

Happy New Years!

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be Sunday, February 3rd during our regular worship service. Following worship, we'll have a potluck (including our monthly birthday celebration) as well.

** If you are responsible for one of the reports for the annual meeting packet, please get them to Brianna NO LATER THAN January 20th so she has enough time to assemble the packets.

Thank you **

Next

Presbytery mtg.

Saturday, January 26th

9:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church— South St. Paul

Next

Session mtg.

Wednesday, February 6th

6:30 p.m.

January Scripture Readings

Sun., Jan. 6 – Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Epiphany

Sun., Jan. 13 – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22; Acts 8:14-25

Baptism of Jesus

Sun., Jan. 20 – Psalm 36:1-10; John 2:1-11

Sun., Jan. 27 – Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-30

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson
Secretary: Brianna Clement
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
Ellen Simon, Deacon

Joanne Schenck, Deacon
Karen Peterson-Rucker, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Gail Rucker, Deacon



From the Pastor ...

A couple of days ago, I was up in the middle of the night with Julia, and I was flipping through Group On. For those who aren't familiar, Group On is an e-commerce marketplace where you can find great deals on an insanely wide variety of things: restaurants, experiences (theater, tours, wine tastings, etc.), shopping, travel, and so on. And these aren't just minor deals. These are HUGE deals. Last year, I got our Christmas cards through one of the Group On vendors – 100 Christmas cards for \$37.

So what irresistible Group On deal did I find in the middle of the night? A monogrammed, brown leather bound notebook ... for \$9. (Original price: \$100 ... I told you these were great deals!!)

Ever since I was a kid, I've always been kind of a notebook hoarder. I **LOVE** a good notebook, something with a beautiful cover and nice, crisp, clean pages. I always have a few squirreled away in my house somewhere – on my bedside table, maybe on the bookshelf, and probably a closet shelf in the spare room.

But my problem has always been filling those notebooks. It's not that I have trouble coming up with something to say. (Y'all know *that's* not my problem!) The trouble I've always had with nice, beautiful, crisp notebooks is wrecking them ... by writing in them. I don't want to mess up all those beautiful pages. What if I write the "wrong thing"? What if I write something lame? Or useless? Or what if I start using it for one thing, get 10 or 15 pages in, and decide I want to use it for something else?

I've always been reticent to mar those crisp, pristine pages, and yet isn't that exactly what they're for? Those treasured journals and notebooks were meant to be written in: poems, lists, journal entries, meditations, sketches, brainstorming ... the possibilities are endless.

As the calendar flips from 2018 to 2019, a new year lies before us just as blank and pristine as those notebooks that I hoard. But here's the thing: the lives we live are not pristine and perfect. They're messy. They're complicated. They're beautiful. And that's exactly what they're supposed to be. Jesus said,

"I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest."

(John 10:10)

"Live life to the fullest" ... not "live life halfway," not "live life a little bit," not "live life underwhelmed." *Live life to the fullest.* The Greek word that we find in Scripture here means extremely ... abundantly ... exceedingly ... extraordinarily. **This** is the life that God desires for us. **This** is the life that Jesus came to bring to us. **This** is the life that the Holy Spirit – the Divine Disturber – tries to nudge and inspire us into each and every day.

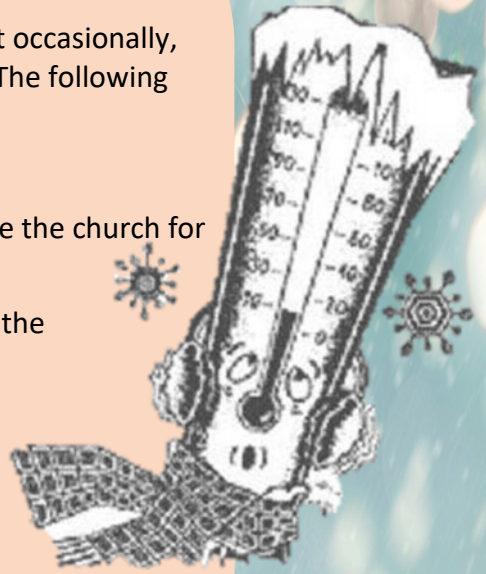
So my hope and prayer for you as that new year begins is this: that **we all** live this year boldly, messily, extraordinarily. As Shanti says, "At the end of the day, your feet should be dirty, your hair messy, and your eyes sparkling." May the pages of the year ahead of you be filled with doodles and brainstorms, scribbles and sketches, beauty and mistakes. Do as I say, not as I do ... and maybe I will do as I say, not as I **normally** do, too.

Pastor Lisa

Winter Weather Procedure

As the winter months are once again upon us, just a reminder that occasionally, we do have to close church due to weather and road conditions. The following are our procedures when this happens:

- Pastor Lisa and the session member assigned to open and close the church for the month will make the decision
- Pastor Lisa will send out an all-church email alerting people of the closing. It will also be posted to our Facebook page (Presbyterian Church of Oronoco) and our website.
- Session members will call people to let them know of the closing using set calling lists that we have established



Please be sure we have your accurate contact information in case of a weather-related closing. We want to be sure everyone remains safe during this frigid season.



Newsletter Apology

With the holidays and everything else going on, all, the end of the month sort of snuck up on me. I didn't have any of little tidbits or my article ready for the newsletter to get out on time. I apologize for that.

Filling Busy Bags

We are continuing to collect items for the Ronald McDonald House busy bags— small toys, games, arts & crafts supplies, stickers, etc. Joanne Schenck has already made all the busy bags themselves. This year, we have decided to wait until after the holiday season to fill and distribute the busy bags. There are boxes and bins in the fellowship area for collecting donations. We will be filling the bags on Sunday, January 20th.

Thanks for your support!

Christmas "Thank Yous"

I want to extend a thank you to all of you who sent us Christmas cards, dropped off little gifts, and shared your Christmas goodies with me and my family this Christmas. All of those little remembrances are day-brighteners for me and are greatly appreciated. We are incredibly grateful for the continued love, support, and prayers of both congregations.

Thank you.



Thank You!

"Coffee & Conversation"

Sunday mornings starting at 9:00(ish), we are continuing our "Coffee & Conversation" time– an opportunity for us to discuss faith, life, and everything in between. No pre-reading or prior knowledge required.

We will finish up our Advent-themed study: "The Light Will Shine" on Sun., Jan. 6. After that, we will be starting another study (topic as yet to be determined). Anyone is welcome – to attend, to lead the discussion, to suggest a new topic of study.

Please consider joining us!

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 positions in church leadership for next year. We will be looking for session members, deacons, members for a few committees for next year (budget, audit, and, of course, nominating committee).

In addition, we are seeking someone who would be willing to alternate the Clerk of Session position with Mike Rand. Mike has served as our clerk for 6 years now, and while he enjoys this position, he is hoping to find someone who could give him a bit of a break for a while. Alternating positions has worked well for our Treasurer/Asst. Treasurer for a number of years. It allows for accountability as well as a bit of a break to keep one person from burning out. **Note: In order to fill this position, you do have to be an ordained ruling elder, but you do not have to be currently serving on session.**

Please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to help serve and lead this congregation that we love so much.



About Per Capita

As 2018 comes to a close, I wanted to give you a reminder about per capita payments. Here's a brief run-down of what per capita is and how it works.

"One of the great strengths of our denomination is its connectionism. Presbyterians in Minnesota and Wisconsin are tied to the larger church in ministry. One concrete form of that connection is through our per-capita. Every Presbyterian church in the country is required to pay a certain amount for each active member on its rolls. This money goes to support the work and ministry of our church throughout the country." – *from the website of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area*

This year's per capita payment is \$34.50 per member. Of that \$34.50, the largest portion (66%) is used by our presbytery while the rest is shared equally (17% each) between our synod (the Synod of Lakes and Prairies) and the General Assembly (national office).

It is and has been the policy of the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco to pay our per capita by the end of every year, whether individual members have contributed their apportionment or not. If you haven't paid your per capita for this year, please consider doing so. You can make a check out to the O church and simply write "per capita" in the memo. If you're not sure whether you've paid your per capita this year, please contact Kim Stanton or Hadley Thompson.

And, since the new year is right around the corner, here is the per capita for 2019: \$37.50.






Sharing Prayer Requests

One of the things that so many people appreciate about our congregation is the way that we can share our lives with each other in prayer on Sunday mornings. We lift up the prayers that are a part of our lives and know that we are not lifting up those joys and concerns alone. This family of faith is lifting up those prayers with us. In order to better facilitate those prayers and in order to share them with those who can not be with us on Sunday morning, we're going to start sending out a Monday morning prayer email which will share the requests raised during worship on Sunday morning. If you are getting this email and would prefer not to, please don't hesitate to let us know. If, for some reason, you would like to be getting this email and are not, also let us know so we can add you to the list.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF ORONOCO
E-MAIL ADDRESS:
oronocopc@beycomm.net
WEBSITE
www.oronocochurch.org

January 2019
Lisa Johnson, Pastor
507-995-7310
Email: pastorlisa@gmail.com

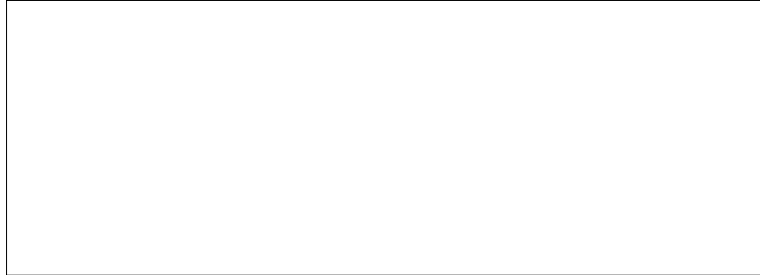
P.O. Box 118
20 3rd St SW
Oronoco, MN 55960
507-367-4711

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 Session Meeting 6:30	3	4 Robert Rueber's Birthday!	5
6 Worship 10 a.m.	7 	8	9 Food Shelf 4-6 p.m.	10	11	12 Jack Rucker's Birthday!
13 Worship 10 a.m.	14	15	16 Luncheon Hadley Thompson's Birthday!	17	18 	19
20 Worship 10 a.m.	21 	22	23 Food Shelf 4-6 p.m.	24	25	26 Presbyterian Mtg. 9 a.m.
27 Worship 10 a.m.	28 Janice Ostrom's Birthday!	29	30	31 		

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

P.O. Box 118

Oronoco, MN 55960



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

Rev. Lisa Johnson—contact information:

Cell: 507-995-7310

Email: PastorLisaJ@gmail.com

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