

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

January 2013 Newsletter

*Important
DATE!*

2013 Annual Meetings

Z - The Annual Meeting for First Congregational UCC is scheduled for Sunday, January 27, 2013 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 February 3, 2013 during worship service. We will follow the meeting with a pot luck lunch. Reports should be submitted in time for the January 9th 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

Once again, the beginning of a new year is upon us. I swear, these things come up faster and faster every year! I can't tell you how much I look forward to exploring what this year has in store for us as we embark on this new path – this new relationship. There will surely be ups and downs along the way, but the important thing is that God goes with us and that we have the joy of journeying together, learning about each other and about faith as the body of Christ.

One thing you will learn about me is that I've never been someone who makes New Year's resolutions. The few times I've tried, I spent a ridiculous amount of time trying to come up with one that was "just right" ... and then even more time worrying about failing to keep it than actually working on achieving it.

That being said, I find January 1 a refreshing time to take a look at what I'm doing about my relationship with God and how I could make that better. Do I need to spend more time in prayer or in Scripture? Do I need to be more creative? Do I need to be listening more and talking less? Honestly, the answer to all those questions tends to be "yes," and I have a feeling I'm not alone in that. But how does one go about "working on" these things? Well ... I'm so glad you asked. J

Starting this month, we're going to publish the daily lectionary readings with the newsletter each month. If you're looking for something new – a way to shake things up a bit – I encourage you to try spending time with these Scripture readings. Each day includes two morning psalms and two evening psalms as well as an Old Testament reading, a Gospel reading, and an Epistle reading. You could read all of them. You could pick one or two types of readings to focus on for the whole year, or you could change your focus every month.

And if you're looking for ideas – creative ways that you can interact with these texts – don't hesitate to

ask. Ask me. Ask Peter. Ask any of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ – in this congregation or any other. That's a part of journeying together, after all. We're here to help each other when we need help, to lift each other up when we're feeling low, to rejoice with each other, and to enrich each other's spiritual lives whenever we can.

Let the journey begin

Blessings,
Pastor Lisa

A Message to the Youth from Pastor Lisa

I want to know what *you* want to do as part of these churches! Sometime soon, I would like to get together with the youth from each congregation to talk about what you want your special place in the congregation to look and feel like. We'll figure out a specific date and time after the holidays, but be thinking about what works best for your schedule and what you may want to do – fun stuff, worship stuff, outreach/mission stuff ... you name it! And be forewarned ... there *will* be pizza involved. 😊

PASTOR LISA'S OFFICE HOURS

(starting Jan. 7, 2013)

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

(Z) Tuesdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

After a month or so, I'll evaluate whether or not these are working, so any feedback on these hours is appreciated. And 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

Socorro Budensiek, Richard Tiede, Nick Pahl and Ann Hawkins

(Z) A Message from Our Moderator

At long last, we have a new pastor and the future looks very bright. We can thank the Pastor Nominating Committee for doing a great job, and Pastor Lisa for accepting the call to serve as our pastor, and we should take a few moments to reflect on our past year. This is proper and fitting in a time of transition, and doubly so as we begin a new year.

As we reflect on Christmas, one of the greatest times in the life of Christians, let us remember to appreciate what we have in our lives, in our families, in our community and in our faith. We are lucky to live in a community rarely stained by violence, and in a country led by leaders who value freedom and fairness. We are most fortunate to have come together as a church community, a community of people who care about each other, and struggle for a better life for all people.

Our church is better for our yoke with Oronoco, and we have made them better for their association with us, for we are so much alike. We are one family, geographically dispersed, but driven by the same values and principles. We exist because we were able to find each other and form this union.

Yes, at long last, we have a new pastor and the future looks very bright. Let us make that future now, and commit ourselves to adding our light to a world which so needs it.

"Have a blessed and happy new year !

Peace to you – Rex Wiederanders

In Appreciation



(O) Dear Friends,
Thank you for the bag of goodies. It is nice to be remembered. Merry Christmas to all and may each one of you have a year of good health and happiness.

Blessings,
Joyce Rucker

(O/Z) Thank you...

To those who decorated the churches.
To those who attended my ordination.
To Joy Bertsinger for participating in my ordination.
To Dick Scheerer for serving communion on December 2.

Pastor Lisa

(O) To the Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your donation of books, bags, i-tune cards and lotions. Your generosity means a great deal to the children and their families who stay with us.

Ronald McDonald House

(O/Z) Thank you all so much for the Christmas gifts. You all are very special in my life and I am happy I can share my music with you.

Katha

(O/Z) My deepest gratitude for the warm Christmas wishes and gift of money, but mostly, I am grateful for your gift of friendship. May you all have a new year filled with blessings from heaven above.

Your secretary,
Sue

(Z) 16th Annual Dinner Delights Towers Residents

With Christmas aprons donated by our wonderful organist, Katha Johnson, a prayer by Pastor Lisa, and music by Bill Wendt, the sixteenth annual Towers Advent Dinner got off to a great start on Sunday, December 2. Chairs for this year's dinner were Chad and Nattalie Vath, assisted by Hailey, Michael and Nick Vath.

Thanks to Vaths for organizing this great event, and to all who cooked and served. The Towers residents voiced their appreciation after the meal, and invited us to come back again next year. 2013, here we come!

(Z) Christmas Tree Sale Another Success



The Congregational Christmas Tree Lot has become a tradition in Zumbrota, and once again there was an array of beautiful, fresh trees from the Zelinski Tree Farm near Zumbro Falls. Thanks to Mike Sapp and Gerry Webster for chairing the sale again this year. Eighty trees were sold, with the help of Jim Wendt, Dave and Amy Pahl, Colton Webster, and the Vath family. Thanks to all who helped out with this fundraiser, including Arlen Kylo for putting up the fence. Together we have helped make a special Christmas experience for many local residents.

(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 27. 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 8, 2013. Reports may be emailed to the church office, or given to Rex and Lynn Wiederanders for forwarding. To compile the annual report, these reports are needed by January 8: Moderator's Report, Clerk's Report & 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes, Deacons' Report, Trustees' Report, Nominating Committee Report, Christian Education Program Report, Pastor Nominating Committee 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



The book selection for January is "The Wordy Shipmates" by Sarah Vowell.

In this *New York Times* bestseller, the author brings the Puritan era wickedly to life" (*Washington Post*). To this day, America views itself as a Puritan nation, but Sarah Vowell investigates what that means—and what it should mean. What she discovers is something far different from what their uptight reputation might suggest—a highly literate, deeply principled, and surprisingly feisty people, whose story is filled with pamphlet feuds, witty courtroom dramas, and bloody vengeance.

The *Washington Post* review: On first blush Vowell seems like an angry atheist set down at the historian's table. But under this anger is a good measure of empathy. Hers is not the narrative of an angry adolescent who never wants to return to her Pentecostal parents' home. It is the narrative of an adult who wants to see her American home for what it is—and for what it has done to her, and to us... what makes *The Wordy Shipmates* float is not so much its arguments as its voice. Most writing on the Puritans is as dour as the Puritans themselves. Vowell has fun with them, and in the process, she helps us take seriously both their lives and their legacy.

We will gather for discussion on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Coleen Johnston (47421 County Rd 11 Blvd). If you need directions, call Coleen at 507-832-4719. All are welcome.

(O) January Luncheon



The January luncheon will be on Wednesday, January 16th 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 2013 outreach activities. All are invited. Be sure to bring your friends!

(O) People of the Church

Thank you to everyone who provided items for the busy bags. Thank you to Ellen Simon for helping me sew them. Special thanks to the children who helped pack them. We gave 20 bags to the Women's Shelter and 21 bags, teen-age books, and 3 i-tune cards to the Ronald McDonald House.

Joanne Schenck

***In January we will collect lap robes, sweatshirts, sweat pants and socks for Pine Haven Nursing Home. Donations can delivered to the church. We will be collecting until January 20th. Thank you!**

(O/Z) Update

Session (O) has purchased a new home communion kit for the O church as our old one was broken. We also added a bookshelf to the O pastor's office and will be replacing the old laptop used by the pastor.

(O) POC Financial Report

With the recent donations to Habitat for Humanity of Goodhue County, Pine Island Area Home Services and Heifer International, our total giving for 2012 is \$2,863.00. Thanks to all who have contributed by supporting our luncheons, bake sales and other fund raising events. Together we are making a difference.

(O) Presbyterian Briefs



Presbyterian Church Structure

The overall church structure is made up of 4 governing bodies. These are the:

Session / Council or local governing body--- ordained ministers (Teaching Elders) and Ruling Elders, all elected by the congregation. Session meets monthly.

Presbytery....elders and ministers from congregations who oversee several churches. Meetings are held every other month.

Synod...representatives elected from each presbytery to oversee several presbyteries. Meetings are held twice yearly.

General Assembly...the national governing body made up of equal numbers of lay people and clergy chosen by the presbyteries. G.A. meets every other year.

The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco is a member of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

Source: "Learn About Being A Presbyterian"

(O/Z) Food Shelf Sunday

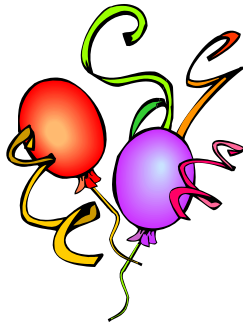
Food Shelf donation Sunday for both O and Z is January 6, 2013. Non-perishable food items and paper products are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are always welcome. Your generosity is appreciated more than you know.



"Wireless communication is nothing new. I've been praying for 75 years!"

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



Directory Changes & Additions

(Z) Brenda Watkins new address:
170 4th St. Apt.B
Zumbrota, MN 55992

IN THE COMMUNITY

Elder Network of Rochester Paid Companions

If you are interested in helping Older Adults and need something on-call or part-time; Elder Network is looking to hire responsible, helpful and compassionate adults. Necessary training and background checks are performed before you are given an assignment. Please call Holly @ 285-5272 for more information.

Clients Needing Companionship

If you are 55 years or older and could use a helpful hand either daily, weekly or monthly, we can help. We have paid companions who can assist with meal prep, grocery shopping, community errands, socialization and household organizing. Daytime hours are available. Please call Holly @ 285-5272 for more information.

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 [communi-
cations@ptcaweb.org](mailto: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

SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS



**Tuesday in Oronoco 10-3:00
Wednesday in Oronoco 10-3:00**

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

Daily Lectionary Readings - January 2013

Tuesday, January 1

Morning: Ps. 98; 146
Evening: Ps. 99; 8
Gen. 17:1–12a, 15–16
Col. 2:6–12
John 16:23b–30

Wednesday, January 2

Morning: Ps. 48; 147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 9; 29
Gen. 12:1–7
Heb. 11:1–12
John 6:35–42, 48–51

Thursday, January 3

Morning: Ps. 111; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 107; 15
Gen. 28:10–22
Heb. 11:13–22
John 10:7–17

Friday, January 4

Morning: Ps. 20; 148
Evening: Ps. 93; 97
Exod. 3:1–5
Heb. 11:23–31
John 14:6–14

Saturday, January 5

Morning: Ps. 99; 149
Evening: Ps. 96; 110
Josh. 1:1–9
Heb. 11:32–12:2
John 15:1–16

Sunday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord
Morning: Ps. 72; 150
Evening: Ps. 100; 67
Isa. 52:7–10
Rev. 21:22–27
Matt. 12:14–21

Monday, January 7

Morning: Ps. 46 or 97; 145
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 52:3–6
Rev. 2:1–7
John 2:1–11

Tuesday, January 8

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47; 146
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 59:15b–21

Rev. 2:8–17
John 4:46–54

Wednesday, January 9

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47;
147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 63:1–5
Rev. 2:18–29
John 5:1–15

Thursday, January 10

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47;
Ps. 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 65:1–9
Rev. 3:1–6
John 6:1–14

Friday, January 11

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47; 148
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 65:13–16
Rev. 3:7–13
John 6:15–27

Saturday, January 12

Morning: Ps. 46 or 97; 149
Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 66:1–2, 22–23
Rev. 3:14–22
John 9:1–12, 35–38

Sunday, January 13

Baptism of the Lord
Morning: Ps. 104; 150
Evening: Ps. 29
Isa. 40:1–11
Heb. 1:1–12
John 1:1–7, 19–20, 29–34

Monday, January 14

Morning: Ps. 5; 145
Evening: Ps. 82; 29
Isa. 40:12–24
Eph. 1:1–14
Mark 1:1–13

Tuesday, January 15

Morning: Ps. 42; 146
Evening: Ps. 102; 133
Isa. 40:25–31
Eph. 1:15–23
Mark 1:14–28

Wednesday, January 16

Morning: Ps. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 1; 33
Isa. 41:1–16
Eph. 2:1–10
Mark 1:29–45

Thursday, January 17

Morning: Ps. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 16; 62
Isa. 41:17–29
Eph. 2:11–22
Mark 2:1–12

Friday, January 18

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

Morning: Ps. 51; 148
Evening: Ps. 142; 65
Isa. 42:(1–9) 10–17
Eph. 3:1–13
Mark 2:13–22

Saturday, January 19

Morning: Ps. 104; 149
Evening: Ps. 138; 98
Isa. (42:18–25) 43:1–13
Eph. 3:14–21
Mark 2:23–3:6

Sunday, January 20

Morning: Ps. 19; 150
Evening: Ps. 81; 113
Isa. 43:14–44:5
Heb. 6:17–7:10
John 4:27–42

Monday, January 21

Morning: Ps. 135; 145
Evening: Ps. 97; 112
Isa. 44:6–8, 21–23
Eph. 4:1–16
Mark 3:7–19a

Tuesday, January 22

Morning: Ps. 123; 146
Evening: Ps. 30; 86
Isa. 44:9–20
Eph. 4:17–32
Mark 3:19b–35

Daily Lectionary Readings - January 2013

Wednesday, January 23

Morning: Ps. 15; 147:1-11
Evening: Ps. 48; 4
Isa. 44:24-45:7
Eph. 5:1-14
Mark 4:1-20

Thursday, January 24

Morning: Ps. 36; 147:12-20
Evening: Ps. 80; 27
Isa. 45:5-17
Eph. 5:15-33
Mark 4:21-34

Friday, January 25

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends

Morning: Ps. 130; 148
Evening: Ps. 32; 139
Isa. 45:18-25
Eph. 6:1-9
Mark 4:35-41

Saturday, January 26

Morning: Ps. 56; 149
Evening: Ps. 118; 111
Isa. 46:1-13
Eph. 6:10-24
Mark 5:1-20

Sunday, January 27

Morning: Ps. 67; 150
Evening: Ps. 46; 93
Isa. 47:1-15
Heb. 10:19-31
John 5:2-18

Monday, January 28

Morning: Ps. 57; 145
Evening: Ps. 85; 47
Isa. 48:1-11
Gal. 1:1-17
Mark 5:21-43

Tuesday, January 29

Morning: Ps. 54; 146
Evening: Ps. 28; 99
Isa. 48:12-21 (22)
Gal. 1:18-2:10
Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday, January 30

Morning: Ps. 65; 147:1-11
Evening: Ps. 125; 91
Isa. 49:1-12
Gal. 2:11-21
Mark 6:13-29

Thursday, January 31

Morning: Ps. 143; 147:12-20
Evening: Ps. 81; 116
Isa. 49:13-23 (24-26)
Gal. 3:1-14
Mark 6:30-46



Church Staff

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

UCC Leadership Team

Rex Wiederanders, Moderator
Lynn Wiederanders, Clerk
Connie Wendt, Financial Clerk
Kay Wilshusen, Treasurer
David Pahl, Trustee
Gerry Webster, Trustee
Jim Wendt, Trustee
Gary Ofstie, Deacon
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Bob Hawley, Deacon
Connie Hawley, Deacon
Parker Quammen, Deacon
Wendy Kylo, Deacon

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Judy Wilder, Clerk
Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Asst. Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Ruling Elder
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder
Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder
Judy Wilder, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Kim Stanton, Ruling Elder
Karen Vallejo, Deacon
Richard Tiede, 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 2013



1/6	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/13	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/20	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/27	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

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

Reverend Lisa Johnson—Contact Information

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