

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

October 2017 Newsletter

## Stewardship 2017

Stewardship is an important facet in the life of the church. It's a chance for us to share the ways that God has gifted us with each other and with the world in new and different ways. Sometimes that involves sharing financially. Sometimes that involves sharing in other way, too – sharing our time, sharing our special talents/interests, sharing our dedication. That is what stewardship is all about: caring for God's church and God's world with responsibility and action.

As our 2017 stewardship campaign nears, there are a few things I'd like you to know about it and some ways that you can help.

\* **Electronic giving reminder** – This congregation doesn't follow the typical stewardship pledge model. However, if you're the kind of person that prefers to take care of your financial obligations electronically, we can help with that! We have the capability to do an electronic pull either once or twice a month for whatever amount you designate. There are yellow forms on the information board in the fellowship room if you're interested in this. Simply fill out the form and return it to our current treasurer, Kay Erdahl. Also, if you've already signed up for electronic giving and would like to alter your amount, fill out the green form and return it to Kay Erdahl as well.

\* **Testimonies** – Our stewardship sermon series is a 5-week series, so I'm looking for at least 5 people who would be willing to share their stewardship testimonies during church – one person per Sunday (though we would love to hear from more than one person, if that ends up being the case!). Your testimony doesn't have to be long – just a few minutes – and it doesn't have to contain specifics. Just share with us why you find it important to give to the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco. If you would be willing to share, please talk to Pastor Lisa.

\* **Giving Tree** – This year, we're going to try something different. We'll be creating a stewardship giving tree, giving people the opportunity to "sponsor" various portions of our budget in addition to your regular giving. There will be small envelopes hanging on the tree, each corresponding with something you can sponsor. For example, you could sponsor one month of our average electric bill. The amount for each of these items will be listed on the outside of the envelope. Simply place your donation in the envelope and either place the envelope in the offering plate or in Kay Erdahl's box.

\* **1% suggestion** – Sometimes people want to start giving, but they aren't really sure how to begin. Or people want to increase their giving but, again, don't really don't know where to start. So let me challenge you with something that is hopefully fairly manageable. The challenge is to increase your monthly giving by 1% of your monthly income. So if your monthly income was \$1500, for example, 1% of that would be \$15. If you were already giving \$75 a month, that would increase it to \$90 a month. If you weren't giving anything regularly in the past, that would be simply giving \$15 a month. If you're unsure of how to start thinking about your stewardship giving, start by considering a 1% increase.

# A Message from Our Pastor



As I sit and look out the window in my office this morning, I see absolutely *perfect* fall weather.

The sun is shining.  
The sky is a stunning shade of blue.  
There are fluffy, white clouds floating by.  
The leaves on the trees are starting to turn.

It is a beautiful fall day.

But as we sit here in the comfort and safety of our Midwestern homes, our brothers and sisters in the south are still hurting, friends.

- Aug. 17-Sept. 3: Hurricane Harvey devastated parts of Mexico as well as southern Texas and Louisiana
- Aug. 30-Sept. 16: Hurricane Irma devastated first the islands in the Caribbean, then the western coast of Florida and up into South Carolina
- Sept. 16-28: Hurricane Maria devastated many islands throughout the Caribbean, taking its greatest toll on the U.S. Virgin Island and Puerto Rico

Friends, I don't use the phrase "devastated" lightly here. All of these hurricanes were huge, raging storms – category 4 and 5 hurricanes (Harvey: 4, Irma & Maria: 5) with sustained winds (*sustained* ... not gusts) of 130-157 mph and rainfall amounts best measured in FEET, not inches. As far as the scope of that devastation, this combination of storms is the 17<sup>th</sup> deadliest in recorded history (going back to 1900) with 103 deaths, though it's unclear whether any of the deaths from Maria have been added to that number. This combination is also the 2<sup>nd</sup> costliest in recorded history, racking up \$200 BILLION dollars in damages so far (again ... it seems to be too soon to add Maria's devastation to that).

We have seen the pictures coming out of Houston, TX; Naples, FL; and most recently, Puerto Rico. There are those who have lost absolutely everything – everything they owned, everything they had worked their whole lives for – gone in a span of a few hours. Currently, the entire island of Puerto Rico

remains without power. The *entire* island! That's nearly 3.5 million people without power. Imagine trying to contact your family ... without any way to do so. Imagine trying to run a hospital after such a dangerous and catastrophic event ... without any electricity to keep your crucial machines up and running. Friends, this is devastation that we cannot even begin to fathom.

So this month, I want to give you some options to help. Here is a list of reputable organizations that are working hard to help people put their lives back together:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: <http://pda.pcusa.org/>
- Hurricane Maria Community Recovery Fund: <http://www.mariafund.org>
- The American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org>

You can also find a full list of legitimate organizations specifically helping Puerto Rico by visiting <http://www.losambulantes.com/help-puerto-rico/>.

*My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity. Someone might claim, "You have faith and I have action." But how can I see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action. ~ James 2:14-18*

*Pastor Gina*

## Coffee & Conversation



On Sept. 10, we launched what we're calling "Coffee & Conversation" 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. Our topic for the first few months is "Shalom: A Biblical Understanding of Peace." It is truly a fascinating look at some of the obvious and some of the not-so-obvious references to God's peace in the Bible. Anyone is welcome – to attend, to lead the discussion, to suggest a new topic of study.

## Pine Haven Birthday Bingo Celebration October 26, 2017, 6:30PM



On **Thurs., Oct. 26 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. (no nuts please). If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Janice Ostrom.

## In Appreciation

Dear Friends at OPC,

Wow! Thank you for your very generous gift towards my trip/move to Edinburgh! I was so overwhelmed and touched by your generosity and support!

I am so grateful for your support and healing presence in my life, especially during such a difficult time. Thank you doesn't quite capture the depth of my feelings—I'm not sure any words could!

I look forward to hosting you when you visit Scotland! Much love—

Cheers,  
Laurene

\*If you would like Laurene's address in Scotland, please contact the church office.

## Kids' Sunday School

We are starting a Sunday school program! Children ages 6-12 are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings after worship from 11:00-11:30a. We'll be exploring God's compassion throughout Scripture with fun lessons and great materials. While the kids are having fun and learning, parents are welcome to join us in the fellowship room for treats and coffee. And a big, GIANT thank you to Karen Peterson-Rucker, Gail Rucker, Mike Rand, Jenny Rand, and Joanne Schenck for volunteering to teach!!

## PCO Word Cloud

Throughout our visioning process over the last few months, I've heard a lot of wonderful descriptions of our congregation, and I'd like to put all of those descriptions to good use! So I'm asking for your help. Throughout Oct., there will be a bulletin insert asking which three words you associate with this congregation. Fill it out and put it on Pastor Lisa's desk. Or, if you can't make it to worship, send them to me via email: [pastorLisaJ@gmail.com](mailto:pastorLisaJ@gmail.com). I will be turning all of these contributions into a word cloud that describes us – something we can use for our website, our Facebook page, and other promotional material. In advance, thank you! 😊

## Door-to-Door Food Shelf Collection



During a recent congregation discussion, we spent some time talking about some of the new ideas/endeavors that we'd like to tackle. The first one that came up was a door-to-door Food Shelf collection in Oronoco. This would entail groups of us going door-to-door throughout different parts of Oronoco on a specific day and asking people for Food Shelf donations – whatever they might have in their cupboard that they might be willing to part with. As we're doing this, we're also looking to spread the word about who we are as a congregation, handing out some basic informational cards with our contact information, worship time, and upcoming events. Kim Stanton, Mike Rand, and Jenny Rand have volunteered to head up this new endeavor (thanks, y'all!!), so if you're interested, please contact one of them. And be on the lookout for a date so we can head out and pound the pavement together.

## Pastor Out of the Office

Pastor Lisa will be out of the office Tues., Oct. 17-Sat., Oct. 21.

## Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery meeting is **Mon., Nov. 6 at 4:00 p.m.** at Presbyterian Church of the Way in Shoreview. As always, Presbytery meetings are open to anyone. If you're interested in coming, please contact Pastor Lisa.

## Peace and Global Witness Offering (World Communion Sunday) October 1, 2017

We make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October (10/1/17). The Peace and Global Witness 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 Peace and Global Witness 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.

## Border Battle Sunday



Cue the NFL theme song!

Border Battle Sunday is coming!! Every year, we enjoy a little fun in dressing to support our respective teams when the Green Bay Packers play the Minnesota Vikings. This year, we're kicking it up a notch! On Sun., Oct. 15, plan to wear your team colors to worship. After church, we'll do some tailgating together in the fellowship area, so bring your favorite pre-game snack to share! As the noon kickoff approaches, you're invited to head over to Mike and Jenny Rand's house so we can watch the game together.

But that's not all! In the weeks leading up to Oct. 15, we will be having a little border battle of our own.

There are two bins in the fellowship area – one marked with a Packers' helmet, the other marked with a Vikings' helmet. In those 2 bins, we will be collecting donation items for the Food Shelf. Put your donations in the bin for your favorite team, and after worship on Oct. 15, we will weigh the items for each team. Whichever team brings in the LEAST donations will be responsible for providing treats after worship the following Sun. – Oct. 22.

Are you game??

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, you can either check out the Mission Connect newsletter on the information board at church or 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 a 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.

## October Casserole Luncheon Wednesday, October 18, 2017 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.



We will serve a variety of casseroles, salads and desserts. All are welcome to join us and your free will offering will support our outreach programs. Check the sign up sheet on the fellowship room bulletin board and sign up to help by preparing food, setting up, serving or cleaning up after. It's a fun time serving members of our community and others who come for good food and conversation.



## Wine & Painting Fundraiser



We will be hosting a wonderful afternoon of painting, refreshments, and fellowship! We will be joined by Nicki Novotne from Art on the Go in Rochester ([www.artonthegorochester.com](http://www.artonthegorochester.com)). There will be painting (all materials provided)! There will be delicious treats! There will be gourmet coffee and wine! And all the funds raised will go toward Vacation Bible School!

When: **Sat., Nov. 11, 1:00-3:30 p.m.**

Where: **Presbyterian Church of Oronoco**

Cost: **\$35** per person (\$10 required at registration, \$25 required the day of the event)

Pre-registration for this event IS REQUIRED, and space is limited to 30 seats. So sign up soon! To register, go to the Art on the Go website, click on "Calendar," then find Nov. 2017 and click on "Vacation Bible School."

We've also created a Facebook event ("Wine & Painting Fundraiser" found on the church's Facebook page) that you can share with others.

**\*\*Responding as "Going" to the Facebook event doesn't sign you up for a seat. You must register through the Art on the Go website to reserve your seat.\*\***

## Treats After Church

Everyone loves hanging out after worship with coffee or juice and a tasty treat, right? So let's do it *every Sunday*! We're looking for people willing to bring after worship treats. They can be as simple or as fancy as you like. The coffee is here, but you may want to consider bringing juice for all of our beloved non-coffee drinkers. If you (or you and a group of others) are interested, please put your names on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We've currently got the months of Oct.-Dec. listed, and as of today, most of Oct. is covered but Nov. and Dec. are wide open. Thanks!

## 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 cannot 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.

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

## Advent readers

Believe it or not, Advent is just around the corner. The first Sunday of Advent is Sun., Nov. 26! If you're interested in being one of our advent readers/candle lighters, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Pastor Lisa will get the readings to you as soon as she can. **\*\*NOTE: This year, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent happens to fall on Dec. 24, so we will need a reader/readers for the morning worship service as well as a reader/readers for the Christmas Eve service in the evening.\*\***

## Food Shelf Sunday is Oct. 1

The Food shelf is collecting the 1st Sunday every month. All members are invited to bring non-perishable food items on that Sunday. Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you for your generosity!!

## Readings for the Month of October



Sun., Oct. 1 – Psalm 42; Hebrews 6:9-20

### **The Uncomfortableness of Faith, #4**

Sun., Oct. 8 – Genesis 32:22-32; Acts 10:9-23

### **The Uncomfortableness of Faith, #5**

Sun., Oct. 15 – Exodus 3:1-15; 1 John 2:24-3:3

### **The Uncomfortableness of Faith, #6**

Sun., Oct. 22 – Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 20:1-16

Sun., Oct. 29 – Exodus 17:1-7; Philippians 2:1-13

### **Enemies of Gratitude #1**

## **Fall Sermon Series #1: The Uncomfortableness of Faith**

It is no secret or surprise that as a congregation, we are in a place of transition and growth. Places like that can be incredible blessings, but they can also be incredibly uncomfortable. So throughout the first part of the fall, we're going to be tackling a 6-week sermon series on the uncomfortableness of faith – on how we are sometimes called to inhabit and live into those uncomfortable places and how we can best support and encourage each other in the midst of that uncomfortableness. I hope that you can join us week after week!

## **Fall Sermon Series #2: Enemies of Gratitude**

Stewardship season is around the corner – a chance for us to talk about how and why we contribute to this beloved little white church on the hill. You'll find more information about our 2017 stewardship plans in this newsletter, but from the pulpit, we will be addressing the idea of giving from the standpoint of gratitude. How do we express our gratitude through our giving? What stumbling blocks get in the way of our gratitude and hinder our giving? How can recognizing the blessings in front of us inspire our giving?



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"I just love the way Dexter says 'Hallelujah!' "

## **IN THE COMMUNITY**

### **Harvest Home Dinner, Bazaar and Silent Auction Pine Island United Methodist Church Saturday, October 7th. 4:00-7:00pm.**

The menu includes Roast Turkey with Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Pickles, Cranberries, Fresh rolls & Beverage, Apple, Pumpkin or Mincemeat Pie.

**Ticket prices:** Adults (11+): \$13.00, Children (ages 5-10): \$5.00, Children under 5: free.

### **Pine Island Area Home Services FUNDRAISER DINNER**

Broasted Chicken—2 piece or Ribeye steak  
baked potato, salad, roll & dessert

**\$13.00/plate**

**Friday, October 6th, 5-7:00pm**

**Pine Island American Legion Hall**

### **October Birthdays**

10/8 Ted Midthun

10/10 Keanan Peterson-Rucker

10/28 Ellen Simon



### **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 in Oronoco 10:00am 3:00pm  
Thursdays in Oronoco 10:00am—3:00pm

Office Phone # 1-507-367-4711  
Email: [oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)

### **In Our Prayers**

*The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
And His ears are open to their cry...  
The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears,  
And delivers them out of all their troubles.*  
Psalm 34:15,17

Karen Vallejo, Eunice Markham, Joan Swarthout



Presbyterian Church of Oronoco  
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Oronoco, MN 55960  
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**Check out our websites at  
[www.oronocochurch.org](http://www.oronocochurch.org)**

**Worship is held at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday.  
Communion is on the first Sunday of each month.  
Coffee & Conversation 9:00-9:45  
Sunday School for ages 6-12 11:00-11:30 a.m.**



**Reverend Lisa Johnson - Contact Information**  
**Cell Phone 1-507-995-7310    Email address: [pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com)**