really fun journey together. A year or so ago, I bought a really wonderful book: *America’s Holy Ground: 61 Faithful Reflections on Our National Parks* by Brad Lyons and Bruce Barkhauer. As the title implies, it’s a book of devotions (and beautiful photographs) based on 61 of America’s National Parks. I have to tell you ... I’m **really** excited about this summer sermon series! I think it’s going to be a lot of fun for all of us. BUT ... I need your help! Clearly, there aren’t 61 Sundays in the summer, so I would love your help choosing which parks we should visit together. In this newsletter is a National Parks Survey. I would appreciate it if you would circle 10 parks and either mail it back to me at church or drop it off. (Just placing it on my desk is fine.) There will also be copies at church if you’d rather just fill it out there. In order to get planning and prepping done, I need them back by *Thursday, May 12*.

In conjunction with that, I’m hoping to be able to find a way for those who have visited any of these National Parks to share pictures and experiences, so stay tuned for that!



## Preparing for Pentecost: Sharing Our Stories

Throughout Lent this year, we've been working on our faith stories – our testimonies. Each week, we've worked through one question after another, each question designed to help us dig deeper and really get into writing our stories. Just in case you're missing your copy of what we've worked on throughout Lent, here are the questions:

- Choose a moment in your life when you know God was with you – holding you up, guiding you, encouraging you, etc. Maybe there's one particular point. Maybe you have many to choose from.
- Using that moment, spend time detailing the problem/challenge you were facing.
- To the best of your knowledge/remembrance, what were things like before that moment when God was with you? Your faith? Your life circumstances? Your spirit? Your relationship with God? Your relationships with others?
- Spend time detailing the way God was with you in the moment that you chose. What shed light on that intervention for you? Scripture? A hymn or song? Another person? A sign? A message from God?
- In that moment/in the midst of that situations, how did God's presence with you make a difference? What changed? What helped? (Stick to that particular moment as much as you can ... we'll get to the extended results later.)
- Where has God taken you since that moment? How as it affected your life? Your relationships? Your faith? Your spiritual journey? Your self?

Now it's time to take the next step with those stories: share them! The whole idea behind working on our faith stories is to help you get more comfortable talking about your faith with other people, and what better place to start practicing those conversations than here in church?

So here's the plan: during our Pentecost worship on June 5, I'm going to invite people to share their testimonies – their faith stories – throughout the worship service. *If you would like to share your testimony, please let Pastor Lisa know.* If you'd like some help working on your testimony beforehand – if you have questions or if you would like to practice – please contact Pastor Lisa.



## All Around the Campfire



It's that time again! Time to gather again on the church lawn for an evening campfire on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of June, July, August, and September (weather permitting). Because of both inclement weather and the COVID-19 pandemic, we weren't able to gather much last year. But this year, we are overjoyed to be able to reimplement these monthly get-togethers. As before, there will be hot dogs, brats, buns, and s'mores material provided. Bring some sort of food to share (chips, a salad, fruit, etc.), a chair, a drink, and a friend! Here are the dates for 2022:

- June 26: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- July 24: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

*\*Note: This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, not the last Sunday.\**

- August 28: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- September 25: 5:30-8:00 p.m.



## Oronoco Food Shelf Monthly Item

We've got a new monthly piece that will be showing up in the newsletter! The OFS volunteer responsible for ordering has given us a list of monthly needs – a specific item that the Food Shelf could use that month. This monthly item will also be posted on our church Facebook page, so feel free to find it every month and share the image!

In addition to this month's highlight item, we've been told the Oronoco Food Shelf is also in need of toilet paper and paper towels.



## May Star Word Prompt:

As we prepare for Pentecost, how has the Holy Spirit lit a fire in you in/through your star word? What new thing has it inspired you to do?



## Prayer Requests

*“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” ~ Philippians 4:6-7*

And so we lift up **Curt Burt, Helen Craft, Janice Ostrom, Katha Johnson, family of Larry Glasenapp, and Linda Sorensen** in prayer.



## Synod School 2022

This year’s theme is “Experiencing Belonging.” From the Synod School catalogue: “What does it mean to be a part of the body of Christ and to belong to one another? In the spirit of Christ’s community, we will walk through biblical experiences of belonging. Exploring the communities we find membership within, we will discover how we can belong to one another and to Christ more fully.”

This theme is based on Paul’s words to the Christians in Rome: “... so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually, we are members one of another.” (Romans 12:5, NRSV)

Convocation speaker Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hinson Hasty, chair of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Bellarmine University in Louisville, and worship leaders will be Rev. Sara Sutter (morning worship) and Rev. Tim Hughes Williams (evening worship). And Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson, the national coordinator for the PC(USA)’s Self-Development of People Program, is this year’s youth convocation speaker. You could take classes in everything from Ukrainian egg decorating to ballroom and Latin dance, from Biblical Shakespeare to Presbyterian Theological Ethics of Peacemaking, from transforming congregational mission to a class on Rube Goldberg machines. There are **71 different classes** to choose from in all! And, as always, Synod School has classes and child care options for kids ages birth to high school (including the 3-5yo classroom designed and led by Dianne Pinney).



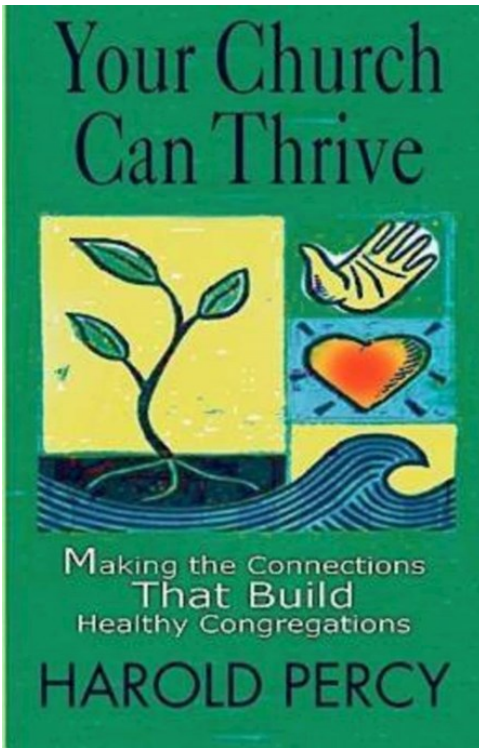
Registration is **OPEN!**

For more information, visit the Synod School website:

<https://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool>.

If you’re curious about Synod School, please talk to Pastor Lisa.

## Embarking on Renewal



The Session is starting to have some extensive discussions about congregational renewal – both as a whole and individually. We know that the last 2 yrs. have been incredibly difficult for everyone on a personal level, and we recognize that it's been difficult for us as a congregation, too.

This renewal journey is going to include a lot of different steps, and the first step is a congregational engagement survey that was sent out in early April. While there isn't a deadline for that response, we hope that you will get it back to us as soon as you can.

We're also going to try a book study together starting in the fall. After worship on the **first Sunday of the month**, we'll be going through the book *Your Church Can Thrive: Making the Connections That Build Healthy Congregations* by Harold Percy. This is a book that is short and easy to read but is also packed with practical ideas and suggestions. *If you'd like to participate, we're going to put in an order for the books at the end of May* which would give you the summer to read it before we tackle it in the fall. Please let Pastor Lisa know if you'd like a book by Sunday, June 5.



### Pastor Lisa Out

Pastor Lisa will be out of the office in Debuque, IA for a doctoral work Wednesday, May 25th– Thursday, June 2nd. Reverend Tammy Rider will be leading worship on Sunday, May 29, so there will be no virtual **worship stream** that day.

### May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ♥ 5/2 Greg Huey
- ♥ 5/2 Rick Lohmann
- ♥ 5/3 Ian Johnson
- ♥ 5/3 Luke Johnson
- ♥ 5/4 Cash Johnson
- ♥ 5/12 Jenny Rand
- ♥ 5/14 Joy Bertsinger
- ♥ 5/14 Madelyn Rand
- ♥ 5/16 Clyde & Sue Johnson
- ♥ 5/18 Jane (Glabe) Shanks
- ♥ 5/21 Geoff & Ellen Warner
- ♥ 5/23 Bob Larsen
- ♥ 5/28 Deb Larsen
- ♥ 5/31 Curt Burt



## Staying in Touch

### **Presbyterian Church of Oronoco**

Office: 507-367-4711

Email: [oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)

Website: <http://www.oronocochurch.org>

### **Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area**

Office: 651-357-1150

Fax: 651-357-1141

Email: [office@ptcaweb.org](mailto:office@ptcaweb.org)

Website: <http://www.presbyterytwincities.org>

### **Presbyterian Church (USA)**

Office: 800-728-7228

Email: [info@pcusa.org](mailto:info@pcusa.org)

Website: <http://www.pcusa.org>

