

## November Newsletter

# Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

### Next Session Meeting:

Wednesday, November 6  
6:30 p.m.

### Next Presbytery Meeting:

Saturday, November 16  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church,  
Apple Valley

### November Scripture Readings

Sunday November 3—

1 Kings 18:17-39

Sunday November 10—

Hosea 11:1-9

Sunday November 17—

Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5

Sunday November 24—

2 Kings 22:1-23:3





**From the  
Pastor**

*"No person is an island,  
entire of itself.  
Each is a piece of the continent,  
a part of the main.  
With thanksgiving, we remember ..."  
—adapted from John Donne*

On the first Sunday in November, we remember ...

We grieve ...

We honor ...

We give thanks ...

And we even celebrate ...

All Saints' Day is a tradition that's basically as old as the Church itself. Very early on in the life of Christianity, each soul that had been martyred for their faith was remembered, honored, and celebrated on the anniversary of his or her death. But all too soon, there were so many martyrs to remember that it was too hard to give each one the honor that they deserve. So All Saints' Day was established as a special, dedicated time to honor all the saints, known and unknown. For a while, it was celebrated in connection with the Easter season, but it has been celebrated on Nov. 1 since 895 C.E.

According to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, "All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on sanctification of the *whole people of God*. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age ... We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm."

*Brothers and sisters, we want you to know  
about people who have died so that you won't mourn  
like others who don't have any hope.*

*Since we believe that Jesus died and rose,  
so we also believe that God will bring with him  
those who have died in Jesus.*

*~ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.*

This is why we honor All Saints' in the way we do.

We celebrate on the first Sunday of the month – on communion Sunday – so that we can come to the table of grace surrounded by those we love: those living and those who feast at God's eternal table.

We celebrate by quite literally surrounding ourselves with the names of those we have loved and lost, both above our heads and on the walls. You cannot look anywhere in the sanctuary without seeing those names. They are visible. They are prominent. They are forever before our eyes.

We celebrate in color because God knows the people whose names surround us added color to our lives. The color of our banners reflect the laughter and the love, the brightness and the boldness, the jokes and the joy. It's color that remains vibrant and life-giving even after they're gone. And it's color that we can share with others as well, passing on the encouragement and inspiration that we received from our loved ones in ways that honor them still.

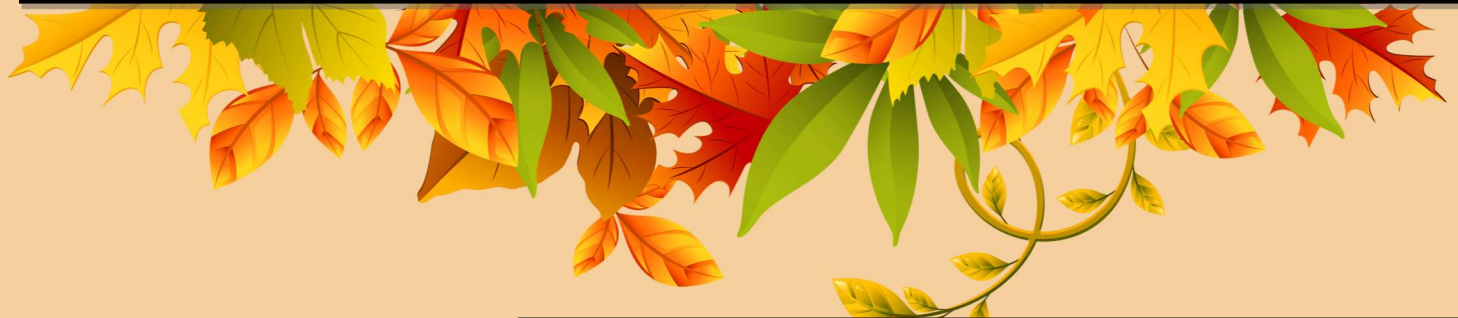
So whether you're honoring your loved ones here in worship with us on November 3rd or whether you're observing All Saints' Day at home, I invite you to light a candle. Pray. Pause for a minute and let the memories of the loved ones that you've lost warm your heart and your spirit. Let those memories bring a smile to your face. Let them lift you up. And go forward bolstered by the hope and reassurance that we find in the gospel: that because Jesus rose, we will also rise and join God – and all those who have died in Jesus – in eternal glory. Alleluia. Thanks be to God.

*Pastor Lisa*



## Update from Revs. Shelvis & Nancy Smith-Mather

Revs. Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather are the missionaries serving in South Sudan and Uganda who we support with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Spare Change Sunday funds. Shelvis, Nancy, Jordan, and Adalyn welcomed another daughter/sister into their lives in October – baby Nicole. If you would like an update on the incredible work that Shelvis and Nancy are doing with RECONCILE International and how their family is doing, please go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/shelvis-and-nancy-smith-mather/>. **Shelvis has also recently begun research with Oxford University's School of Anthropology and Theology as well as Africa Studies Centre.** In the top right portion of the screen you will find a box with link to their 10 most recent update letters. Also on this page, you can find links to contact both Shelvis and Nancy as well as information on how to contribute financially as an individual to their mission.



We've had **a lot** of work done around our building and grounds lately – landscaping work, painting (and prepping for paint), a new outdoor flag pole, gutter work (removing old ones and installing new ones), a new parking sign, indoor cleaning, etc. We want to extend a **G\*I\*A\*N\*T** thank you to all those who have given their time and energy to all of these projects. Our church looks beautiful, tidy, and well-loved because of your care and efforts. And a very special thank you to Mark Grzelak for his painting expertise, his direction, his patience, and his painting work. **THANK YOU!**

## Christmas Cookie Sale



Date: **Saturday, December 7**

Time: **9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**

Cost: **\$5 per pound**

We ran out of cookies so quickly last year that this year, we're asking people to bring at least **12-15 dozen** cookies to sell. We're also asking you to label your cookies this year and to take special care to let us know which cookies contain nuts.

*Please note: As our cookies all come from different households, we cannot guarantee that they will be allergen-free. However, it **is** our plan to designate a special table for cookies that definitely contain nuts.*

We will also need a few people to help set up on Friday, December 6 and 5-6 helpers during the sale on Saturday, December 7. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at church if you're able to help with any of these things (including bringing cookies).

We've got full-sized fliers as well as ¼-sheet mini-fliers that need to be distributed around the area. We've also got a Facebook event (search for "Oronoco Christmas Cookie Sale") that you can share on your own Facebook pages. Help us get the word out!

### Church Merch!

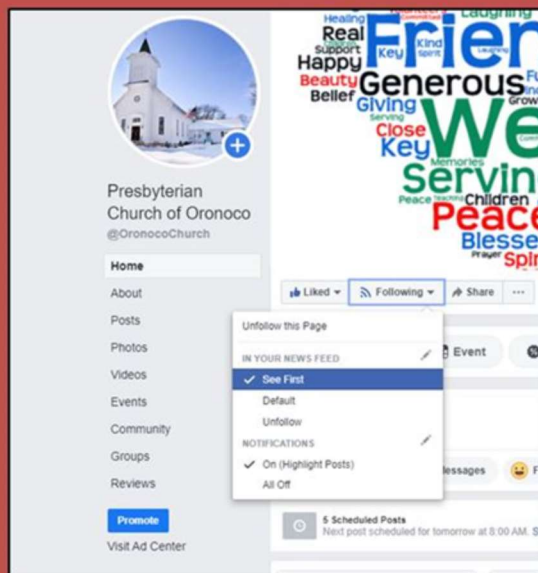
We've got a great new logo (thanks to Geoff and Ellen Warner!), and with this logo, we're looking to get some church merchandise so we can start promoting our congregation while we're out on the town! Is there something particular that you'd like to see our name and logo on? Clothing? Office items (pens, notepads, etc.)? Fun items (Frisbees, golf balls, etc.)? Let us know! We're looking for feedback, and we'd love to hear from you.

## Facebook Following

I've heard a number of comments from people recently that they think we should post something or another on Facebook, and more often than not, those things have actually already been posted. So if you're missing some of our church Facebook posts, here's a tip:

- Go to our church Facebook page ("Presbyterian Church of Oronoco")
- Click on "Following"
- Make sure that "see first" is selected
- Also make sure that notifications are on

Want to make sure you  
don't miss a post?



On our  
Facebook page:

← Click "following"

← Make sure that "see  
first" is selected

← Check that notifications  
are on



## Daylight Savings Reminder

Just a reminder that daylight savings time ends on **Sunday, November 3**. Remember to turn your clocks **BACK ONE HOUR** on Saturday night ... unless, of course, you want to hang out at church for an extra hour!



## Painting Fundraiser

We're back at it! It's time for another painting fundraiser! This time, we'll be working with Sunshine and Roses Canvas Painting, and we're inviting kids to join us! Kids ages 9 and up who are accompanied by an adult are welcome to come paint, too. YAY!

Date: **Saturday, November 9**

Time: **1:00—3:00 p.m.**

Cost: **\$35 seat**

Pre-registration is required, so either search for our Facebook event ("Painting Fundraiser for Kids and Adults") or follow the link on our church website ([www.oronocochurch.org](http://www.oronocochurch.org)).

## Food Shelf Hours

Our food shelf provides individuals and families with a variety of nutritional foods and the opportunity to stretch limited household budgets. The food shelf is sustained by donations of dollars, food and personal care items, and volunteer hours. As always, your support in whatever way you can give it is greatly appreciated.



**Please note: The food shelf will be open from 5:00-6:30 p.m. starting Wednesday, November 13 to accommodate those who have difficulty driving in the dark.**

## Border Battle/ Chili Sunday

The Packers/Vikings scheduled games are a little problematic this year, so we're manufacturing a Border Battle Sunday. On **Sunday, November 24** (bi week for the Vikes, late afternoon game for the Pack), we'll be battling it out again to see which team can bring more donations for the Oronoco Food Shelf – the Packers or the Vikings! After worship, we'll weight the two teams' contributions to see who won this year's battle!

This year, we're combining our Border Battle with a Chili Day. After worship, as we celebrate the friendly rivalry between our favorite teams, we'll also have an "in-house" chili competition. Bring your favorite chili (enough to share!), and we'll have drinks and sides. We'll vote on who has the best, and if you win you get..... BRAGGING RIGHTS! And maybe a super cool in-house traveling trophy that can live at your house for a year.



## Special Prayer Request

In church on September 22, Lance and Linda Sorensen shared with the congregation that Linda has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer. She began both chemotherapy and immunotherapy treatments a few days later. Any and all prayers, support, and positive vibes are welcome! If you'd like to follow Linda's journey, visit her Caring Bridge website: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lindasorensen>.

Note: Linda will need to approve you to view the site, so you'll have to put your email address in and wait for her to okay it.



## Advent Readers

Believe it or not, Advent is just around the corner! The first Sunday of Advent is Sunday, December 1. If you're interested in being one of our Advent readers/candle lighters, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Readings are already ready and will be in a labeled envelope hanging below the sign-up sheet, so you can take them with you for practice that day. In advance, thank you!



## All Saints' Day Commemoration

On **Sunday, November 3**, we will once again be taking some time to commemorate those who have gone before us – those who have been beacons of hope and grace and love in our lives but whose light now fills the halls of heaven. May we be surrounded by the vibrant color and light of those whom we love and miss.

## Nominating Committee

We're coming up on that time of year when the nominating committee will be contacting people to fill some of our open position in church leadership for next year. We will be looking for session members, deacons, and members for a few committees for next year (budget, audit, and, of course, nominating committee). Please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to help serve and lead this congregation that we love so much.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF ORONOCO  
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WEBSITE  
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**November 2018**  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10:00 a.m. Worship Daylight Savings	4 	5	6 6:30 Session Meeting	7 Anthony Vallejo's Birthday	8 	9 Painting Fundraiser 1:00-4:00 p.m.
10 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:30 Confirmation Helen Craft's Birthday	11 Lance and Linda Sorensen's Anniversary	12	13 Food Shelf 5:00- 6:30 p.m.	14	15	16 
17 10:00 a.m. Worship	18 Kamyn Perterson- Rucker's Birthday	19 	20 Karen Lohmann's Birthday	21 Harlow Wickre's Birthday	22	23
24 10:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Boarder Battle 11:30 Confirmation Margie Lowrie and Carol Tiede's Birthday	25 Cindy and Brian Luhman's Anniversary	26	27 Food Shelf 5:00- 6:30 p.m.	28 	29	30