

# Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

## Next Session Meeting

Wednesday April 3.

6:30 p.m.

## Next Session Meeting

Tuesday, May 14

4:00 p.m.

Wilf Family Center– U of M Medical  
Center, Masonic Children's Hospital

## April Scripture readings:

Sunday, April 7 –

John 12:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29

**4<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Lent, God on the Move #4**

Sunday, April 14 –

*Journey to the Cross service*

**Palm Sunday, God on the Move #5**

Thursday, April 18 –

*Maundy Thursday service @ 6:00 p.m.*

Friday, April. 19 –

*Good Friday service @ 7:00 p.m.*

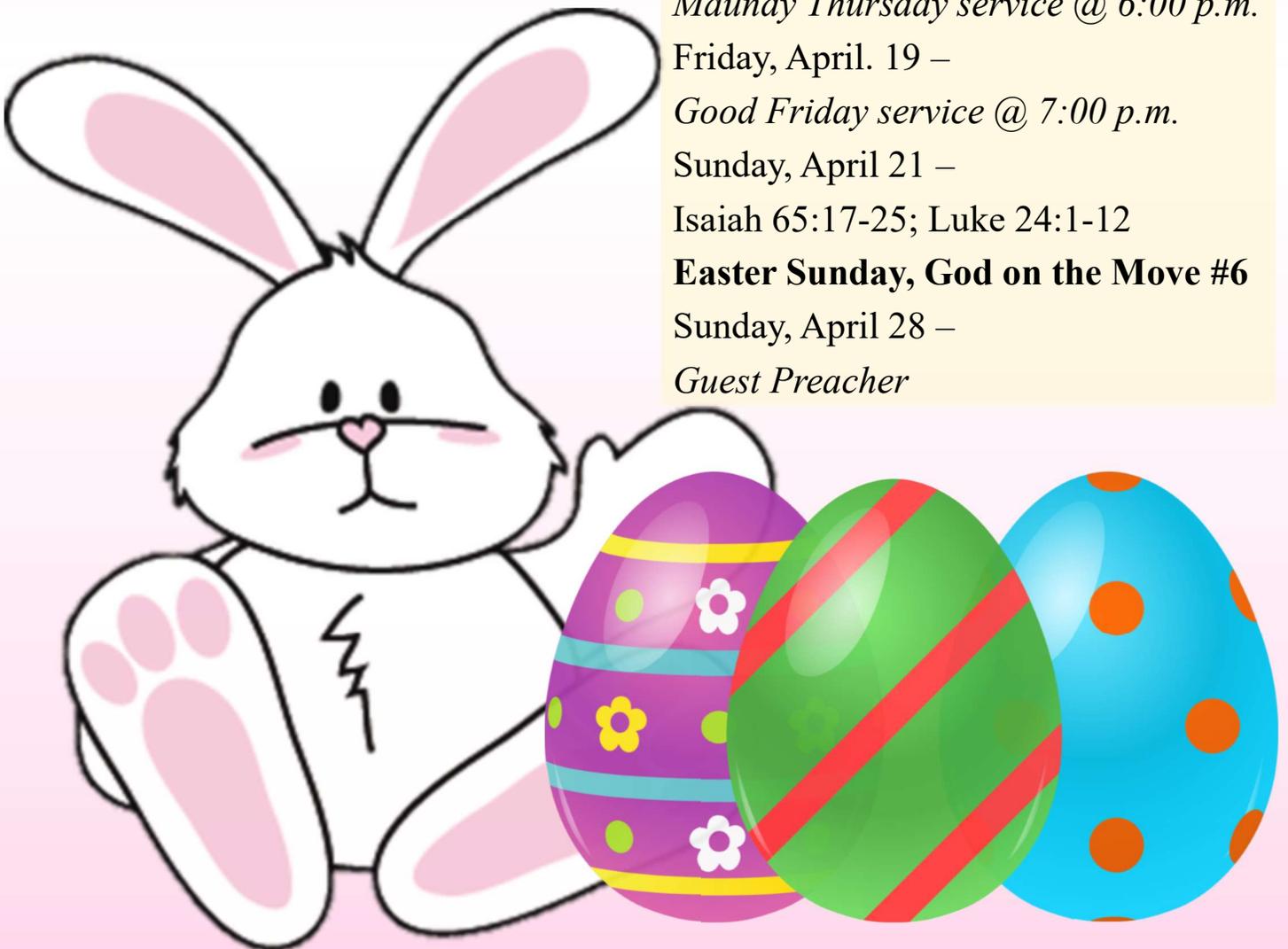
Sunday, April 21 –

Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 24:1-12

**Easter Sunday, God on the Move #6**

Sunday, April 28 –

*Guest Preacher*





## From the Pastor...



*Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"*

– Luke 24:1-5

So begins Luke's account of Jesus' resurrection. Like most of the other stories of Jesus' life, each of the different gospels portray that first Easter morning in a different way. They each include their own nuances – their own takes on what Jesus said and did, who saw the resurrected Christ first, and where he went after that first appearance at the tomb.

Luke's version is fairly straightforward but includes this one, odd little question asked by the two strangers that the women find in the tomb. Traditionally, the text, which describes these men as wearing "gleaming bright clothing," are understood to be angels. But believe it or not, that's not the odd part that I'm talking about. After all, one or two angels show up in Matthew's and Mark's gospels as well.

The odd part of Luke's tale? The question:

*"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"*

When you think about it, it's more of a statement than a question. It's a statement about the miracle of that first Easter – the resurrection of Christ.

It lets the women know that Jesus is, in fact, alive. “*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*” It reassures the women that Jesus’ still-lifeless body hasn’t simply been moved or stolen away in the night.

But this statement is about more than just a news flash. It’s a statement about expectation. Remember that throughout Luke’s gospel, Jesus tries to tell the disciples time and time again that they are going to Jerusalem so he can be handed over to the authorities, crucified, and raised again on the third day. At least three times, Jesus tries to explicitly explain this, and yet the women show up at the tomb three days after Jesus’ death expecting to find a still-dead Messiah. Despite Jesus’ words, they expected life as usual ... death as usual.

But God is anything but “as usual.”

God is a God of unusualities. God is a God of resurrections and empty tombs. God is a God of miracles and unpredictability and shattered expectations. Then. Today. Always. I think sometimes, even though we say we celebrate the resurrection on Easter morning, we forget just how earth-shattering that claim really is. Like those women, we go through our days expecting the usual ... the expected ... the safe ... the mundane. And yet to declare ourselves Christians – to declare ourselves followers of Christ, Easter people, people of the resurrection – we are declaring ourselves people of the radically unusual and miraculously extraordinary.

So what can you do today to live like your expectations *aren’t* holding you back?

Pastor Lisa

## Holy Week Schedule

### *Palm Sunday*

Sunday, April 14, 2019

10:00 a.m. worship

### *Maundy Thursday*

Soup & Bread Supper

Worship Around the Table

Thursday, April 18, 2019

6:00 p.m.

### *Good Friday Tenebrae Service*

A Service of Darkness and Shadow

Friday, April 19, 2019

7:30 p.m.

### *Easter Sunday*

Sunday, April 21, 2019

10:00 a.m. worship with communion

Sermon: "God Moves ... Out of the Tomb"

## All Around the Campfire



We had so much fun with our campfire gatherings last summer that we're at it again this summer! Once

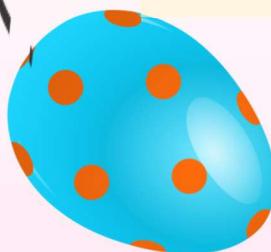
Sunday a month, we'll be gathering in the evening on the church lawn. There will be a campfire. There will be lawn games. There will be s'mores. This is a chance for us to spend some fun, relaxed, un-structured time together, and to invite people who may not be as comfortable coming through the church doors for the first time. Bring your neighbors and friends. Bring kids. Let's have fun!

-June 23: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

-July 28: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

-August 25: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

-September 22: 5:30-8:00 p.m.



## Summer Fun Nights

This summer, instead of trying to organize a vacation Bible school for one particular week and hoping it's a week that works out for everyone, we're going to try something different. We're going to host a weekly summer fun night open for everyone – ages 9 months to 99 years! These weekly summer fun nights will include an activity, a snack, and a take-home devotional. *If you're interested in helping plan these summer fun nights, please talk to Pastor Lisa.*

## **Pastor Out of The Office**

Pastor Lisa will be out of the office on Monday, April 22 through Thursday, April 25. Feel free to call her cell phone if there is a pastoral emergency.



## **Lenten Readers**

During Advent, we light one candle a week to signify the coming of the light of Christ into the world. During Lent, as we draw closer to the cross and the crucifixion of that same Christ, the light dims. So, throughout our Lenten worship services, we will be participating in a “backwards Advent wreath” of sorts. There will be a short reading, a few verses of Scripture, the extinguishing of one candle per week, and a prayer. On Easter morning, there will be a final reading that will include the relighting of all the candles.

## **Maundy Thursday Service Around The Table**

Maundy Thursday is the special service during Holy Week when we remember the last time Jesus sat down to supper with his friends before he was arrested. This Last Supper wasn't in a large, open, communal setting but in a small, intimate space – an upper room of someone's home, a space not so unlike our warm, intimate fellowship space.

In the spirit of this Holy Supper, we'll be joining together for a meal and worship around our tables over a simple dinner of soup and bread. Food will be provided. All you need to bring is yourself. Part of that worship together will be celebrating communion – the Lord's Supper – in the intimate settings of our tables together.

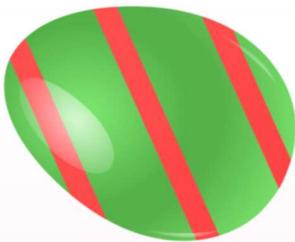
This service will be held on **Thursday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m.**

## **Sunday, April 28– Special Guest Preacher**

We will be hosting a guest preacher for a neutral pulpit. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), part of the candidating process for churches seeking pastors and pastors seeking new calls is preaching in a neutral pulpit – a congregation that is neither the pastor's regular congregation nor the congregation that is seeking to call that pastor. For the neutral pulpit sermon, only the pastor nominating committee of the congregation seeking a new pastor attends to hear their candidate preach. We will be that neutral pulpit location for a local candidate on Sunday April 28. Pastor Lisa will still be here participating in the service, but another pastor will be preaching.

## **Good Friday Readers**

We need two people who are willing to help with the readings on Good Friday. As in the past, we will be taking turns reading portions of the story of the last days and hours of Christ's life up to the crucifixion. We can get you the readings as soon as you let me know. If you can, please contact Pastor Lisa.



## **Seeking a Deacon**

We currently have four deacons serving our congregation – Ellen Simon, Jenny Rand, Karen Peterson-Rucker, and Gail Rucker. While this is within the parameters of our by-laws, we would certainly welcome one or two more people willing to serve as deacons. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), deacons are ministers of presence and compassion. In our particular congregation, the greatest role of the deacons is to help prepare and serve communion on the first Sunday of every month as well as special occasions (Christmas Eve, Easter, etc.) as well as helping serve at funeral luncheons when needed. In order to serve as a deacon, you do have to be a member of the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco. If you feel called to serve as a deacon or have questions about what it may be like to serve, please talk to one of the current deacons or Pastor Lisa. Thank you.

# 2019 Lenten Photo Challenge

Post to Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using #PCOLentPhoto

## April

1	something old	15	have
2	refuge	16	dream
3	guide	17	serve
4	blessing	18	celebrate
5	seek	19	sorrow
6	grief	20	silence
7	something humble		
8	people		
9	glorify		
10	alone		
11	hand		
12	curiosity		
13	something new		
14	vulnerability		

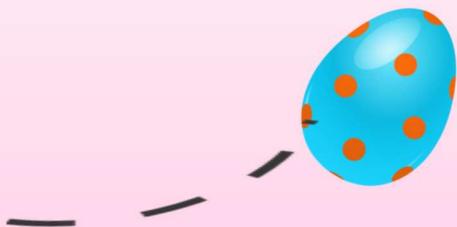
Easter  
bonus:  
embrace

For the last few years, throughout Lent, we have done a Photo Challenge. We assigned a word to each day of Lent– Something to get us thinking and praying and digging deeper into our faith in some way. Sometime throughout the day, you take a picture that makes you think of that word. For example, if the word was “Light,” you could take a picture of a candle or the sun rays of the smile of a friend (as it LIGHTS up your day), etc.

Once you have your picture, there are two ways to participate. First, you can take a picture and post it to Facebook,

Twitter, and/or Instagram. Include the word of the day with your post as well as #PCOLentPhoto so we can all find each other’s photos. But if social media is not your forte, you can still participate. Take the pictures with your phone or your regular camera and keep track of which pictures go with which words. You can either share them with others on Sunday morning during fellowship, or if you want, get them to Pastor Lisa and she can post them on the church’s Facebook page for you (either credited to you or anonymously, whichever you choose).

In advance, thank you!

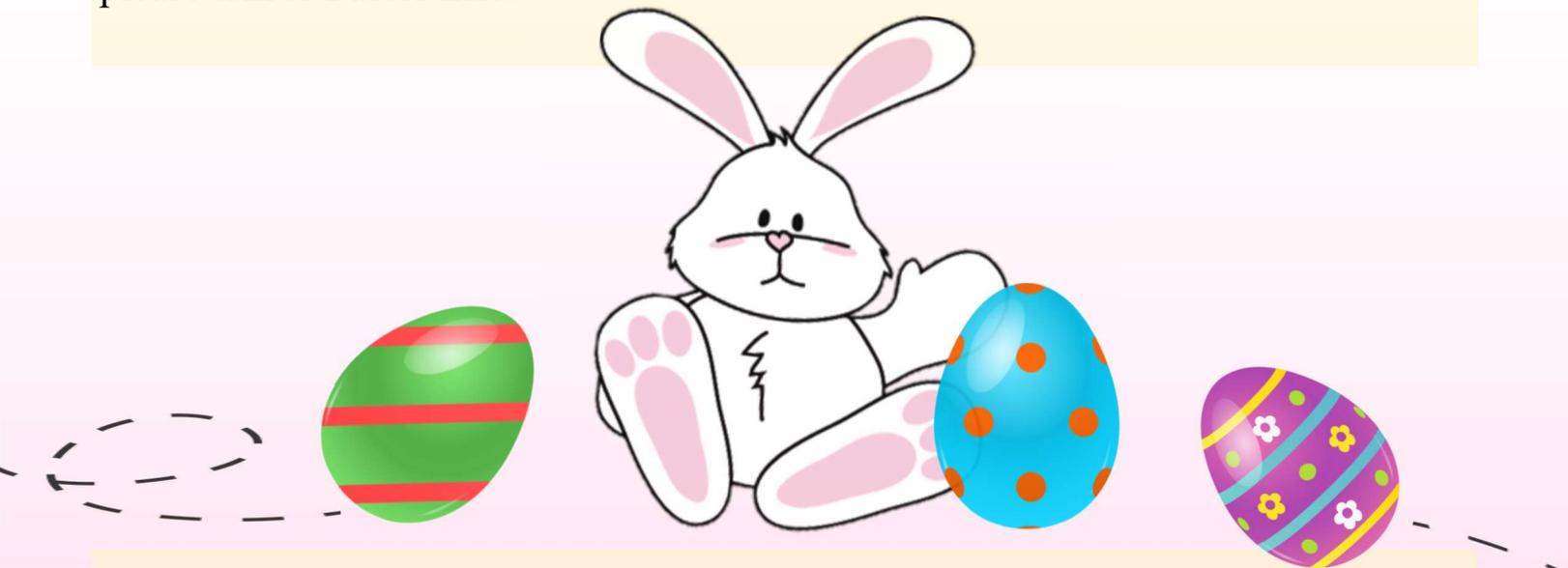


## **Lent Sermon Series- “God on The Move”**

The four Gospels tell different stories about Jesus – different encounters, different experiences, different relationships. But throughout all those different stories, there is one commonality that cannot be denied: Jesus MOVES. Jesus never stays in one place for long. He and the disciples are always going from one place to the next. “He also moved through every part of the human experience, encountering everything from temptation, to joy, to suffering and even death” (Reverend Jessica LaGrone). And God continues to move through our lives – leading us, inspiring us, protecting us, and shaking us up. So, as we journey through Lent, we’re also going to be journeying with Jesus – through the movements of the gospel, through the movement of faith, and through the movement of the Holy Spirit.

## **150th Anniversary**

The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco is turning **150 THIS YEAR!** That’s pretty amazing, friends! And the bonus is that the actual date of our anniversary– June 30th– just happens to be a Sunday this year. So, we want to CELEBRATE! The session will certainly be talking about this in the months to come, but if you have any ideas for ways to celebrate or would like to be a part of the planning for that, please talk to Pastor Lisa.



## **Directory**

We are in the final stages of putting together our 2019 Directory. There is a sample copy on the table in the fellowship room. Please take a look at your entry in that copy to make sure all the information is accurate and there is a picture. If you need to make any changes, you can either write them in the sample copy or email those changes to Bri ([oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)).

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

**April 2019**  
**Lisa Johnson, Pastor**  
**507-995-7310**  
**Email: [pastorlisaaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaaj@gmail.com)**

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Session Meeting 6:30-8:30m p.m.	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> Yvlien Middhun's Birthday	<b>6</b> Linda Sorensen's Birthday
<b>7</b> Worship 10 a.m.	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> David Middhun's Birthday Food Shelf 5:00-7:00 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship 10 a.m. Confirmation 11:30 a.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Will Middhun's Birthday	<b>17</b> Julia Johnson's Birthday	<b>18</b> Service Around the Table 6:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Good Friday Tennebrae Service 7:00-8:00 p.m.	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Easter Worship 10 a.m.	<b>22</b> Brian Luhman's Birthday	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Carlyle & Katha Johnson's Anniversary Food Shelf 5:00-7:00 p.m.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 
<b>28</b> Guest Preacher Worship 10 a.m. Confirmation 11:30 a.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 				

**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—1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month**

**Fellowship hour following worship**

**Sunday School—2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays**

**Rev. Lisa Johnson—contact information:**

Cell: 507-995-7310

Email: [PastorLisaJ@gmail.com](mailto:PastorLisaJ@gmail.com)

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