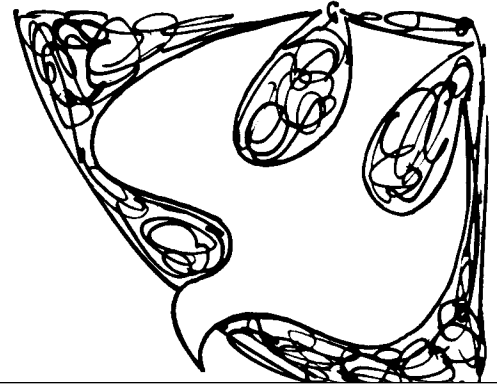


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

February 2017 Newsletter

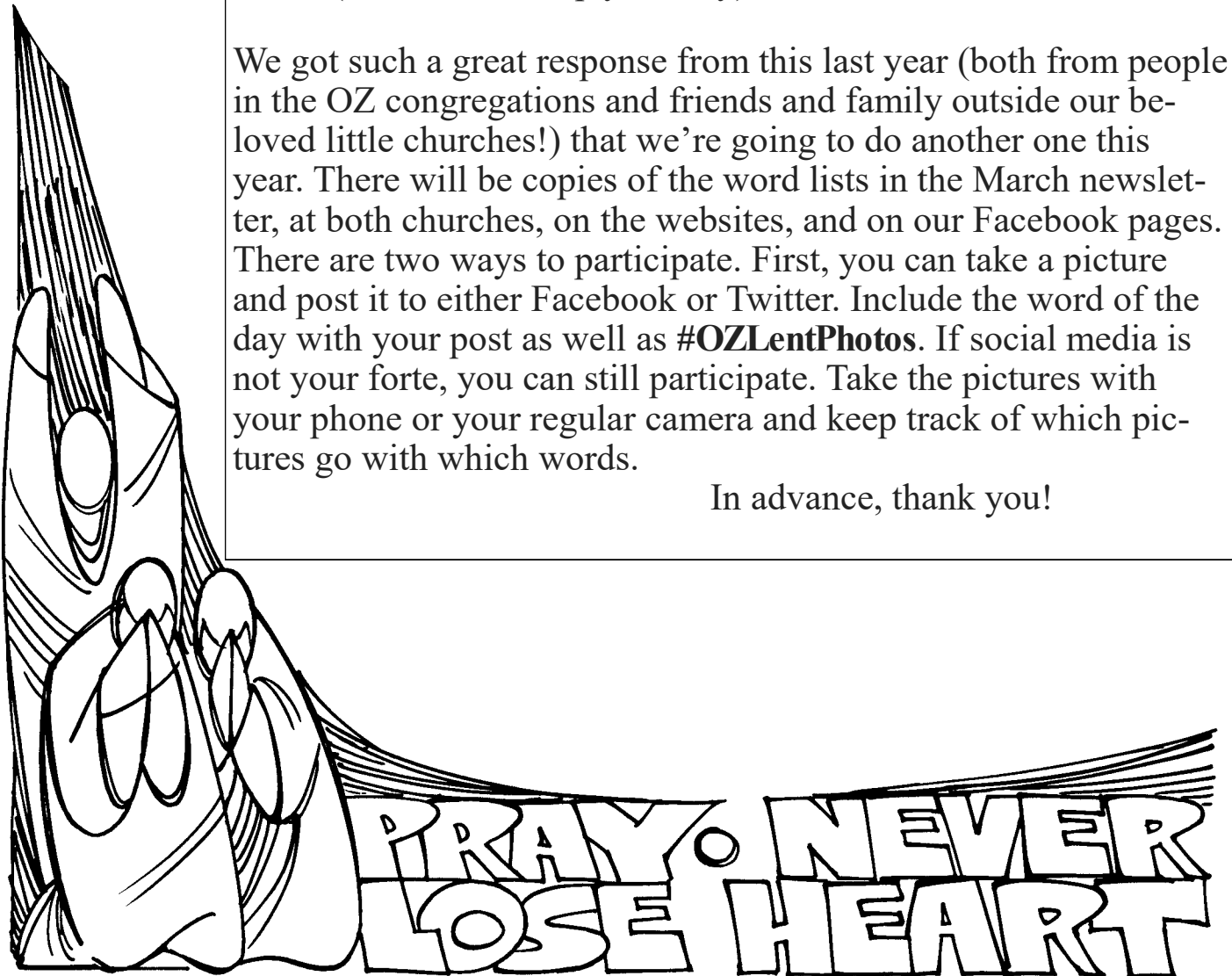


(O/Z) Lenten Photo Challenge

Last year, throughout Lent, we did a joint 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 or the smile of a friend (as it LIGHTS up your day), etc.

We got such a great response from this last year (both from people in the OZ congregations and friends and family outside our beloved little churches!) that we’re going to do another one this year. There will be copies of the word lists in the March newsletter, at both churches, on the websites, and on our Facebook pages. There are two ways to participate. First, you can take a picture and post it to either Facebook or Twitter. Include the word of the day with your post as well as **#OZLentPhotos**. 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.

In advance, thank you!



Readers of OZ



Due to inclement weather, the book club rescheduled their January meeting to February 14 at 7:00 at the home of Judy Wilder (2440 Crimson Ridge Circle NW, Rochester). We will discuss "Lila" which was our January selection.

For planning purposes, the March meeting will be a discussion of the following:

***Every Man Dies Alone* by Hans Fallada**
(A *New York Times Book Review* Notable Book of the Year)

from [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com):

"The story is based on that of an actual working-class Berlin couple who conducted a three-year resistance campaign against the Nazis, by leaving anonymous postcards at random locations around the city. The book has the suspense of a John le Carré novel, and offers a visceral, chilling portrait of the distrust that permeated everyday German life during the war. Especially interesting are the details that show how Nazi-run charities and labor organizations monitored and made public the degree to which individuals supported or eschewed their cause. The novel shows how acts that at the time might have seemed "ridiculously small," "discreet," and "out of the way" could have profound and lasting meaning." —**The New Yorker**

"The greatest book ever written about the German resistance to the Nazis." —**Primo Levi**

"One of the most extraordinary and compelling novels ever written about World War II. Ever. ... Please, do *not* miss this." —**Alan Furst**

"It has something of the horror of Conrad, the madness of Dostoyevsky and the chilling menace of Capote's *In Cold Blood*.... In the quiet Quangels, Fallada has created an immortal symbol of those who fight back against 'the vile beyond all vileness' and so redeem us all." —**Roger Cohen, *The New York Times***

"Has the suspense of a John le Carré novel ... visceral, chilling" —***The New Yorker***

"This is a novel that is so powerful, so intense, that it almost hums with electricity." —***Minneapolis Star-Tribune***

"Resistance is measured in subtle but dangerous individual stands. This isn't a novel about bold cells of defiant guerrillas but about a world in which heroism is defined as personal refusal to be corrupted. —

Publishers Weekly

(O/Z) 50th Anniversary of the Yoke

Believe it or not, we are coming up on this incredible milestone – on the 50th anniversary of the OZ yoke!! We are in the process of planning a joint celebration (including a joint worship service) for April 2017, but we need your help ... especially those of you who have stories about the yoke. Maybe it's a story of your own experience. Maybe it's a story that you heard from one of our dearly departed saints of the church who was present during the yoking.

To make things a little easier on everyone's schedules, the ICC has decided to take on the planning for this event. So stay tuned for more information!

ICC members: We will have a meeting to kick off this planning on Thurs., Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at O church.

(O/Z) Belated Thank You

I have many thank yous for all of you.

First, I want to thank all who sent us Christmas cards and gifts. It truly is a blessing to me that you take the time and the energy to think of myself and my family during the holiday season!

Second, I want to thank those who sent cards, emails, texts, Facebook messages, love, and prayers during my leave. January was a difficult month, but the support and compassion that we felt from all of you during this time of healing was overwhelmingly touching. Thank you from the very bottom of our hearts.

Create each day anew by clothing yourself with heaven and earth, bathing yourself with wisdom and love, and placing yourself in the heart of Mother Nature. Morihei Ueshiba

(O/Z) Confirmation Schedule

Wed., Feb. 1, 6:00-8:00 p.m. @ Oronoco
Wed., Feb. 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m. @ Zumbrota

(O/Z) Confirmation Dinners

Each time we meet for confirmation, we come together for a meal first. This gives us a great opportunity to participate in fellowship together and to unwind a bit before the "real" class starts. Each month, we meet in both congregations once - the first Wed. at O, the third Wed. at Z. I'm asking for people to help make meals for those gatherings - another great way we as congregations can support these confirmation students in this journey. Here's the schedule:

Oronoco	Zumbrota
Wed., Feb. 1	Wed., Feb. 15
Wed., Mar. 1	Wed., Mar. 15
Wed., Apr. 5	Wed., Apr. 19
Wed., May 3	Wed., May 17

There are sign-up sheets at both churches. At Z, the sign up sheet is on the back table with the bulletins. At O, the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Note: We will not need dinner on Wed., Mar. 1 as that is Ash Wednesday. The confirmation students are required to attend the Ash Wed. service at 7:00p at O church.

(O) February Luncheon Feb. 15th



Mark your calendar and plan to join us on February 15th for our soup, salad & pie luncheon from 11:30am-1:00pm. A free will offering helps to support our outreach programs. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship room for helpers and food donations. Thank you!

In Gratitude

(O) Dear Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your donation to Bear Creek Services residents. With your generosity, we can impact the lives of people who have special needs. There are many causes that seek your support, and we do not take your support for granted.

Sincerely,

Linda Driessen,
Executive Director

(O) Dear Presbyterian Church,

Thankyou so much for your gift of \$100.00, received on 12/30/2016. Your donation helps to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, criminal and civil court advocacy, and outreach to domestic violence victims and their children who are struggling to live a life free from violence.

With your donation, we can provide our services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and completely free to the people we serve. We firmly believe that no one deserves to be beaten and no one should be afraid in their own home.

Thank you for your support,
Suzie Christenson, Ex. Director

(O) Presbyterian Church of Oronoco,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$100.00 to Mission 21! Your financial partnership helps us in our mission to provide resources and restoration services to child victims of sex trafficking. We could not do this without your help.

Thank you!
The Mission 21 Staff

(O) About Per Capita

We've talked a bit in our announcements lately about per capita, but the Session wanted to be sure it got in the newsletter, too. So let me give you 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*

The per capita payment for 2017 is \$33.75 per member. Of that \$33.75, 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.

(Z) Per Capita

So the Presbyterians aren't the only ones that pay per capita! The United Church of Christ collects funds based on church membership as well. Our congregation sends a per capita payment to the MN Conference every year to help fund the missions and ministries of the UCC here in Minnesota, across the nation, and around the world. It is the practice of First Congregational to pay the entirety of that per capita payment every year, whether we've had members contribute to off-set their portion or not.

The **per capita payment for the UCC** has remained steady for a number of years at **\$10 per member**. Please consider contributing your portion of our per capita payment. You can put it in an envelope marked

"Per Capita" or simply write "Per Capita" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for helping us support the important work of the wider church.



(O) Food Shelf News

The Food Shelf is open 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. In February the hours are 4-6:00 p.m. Persons wishing to make a cash donation to our food shelf are encouraged to submit a check written to Oronoco Food Shelf. Checks should be given to Ellen Simon.

All canned and boxed food items should be gathered at the collection basket in the fellowship room so it can be weighed before being shelved. Members & friends are also encouraged to sign up to serve on a Wednesday evening when the food shelf is open.

****Thank you to everyone that has worked to make the food shelf a success this past year and to those that have donated food and cash. The need is great and it is an outreach of the Gospel that we are able to fulfill. God bless you!**

(O/Z) February Scripture Readings

Sun., Feb. 5 – O church annual meeting

Guest preacher @ Z: Rev. Martha Hendricks

Sun., Feb. 12

1 Kings 18:20-39; Galatians 1:1-12

Sun., Feb. 19

Matthew 18:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Sun., Feb. 26

Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9

Birthdays for the Month of February

2/12 Tori Kylo
2/14 Dawn Pahl
Teri Paulson
2/15 Dick Ostrom
Steve Paulson
2/18 Ann Hawkins
2/20 Jacky Rueber
2/23 Sandy Pahl
2/24 Mark Wedge
Kristin Matthees
2/29 Arlen Kylo



Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson
Secretary: Sue Johnson
Custodians: (O) Sue Johnson
(Z) Debbie Floan
Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

UCC Leadership Team

Chad Vath, Moderator
Parker Quammen, Clerk
Amy Pahl, Financial Clerk
_____, Treasurer
Connie Hawley, Trustee
Bob Hawley, Trustee
_____, Trustee
Bill Wendt, Deacon
Jo Ludington, Deacon
Molly Hunt, Deacon
Marlene Kosobucki, Deacon
Kay Wilshusen, Deacon
Wendy Kylo, Deacon

Presbyterian

Leadership Team

Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Asst. Treasurer
Ron Peterson Rucker, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder
Peter Johnson, Ruling Elder
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Sandy Bowers, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Joanne Schenck, Deacon
Karen Peterson Rucker, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Gail Rucker, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator
Joanne Schenck, Secretary

IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

United Church of Christ Contact Information

UCC national website...ucc.org
Minnesota UCC website...uccmn.org
Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact
alisonb@uccmn.org
United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online
at ucc.org/ucnews

Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...pcusa.org
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...
ptcaweb.org
PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact [communi-
cations@ptcaweb.org](mailto: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

Ed & Ellen Simon's new address:
1333 Arthur Lane NW Apt. # 205
Rochester, MN 55901

Their new phone #
507-258-4507

SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday in Oronoco 10-3:00
Thursday in Oronoco 10-3:00

Office Phone #507-367-4711
Email address: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

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.org

Worship Times for the Month of February 2017



2/5 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)
O Annual Meeting during worship service

2/12 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)
2/19 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)
2/26 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)

Reverend Lisa Johnson - Contact Information

Cell Phone (507)696-8753 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com

Pastor Lisa's Office Hours:
Mondays 1-4:00PM at Oronoco