

OCTOBER
2018



SAME GREAT NEWSLETTER, BRAND NEW LOOK

October Scripture Readings

Oct. 7

- Mark 10:13-16
- James 2:14-26

Oct. 14

- Mark 10:17-31
- 1 Peter 4:7-11

Oct. 21

- Psalm 28
- Mark 10:35-45

Oct. 28

- 2 Kings 5:1-14
- Mark 10:46-52

As you all know, our wonderful office administrator, Sue Johnson, retired in August. Since we're facing a bit of a changing of the guard, I thought it might be nice to give our newsletter a bit of a makeover. Consider it a bit of an experiment.



Our new newsletter format will have all the wonderful information that you're used to—upcoming events, Scripture readings for the Sundays in the month to come, service opportunities, and news from the wider Church as well as the contact information for the church and the denomination and the calendar. I'll even throw in some of those adorable cartoons, though I somehow doubt I'll be at good as finding them as Sue was!

On a related note, we are still looking for a part-time office administrator. We're looking for someone willing and able to work 8 hrs. a week doing things like putting the newsletter together and distributing it (via email, snail mail, and putting it up on our website); creating, folding, and putting out the weekly bulletins; maintaining the church calendar both on paper and through Google calendar; and compiling and putting together the annual report in Jan. or Feb. each year. If you or anyone you know is interested in this position, please visit our website or contact Pastor Lisa for a full position description.

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

Secretary:

Organist: Katha Johnson

Church Leadership

Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Mike Rand, Clerk of Session
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder

Ellen Warner, Ruling Elder
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder
Linda Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Gail Rucker, Deacon

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

Peace and Global Witness Offering

We make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday—the first Sunday in October. This year, that Sunday is October 7.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages all parts of the Presbyterian Church (USA) 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 (formerly the Peacemaking 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.



Kids' Sunday School

Children ages 6-12 are welcome to join us for Sunday school!

We will be holding Sunday school on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of the month. Kids will be dismissed from worship following the sermon so they can spend some time exploring Scripture with fun lessons and great material.

A big, GIANT "thank you" to Karen Peterson-Rucker, Gail Rucker, Jenny Rand, and Joanne Schenck for volunteering to teach!



Fall Clean-Up Day

We will be gathering on **Sun., Oct. 7 after church** for our fall clean-up day. There are a number of tasks that need to be taken care of both outside and inside including power washing the siding, cleaning up the gardens out by the parking lot, washing windows, washing pews, etc. The session is asking that anyone who can stay after church to help with these tasks do so. Lunch will be provided in the form of Casey's pizza, fruits/vegetables, and drinks.



October Sermon Series

In October, we will be embarking on a short, 4-part sermon series called “The Upside-Down Kingdom.” The Gospel passages designated by the Revised Common Lectionary all hunker down into the tenth chapter of Mark which is both an interesting and an important time in Jesus’ ministry between his transfiguration and his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the back of the donkey. As Jesus makes his journey toward Jerusalem, he teaches his companions much about the nature of true discipleship—a life that is contrary to the perspectives and priorities of the world and more in line with the kingdom of God, a life that is “upside-down” in regards to cultural expectations but perfectly aligned with God’s expectations. Join us throughout the month of October as we explore what this Upside-Down Kingdom may look like.



Coffee & Conversation

On Oct. 7, we will resume our Coffee & Conversation time from 9:00-9:45 on Sunday mornings – a time of discussion on faith, life, and everything in between. This is a time to come together with coffee and snacks (or breakfast ... depending on how early you get up J) and have some discussions around a variety of faith topics – some Bible study, some prayer, some faith formation, some topical studies. No pre-reading or prior knowledge required. We’ll be diving back into our study of the gospel of Mark. Anyone is welcome – to attend, to lead the discussion, to suggest a new topic of study.



“And now these
three remain:
FAITH, HOPE & LOVE
But the greatest
of these is
Love.”
1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Bingo at Pine Haven



On Wed., Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m., we will be helping the Pine Haven Care Center residents play bingo. This is a really fun evening of interacting with the residents, handing out quarters to the winners, and sharing treats. We typically need 5-6 volunteers for this activity as well as some treats to bring to share with the residents – cookies, bars, etc. If you choose to make treats, please remember to make something without nuts. Thank you. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Janice Ostrom.

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. 4**, we may be surrounded by the vibrant color and light of those whom we love and miss.

In Our Prayers ...



"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 **Eunice Markham, Joan Swarthout, Joyce Rucker, and Ed Simon** in prayer.

Next Session mtg.:

**Wed., Oct. 3
6:30 p.m.**

Next Presbytery mtg.:

**Tues., Nov. 13
4:00 p.m.
New Life Pres in Roseville**



From the Pastor ...

If you visit my office, probably one of the first things you'll notice is the plants I have on the low bookshelf near the window. One is an ivy, and the other is a peace lily. The peace lily was given to me by the congregation I grew up in when I was ordained. It was in the sanctuary during my ordination service and has remained alive ever since.

(I fully admit that much of the credit for its long life goes to Sue Johnson, who kept it well watered for so many years!)

This peace lily is actually doing more than surviving. It's flourishing! So much so that a few weeks ago, I had to divide it. It's leaves were starting to get droopy and yellowish, and it was clearly getting too big for the pot it was in. So I spent a morning carefully splitting it in two and repotting both halves. One half went back into my office. The other half was set out for someone to take home.

Admittedly, it looks much better having been divided. The majority of the leaves are greener and have perked up considerably. For the most part, it looks like a much healthier plant. But there are some leaves around the edges that are showing some shock. They're yellowed. They're brown around the edges. Some have gone completely brown and are close to falling off. It's ironic to see a PEACE lily displaying such visible signs of distress.

When we look at the state of the world around us today, I think it looks a lot like my shocked peace lily. Conflict has shocked us. Natural disasters have shocked us. Political in-fighting and controversy and discord have shocked us. The complicated dynamics of personal relationships have shocked us. Illness – either our own or that of our loved ones – has shocked us. Grief and frustration and worry have shocked us. Some of us are drooping. Some of us have lost our color – that vibrant, tell-tale sign of exuberance and joy and flourishing life within us. Some of us may even feel as dried up and brittle as the brownest leaves. Our peace is most definitely showing visible signs of distress.

But when you think about it, that's how peace is. When we finally reach it or attain it, things are wonderful and happy and serene. But actually *getting to that peace* means you have to slog through struggle first. You have to deal with the shock. You have to deal with the distress. You have to deal with whatever circumstances upended that peace – whatever took that peace away – in order to find peace again.

In his letter to the Philippian church, Paul says,

"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

Very often, we are so shocked by everything going on around us that it's difficult for us to find our own peace. Thankfully, God's peace transcends all of the shock, the distress, the brittleness that we feel. God's

understanding is beyond our own, and so God’s peace can help us to rise above all of those circumstance we don’t understand to reassure us that God is still good, Christ is still our blessed Savior, and the Holy Spirit still moves in and through us to do God’s good in this world. And that is good news indeed.

It’s clear that, while it was healthy for it in the long run, my peace lily is in recovery. It’s not as healthy as it could be, but it’s getting there. Through the grace of God and by God’s all-surpassing understanding, our peace – though not as healthy as we may wish it to be – can be in recovery, too. Thanks be to God!

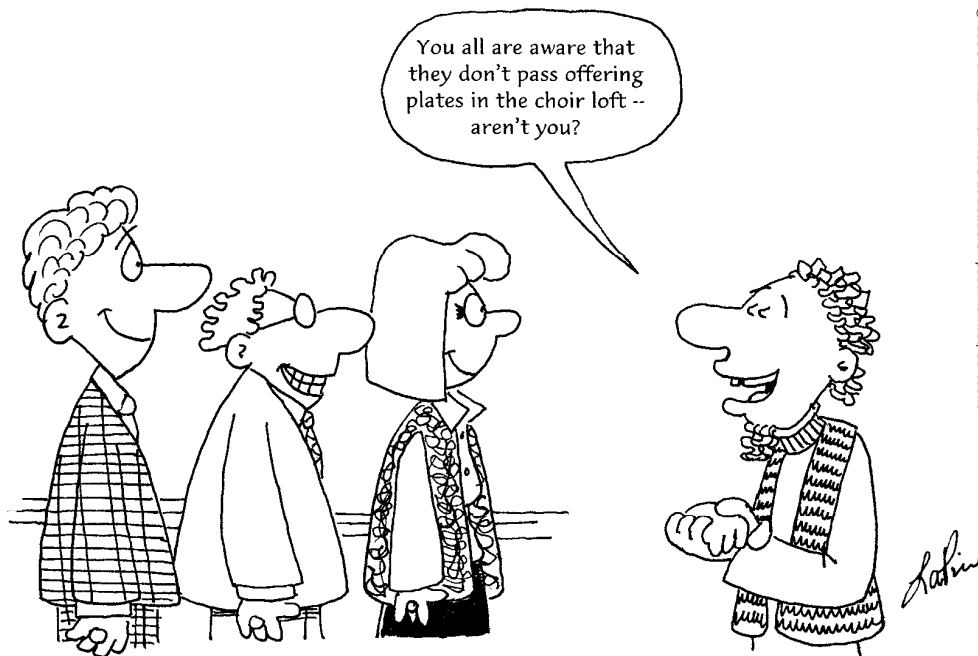
Pastor Lisa

Monthly Birthday Celebration

Jenny Rand has generously offered to provide cake on the **first Sunday** over every month as a way to celebrate all those who have birthdays in that particular month.

First, THANK YOU, Jenny! ☺

Second, along with the cake, we will be posting a sign with everyone’s birthday (day only ... no years!) listed on it, If we don’t have your birthday, please let us know what it is so we can include you! Send it to Pastor Lisa.Thanks.



© 1998 Dik Lapine. More at LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons

Church choir director Denzel Brainard knew how to recruit choir participants.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 🕒 10/8—Ted Midthun
- 🕒 10/10—Keanan Peterson-Rucker
- 🕒 10/28—Ellen Simon
- ♥ 10/13—Ron & Karen Peterson-Rucker



Keeping Up with the Smith-Mathers

Revs. Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather are the missionaries serving in South Sudan and Uganda along with their children—Jordan, Adaly, and Nicole—who we support with our 2nd Sunday Spare Change Sunday funds. 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.



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.presbyterytwincities.org>

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Office: 800-728-7228

Email: info@pcusa.org

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





New Logo

Check out our new logo!

The session is having conversations about where and how to use this logo—on our letterhead, for sure, but where else would you like to see it? Other merchandise? If you have ideas, please talk to a session member or Pastor Lisa. Thanks!

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco



We are a small church with a big mission!

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

P.O. Box 118

Oronoco, MN 55960

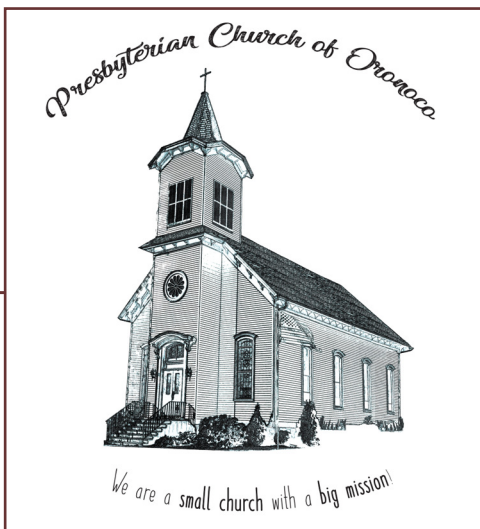
507-367-4711



Basic Information

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

Facebook: Presbyterian Church of Oronoco



Worship—10:00 a.m.

Communion—1st Sunday of the month

Fellowship hour following worship

Sunday School—2nd & 4th Sundays

Confirmation—2nd & 4th Sundays

Rev. Lisa Johnson—contact information:

Cell: 507-995-7310

Email: PastorLisaJ@gmail.com

Blog: <http://pastorlisaj.wordpress.com>