

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

May 2015 Newsletter



Wellness



Peace Camp

Mon., June 15–Thurs., June 18

5:30–8:00 p.m.

at the Enclosed Picnic Shelter,
Covered Bridge Park, Zumbrota

Fun activities, stories, games, crafts, and food all focused on being healthy in
our bodies, our minds, and our spirits!



Last night is **POOL PARTY NIGHT!!** Students and their families are invited to a cook-out, some fun crafts and activities, and a pool party at the Zumbrota Swimming Pool. And if we get rained out, you're invited to join us for popcorn and a movie in the Picnic Shelter.

Registration Info:

- Visit www.oronocochurch.org & click on "Peace Camp 2015 Registration form"
- Fee: \$15/student before May 31, \$20/student after May 31—\$40 family maximum (Payment due first day of Peace Camp.)



Co-sponsored by the First Congregational UCC Church, Zumbrota & the Presbyterian Church, Oronoco

From Our Pastor



In Acts 16:16-24, Paul and Silas are walking through Philippi when a slave-girl starts following them and shouting that they are “slaves of the Most High God.” Paul orders “a spirit of divination” to leave her body, but without that spirit, she can no longer make money fortune-telling for her owners. In anger, the girl’s owners accuse Paul and Silas of advocating an unlawful religion. Paul and Silas are arrested, beaten, and thrown in prison.

Does that sound like anyone else’s story?

Jesus’ story, perhaps?

They are all innocents who are falsely accused, beaten, and imprisoned.

But while Paul and Silas were imprisoned by shackles and stone walls, Jesus was imprisoned by death.

Paul and Silas are about as deep in prison as you can possibly get.

Period.

End of story.

Jesus was dead, and he’s been dead for days.

Period.

End of story.

Or is it? We know that Jesus didn’t stay in the tomb. We know that three days after his crucifixion, Jesus broke the bonds of death that were holding him captive and was resurrected. Not even the most powerful captivity known to humankind could hold the Son of God imprisoned!

So how does Paul and Silas’ story end? In the middle of the night, Paul and Silas are “at prayer and singing a robust hymn to God. ... Then, without warning, a huge earthquake! The jailhouse tottered, every door flew open, all the prisoners were loose” (Acts 16:25-26).

At some point or another in our lives, we are all captives. It could be illness, injury, addiction, pain, pride, a busy schedule, or any number of things that imprisons us.

But that imprisoned life is not the life that God intended for us.

We were created for a life of freedom and loving relationship with God. In order to ensure that that life would be available to us in spite of our sins, God sent God’s Son to earth to conquer and thereby release us from the ultimate captivity: death.

What a gift!

How could we do anything but praise and thank God for God’s everlasting love and mercy?

When we remain in relationship with God, praying and praising as Paul and Silas did, God can do amazing things in our lives.

Stop for a moment and think about the things in our life that are holding you captive. Imagine them putting you in prison and forming chains around your feet, keeping you from moving on in your life.

Now do what Paul and Silas did: "Put your entire trust in the [Lord] Jesus. Then you'll live as you were meant to live - and everyone in your house included!" (Acts 16:31).

Give that faith the opportunity to cause an earthquake in your life to shake loose your chains and open your prison doors.

Let your actions reflect the love and mercy that has been given to you by God.

Pastor Lisa

(O/Z) Pastor Out

Pastor Lisa will be out of the office Mon., May 4 – Sun., May 10, but I will have my cell phone for pastoral emergencies.

In Gratitude

Thank you so much for the clothes donation. We will definitely put them to good use!

Pine Haven Care Center

(O/Z) Celebrating Our Seniors

We have a number of students graduating from high school this year, so we'd like to celebrate and honor them both during worship and in a time of fellowship following worship. The information for Z and for O is as follows:

Oronoco:

- celebrating **Ted Midthun** and **Sarah Rand**

- Sun., May 17, 2015

Zumbrota:

- celebrating **Nick Vath**

- Sun., May 24, 2015 (Memorial Day weekend)

Please come join us as we show our seniors how much we appreciate, support, and love them!

(Z) Zumbrota Graduate Nick Vath to be Honored

The Zumbrota UCC will celebrate Nick Vath's upcoming graduation with cake and treats on Sunday, May 24 following 9 a.m. worship. The Zumbrota Mazeppa High School graduation will be held Saturday, May 30.

Nick has had a strong interest in building and carpentry while in high school, an interest which he turned to the church's good fortune when he helped to build the playhouse raffled off at last year's Country Store. This year he has been a part of the school construction class that built yet another new home in Zumbrota. He was also a member of the wrestling team and has played soccer since first grade.

Nick has been accepted at Rochester Community and Technical College for the Computer Aided Drafting program (CAD) starting in the fall. We are so proud



of his accomplishments, and so happy to have him as a member of our congregation. Please come and help us honor him on Sunday, May 24.

An open house will be held in Nick's honor on Sunday, May 31st from 3-6:00 p.m. at his home.

(O) Annual Spring Bake Sale



We will hold our annual bake sale on Sunday, May 3rd, following worship. Bring your goodies for others to enjoy and take home someone else's goodies, in return. Everyone wins!

(O/Z) Worship Advisory Team

NEXT MEETING: TBD

Just a reminder that the Worship Advisory Team consists of:

Lance Sorensen (O)

Linda Sorensen (O)

Peter Johnson (O)

Connie Hawley (Z)

Hailey Vath (Z)

Sue Wedge (Z)

We are continuing to discuss a number of different things, so if you have any ideas or feedback about worship, please feel free to share your thoughts with one of these people.

(O/Z) Prayer Study

Please note that the rest of the prayer study has been cancelled. Thank you to those who participated throughout Lent!

(O) Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery meeting is **Tues., May 12 at 4:00 p.m.** at Peace Presbyterian Church in St. Louis Park. As always, Presbytery meetings are open to anyone. If you're interested in coming, please contact Pastor Lisa.

(O/Z) Afghanistan is May Subject for Readers of OZ

Ellen Simon will host the last book group session before the summer break on Tuesday, May 12 at 7 p.m. The group will begin meeting again in September. Ellen's home is located at 13054 25th Ave. NW in rural Oronoco. For directions, please call her at 367-4348.

The group has selected the book *Underground Girls of Kabul* by Jenny Nordberg for discussion this month. Here is a brief description quoted from Amazon:

“In Afghanistan, a culture ruled almost entirely by men, the birth of a son is cause for celebration and the arrival of a daughter is often mourned as misfortune. A *bacha posh* (literally translated from Dari as “dressed up like a boy”) is a third kind of child – a girl temporarily raised as a boy and presented as such to the outside world. At the heart of this emotional narrative is a new perspective on the extreme sacrifices of Afghan women and girls against the violent backdrop of America's longest war. Divided into four parts, the book follows those born as the unwanted sex in Afghanistan, but who live as the socially favored gender through childhood and puberty, only to later be forced into marriage and childbirth. *The Underground Girls of Kabul* charts their dramatic life cycles, while examining our own history and the parallels to subversive actions of people who live under oppression everywhere.”

Please feel welcome to join the Readers of OZ if you would like to learn more about conditions for women in Afghanistan, or even if you're just looking for a good read. Visitors are always welcome!

(O) Dorothy Day Dinner

POC will prepare and serve dinner to the Dorothy Day House residents on May 27th at 5pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board to prepare food and/or serve. If anyone is willing to prepare the main entrée please see Dick or Janice Ostrom.

Birthdays for the Month of May

5/1 Carol Eick
5/2 Dick Scheerer
5/3 Sara Hartzell
 Ian Johnson
 Luke Johnson
5/8 Jim Wendt
 Mindi Arendt
5/10 Michael Sapp
5/12 Jenny Rand
5/13 Michelle Pahl
5/14 Joy Bertsinger
 Nancy Scheerer
 Madelyn Rand
5/23 Bob Larsen
5/26 Dorothy French
5/28 Jo Ludington
 Deb Larsen



Directory Changes

- (O) Ellen Simon's new email:
simonellen41@gmail.com
- (O) Kim Stanton's new email address is:
kims4799@gmail.com
- (Z) Jim & Donna McIntire's new email address is:
elkhunterjm65@gmail.com
- (O) Lance Sorensen's new email:
eZRacooter@gmail.com

(Z) Kanvas & Kool Aid - Covered Bridge Days

Our Church Life committee has put together a great family-friendly activity during Covered Bridge Days! We're going to set up a free children's art project on our lawn - fun and easy paintings that they can complete and take home! Simple snacks will also be provided.

We need a few people who are willing to help at the table (no artistic ability required!). We also need a few donations:

- acrylic craft paints in any colors
- Kool Aid pouches (powder to mix)
- individually pre-packaged snacks (animal crackers, fruit snacks, etc.)

(O/Z) All Around the Campfire



Both churches will be sponsoring a monthly campfire gathering throughout the summer. This is a chance for us to gather as joined congregations, as neighbors, and as friends. Let's hang out around the campfire. Let's talk. Let's play lawn games. Let's sing songs and roast marshmallows and share the stories of our lives.

Bring a chair. Bring a lawn game. Bring a snack to share. (S'more essentials will be provided by the churches.) Bring a friend!

Zumbrota:

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

Sun., July 12 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sun., Aug. 9 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Oronoco:

Sun., June 28 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sun., July 26 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sun., Aug. 23 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

(O/Z) Peace Camp Donations List

Here's a list of the donatable things we need for this year's Peace Camp.

FOOD:

Sliced fruit (please bring June 15 by 5:00 p.m.)

Hamburger buns

Juice boxes (100% juice, please) (enough for 4 nights)

Raisins in individual boxes (25)

Peanut butter

Baby carrots

Ranch dressing (1 bottle)

Doritos, single bags (30)

Mini marshmallows

Cheerios (1 box)

Granola

Yogurt-covered raisins

Pretzels

Popcorn

Flax seeds

Baked chips, individual bags (variety)

Apples

Sugar cookies (fairly large)

Lg. containers vanilla yogurt (1 Greek, 1 regular)

Berries

Kiwi (cut up)

Bananas

Mandarin Oranges

Ketchup (1 bottle)

Mustard (1 bottle)

Popcorn kernels (to be used in air poppers)

CRAFTS:

Contact paper

Black cardstock

Yarn (various bright, kid-friendly colors)

Potting soil (1 bag)

Vegetable seeds (kid-friendly veggies, please!)

OTHER:

Paper plates

Forks

Spoons

Cups

Small containers of bubble solution

Sidewalk chalk

Hula hoops (6)

Jump ropes (6)

(O/Z) Twins Game Outing

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



Date: **Tues., Sept. 1**

Time: **game time – 7:10 p.m.**

We'll be carpooling up and parking somewhere to take the lightrail to the field. Leave time is TBD.

Ticket cost: **\$8** per person (For those interested, our tickets are in the Field Terrace section, 223-228. Check out a seating chart on the Twins' website: http://minnesota.twins.mlb.com/min/ballpark/seat_view.jsp)

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. 4** with the number of tickets you need. Thank you.

In Our Prayers

Matthew 21:22 *And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.*

Sandy Bowers, Joanne Schenck, Eunice Markham, Dick Wedge (Jim's brother), Virginia Wendt, Dorothy French, Karen Vallejo, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, Joan Swarthout and Jo Ludington's niece, Angie.

(O) Clearwater Forest Summer Camp!



The boats are almost ready for the water, the high ropes are ready, the trails are cleared, the cabins cleaned, the arts and crafts have been sorted, and this can only mean one thing! Spring is here and camp is in the air! Here at Clearwater Forest we are getting ready for our favorite time of year, and we can't wait to have you join us!

Visit www.clearwaterforest.org for the camp schedule and online registration. With programs for youth in grades 3-recent graduates, there is sure to be something for everyone. Our theme this summer is "POWER UP: Living in the Spirit!" where campers will realize they are never alone – the Holy Spirit empowers them to live with grace and forgiveness, unity and courage, joy and peace.

Too old to come to Clearwater, but still love camp? Consider one of our family programs, volunteering for a week this summer, or sponsoring a niece, nephew, grandchild or community member to come to Clearwater. For more information visit www.clearwaterforest.org or give the office a call at 218-678-2325.

(O) Birthday Celebrations



At our recent meeting, the Publicity Team decided that one of the things we'd like to do to promote continued fellowship and deepening relationships among the members of our congregation is to celebrate each other's birthdays. It's always nice to have someone recognize your birthday! So on the first Sunday of every month, there will be a coffee and treats time following worship, and that treats time will be in celebration of those who have birthdays that month. If you'd like to sign up to bring the birthday snacks, there's a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board. Thanks, and happy birthday!

May 2015 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.

Friday, May 1

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Jer. 31:15–22
Col. 3:1–11
Luke 7:1–17

Saturday, May 2

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Jer. 31:23–25
Col. 3:12–17
Luke 7:18–28 (29–30) 31–35

Sunday, May 3

5th Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Isa. 32:1–8
2 Thess. 2:13–17
Matt. 7:7–14

Monday, May 4

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Jer. 32:1–15
Col. 3:18–4:18
Luke 7:36–50

Tuesday, May 5

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Jer. 32:16–25
Rom. 12:1–21
Luke 8:1–15

Wednesday, May 6

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Jer. 32:36–44
Rom. 13:1–14
Luke 8:16–25

Thursday, May 7

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Jer. 33:1–13
Rom. 14:1–12
Luke 8:26–39

Friday, May 8

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Deut. 31:30–32:14
Rom. 14:13–23
Luke 8:40–56

Saturday, May 9

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Deut. 32:34–41 (42) 43
Rom. 15:1–13
Luke 9:1–17

Sunday, May 10

6th Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Deut. 15:1–11
1 Tim. 3:14–4:5
Matt. 13:24–34a

Monday, May 11

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Deut. 8:1–10 or Deut. 18:9–14
James 1:1–15
Luke 9:18–27

Tuesday, May 12

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Deut. 8:11–20 or Deut. 18:15–22
James 1:16–27
Luke 11:1–13

Wednesday, May 13

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Deut. 19:1–7
James 5:13–18
Luke 12:22–31

Thursday, May 14

Ascension of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Ezek. 1:1–14, 24–28b
Heb. 2:5–18
Matt. 28:16–20

Friday, May 15

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Ezek. 1:28–3:3
Heb. 4:14–5:6
Luke 9:28–36

Saturday, May 16

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Ezek. 3:4–17
Heb. 5:7–14
Luke 9:37–50

Sunday, May 17

7th Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Ezek. 3:16–27
Eph. 2:1–10
Matt. 10:24–33, 40–42

Monday, May 18

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Ezek. 4:1–17
Heb. 6:1–12
Luke 9:51–62

Daily Lectionary Readings - May 2015

Tuesday, May 19

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Ezek. 7:10–15, 23b–27
Heb. 6:13–20
Luke 10:1–17

Wednesday, May 20

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Ezek. 11:14–25
Heb. 7:1–17
Luke 10:17–24

Thursday, May 21

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Ezek. 18:1–4, 19–32
Heb. 7:18–28
Luke 10:25–37

Friday, May 22

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Ezek. 34:17–31
Heb. 8:1–13
Luke 10:38–42

Saturday, May 23

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Ezek. 43:1–12
Heb. 9:1–14
Luke 11:14–23

Sunday, May 24

Day of Pentecost

Morning: Pss. 104; 150
Evening: Pss. 29; 33
Isa. 11:1–9
1 Cor. 2:1–13
John 14:21–29

Monday, May 25

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Deut. 4:9–14
2 Cor. 1:1–11
Luke 14:25–35

Tuesday, May 26

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Deut. 4:15–24
2 Cor. 1:12–22
Luke 15:1–10

Wednesday, May 27

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Deut. 4:25–31
2 Cor. 1:23–2:17
Luke 15:1–2, 11–32

Thursday, May 28

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Deut. 4:32–40
2 Cor. 3:1–18
Luke 16:1–9

Friday, May 29

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Deut. 5:1–22
2 Cor. 4:1–12
Luke 16:10–17 (18)

Saturday, May 30

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Deut. 5:22–33
2 Cor. 4:13–5:10
Luke 16:19–31

Sunday, May 31

Trinity Sunday

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Deut. 6:1–9 (10–15)
Eph. 4:1–16
John 1:1–18



**“No Gerald, it was NOT Willie Nelson
on the road to Damascus.”**

Readings for the Month of May 2015

Sun., May 3

Psalm 119:97-112; Acts 8:26-40



Sun., May 10

guest preacher

Sun., May 17

Psalm 18:1-5, 16-24; Romans 5:1-5

Sun., May 24 (Pentecost)

Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 2:1-21

Sun., May 31

John 3:1-17; Romans 8:12-17

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

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
Cindy DeBlicek, Clerk
Amy Pahl, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
Connie Hawley, Trustee
Rex Wiederanders, Trustee
Arlen Kyllö, Trustee
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Nattalie Rolland-Vath, Deacon
Hailey Vath, Deacon
Bob/Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Coleen Johnston, Deacon
Wendy Kyllö, Deacon

Presbyterian

Leadership Team

Mike Rand, Clerk
Kay Erdahl, Treasurer
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Ellen Simon, Ruling Elder
Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Peter Johnson, Ruling Elder
Sandy Bowers, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Carol Tiede, Deacon
Ted Midthun, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Gail Rucker, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator
Joanne Schenck, Secretary

Secretary's Office Hours

Tuesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

Thursday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

Office Phone# 507-367-4711

Email: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

Pastor's Office Hours

Mondays in Oronoco 1-4:00 p.m.

Reminder: Pastor Lisa will be out of the office May 4-10.

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.oronocochurch.org
www.ucczumbrota.com

Worship Times for the Month of May 2015



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

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

(Z) Sunday school at 10:15 a.m.

Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information
Cell Phone (507) 696-8753 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com
Pastor Lisa's Office Hours: Mondays 1-4:00 p.m. in Oronoco
Pastor Lisa's blog: pastorlisaj.wordpress.com