

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

August 2017 Newsletter



Visioning Sundays

It cannot be denied that we have some interesting times ahead as a congregation. And the really wonderful part is that all the feedback I've gotten from people is how excited we all are – excited for something new, excited for what could be. That's so fantastic!! And I'm also hearing a whole bunch of great ideas – outreach ideas, mission ideas, worship ideas, fellowship ideas, fundraising ideas. Yay!!

So in an attempt to start funneling all of our wonderful ideas into one place, we're going to hold some Visioning Sundays. After worship on the 2nd Sundays of June, July, and August (June 11, July 9, and Aug. 13), we'll be holding some brainstorming/visioning sessions. We'll have refreshments and some great conversation. Summer schedules are certainly busy, but the session wants to encourage you to attend at least one Visioning Sunday session so that we can begin to forge our way ahead with as much input as possible!

August 13th is our last scheduled meeting.

Please come and share your ideas!

A Message from Our Pastor



Jesus is the light!
FOLLOW HIM!!

If you were anywhere near the church during Vacation Bible School last week, you heard these words. I would start by saying, “Jesus is the light!” and the kids (and parents/adults) would respond with “FOLLOW HIM!!!” as loudly as they could.

The theme for Vacation Bible School this past week was Camp Out: Getting S’more of Jesus. Part of the reason that I chose this theme was because it was centered on the basics of the gospel message:

Day 1: Jesus is the light of the world
Day 2: Our job is to spread Jesus’ light.

Our theme verse was John 8:12 (complete with hand motions, of course):

I am the light of the world.

Our song?

*This little light of mine,
I’m gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine,
I’m gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine,
I’m gonna let it shine!*

Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!

We spent the first day talking about how Jesus was the light of the world and about how God’s love for us can be a light – can bring us joy and comfort and strength – even in times that are dark and sad and scary. And the second day, we talked about how Jesus came to show us the power of God’s love for us by dying on the cross and how we can show God’s love for other people.

And as I was working on these lessons – what I was going to say, how I was going to present them to the kids, how we were going to tie them to the crafts and

games, when we were going to sing the songs, etc. – as I was working all of this out, it struck me how wonderfully, enlighteningly simple it all is:

Jesus is the light.
FOLLOW HIM.

You see, as adults, we have a maddening tendency to make things so much more complicated than they need to be. We worry. We multi-task. We micro-manage. We over-plan. We overestimate. We underestimate. We take something simple like the gospel message – Jesus is the light! FOLLOW HIM!! – and wrap it up in so much baggage and exceptions and strings attached that it’s hardly recognizable anymore.

When I was with the kids this week – when I was hearing them joyously and exuberantly shout and sing and talk about all the ways they can show God’s love to other people – I was overwhelmed with just how simple it really is.

At one point, I told them a truncated version of the gospel – that Jesus was the Son of God, that he came to live among us, that he was killed on a cross, and that it was so important that we know about the power of God’s love that Jesus was brought back from the grave to show us that love. You have to know that a number of the kids we had for VBS didn’t grow up in church. They’d never heard the story before. And their reaction – their shock, the silence, the looks of awe on their faces – literally gave me goosebumps. And then I remember just how powerful, just how amazing, just how awe-inspiring the simple story of the gospel is: Jesus came, lived, died, and was resurrected all because God loves you.

Jesus is the light.
FOLLOW HIM.

Pastor Lisa

Pastor Out of the Office

Pastor Lisa will be out from July 23-Aug. 6 and Aug. 28-Sept. 1. The first week, I will be out of town for continuing ed at Synod School in Storm Lake, IA. The following week as well as the week before Labor Day weekend, I will be vacation. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care while I’m in Iowa, both Sue and Mike Rand will have the contact information.

In Our Prayers

Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6-7

Karen Vallejo, Joyce Rucker, Eunice Markham

Spare Change Proceeds to Missionaries Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather:



Our church kids do a great job passing those tin buckets on Spare Change Sunday. Spare change counted at the bank today totaled \$138.06, which will be sent to our Sudan missionaries, Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather. Awesome!

Outdoor Worship – Gold Rush Weekend

This year, we will be holding a special outdoor worship service during Gold Rush weekend. Weather permitting, we will worship out on the lawn with picnic tables similar to our outdoor service last summer. Following worship, we will be hosting a “Build Your Own Ice Cream Sundae” bar for anyone who would like to stick around.



Adult Sunday School

On Sept. 10, we will start having a time of adult Sunday school from 9:00-9:45 on Sunday mornings. This will be a time to come together with coffee and snacks (or breakfast ... depending on how early you get up) and have some discussions around a variety of faith topics – some Bible study, some prayer, some faith formation, some topical studies. Anyone is welcome – to attend, to lead the discussion, to suggest a new topic of study. This is something that we plan on promoting to the wider community, so we're also looking for a name that is a little more approachable/a little less “churchy” – something less intimidating for those who may be curious but haven't been to church before. So if you have any suggestions for what we could call this time, please talk to Pastor Lisa. Thanks!

All Around the Campfire



We had so much fun with our campfire gatherings last summer that we're at it again this summer! One Sunday a month, we'll be gathering in the evening on the church lawn. There will be a campfire. There will be lawn games. There will be s'mores. This is a chance for us to spend some fun, relaxed, unstructured time together, and to invite people who may not be as comfortable coming through the church doors for the first time. Bring your neighbors and friends. Bring kids. Let's have fun!

- Aug. 27: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Sept. 24: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Mowing Sign-Up

The sign-up sheet for sharing in the lawn mowing duties is up on the bulletin board. If you can help, please sign up for the week you intend to mow. The church mower is in the shed. Talk to Ron Peterson-Rucker or Pastor Lisa if you need the shed key.

Church Clean-Up Sign-Up



Our spring cleaning list is up on the bulletin board. There are a number of tasks both inside and out that we would like taken care of, so if you can help with any of those, please add your name next to the task and cross it off when it's done. Thanks.

National Night Out

Oronoco is once again hosting a National Night Out party at the Oronoco City Park on Tues., Aug. 1. National Night Out was started as a way to heighten awareness about safety and crime prevention and to enhance community relations. As in recent years, we will have a table at National Night Out and will be giving out church cups and candy for anyone interested.

Celebration starts at 5:00 p.m. at the park. If you'd like to come join us at our table, please contact Pastor Lisa.

Readings for the Month of August



Sun., Aug. 6 – *guest preacher, Rev. Katie Whipple*

Sun., Aug. 13 – Psalm 91; Matthew 15:21-28
Visioning Sunday

Sun., Aug. 20 – special outdoor service
Gold Rush weekend

Sun., Aug. 27 – Exodus 1:8-2:10; Romans 12:1-8

August Birthdays

8/2 Sandy Bowers
8/3 Katha Johnson
8/12 Ardith Ottman
8/13 Nancy Tiedeman
8/20 Joanne Schenck
8/27 Rachel Stanton



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 2nd 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/>. 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.

Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson
Secretary: Sue Johnson
Custodians: Sue Johnson
Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Kay Erdahl, Treasurer
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer
Mike Rand, Clerk of Session
Ron Peterson Rucker, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder
Linda Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Joanne Schenck, Deacon
Karen Peterson Rucker, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Gail Rucker, Deacon

People of the Church

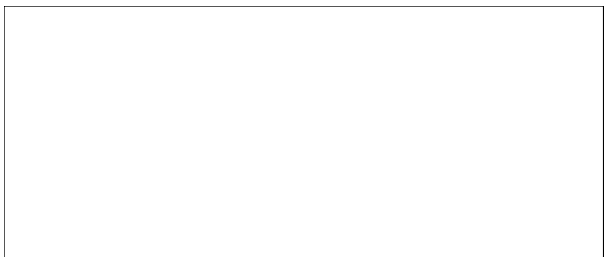
Janice Ostrom, Co-Moderator
Jenny Rand, Co Moderator

Secretary's Office Hours

Tuesdays 10am—2pm
Thursdays 10am—2pm

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**Check out our website at
www.oronocochurch.org**

**Worship is held at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday
Communion is on the first Sunday of each month**



Reverend Lisa Johnson - Contact Information
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