

# Presbyterian Church

## of Oronoco

In like a lion...

### Next Presbytery Meeting

Saturday, March 21 9:00 a.m.  
Valley Community Presbyterian  
Church, Golden Valley, MN

### Next Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 3 6:30 p.m.

### March Scripture

#### Readings

Sunday March 1— Mark 10:17-31

#### **1st Sunday in Lent**

Sunday March 8—Mark 10:32-52

#### **2nd Sunday in Lent**

Sunday March 15—Mark 12:1-12

#### **3rd Sunday in Lent**

Sunday March 22—Mark 12:28-44

#### **4th Sunday in Lent**

Sunday March 29—Mark 13:1-8 24-37

#### **5th Sunday in Lent**



Out like a lamb...

## From the Pastor

*Today a mighty river of the Spirit is bursting forth from the hearts of women and men, boys and girls. It is a deep river of divine intimacy, a powerful river of holy living, a dancing river of jubilation in the Spirit, and a broad river of unconditional love for all peoples. ... God is bringing together a mighty “Mississippi of the Spirit.” ... If we want to see this river of life in its most complete form, it is to Jesus that we must turn. – Richard J. Foster, from *Streams of Living Water*, pp. xv, xvi*

So begins *Streams of Living Water: Essential Practices from the Six Great Traditions of the Christian Faith*, what has definitely become a seminal work in the realm of Christian spiritual theory and practice. Foster digs deeply into six long-standing and well-established traditions of spiritual practice in the life of the Church: the contemplative tradition, the holiness tradition, the charismatic tradition, the social justice tradition, the evangelical tradition, and the incarnational tradition. And each tradition has a particular subheading – a “life designation,” if you will:

The Contemplative Tradition	Discovering the Prayer-Filled Life
The Holiness Tradition	Discovering the Virtuous Life
The Charismatic Tradition	Discovering the Spirit-Empowered Life
The Social Justice Tradition	Discovering the Compassionate Life
The Evangelical Tradition	Discovering the World-Centered Life
The Incarnational Tradition	Discovering the Sacramental Life

For each tradition, Foster gives three examples of great practitioners of the faith: a historic example, a Biblical example, and a contemporary example. He uses the lives lived and faith embodied by these people to both teach and inspire others in the ways of these different spiritual practices. While the actual practices and event theologies of these practitioners differ, the purpose of all their work and devotion remains the same: to follow their individual streams of practice back to the source of all our Living Water – Jesus, the Christ.

*While reading *Streams of Living Water* for my doctorate work this past month, this idea of different streams leading us back to the same Christ has been rattling around and around in my brain and in my spirit. I mean, really – that’s the point of the work that I’m doing on my doctorate. And that’s the point of what we try to do in the church. We try to find our way up the stream and back to Christ, and we try to help one another find our way as well.*

But we all find our way and our stream a little differently.

In that vein, there are three different options for devotional material that you could use to supplement your own spiritual practices throughout Lent:

- **Prayer bags:** We assembled these during worship on Ash Wednesday, but if you weren’t able to make it to that service, fear not. There are nine extra bags, and you’re welcome to take one home. Each bag includes seven different items for contemplation and reflection. Accompanying each item is a card that includes a short Scripture reading, reflection questions, and a prayer. This is a very tactile form of prayer.
- **Photo Challenge:** This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year we’ve done a Lenten Photo Challenge. Each day during Lent has been assigned a word or a very short phrase. Throughout the day, keep that word or phrase in mind, and sometime during the day, take a picture (either with your own camera or find one online) that illustrates how God is speaking that word to you. It’s a simple but powerful way to keep your faith and your walk with God present at the front of your mind all day long. You can find the word list on the website, on our Facebook page, or get it from Pastor Lisa. This is a very visual form of prayer.
- **PaRDeS:** This is a booklet that you will receive in the bulletin every Sunday throughout Lent. The Scripture for each booklet will be the text that we read in church that Sunday with a specific verse highlighted for each individual day of the week. There are four phases to PaRDeS study, each phase leading you deeper and deeper into the meaning and spirituality of the text. The front page of each booklet gives a description of the various phases of PaRDeS, but there’s a more in-depth description in this newsletter, too. This is a Scripture-centric form of prayer.

However you choose to delve into your spiritual practice this Lent – whether it’s one of the ways listed above or some other way that you’ve found meaningful – I pray that God unleashes a mighty Mississippi of the Spirit in your heart and soul as you journey through Lent with Christ this year.

*Jesus stood up and shouted,  
“All who are thirsty should come to me!  
All who believe in me should drink!  
As the scriptures said concerning me,  
Rivers of living water will flow out from within him.”  
-John 7:37-38*

*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
- Pastor Lisa will contact KAAL, KTTC, KIMT, and Fox 47 to put the cancellation on to local “Closings and Delays” lists as well.

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.

## Church Instagram Account

In an attempt to make it easier for all of us to share pictures of church activities and events, we’ve created a Presbyterian Church of Oronoco Instagram account:

**@oronocochurch**

Feel free to either tag the church account in your own postings or, if you aren’t on Instagram and have pictures you’d like to share, email or text them to Pastor Lisa and she’ll post them. And remember to follow our account so you can keep up with all our fun and hijinks!



**Follow us on  
Instagram**

## Lenten Photo Challenge

We're doing it again – our Lenten Photo Challenge. Each day of Lent is assigned a different word – something to get us thinking and praying and digging deeper into our faith in some way. Sometime throughout the day, 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 or the smile of a friend (as it LIGHTS up your day), etc.

There are copies of this year's word list in this newsletter. Lent doesn't begin until There will also be copies of the word list at church, on the website, and on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

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 and enjoy each other's photos. If social media is not your forte, you can still participate. Take 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).

## 2020 Lenten Photo Challenge

Post to Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram using  
**#PCOLentPhoto**

Feb. 26: **solemn**  
Feb. 27: **think**  
Feb. 28: **repent**  
Feb. 29: **meditate**  
Mar. 1: **possible**  
Mar. 2: **lift**  
Mar. 3: **steadfast**  
Mar. 4: **shelter**  
Mar. 5: **Failure**  
Mar. 6: **success**  
Mar. 7: **grow**  
Mar. 8: **examine**  
Mar. 9: **mercy**  
Mar. 10: **Flexibility**  
Mar. 11: **wise**  
Mar. 12: **brokenness**  
Mar. 13: **Freedom**

Mar. 14: **honesty**  
Mar. 15: **something transformed**  
Mar. 16: **Feel**  
Mar. 17: **treasure**  
Mar. 18: **prophet**  
Mar. 19: **endure**  
Mar. 20: **discipline**  
Mar. 21: **place**  
Mar. 22: **charity**  
Mar. 23: **stop**  
Mar. 24: **beauty**  
Mar. 25: **Forgive/ness**  
Mar. 26: **lead**  
Mar. 27: **wilderness**  
Mar. 28: **mighty**  
Mar. 29: **burden**

Mar. 30: **virtue**  
Mar. 31: **Fast**  
Apr. 1: **poor**  
Apr. 2: **knowledge**  
Apr. 3: **truth**  
Apr. 4: **waste**  
Apr. 5: **power**  
Apr. 6: **alive**  
Apr. 7: **transcend**  
Apr. 8: **direct**  
Apr. 9: **cup**  
Apr. 10: **stone**  
Apr. 11: **fear**

*Easter bonus: go*

## Lenten Spiritual Practice— PaRDes

Throughout Lent, I'm going to be giving you a new spiritual practice to try – a new way to interact with Scripture and dig a little deeper. It's a practice called *pardes* (pronounced *par-dais*'), and it comes from Judaism.

The word “*pardes*” is actually an acronym layered with a secondary meaning. It stands for four different layers of Scriptural interpretation: *P'shat, Remez, D'rash, and Sud – PRDS*. When you add vowels to this acronym, making it *PaRDes*, you also get the Hebrew word for “garden” or “orchard,” the fruits of which produce layer upon layer of enjoyment and nourishment. For the spiritual practice, each layer of interpretation is meant to bring us deeper into the text – to reveal new ways of thinking and praying and challenging ourselves through potentially familiar passages. You begin with the simple, obvious, intended meaning of the text and work your way down through the layers until you end up listening for God to reveal the hidden, mystic meaning to you.

Every Sunday in Lent, there will be an insert for the week that includes the Scripture passage that we read during worship and some guides to help you dig deeper into that passage using the practice of *pardes* with a single verse every day of the week. (If you miss a Sunday but would like the week's *pardes* guide, Pastor Lisa would be happy to email it to you.) It is my hope that this practice will give you a chance to explore God's word in ways that unexpected and meaningful and reflective during this season of self-examination and repentance.

Here are the basics of *pardes*:

- **P'shat** (pronounced *peh-shaht*): plain, simple meaning of the text – the shorter story/parable in which its located, the larger context, the movement of the people and the context/setting in which the verse is found, etc.
- **Remez** (pronounced *reh-mez*): the “hint” – What's implied by the text? What is it alluding to? For example, Proverbs 20:10 says, “Different weights, and different measures, both of them are like an abomination to the Lord.” The *remez* – the implication – has to do with fairness and honesty.
- **D'rash** (pronounced *deh-rahsh*): the teaching or interpretive meaning (or one could say the sermon!) – this takes the simple meaning and the hint and builds on them. One way to follow the *d'rash* is to consider other places (in the larger passage ... in the chapter ... in the gospel ... in the whole New Testament or even all of Scripture) in which a particular word or short phrase from the verse is repeated.

## Lenten Spiritual Practice— PaRDes Continued

- **Sud** (pronounced *sawd* or *sood* [like “wood”]): *the hidden, secret, mystic meaning – This one is tricky. It may come to you easily. It may not come to you at all. It may come as a flash and disappear just as quickly. As you’re contemplating what the sud could be, use this time to sit in silence with God and with the text.*

## Needs for Dorothy Day House

We recently received a newsletter from the Dorothy Day House, and in it was a list of donations that they need. At our People of the Church meeting after church on Feb. 23, we agreed to put a box in the fellowship room and gather some of those donation items. Here’s the list of needs:

- Prayers
- Monetary donations
- Gift cards
- Paper supplies: toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, facial tissues, etc.
- Laundry soap
- Bleach
- Dish soap
- Dry cereal
- Dry coffee creamer
- Personal care items: small deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, chap stick
- Men’s and women’s underwear
- Warm hats and gloves
- Sweatpants and sweatshirts of all sizes
- New pillows
- Backpacks

There is also a note that they *cannot accept used clothing items.*

## 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.

So I’m looking for individuals or families willing to help with those readings. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and an envelope hanging under the sign-up sheet that contains all the readings. If you’d prefer an electronic copy of the reading, let me know, and I’d be happy to email it to you.

## Update from Revs. Shelvis and 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, please go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/shelvis-and-nancy-smith-mather/>. **Shelvis has also recently begun research with Oxford University's School of Anthropology and Theology as well as Africa Studies Centre.** In the top right portion of the screen you will find a box with 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.



## 150th Anniversary

The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco is turning **150 this year!!!** That’s pretty amazing, friends! 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 part of the planning for that, please talk to Pastor Lisa.

## Church Video

We'd like to put together a church video for our website – something fun and interactive that lets people know what so many of us love about this church in your own voices. So I invite you to start thinking about the answer to one or more of these questions:

- **What do you love about the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco?**
- **How would you describe this church to someone who's never been here before?**
- **How do you feel when you're at church, either for worship or some other church event?**
- **What do you wish people knew about the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco?**
- **What are three words that describe this church for you? Why?**



In the coming months, I'll be looking to record you and your answers. We'd like to use various locations around the church. We'd love to get lots of different voices. The recordings can be done as individuals or in small groups (no more than three people per group). Of course, we won't be forcing anyone to share for the video, but we're hoping you'll volunteer!

## 2020 Luncheons

There's JUST ONE LUNCHEON LEFT! Here's the date:

**Wednesday, March 18**

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Next up: casserole and salads. YUM!!



## HyVee “Bags4YourCause” Fundraiser

The Oronoco Food Shelf has been chosen as the March recipient for donations from HyVee’s Bags4YourCause fundraiser. Throughout the month of March, if you buy one of the special reusable shopping bags at the **West Circle Dr. HyVee**, \$1 of each bag purchase will come to the Oronoco Food Shelf. If the West Circle Dr. HyVee isn’t your HyVee of choice, you *can purchase the reusable bags at the other HyVee stores in Rochester and fill out the tag that comes with it to ensure that your donation makes it to the Oronoco Food Shelf.*



## Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

For more than 30 years, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches has partnered with local food shelves to bring food to those in need in communities throughout the state. The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together hundreds of companies, civic groups, schools and congregations to help keep 300+ food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. This grassroots campaign is our most enduring program. Schools, business, restaurants, congregations and stores are invited to participate in specified action weeks in March, so we will be joining in “A Different Kind of Food Fight” (this year’s campaign) by signing up your group or organization and join the fight against hunger here!

Throughout March, we will be collecting food donations and funds for the Oronoco Food Shelf. At the end of the month, we will total up our donations in dollars and pounds and report it to the Minnesota FoodShare organization, joining our efforts with those of other businesses, schools, and organizations around the state. You can designate any special offering during the month of March for this purpose by writing “March Campaign” in the memo line of your check or by using one of the small manilla offering envelopes and writing “March Campaign” on the outside of the envelope.

Also as part of this campaign, we will be participating in **Pack the Pews** event. The goal is to literally pack the church pews with as many donations – food and financial – as possible. Everything raised stays right here in Oronoco! Keep your ears open for a specific Pack the Pews date, but feel free to bring your donations in throughout March.

## Lenten Joke

Sometimes we just need a little levity, right? Enjoy ...

*Olie moved into a new neighborhood just as Lent was beginning. What Olie didn't know was that everyone in the neighborhood was catholic. That wasn't a problem until Friday night when Olie always grilled a deer steak and the delicious aroma drove his catholic neighbors crazy. When they could not stand it any longer they talked to their priest to see if he could stop Olie from grilling the deer steaks on Friday nights. After a long talk Ollie decides to join the catholic church.*

*The priest held a special service for Olie to join the church. He took a bowl of holy water and sprinkled the water on Olie three times saying: "You were born a Lutheran, You were raised a Lutheran. You are now a Catholic."*

*When Friday came around again the catholic neighbors were surprised to smell the delicious aroma of deer steak being grilled again. They immediately call the priest and ask him to talk to Olie again. The priest immediately went to Olie's house and found him by the grill. He watched as Ollie took a bowl of water and three times sprinkled water on the steak saying: "You were born a deer, You were raised a deer, You are now a fish."*

## Synod School 2020

It's that time again! Synod School registration for 2020 opens **Monday, March 2**. This year's theme is "What Shall We Tell Them?" from Psalm 78:4: "We will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of God, and God's might, and the wonders that God has done." Convocation speaker Rev. Dr. Mark Davis, and worship leaders will be Rev. Mary Koon (morning worship) and Rev. Casey Wait (evening worship). You could take classes in everything from pickleball and folk dancing to Tunisian crocheting and tie dye to climate change and encountering racism discussions through children's literature (Pastor Lisa's teaching that one!) to studying 1 John or exploring the Old Testament. There are 81 different classes to choose from in all!

For more information, visit the Synod School website:  
<https://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool>. If you're curious about Synod School, please talk to Pastor Lisa.





PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF ORONOCO  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 10 a.m. Carlyle Johnson's Birthday	2 	3 Lance Sorensen's Birthday	4 Geoff Warner's Birthday	5	6	7 
8 Worship 10 a.m. Confirmation 11:30	9 Deb Nelson's Birthday	10	11 Food Shelf 5:00 Dick & Janice Ostrom's Anniversary	12 	13 Mark Pinney's Birthday	14
15 Worship 10 a.m.	16	17 	18 Luncheon 11:30	19 Eunice Markham and Ron Peterson- Rucker's Birthday	20 	21
22 Worship 10 a.m. Confirmation 11:30	23	24 Kim Stanton's Birthday	25 Food Shelf 5:00	26	27 Joyce Rucker's Birthday	28 
29 Worship 10 a.m.	30 	31				