

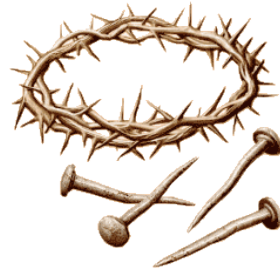
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

April 2014 Newsletter

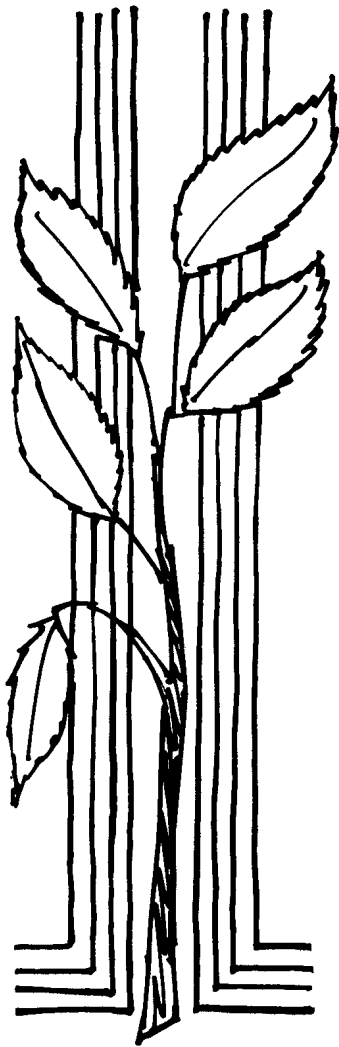
*Holy Week and Easter
Worship Schedule*

*Maundy Thursday service
Thursday, April 17 @ 7:00 p.m., O church*

*Good Friday/Tenebrae service
Friday, April 18 @ 7:00 p.m., Z church*



*Easter Worship
on Sunday, April 20, will be held at the
regular times in both churches
(9:00 at O, 11:00 at Z)*



**HE
HAS
RISEN**

alleluia alleluia

From the Pastor



Believe it or not, Holy Week is just around the corner. The deacons in both OZ congregations are busy ordering palms for Palm Sunday and starting to put together the necessary order forms for our Easter gardens. The readers for our Good Friday Tenebrae service are all lined up, and I'm hoping to enlist the help of some of our youth for the Maundy Thursday service.

But why is it that we have such a busy week in the church year to begin with? Is it really necessary to go to church on Palm Sunday ... and then again on Maundy Thursday ... and then *again* on Good Friday ... and then *again* on Easter Sunday?? Can't we just go either Thursday or Friday and call it good? I mean, that's a lot of church, right?

True. It is a lot of church. But the Maundy Thursday service and the Good Friday service each bring to life a very different point in Jesus' final days. Each service represents a different step along our journeys of faith, and each service speaks a different message to our hearts.

So let's talk about those different messages and meanings a little bit.

Maundy Thursday

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ~ Matthew 26:26-30

We hear these words each month when we gather at the table to celebrate communion. But on Maundy Thursday, we hear them in a new way. We gather at a time when we don't normally gather – a special time, a sacred time. That night, the disciples were gathering with Jesus for a special, sacred time, too. Scripture tells us they were gathering to celebrate the Passover together. They were gathering to remember the night that God had spared the lives of their sons in Egypt. They were gathering to combine their voices in holy prayers that had been passed down

through the generations. They were gathering together not because they had to but because they could – because they wanted to be together ... because they loved each other, and they loved Jesus.

And so we gather with one another on Maundy Thursday. We gather to share in that intimate, blessed meal that Jesus first shared with his closest companions and dearest friends. We gather to serve and be served, to bless and be blessed, to love and be loved by the One who created us, redeemed us, and continues to sustain us. This is a night to remember that even though Jesus' ultimate sacrifice is right around the corner, it was a sacrifice born out of love.

Good Friday

Then Jesus took the twelve aside and said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what he said. ~ Luke 18:31-34

In one single day – one brief 24-hour period – we move from the devotedness and love of the Last Supper to Jesus' betrayal and arrest and humiliation and pain and finally, Jesus' death. The soft candlelight that bathed us in the Upper Room steadily dwindles until we are enveloped in darkness. We feel Jesus' anxiety and distress as he prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. We watch as the disciples abandon the Son of God one by one. We feel the sting of Peter's threefold denial, the sting of the crown of thorns as the guards force it on Jesus' head, and the sting of the whip. We hear first Herod's goading, then the crazed shouts of the angry crowd – "Crucify him!" – then finally Pilate's pronouncement: death. We walk with Jesus to the cross. We sit with Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and the beloved disciples and watch with tears in our eyes as the centurions drive in the nails, mocking and taunting Jesus even to his final breath.

The mood of the Good Friday Tenebrae Service ("Tenebrae" meaning *shadow* or *darkness*) is far different than the mood of the Maundy Thursday service, but it is just as crucial to our lives of faith. We cannot go through our own lives pretending that only the good and comfortable and happy parts exist. Likewise, we cannot experience the miracle and elation of the resurrection on Easter Sunday without first acknowledging and coming to grips with the torment and sacrifice of Good Friday.

Pastor Gina

In Our Prayers

Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice. Psalm 55:17

The family and friends of Cliff Swarhout, Karen Vallejo, Gary Ofstie, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, Mary Larson, Larry Glasenapp.

(O/Z) Special Music



I will be compiling a list of possibilities for future special music that we could include in our service. If you know of anyone who might be willing to share their music gifts with us in worship, please let me know.

(O/Z) Pastor Out of the Office

Pastor Lisa will be at a conference and therefore out of the office from Mar. 31-Apr. 6 (Mon.-Sun.) Thank you in advance to Rev. Dick Scheerer for agreeing to lead worship that Sunday.

(Z) Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, April 12 at 8:30 a.m. we will have a morning to clean the church in preparation for Easter. Bring your cleaning supplies and a joyful spirit!

Our next Council meeting will be **April 22nd**, instead of the 15th to avoid the hectic time before Easter.

Following the 11:00 service on **April 27**, we will have a potluck dinner meeting. Let's call it a Progress Report Meeting to review and discuss ideas and plans for church growth and outreach. All members and friends are encouraged to attend.

(O/Z) Readers of OZ

Our selection for April is "And the Mountains Echoed" by Khaled Hosseini author of "The Kite Runner" and "A Thousand Splendid Suns".

The book follows the bond between two young motherless siblings in an Afghan village. What happens to them-and the large and small manners in which it echoes through the lives of so many other people-is proof of the moral complexity of life. Hosseini explores the many ways in which family members love, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most.

Please join us at the home of Judy Wilder (100 Sandy Point Court NE, Rochester) on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 P.M. All are welcome. Call Judy at 367-4997 if you need directions.

In May (5/13), the Readers of OZ will gather at the home of Ellen Simon to view the DVD "The Book Thief", a book we read & discussed earlier. Plan to join us for the movie...no reading required!

(O) Donations Needed

We will be collecting sweat pants, sweat shirts, socks and lap blankets for the residents of Pine Haven Care Center through the months of March and April. (Men's and women's sizes med/large) Your donations can be dropped off at the church. Questions? Please speak with Joy Bertsinger.

(O/Z) Worship Advisory Team

Just a reminder that the Worship Advisory Team consists of:

Lance Sorensen (O)
Linda Sorensen (O)
Peter Johnson (O)
Connie Hawley (Z)
Hailey Vath (Z)
Sue Wedge (Z)



We are continuing to discuss a number of different things, so if you have any ideas or feedback about worship, please feel free to share your thoughts with one of these people.

(O/Z) Lenten Worship Participants Needed



I will need a number of participants who are willing to help with a few of the Lenten services this year. Needs:

* Maundy Thurs. (Apr. 17) – **6 people** willing to carry various elements into the sanctuary and up to the front during the service in a creative manner (non-speaking but visible role)

(O/Z) Updating the Directory

Both the session (O) and the council (Z) have decided that it's time to update our directories. At each church, there will be a clean copy of the directory sitting out for the next month or so. When you have time, please check the information pertaining to you/your family. If there are corrections to make, please just write those into the directory. Also, please write in your birthday and the birthdays of anyone else connected to your household (spouse, children, etc.) as well as your anniversary. Finally, if you either don't have a picture currently in the directory or if you'd like to update that picture, please either email a new picture to Sue or put a picture into the marked manila envelope provided with the directory.

Thanks!

(O/Z) Hymnsing Coming Up

The Sunday after Easter (Apr. 27) we will be having a Service of Lessons and Songs ... basically, a hymn sing! We'll read some Scripture and do some of the things that we normally do during worship (Passing of the Peace, Song of Peace, offering, etc.), but our hymns will be chosen by you on the spot! Katha has been wonderful enough to agree to this, so we certainly want to thank her for her flexibility. So be thinking about what your very favorite hymn is, and hopefully we'll get a chance to sing it.

(O) Refreshing the Fellowship Hall

The session has decided that it's time our wonderful fellowship space had a bit of a facelift. So over the

next few months, we'll be focusing on what that facelift might look like. New curtains? A fresh coat of paint or two? Moving some of the furniture around? And we'd like your input.

If you have ideas for how to refresh our fellowship area, please either speak with one of the session members or feel free to come to our April meeting (Wed., Apr. 9 at 6:30 p.m.) If we have people come to the meeting, we will make sure that the fellowship area discussion is our first order of business so you can be a part of the conversation without being obligated to stay for the entire meeting.

(O/Z) Easter Garden Flower Orders



(Z) Everyone is looking forward to spring flowers after our long winter, and we will all have our chance to make the UCC chancel bloom on Easter Sunday by ordering lilies and other potted plants (hydrangeas, cyclamen, kalanchoes, etc.) well ahead of that. The deacons will place a sign-up sheet at church starting March 23. Please indicate if you wish the flowers to be placed in memory of a loved one. Orders must be in by April 6.

If you can't be at church during this time, you can contact Coleen Johnston, who will help you with your order. Email Coleen, coleenlou@yahoo.com, or call her at 843-4719. She can give you the prices and the address for mailing in your check. Thanks for helping to make this special day a beautiful one, too. You are welcome to take your plant home with you after the Easter service, or to designate another destination for it.

(O) The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco will be offering Easter flowers, similar to last year, for display during the Easter service as part of a memorial garden. Choices will be lilies, cyclamen and tulips. Order forms will be on the table in the fellowship room. Your order form and donation can be given to Carol Tiede by April 6. If you have any questions, please call Carol at 282-6273. Thank you!

(O/Z) Lenten Soup and Study *Liberating Hope*

During Lent this year, we will be studying the book *Liberating Hope: Daring to Renew the Mainline Church* by Michael S. Piazza and Cameron B. Trimble. This is a wonderful book aimed at helping to revive small, mainline, progressive congregations.

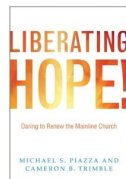
While it would certainly be helpful to have each chapter read before we discuss it, please don't avoid coming simply because you haven't had the chance to finish (or maybe even start!) the chapter for the week. We value everyone's input and discussion and would love to have you.

So what will this look like? We will gather for a meal of soup and bread at 5:30 p.m. at the Z church, and we will move into our book discussion soon after, wrapping up by 7:00 p.m.

What: Lenten meal and book discussion

When: Wednesdays during Lent from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

- * Wed., Mar. 5 (Ash Wednesday)
- * Wed., Mar. 12
- * Wed., Mar. 19
- * Wed., Mar. 26
- * Wed., Apr. 2
- * Wed., Apr. 9



Where: Z church basement

There is a stack of the books available for purchase at the Z church. Cost for each book is \$15. If you have any questions or if you'd like to purchase a book but can't get to Zumbrot, please contact Pastor Lisa.

(O/Z) We're on Facebook!!

Both congregations now have a Facebook presence, so be sure to check us out and "like" us!

Z: First Congregational Church UCC Zumbrot

O: Oronoco Presbyterian Church

We'll be posting various events. Pastor Lisa will be linking her blog posts. Any last-minute changes such as weather-related closings will be posted as well

(though *hopefully* we're through with those until next winter rolls around!) We're also hoping to get some picture up of various events, so if you have ideas for photos (Sunday school, Lenten study, luncheons, etc.), please feel free to either take the pictures yourself and pass them along to Pastor Lisa to post or to post them yourself through your own Facebook account.

IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

United Church of Christ Contact Information

UCC national website...ucc.org

Minnesota UCC website...ucmn.org

Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact kareng@ucmn.org

United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online at ucc.org/ucnews

or free subscription at United Church News, P.O. Box 247, Bellmawr, NJ 08099 or call 1-800-363-0575

Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...pcusa.org

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...ptcaweb.org

PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact communications@ptcaweb.org

Presbyterians Today monthly magazine...subscribe (at cost) to Presbyterians Today, P.O. Box 5178, Brentwood, TN 37024-9931 or call 1-800-558-1669

Birthdays for the Month of April

4/5 Vivien Williams

4/6 Donna McIntire

Linda Sorensen

4/10 David Midthun

4/12 Bridget Webster

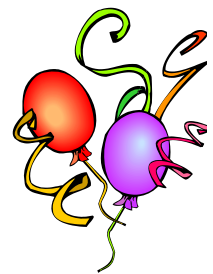
4/16 Will Midthun

4/17 Trevor Paulson

4/21 Larry Thomforde

4/23 Matt Roth

4/25 Roxanne Webster



April 2014 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.

Tuesday, April 1

Morning: Pss. 34; 146
Evening: Pss. 25; 91
Gen. 49:29–50:14
1 Cor. 11:2–34
Mark 8:1–10

Wednesday, April 2

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 27; 51
Gen. 50:15–26
1 Cor. 12:1–11
Mark 8:11–26

Thursday, April 3

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 102
Exod. 1:6–22
1 Cor. 12:12–26
Mark 8:27–9:1

Friday, April 4

Morning: Pss. 22; 148
Evening: Pss. 105; 130
Exod. 2:1–22
1 Cor. 12:27–13:3
Mark 9:2–13

Saturday, April 5

Morning: Pss. 43; 149
Evening: Pss. 31; 143
Exod. 2:23–3:15
1 Cor. 13:1–13
Mark 9:14–29

Sunday, April 6

5th Sunday in Lent
Morning: Pss. 84; 150
Evening: Pss. 42; 32
Exod. 3:16–4:12
Rom. 12:1–21
John 8:46–59

Monday, April 7

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145
Evening: Pss. 121; 6
Exod. 4:10–20 (21–26) 27–31
1 Cor. 14:1–19
Mark 9:30–41

Tuesday, April 8

Morning: Pss. 34; 146
Evening: Pss. 25; 91
Exod. 5:1–6:1
1 Cor. 14:20–33a, 39–40
Mark 9:42–50

Wednesday, April 9

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 27; 51
Exod. 7:8–24
2 Cor. 2:14–3:6
Mark 10:1–16

Thursday, April 10

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 102
Exod. 7:25–8:19
2 Cor. 3:7–18
Mark 10:17–31

Friday, April 11

Morning: Pss. 22; 148
Evening: Pss. 105; 130
Exod. 9:13–35
2 Cor. 4:1–12
Mark 10:32–45

Saturday, April 12

Morning: Pss. 43; 149
Evening: Pss. 31; 143
Exod. 10:21–11:8
2 Cor. 4:13–18
Mark 10:46–52

Sunday, April 13

Passion/Palm Sunday
Morning: Pss. 84; 150
Evening: Pss. 42; 32
Zech. 9:9–12
1 Tim. 6:12–16 or Zech. 12:9–11;
13:1, 7–9
Luke 19:41–48

Monday, April 14

Monday of Holy Week
Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145
Evening: Pss. 121; 6
Lam. 1:1–2, 6–12
2 Cor. 1:1–7
Mark 11:12–25

Tuesday, April 15

Tuesday of Holy Week
Morning: Pss. 34; 146
Evening: Pss. 25; 91
Lam. 1:17–22
2 Cor. 1:8–22
Mark 11:27–33

Wednesday, April 16

Wednesday of Holy Week
Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 27; 51
Lam. 2:1–9
2 Cor. 1:23–2:11
Mark 12:1–11

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday
Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 102
Lam. 2:10–18
1 Cor. 10:14–17; 11:27–32
Mark 14:12–25

Friday, April 18

Good Friday
 Morning: Pss. 22; 148
 Evening: Pss. 105; 130
 Lam. 3:1-9, 19-33
 1 Peter 1:10-20
 John 13:36-38 or John 19:38-42

Saturday, April 19

Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter
 Morning: Pss. 43; 149
 Evening: Pss. 31; 143
 Lam. 3:37-58
 Heb. 4:1-16
 Rom. 8:1-11

Sunday, April 20

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter
 Morning: Pss. 93; 150
 Evening: Pss. 136; 117
 Exod. 12:1-14
 John 1:1-18 or Isa. 51:9-11
 Luke 24:13-35 or John 20:19-23

Monday, April 21

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
 Evening: Pss. 124; 115
 Exod. 12:14-27
 1 Cor. 15:1-11
 Mark 16:1-8

Tuesday, April 22

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
 Evening: Pss. 66; 116
 Exod. 12:28-39
 1 Cor. 15:12-28
 Mark 16:9-20

Wednesday, April 23

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11
 Evening: Pss. 9; 118
 Exod. 12:40-51
 1 Cor. 15:(29) 30-41
 Matt. 28:1-16

Thursday, April 24

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20
 Evening: Pss. 68; 113
 Exod. 13:3-10
 1 Cor. 15:41-50
 Matt. 28:16-20

Friday, April 25

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
 Evening: Pss. 49; 138
 Exod. 13:1-2, 11-16
 1 Cor. 15:51-58
 Luke 24:1-12

Saturday, April 26

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
 Evening: Pss. 23; 114
 Exod. 13:17-14:4
 2 Cor. 4:16-5:10
 Mark 12:18-27

Sunday, April 27

2nd Sunday of Easter
 Morning: Pss. 93; 150
 Evening: Pss. 136; 117
 Exod. 14:5-22
 1 John 1:1-7
 John 14:1-7

Monday, April 28

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
 Evening: Pss. 124; 115
 Exod. 14:21-31
 1 Peter 1:1-12
 John 14:(1-7) 8-17

Tuesday, April 29

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
 Evening: Pss. 66; 116
 Exod. 15:1-21
 1 Peter 1:13-25
 John 14:18-31

Wednesday, April 30

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11
 Evening: Pss. 9; 118
 Exod. 15:22-16:10
 1 Peter 2:1-10
 John 15:1-11

**(O) Presbyterian Clearwater Forest**

A stunningly beautiful camp and retreat setting on Clearwater Lake in central Minnesota, Clearwater Forest has been changing lives in God's woods and waters since 1954.

Clearwater Forest provides programming including summer youth camps, women's retreats, spiritual renewal events, non-summer youth retreats, family events, senior adult programs and teambuilding opportunities for all types of groups. See our website at: www.clearwaterforest.org

**(O) 2014 Synod School
July 27-August 1, 2014**

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Synod School is a special learning and personal enrichment experience for all ages. We seek to create an environment of hospitality, healing and hope. The week is designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth and children – some separately, some intergenerational

Come...and grow in faith through action, relationships, and a centering of the spirit.

Come...for continuing education, for a special family experience, or for individual growth.

Come...to participate in a unique experience of Christian community, as we worship, study, play, and live together.

Visit our website at:
www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html

Brochures and catalogs can be found on the credenza in the fellowship room.

Readings for the Month of April

Sun., Apr. 6 – *guest preacher*



Sun., Apr. 13 (Palm Sunday)
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11

Sun., Apr. 20 (Easter Sunday)
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43

Sun., Apr. 27 – *Service of Lessons and Songs*
(hymnsing)

(O) POC Winter Luncheons

Our winter luncheons are now over and we were able to raise a total of \$812.93 to be used for outreach programs. This wouldn't happen without help from so many who submitted advertising to area publications, prepared and brought food, purchased supplies, helped set up, serve and clean up. Thank you to all including to those who donated money and enjoyed a good meal!

So far this year, we have donated \$150 each to Pine Island Area Home Services, Rochester Women's Shelter and Students in Transition-Rochester. We have also set aside \$200 for Pastor Johnson to use as she becomes area of area needs and another \$200 will be donated to Presbyterian Women's Missions later this year. A planning meeting will be scheduled later to decide on other outreach programs we would like to support. So be thinking about which group or organization you would like to suggest.

Our fall luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Elder Network is looking for individuals who are willing to provide transportation for seniors to their vital medical appointments. Even giving a ride once or twice a month can make a huge difference. Please call the Elder Network at (507) 285-5272.

Elder Network is a non-profit organization, which empowers older adults to adjust to life's transitions; to live life as fully, safely, and independently as possible in their chosen environment.

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 Quammen, Clerk
Connie Wendt, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
David Pahl, Trustee
Rex Wiederanders, Trustee
Arlen Kylo, Trustee
Gary Ofstie, Deacon
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Nattalie Rolland-Vath, Deacon
Hailey Vath, Deacon
Bob/Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Coleen Johnston, Deacon

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Mike Rand, Clerk
Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Asst. Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Ruling Elder
Ellen Simon, Ruling Elder
Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Peter Johnson, Ruling Elder
Sandy Bowers, Deacon
Judy Wilder, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Carol Tiede, Deacon
Ted Midthun, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon

People of the Church

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

Secretary's Office Hours

Tuesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00
Thursday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00
Office Phone# 507-367-4711
Email: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday 1-4:00 P.M. in Oronoco
Tuesday 8-11:00 a.m. in Zumbrota
Pastor's email: pastorlisaj@gmail.com
Pastor's cell phone: 507-696-8753

**Reminder: Pastor Lisa will be out of the office
March 31—April 6**

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

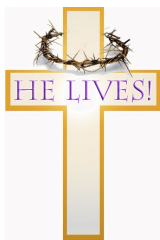


Presbyterian Church of Oronoco
PO Box 118
Oronoco, MN 55960
(507) 367-4711



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

Worship Times for the Month of April 2014



4/6	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
4/13	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
4/17	Maundy Thursday worship at O 7:00 p.m.	
4/18	Good Friday worship at Z 7:00 p.m.	
4/20	Easter Sunday	9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)
4/27	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)

(O) Nursery available during worship for ages 6 weeks –pre-K

Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information
Cell Phone (507) 696-8753 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com