



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG MISSION

October 2023

TRUNK OR TREAT

We're going to host a Trunk or Treat once again this year! Trunk or Treat is a great way for kids to have some fun in their costumes and get a bunch of treats all in one safe, contained space.

Date: **Sat., Oct. 28**

Time: **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Place: **Presbyterian Church of Oronoco**

** We will host this event **RAIN OR SHINE**. If it's raining, we'll move indoors.**



Lunch will be available inside the church (free will offering):

Hot dogs

Applesauce pouches

Cookies/bars

Water/juice

We've asked various Oronoco businesses and organizations if they would like to participate as well. And, once again, we'll have a photo booth set up for parents and kiddos to take pictures in their costumes. Please consider bringing treats to hand out to the kiddos, and feel free to extend the invitation to any of your friends, neighbors, or associated organizations! The more trunks we have, the better!

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

Pianist: Rocky Nisbit

Church Leadership

Mike Rand, Clerk of Session, Ruling Elder
Ellen Warner, Treasurer, Ruling Elder
Todd Wickre, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder

Geoff Warner, Ruling Elder
Cindy Luhman, Ruling Elder

Ellen Simon, Deacon
Joanne Schenck, Deacon
Karen Peterson-Rucker, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon



From the Pastor ...

Søren Kierkegaard was a 19th-century Danish theologian, poet, philosopher, existentialist, and social critic. He wrote a lot about Christian ethics, the intersection of faith and choice, and a God who is both knowable and completely unprovable. Philosophy has admittedly never been my forte. The hardest class I even took in any of my schooling was a 200-level undergrad class that was double-listed as both Religious Studies (RELS) and Philosophy (PHIL) and was taught by the weightiest philosophy professors on the UW-Eau Claire campus. That being said, I've always found reassurance and sense in Kierkegaard's writing. One of my favorite Kierkegaard quotes is:

*Life can only be understood backwards;
but it must be lived forwards.*

Seeing as October is the month when we celebrate World Communion Sunday, I started thinking about this quote in regards to celebrating the Lord's Supper, and while I love the wisdom, the practicality, and the insight of Kierkegaard's quote, I think the thin space of the communion table is one of those places where we get to see, understand, and experience both the backwards and forwards natures of life simultaneously.

When we come to the table together, we are living in the moment with those around us. We take the bread together, tasting and feeling and giving thanks for the body of Christ in that particular moment. We take the wine/juice together, tasting and feeling and giving thanks for the blood of Christ in that particular moment. In being present with our siblings in faith and present with the tangible elements—the coarseness of the bread and the tanginess of the wine/juice—we are living forward.

Yet every time we come to the table, we come not only with those gathered with us in the moment but also all those who have come to the table before us—that great cloud of witnesses that have formed and informed our own faith from “heavy hitters” like Paul and Lydia to the spiritual mentors that have influenced our own individual journeys. As Paul said to the Christians in Corinth:

Isn't the cup of blessing that we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Isn't the loaf of bread that we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one loaf of bread, we who are many are one body, because we all share the one loaf of bread.

~ 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

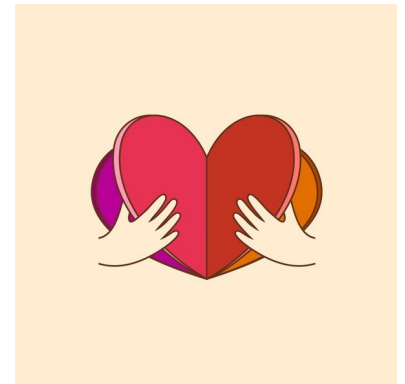
So whenever you come to the table, you are both understanding backwards—

reflecting on your own faith journey and the faith journeys of generations upon generations upon generations. And you're also living forwards in your faith, carrying it into the next moment ... and the next ... and the next, letting the elements and the sacredness of the table renew your spirit and reconnect you to the God who loves you in the backwards understanding and the forwards living. So come, friends. Come to the table. No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, no matter what you bring with you, you are indeed welcome—still and always—at God's table.

Pastor Lisa

“Powerful Tools for Caregivers”

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a small-group workshop designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves. Whether you are helping a parent, spouse, or friend living either at home or in a living facility, you will benefit from the tools presented in this program. Participants learn practical strategies and tools to better handle caregiver challenges; reduce feelings of guilt, anger, and depression; communicate more effectively; and improve self-care and minimize stress.



This **FREE** workshop is sponsored by Active Aging Programs of Catholic Charities of Southern MN. It will be held at our church for six Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. Class will begin on Oct. 19 and run through Nov. 30 (no class on Thanksgiving). **Class size is limited and registration is required by Oct. 12.** For more information or to register, contact Jessica Mollison at 507-459-6265 or jmollison@ccsommn.org.

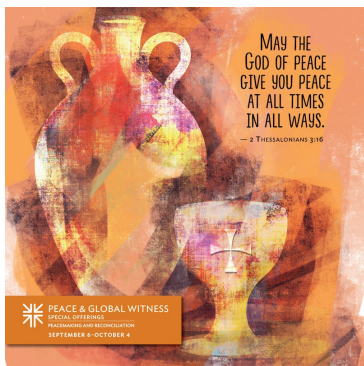
Scripture readings for October

- **October 1:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-26
World Communion Sunday
- **October 8:** Isaiah 5:1-7
- **October 15:** Psalm 23
- **October 22:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
- **October 29:** Matthew 22:34-46



Peace & Global Witness Offering

We make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October. World Communion Sunday (formerly called World Wide Communion Sunday) actually originated within the Presbyterian Church and has been adopted by denominations and congregations around the world. The first World Communion Sunday was celebrated at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA in 1933 by Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr.



In the PC(USA) today, the Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages all parts of the

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to work for peace. Each congregation is invited to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. The Peace and Global Witness Offering supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world:

- 25% goes to our own congregational peace and mission efforts (to People of the Church)
- 25% goes to Presbytery and synod peace and mission efforts
- 50% goes to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for peacemaking and reconciliation ministries

We will collect our Peace and Global Witness Offering during worship on World Communion Sunday – October 1, 2023. If you’re not going to be in worship that day, you can still help support this critical denomination-wide offering by visiting <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>. Click on “Give Now,” make sure “Give Once” is highlighted, then select “Peace and Global Witness” from the dropdown menu titled “Designated Offering.” On the next page, as you fill in your information, include “Presbyterian Church of Oronoco” in the box labeled “Name of Local Congregation.”

<p>Next Session mtg.:</p> <p>Monday, Oct. 9 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Next Presbytery mtg.:</p> <p>Saturday, Nov. 11 9:00 a.m. (hybrid)</p>
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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 **Helen Craft, Curt Burt, Keanan Peterson-Rucker,** and **Jack and Gail Rucker** in prayer.



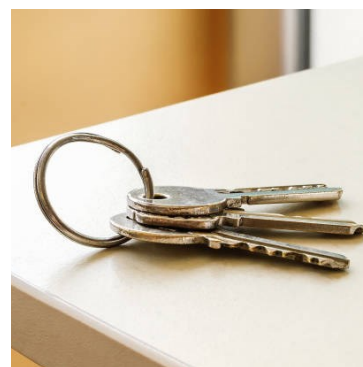
Food Shelf: Item of the Month

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!



New Keys

We recently decided it was necessary to re-key the church. A number of our keys were missing, including the hide-a-key that we’ve had outside for years. If you need a new key, please contact Pastor Lisa. If you have an old key, feel free to throw it away.



Star Word Prompts

Are there any actions, habits, etc. that you’ve decided need to fall by the wayside as you’ve reflected on your star word?





Electronic Donations

You can donate to the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco online anytime using either the link on our website (www.oronocochurch.org at the bottom of the homepage) or by using this QR code:

Per Capita—The “Glue” That Holds Presbyterians Together

What is it? The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church. We worship, serve, and govern together. Per capita contributions fund the shared governing responsibilities for the whole church (Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly), no matter the size of an individual church.

How old is it? It is mentioned in the Synod of Philadelphia minutes in 1738!

How much is it? As per the vote during the Nov. 2022 presbytery mtg., the 2023 per capita will also be \$37.50.

Where does the money go? 66% to our Presbytery; 17% to our Synod; 17% to the General Assembly (national office).

Why is it important? Per capita monies support the work of the church globally to nationally to locally, including the technology grant we received earlier this year to worship remotely.

What is our church’s policy? It is, and has been, the policy of the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco to pay our per capita every year, whether individual members have contributed their portion or not.

Have I paid this year? If you are not sure, please contact Ellen Warner (ellenjwarner@gmail.com) to find out.

How do I pay? You can write a check to the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco and simply write “per capita” on the memo line.



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

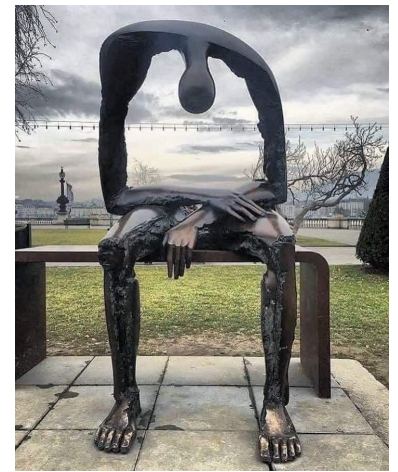
- ☞ 10/8—Ted Midthun
- ☞ 10/10—Keanan Peterson-Rucker
- ☞ 10/28—Ellen Simon
- ♥ 10/1—Hadley & Lucky Thomopson
- ♥ 10/13—Ron & Karen Peterson-Rucker
- ♥ 10/16—Cody Nielsen & Kamyn PR-Nielsen



Spouse Grief Group

We've started hosting a congregational spouse grief group. It's a very informal group—just a safe, supportive space to talk about beloved spouses that have passed, the ways that we deal with grief, and anything else. We meet:

3rd Monday of the month—5:30 p.m.



Staying in Touch

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

Office: 507-367-4711

Email: 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

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

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Office: 800-728-7228

Email: info@pcusa.org

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



Border Battle Sunday



This year, we've got a little time to prepare for our Border Battle Sunday! The first Packers/Vikings game is **Sunday, Oct. 29**, so get it on your calendars early!



On Oct. 29, you're encouraged to bring food shelf donations to support either the Packers or the Vikings. After worship, we'll weigh the donations from each side to determine our own Border Battle winner!

Since this year's game is a noon game, we're going to make this a tailgate battle, too. Whichever team brings the LEAST amount of food shelf donations on Oct. 29 will be responsible for providing fellowship treats for the following Sunday—Nov. 5.

Pregnancy & Infant Loss Vigil

October 15 is designated as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day – a day set aside to remember all of those precious angel babies that have been held in the hearts of their loved ones, even if they never got to hold them in their arms. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month in 1988, and October 15th has grown into a specific day for families to remember together, grieve together, and honor their littlest loved ones together.



This year, we're going to host a vigil to honor all those who have experienced this terrible kind of loss. We're planning a short service as well as a walk down to the river to release pink and blue carnations into the Zumbro River. Following the service and walk, there will be coffee and cookies available at the church for those who would like to stay and spend some time either with others or in prayer in the sanctuary.

Date: **Sunday, Oct. 15**

Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Keeping up with the Smith-Mathers

We continue to receive (roughly) quarterly updates from Shelvis and Nancy about their life and work and mission in Uganda and South Sudan. And we continue to donate our 2nd Sunday Spare Change offering to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) in honor of that work.

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. Visit their PMA 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.

All Saints' Day Commemoration

This year, 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. Throughout the month of October, we will have the colorful prayer flags and some markers available in the back of the sanctuary. Putting one name on each flag, please feel free to honor as many people as are near and dear to your heart so that during our All Saints' Day commemoration on **Sun., Nov. 5**, we may be surrounded by the vibrant color and light of those whom we love and miss.

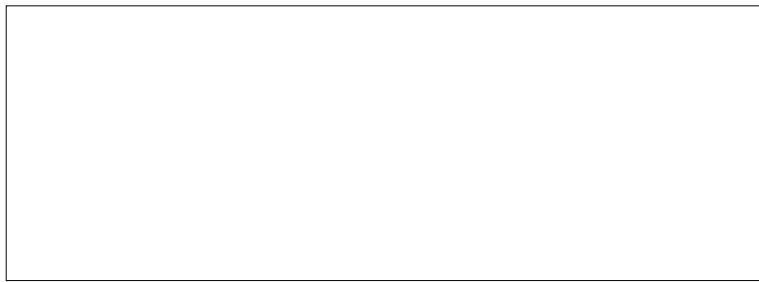


Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

P.O. Box 118

Oronoco, MN 55960

507-367-4711



Basic Information

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

Facebook: Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

Instagram: @oronocochurch



Worship—10:00 a.m.
Communion—1st Sunday of the month
Fellowship hour following worship

Rev. Lisa Johnson—contact information:

Cell: 507-995-7310

Email: PastorLisaJ@gmail.com

Blog: <http://pastorlisaj.com>