

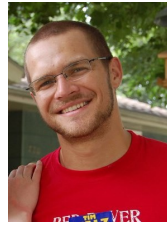
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

September 2013 Newsletter

**(O) Getting to Know
Our Newest Members**

Peter Johnson is none other than husband to our pastor, Lisa. Peter enjoys reading, backpacking, playing guitar & the African drum. It's also rumored that Peter is quite the handyman, which is a good talent to possess since they recently purchased a new home in Zumbrota. Welcome Peter!

Their address: 829 Dubuque Blvd.
Zumbrota, MN 55992
Peter's email: pjohnson141@gmail.com

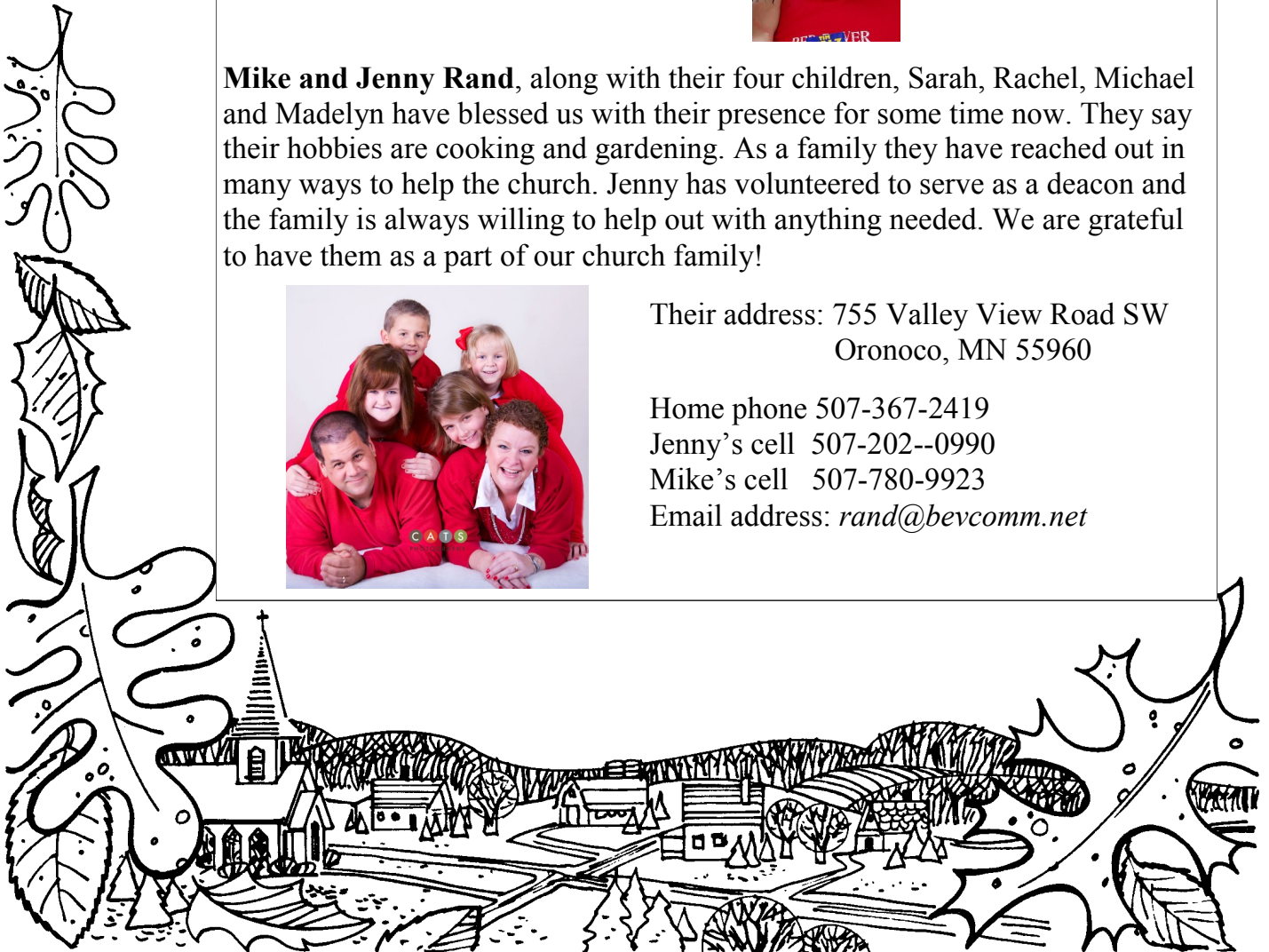


Mike and Jenny Rand, along with their four children, Sarah, Rachel, Michael and Madelyn have blessed us with their presence for some time now. They say their hobbies are cooking and gardening. As a family they have reached out in many ways to help the church. Jenny has volunteered to serve as a deacon and the family is always willing to help out with anything needed. We are grateful to have them as a part of our church family!



Their address: 755 Valley View Road SW
Oronoco, MN 55960

Home phone 507-367-2419
Jenny's cell 507-202--0990
Mike's cell 507-780-9923
Email address: rand@bevcomm.net





A Message from Our Pastor

Sometimes I look around our house and wonder, “Where in the world did all this *stuff* come from?!”

When you’re pregnant, people who have already had kids warn you that babies come with a lot of stuff. And you hear it ... but there’s something about it that just doesn’t register. You think to yourself, “Sure, they may come with a lot of stuff, but it’s small stuff, right? Babies are small, so their stuff can’t be that big.” And then you have a baby shower or two, and you’re so excited by all the adorable things and the fun things and the useful-looking things that you don’t stop and think, “Hey, I’ve gotta fit all these things into my house.”

Four months into being a mom of twin boys, let me tell you something: *Babies come with A LOT of stuff.*

Is it fun stuff? Yes. Is it useful stuff? You bet! Is it cute stuff? Oh, yeah. But it still amazes me how much *stuff* these two little beings have generated in such a short amount of time!

And I will admit that the challenge some days is not letting the stuff get in the way of enjoying our wonderful boys. I have learned that there will **always** be laundry to do. There will **always** be things to pick up. There will **always** be bottles to wash and other things around the house that we could be doing. But most importantly, the Luke and Ian will **always** need our care and our love. And if we don’t give it to them, who will? The laundry, the cleaning up, and all the other menial tasks of the day can wait.

And this concept is not so different from our faith, is it? There will **always** be things that need to be done. If you’re a “to do” list maker like I am, you know that there’s something about a “to do” list (or maybe in your house it’s a “honey do” list ... we have one of those, too!) that never gets shorter. I think it’s some as-yet-undiscovered law of the universe – the length of the “to do” list cannot be shorter than 3 items.

There will always be something else that we can do, something else that we should do, even something else that we want to do before we focus on our relationship with God. We know that God will always be there, so we put off reading Scripture or prayer or outreach until we have “more time.” But remember the words of Scripture:

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” (Matt. 6:33-34)

We have to learn to stop and intentionally make the time for our faith. We have to consciously choose to do those things that will nourish our souls – pray, read God’s word, come and worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have to strive for the kingdom of God and God’s justice because if we don’t, who will? All of the menial tasks of our lives can wait while we pause each and every day to give our time and our hearts first and foremost to God.

Blessings,

Pastor Gina

In Our Prayers

*The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He also will hear their cry and save them.*

Psalm 145:18-19

The friends and family of Dave Tri, Karen Vallejo, Gary Ofstie, Judy Wilder, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, Mary Larson, Larry Glasenapp, Gail Rucker’s brother, Paul, who is home from the hospital and appreciative for our prayers and Dave Midthun’s long-time friend, Scott, who has undergone brain surgery

(O/Z) Food Shelf Sunday

The deacons are asking all who are able to participate in Food Shelf Sunday, September 1st. All non-perishable food items and freshly washed garden over-flow are welcomed. We would like to thank all who have given over the summer and continue to help with stocking the shelves for our families in need. You are appreciated!

(O) POC News

Pine Haven Resident Birthday/Bingo Party



The People of the Church will be serving treats and playing bingo with the residents of Pine Haven Nursing Home in Pine Island on Monday, September 9th at 2:00 pm. Joyce Rucker is coordinating the event. Please contact her at 367-4352 if you can contribute sweet breads, serve treats, or call bingo. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Dorothy Day Dinner



The People of the Church will be serving the residents of the Dorothy Day House on Wednesday, September 25th. The Rand family, Janice Ostrom, Debbie Nelson and Brenda Longman will greatly appreciate your help in preparing salads and desserts for the occasion. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

(O) Fall Bake Sale

Bring your goodies!
Sunday, September 15th,
following 11:00 a.m. services.



(O) Sunday School

We are looking at having a core group of Sunday School teachers for a rotating schedule. Our plan is to have the lessons all set along with a craft project to make volunteering easier. If you are interested

please sign up or speak with Joy Bertsinger or Vivien Williams.

(O) A Flash From the Past

Do you recognize this member of our congregation? Find the name elsewhere in the newsletter.



(O) Garden Helpers

Please check the sign up sheet at church for a task you can do to help keep our grounds looking great. Some are ongoing, weekly needs and others are one time opportunities. We owe great appreciation to Joyce Rucker and Joanne Schenck who, for many years, have handled this task pretty much on their own. Now it is time to lend a hand.

(O) Fall Luncheon

The fall luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16 from 11:30 to 1:00 at the church. Watch for sign up sheets in the fellowship room and sign up to help by donating food and/or time. The funds we raise will go to our outreach program.

(Z) Tri Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, September 7 for Dave Tri. It will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Mazeppa Community Center. The UCC will be serving refreshments following the service.

Hot Air

My pastor friend put sanitary hot air hand dryers in the rest rooms at his church and after two weeks took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine but when he went in there he saw a sign that read, "For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button."

(O/Z) Blessing of the Backpacks

We want to make sure our kids start off the new school year with as many prayers and good wishes as we can muster, so let's bless their backpacks! They carry them every day, so they can carry our encouragement as a congregation with them, too. If you're a student or the parent of a student, remember to bring backpacks to church on **Sun., Sept. 8**. We'll do a blessing at each service. (This would also be a great opportunity to bring a friend to church!)

(O/Z) Textile Group – 1st meeting

Calling all knitters, crocheters, quilters, sew-ers, yarn spinners, cross-stitchers, and anyone else who may be interested! The textile group will be meeting for the 1st time on **Sat., Sept. 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Pastor Lisa's house** (829 Dubuque Blvd. in Zumbrota). We will come up with a name (something better than "textile group," I'm sure!), a regular meeting time that works, and a regular meeting place. Feel free to bring along whatever you're working on. We might even be able to work and chat at the same time!

(O/Z) Readers of OZ



Our next gathering is September 10, at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Ellen Simon (13054 25th Ave. NW, Oronoco). All are welcome to join what is likely to be a lively discussion of Salman Rushdie's book *Joseph Anton: A Memoir*. For directions, call Ellen at 367-4348.

(O) Peacemaking Offering (World Communion Sunday) October 6, 2013

We make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October (10/6/13). The Peacemaking 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 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. Please watch for the special envelopes and consider how you may help.

(Z) Special Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

We will receive the NIN offering on **October 6, 2013** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance.



(Z) Country Store Just Around the Corner

Here is the news you've been waiting for: We have dozens of new dish towels for the clean-up crew at the Country Store on Saturday, October 26! No more making the dishes wetter rather than dryer when all of the towels are soaked! Okay, so that may not be the news you've been waiting for, but it is good news, indeed. What you've been waiting for, all year, is for Country Store time to roll around again, and it's coming up soon.

Crafters: Heat up your glue guns! Sewing folks: Whip up something new and exciting! Woodworkers: Build/turn/create something! Bakers: Be thinking of great goodies to share! This annual event is always a great chance for fun and fellowship. If you haven't helped or attended before, here's your chance. In the meantime, be thinking about ways/things to donate for this wonderful event. It takes a congregation to make this happen.

Readings for the Month of September

September 1

Jer 1:4-10; Lk 13:10-17

September 8

Jer 2:4-13; Lk 14:1, 7-14

September 15

Ex 20:1, 8-11; Mt 12:1-8

September 22

Gen 2:1-4; Mk 6:7-13, 30-32

September 29

Is 58:6-14; Mt 12:9-14



(O) People of the Church

The congregation met informally and briefly following recent worship to direct the donation of accumulated funds. We agreed to donate \$200.00 each to Habitat for Humanity of Goodhue County and of Olmsted County. We also donated \$400 to the Oronoco Food Shelf and \$100 to a new church start program (Net Church) recommended by Pastor Lisa. So far in 2013, we have donated \$1,300 to programs in need. We have \$200 set aside for the pastor's emergency donation and \$100 set aside for donation to Presbyterian Women's missions. There is an additional \$207.70 remaining in the bank account at present. Thanks to all who have donated money, time and talents so we may care for the needs of others.

(O) Presbyterian Women's Mission

Our People of the Church has set aside \$100 to be donated this fall to PW Missions. Every mission and ministry program of PW is supported (in full or in part) through such gifts to the PW Mission programs. O has contributed for many, many years through our mission gift, the birthday offerings and pennies for peace (the jar you see on the counter in the fellowship room). PW missions include projects such as "Little Dresses for Africa" where simple dresses made out of pillow cases are distributed to orphanages, churches and schools in Africa. PW participates in the United Nations' Commission on

the Status of Women which focuses on the empowerment of rural women. Other programs attempt to explore intergenerational dialogue through workshops and retreats; creation of antiracism educational sessions and materials; PW churchwide Gathering is also funded along with Horizons Magazine and other important programs. You can learn more at www.presbyterianwomen.org.

Birthdays for the Month

9/2 Jim Wedge
9/11 Sumer Christopherson
9/14 Sarah Rand
Peter Johnson
9/15 Mia Ke Zhen Tiede
9/23 Mike Rand
9/19 Paulette Barnhart
9/24 Colton Webster
9/26 Hannah Watkins
9/27 Mary Anne Moechnig
9/29 Cliff Swarthout



(Z) Zumbrota Office Hours

The location for Pastor Lisa's office hours in Zumbrota will be changing. In an attempt to get out into the community more, the office hours will now be held at **Bridget's Cafe on Main St.** The hours will stay the same, so you can find Pastor Lisa there from **8:00-11:00 on Tuesday mornings**. Come have a cup of coffee and chat! If you have something more personal you'd like to talk about, the church office is always available.

Storm Clouds

Our pastor, an avid golfer, was once taking part in a local tournament. As he was preparing to tee off, the organizer of the tournament approached him and pointed to the dark, threatening storm clouds which were gathering. "Preacher," the organizer said, "I trust you'll see to it that the weather won't turn bad on us." Our pastor shook his head. "Sorry," he replied. "I'm sales, not management!"



Congregation of Care (COC) Training

The Minnesota Council of Churches is offering a No Cost training that will help us in developing a caring congregation. The one day **introduction training** will be **Friday, September 20, 2013, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm** (breakfast and lunch provided) at MN Council of Churches, 122 W Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis 55404. You are asked to attend three additional 6-hours training **Friday, October 18, November 15 and December 13.**

PURPOSE: To assess, guide and encourage their entire congregation to be actively engaged as a congregation of care by promoting the tools necessary to inspire active involvement with congregants during critical times, such as hospitalization following surgery, living with illness, aging, caregiving, dying, death and grief.

Objective of Training

Build a shared understanding with pastors, ministry leaders, and leadership team on how to integrate caring and preparing for illness, caregiving, end of life and grief into a community of faith.

Outcomes of Training

- Participate in a self-exploration of illness, caregiving, end of life, and grief
- Understand COC as a sustainable process
- Explore and develop sustainable leadership teams
- Gain insight and initiate exploration of the congregation demographics and the needs of congregation
- Assess congregational care and support
- Review and identify current activities and ministries treasures and congregational gifts as well as barriers, opportunities or gaps
- Lay a foundation to develop an action plan to ensure that congregants are better prepared to care for those facing illness, end of life, grief and doing caregiving
- Acquire an understanding of a practical theology of caring

How to Become a Congregation of Care

- Pastor/Clergy commit to **recruit a leadership team of 3-4 people** from your congregation to attend a **free** training
- The team attends a one day introductory workshop and three ½ day training workshops and participate in homework and assessments
- Team commits to implement training in congregation
- Graceful Journey provides coaching, support and opportunities to learn and share
- Attend an annual summit to support COC and share successes

Thank You

Helen Jackson Lockett-El
Program Manager

Minnesota Council of Churches

Helen.lockett-el@mnchurches.org

612-230-3345

(O/Z) Appreciation

Thanks to the committee members from both congregations who once again planned and organized a fine joint worship at the Goodhue County Fairgrounds. And thanks to all who contributed food for the meal at the UCC church. It was a delightful and meaningful time together.



Music by Light 45 was enjoyed by all



Hearing the Children's Message

(O) Flash From the Past ID
Eunice Markham looking so pretty!

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
Linda Magdsick Quammen, Clerk
Connie Wendt, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
David Pahl, Trustee
Rex Wiederanders, Trustee
Jim Wendt, Trustee
Gary Ofstie, Deacon
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Chad Vath, Deacon
Connie Hawley, Deacon
Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Coleen Johnston, Deacon

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Judy Wilder, Clerk
Kay Erdahl, Treasurer
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Ruling Elder
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder
Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder
Ellen Simon, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Kim Stanton, Ruling Elder
Karen Vallejo, Deacon
Ted Midthin, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Vivien Midthun, Deacon
Carol Tiede, Deacon
Larry Glasenapp, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator
Judy Wilder, Co-Moderator
Joanne Schenck, Secretary
Judy Wilder, Treasurer

Secretary's Office Hours

Tuesdays in Oronoco 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays in Oronoco 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Office Phone# 1-507-367-4711
Email: oronocopc@pitel.net

Pastor Lisa's Office Hours

Oronoco—Mondays 1-4:00 p.m.
Zumbrota—Tuesdays 8-11:00 a.m.
at Bridget's Café

September 2013 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.

Sunday September 1
Morning: Ps. 108; 150
Evening: Ps. 66; 23
1 Kings 8:22–30 (31–40)
1 Tim. 4:7b–16
John 8:47–59

Sunday September 8
Morning: Ps. 103; 150
Evening: Ps. 117; 139
1 Kings 12:21–33
Acts 4:18–31
John 10:31–42

Sunday September 15
Morning: Ps. 19; 150
Evening: Ps. 81; 113
1 Kings 19:8–21
Acts 5:34–42
John 11:45–57

Monday September 2
Morning: Ps. 62; 145
Evening: Ps. 73; 9
2 Chron. 6:32–7:7
James 2:1–13
Mark 14:53–65

Monday September 9
Morning: Ps. 5; 145
Evening: Ps. 82; 29
1 Kings 13:1–10
Phil. 1:1–11
Mark 15:40–47

Monday September 16
Morning: Ps. 135; 145
Evening: Ps. 97; 112
1 Kings 21:1–16
1 Cor. 1:1–19
Matt. 4:1–11

Tuesday September 3
Morning: Ps. 12; 146
Evening: Ps. 36; 7
1 Kings 8:65–9:9
James 2:14–26
Mark 14:66–72

Tuesday September 10
Morning: Ps. 42; 146
Evening: Ps. 102; 133
1 Kings 16:23–34
Phil. 1:12–30
Mark 16:1–8 (9–20)

Tuesday September 17
Morning: Ps. 123; 146
Evening: Ps. 30; 86
1 Kings 21:17–29
1 Cor. 1:20–31
Matt. 4:12–17

Wednesday September 4
Morning: Ps. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 132; 134
1 Kings 9:24–10:13
James 3:1–12
Mark 15:1–11

Wednesday September 11
Morning: Ps. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 1; 33
1 Kings 17:1–24
Phil. 2:1–11
Matt. 2:1–12

Wednesday September 18
Morning: Ps. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Ps. 48; 4
1 Kings 22:1–28
1 Cor. 2:1–13
Matt. 4:18–25

Thursday September 5
Morning: Ps. 116; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 26; 130
1 Kings 11:1–13
James 3:13–4:12
Mark 15:12–21

Thursday September 12
Morning: Ps. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 16; 62
1 Kings 18:1–19
Phil. 2:12–30
Matt. 2:13–23

Thursday September 19
Morning: Ps. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Ps. 80; 27
1 Kings 22:29–45
1 Cor. 2:14–3:15
Matt. 5:1–10

Friday September 6
Morning: Ps. 84; 148
Evening: Ps. 25; 40
1 Kings 11:26–43
James 4:13–5:6
Mark 15:22–32

Friday September 13
Morning: Ps. 51; 148
Evening: Ps. 142; 65
1 Kings 18:20–40
Phil. 3:1–16
Matt. 3:1–12

Friday September 20
Morning: Ps. 130; 148
Evening: Ps. 32; 139
2 Kings 1:2–17
1 Cor. 3:16–23
Matt. 5:11–16

Saturday September 7
Morning: Ps. 63; 149
Evening: Ps. 125; 90
1 Kings 12:1–20
James 5:7–20
Mark 15:33–39

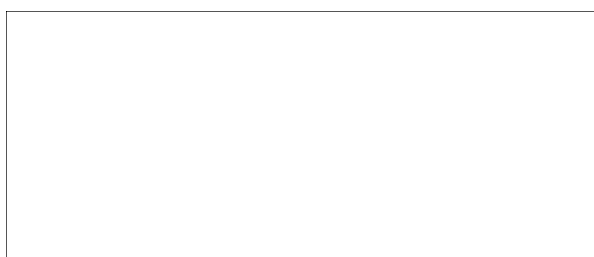
Saturday September 14
Morning: Ps. 104; 149
Evening: Ps. 138; 98
1 Kings 18:41–19:8
Phil. 3:17–4:7
Matt. 3:13–17

Saturday September 21
Morning: Ps. 56; 149
Evening: Ps. 118; 111
2 Kings 2:1–18
1 Cor. 4:1–7 Matt. 5:17–20

First Congregational UCC
455 East Avenue
Zumbrota, MN 55992
(507) 732-7015



Presbyterian Church of Oronoco
PO Box 118
Oronoco, 367-4711



Check out our websites at
www.pcomn.org
www.ucczumbrota.com

Worship Times for the Month of September 2013



9/1	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
9/8	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
9/15	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
9/22	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
9/29	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

(O) Nursery available during worship service

Reverend Lisa Johnson—Contact Information:
Cell Phone 1-507-696-8753 Email address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com