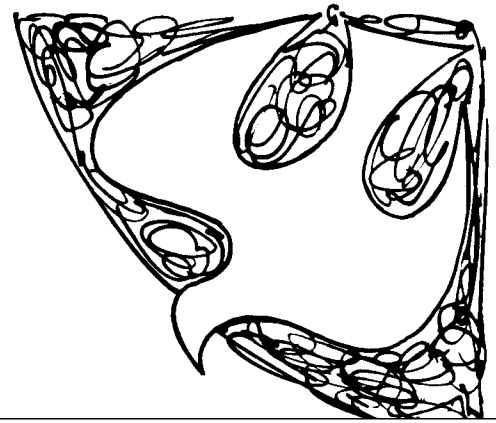


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
ZUMBROTA  
and  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

**February 2013 Newsletter**



## **Lenten Special Services Schedule**

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesday, Feb. 13 @ 7:00 p.m., O church

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season. It is a service of reflection and repentance, contemplation and prayer – an opportunity for us to examine our hearts and ready ourselves to journey with Christ through his last weeks and days – the love and the sacrifice, the agony and the joy, the grief and the triumph.

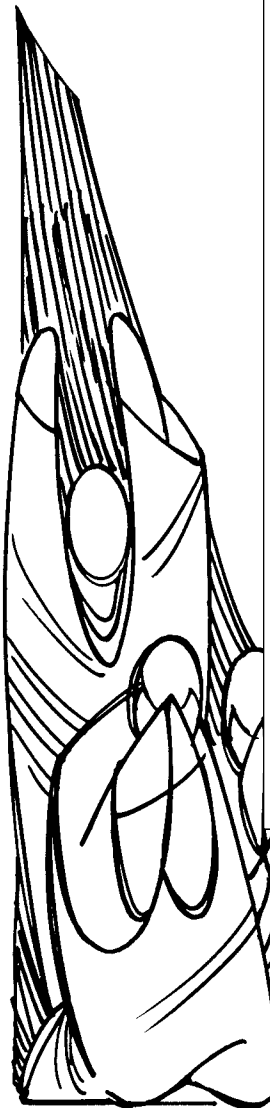
### **Maundy Thursday Service**

Thursday, Mar. 28 @ 7:00 p.m., Z church

### **Good Friday/Tenebrae Service**

Friday, Mar. 29 @ 7:00 p.m., O church

*Look for more about the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services in the March newsletter.*



**PRAY. NEVER  
LOSE HEART**



## From the Pastor

In contrast to the joy and magnificence we've just experienced surrounding Christmas, Lent can feel like a somber and subdued time. For many of us, Lent becomes a time of personal deprivation. We try to give up things like chocolate, soda, or caffeine. We try to abandon bad habits like smoking, gossiping, or complaining. Many people decide to designate part of the Lenten season for fasting, often one day per week and sometimes more during Holy Week.

These actions are connected to the understanding of Lent as a time to remember Christ's 40 days in the desert – the time in which he resisted temptation again and again (Luke 4:1-13; Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13). And this is certainly one way to treat the Lenten season. For many people, the discomfort experienced during these 46 days provides a significant connection with Christ's suffering. In turn, this often inspires people to undergo a time of spiritual self-examination, asking questions like, "How's my relationship with God?" "What am I doing to grow in my faith?" "How can I live out my faith in my everyday life?"

But there is also another way to experience the season of Lent. As a way to draw closer to Christ and nurture their faith, some people devote themselves to practicing a spiritual discipline. For some, this means rededicating themselves to a practice that may have lapsed. Others use the Lenten season to delve into a practice they've never tried before. Practicing this new spiritual discipline can give them the opportunity to encounter Christ and experience their faith in a new way.

Is it required that we engage in some sort of special practice for Lent? No. But I encourage you to consider it. Lent is one of the holiest seasons of the church year. It is a time in which we prepare for the horror and pain of Christ's death as well as the joy and magnificence of his resurrection. "We must remember that our Lenten disciplines are supposed to ultimately transform our entire person: body, soul,

and spirit. Our Lenten disciplines are supposed to help us become more like Christ" (Jonathan & David Bennet, [www.churchyear.net/lent.html](http://www.churchyear.net/lent.html)).

This is what Christ desired for us – for the whole church. It was his last prayer before his arrest: "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:25-26) What better way to prepare for the glory of Easter than to draw closer to God? How can you draw closer to God during this Lenten season? Let this be our prayer as well. Let us enter into the upcoming Lenten season with a desire to prepare for the glorious triumph of our Lord, to grow closer to God, and to experience our faith in new and powerful ways.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lisa

### **(O/Z) Prayer Chain**

Since prayer is such a part of our spiritual lives, one of the first things I'd like to do is revitalize the prayer chains in both congregations. Being a part of the prayer chain means that when there's a prayer request in the congregation, the pastor will be notified and will call the first person on the chain. That person then calls the second person on the chain, the second person call the third, and so on. Then, as a part of the prayer chain, you pray for those whose request is being passed along. We're also talking about doing some sort of prayer workshop (possibly joint with both churches) as a kick-off for the new prayer chain, though nothing has been scheduled yet. If you are interested, please let Pastor Lisa know. ([pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com) or 507-696-8753)

### **In Our Prayers**



We offer prayers of comfort and support to Socorro Budensiek, Richard Tiede, Nick Pahl and Ann Hawkins

## Pastor's Open House

We would like to welcome all of you to come visit us in our new home. Now that holiday busyness has calmed down a bit, we're hoping you can come join us for a little tour, some tasty refreshments, and a chance to get to know one another a little better in a different setting.

**Date: Saturday, Feb. 16**

**Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Address: 829 Dubuque Blvd., Zumbrota**

No RSVPs necessary. If you can make it that day, we'd love to have you!



## Pastor Lisa's Library

For anyone who hasn't poked their head in my Oronoco office yet, I've got quite the library. And I'm more than happy to loan my books out to anyone who might be interested. There are books on a number of different topics – everything from history and theology to mission and spiritual renewal. There's a notebook on the bookshelf that I'll be using as a log so I can track where my books are, but whether I'm in or not, feel free to peruse the shelf and borrow anything that tickles your fancy!

## (O) February Luncheon Feb. 20th

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on February 20th 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!

## (O) Food Shelf News

The Food Shelf is open 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 5pm to 7pm.

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) New Laptop

We have purchased a new laptop for Reverend Johnson. Our old one was too outdated to link to the office computer any longer and had very slow response times. The total cost was \$866.85 which will be shared by both churches.

## In Gratitude

(O) Thank you for the Christmas gift, it was so thoughtful of you. I also enjoyed my visit with Sue. Hopefully 2013 will be a good year.

Blessings,  
Helen Craft

(Z) Many thanks for all the prayers, cards, and visits I received after my neck surgery in the hospital, at the Zumbrota Care Center and since I returned home! God bless you all! Socorro Budensiek



## **(O) Annual Meeting Reminder**

Scheduled for Sunday, Feb 3, 2013. It will be incorporated into our worship service and will be followed by a pot luck brunch.

## **(O) Gifts, Memorials and Bequests Suggestions**

Session has updated the list of suggestions for persons wishing to donate in memory or honor of someone or who wish to help with special projects. Check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room for the list of suggestions.

(O) Manse Sale Fund Use: Net income from the sale of the manse was \$104,256.29. The use of these funds is restricted by Presbytery policy to pastor housing and other building and grounds expenses. The funds could not be used for program expenses. Since we sold the manse, we have accounted for \$108,867.31 in approved usage. Session agreed the funds in our bank accounts are no longer encumbered by this Presbytery policy.

## **(O) Per Capita Dues 2013**

Our per capita dues this year are \$32.37 per member. Session will submit payment on behalf of all members and welcome your donations for your portion. Be sure to mark your check or envelope as "per capita" when submitted so the treasurer accounts for it appropriately.

Per capita apportionment has been used for over 150 years by Presbyterians and is how we mutually share the costs of presbytery, synod and the General Assembly. It is based on each groups respective budgets for the year.

## **(O) January Luncheon Had a Surprise Visitor**

During the luncheon, a woman from Faribault came to check out the church for her "Church Dinners"

blog. She wrote up quite a nice article with some great pictures and one of Ellen Simon's recipes. The blog can be found at:  
<http://churchcuisineofminnesota.blog.spot.com>  
and is dated Friday, January 18, 2013.

## **(O) Presbyterian Briefs (from the O Publicity Team)**

Infant Baptism: The baptism of a baby signals that God acts on our behalf even before we are able to respond.

**Does infant baptism make the baby a Christian?** Technically, no. Presbyterians teach that God's grace is the saving action. Infant baptism is a witness to that grace but does not hold magical powers to save. Thus unbaptized infants are neither doomed nor saved. Salvation is the work of God.

**Why is Baptism done as part of a worship service?** The child's parents and the congregation make promises to nurture the baptized child in the Christian faith.

Baptism is a clear presentation of work being done on the child's behalf, for no other reason than that the child is loved--by the parents, by the congregation and, most important, by God.

**Source: "Presbyterians Today 2012 Special Issue: Resources for Study and Discussion"**

## **(O/Z) Possible Textile Group**



Pastor Lisa is wondering if there's any interest in a knitting/crocheting/other needlework group. We could include knitting, crocheting, quilting/other sewing, etc. This group could be an ecumenical opportunity, being held in one church one month and the other church the next month. We could work on our own projects or on project to donate to places like the local schools or other organizations in Rochester and the Twin Cities that need hats, mittens, sweaters, blankets, etc. There are even international organizations that are happy to distribute homemade items to those in need around the world. If you're interested in being a part of a group like this, please either email Pastor Lisa (pastor [LisaJ@gmail.com](mailto:LisaJ@gmail.com)) or call her on the church cell phone (507-696-8753).

## (Z) Per Capita Dues

As we enter into the New Year, it is time to remind UCC members of their commitment of \$10 for per capita dues. Please indicate on the "memo" portion of your check that the \$10 is designated for "dues." Thank you!

### Birthdays for the Month of February

2/8 Jill Huebert  
2/9 Jenny Wiederanders  
2/11 George Vallejo  
2/12 Tori Kyllo  
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 Kyllo



## (O/Z) Readers of OZ



**The book selection for February is:** *"Man Seeks God: My Flirtations With the Divine"* by Erik Wiener. We will meet on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Judy Wilder (100 Sandy Point Court NE).

If you need directions, call Judy at 367-4997. All are welcome.

### The publisher has this to say about our February selection:

When a health scare puts him in the hospital, Eric Weiner—an agnostic by default—finds himself tangling with an unexpected question, posed to him by a well-meaning nurse. *"Have you found your God yet?"* The thought of it nags him, and prods him—and ultimately launches him on a far-flung journey to do just that. Weiner, a longtime "spiritual voyeur" and inveterate traveler, realizes that while he has been privy to a wide range of religious practices, he's never seriously considered these concepts in his own life. Face to face with his own mortality, and spurred on by the question of what spiritual principles to impart to his young daughter, he decides to correct this omission, undertaking a worldwide exploration of religions and hoping to come, if he can, to a personal understanding of the divine. Throughout this marvelously entertaining journey, precious and universal truths emerge amid the churning of Weiner's self-conscious intellect and self-deprecating sense of humor. Weiner manages to suspend disbelief long enough to share tales of divine wonders, a possibility in all of us.

**A little advance notice,** our March selection is: *"The Testament of Mary"* by Colm Toibin.

## IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

### United Church of Christ Contact Information

UCC national website...[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)  
Minnesota UCC website...[uccmn.org](http://uccmn.org)  
Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact [alisonb@uccmn.org](mailto:alisonb@uccmn.org)  
United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online at [ucc.org/ucnews](http://ucc.org/ucnews)

### Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...[pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...  
[ptcaweb.org](http://ptcaweb.org)  
PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact [communications@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

### Directory Corrections/Additions

(O) Brenda Longman's new phone number is 507-951-2002.

## Scripture Readings for February 2013

### February 3

Jer. 1:4-10

1 Cor. 13:1-13



### February 10

Ex. 34:29-35

Luke 9:28-36

### February 17

Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16

Luke 4:1-13

### February 24

Ps. 27

Luke 13:31-35

## BACK BAY MISSION WORK CAMP

September 21-29, 2013



Would you be interested in participating in a BBM Work Camp this September with UCC friends from Peace UCC/Rochester? If so, contact Rev. Dick Eick (651-385-7844) for more information. Kay Wilshusen, Sue Wedge, Bob Hawley and Parker Quammen are BBM work camp veterans, and would be glad to tell you of their experience in Biloxi in March 2011.

*“Just as you did it to one of the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it unto me!”*

Matthew 25:40

### Church Staff

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

### UCC Leadership Team

Rex Wiederanders, Moderator  
Lynn Wiederanders, Clerk  
Connie Wendt, Financial Clerk  
Kay Wilshusen, Treasurer  
David Pahl, Trustee  
Gerry Webster, Trustee  
Jim Wendt, Trustee  
Gary Ofstie, Deacon  
Bruce Johnston, Deacon  
Bob Hawley, Deacon  
Connie Hawley, Deacon  
Parker Quammen, Deacon  
Wendy Kylo, Deacon

### Presbyterian

#### Leadership Team

Judy Wilder, Clerk  
Kim Stanton, Treasurer  
Kay Erdahl, Asst. Treasurer  
Kay Erdahl, Ruling Elder  
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder  
Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder  
Judy Wilder, Ruling Elder  
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder  
Kim Stanton, Ruling Elder  
Karen Vallejo, Deacon  
Richard Tiede, Deacon  
Deb Nelson, Deacon  
Vivien Midthun, Deacon  
Carol Tiede, Deacon  
Larry Glasenapp, 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 10-3:00**

**Wednesday in Oronoco 10-3:00**

**Office Phone #507-367-4711**

**Email address: [oronocopc@pitel.net](mailto:oronocopc@pitel.net)**

## Daily Lectionary Readings - February 2013

### **Friday February 1**

Morning: Ps. 88; 148  
Evening: Ps. 6; 20  
Isaiah 50:1-11  
Galatians 3:15-22  
Mark 6:47-56

### **Saturday February 2**

Morning: Ps. 122; 149  
Evening: Ps. 100; 63  
Isaiah 51:1-8  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Mark 7:1-23

### **Sunday February 3**

Morning: Ps. 108; 150  
Evening: Ps. 66; 23  
Isaiah 51:9-16  
Hebrews 11:8-16  
John 7:14-31

### **Monday February 4**

Morning: Ps. 62; 145  
Evening: Ps. 73; 9  
Isaiah 51:17-23  
Galatians 4:1-11  
Mark 7:24-37

### **Tuesday February 5**

Morning: Ps. 12; 146  
Evening: Ps. 36; 7  
Isaiah 52:1-12  
Galatians 4:12-20  
Mark 8:1-10

### **Wednesday February 6**

Morning: Ps. 96; 147:1-11  
Evening: Ps. 132; 134  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Galatians 4:21-31  
Mark 8:11-26

### **Thursday February 7**

Morning: Ps. 116; 147:12-20  
Evening: Ps. 26; 130  
Isaiah 54:1-10 (optional: 11-17)

Galatians 5:1-15  
Mark 8:27-9:1

### **Friday February 8**

Morning: Ps. 84; 148  
Evening: Ps. 25; 40  
Isaiah 55:1-13  
Galatians 5:16-24  
Mark 9:2-13

### **Saturday February 9**

Morning: Ps. 63; 149  
Evening: Ps. 125; 90  
Isaiah 56:1-8  
Galatians 5:25-6:10  
Mark 9:14-29

### **Sunday February 10**

*Transfiguration Sunday*  
Morning: Ps. 103; 150  
Evening: Ps. 117; 139  
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14  
2 Corinthians 3:1-9  
John 12:27-36a

### **Monday February 11**

Morning: Ps. 5; 145  
Evening: Ps. 82; 29  
Deuteronomy 6:1-15  
Hebrews 1:1-14  
John 1:1-18

### **Tuesday February 12**

Morning: Ps. 42; 146  
Evening: Ps. 102; 133  
Deuteronomy 6:16-25  
Hebrews 2:1-10  
John 1:19-28

### **Wednesday February 13**

*Ash Wednesday*  
Morning: Ps. 5; 147:1-11  
Evening: Ps. 27; 51  
Jonah 3:1-4:11  
Hebrews 12:1-14  
Luke 18:9-14

### **Thursday February 14**

Morning: Ps. 27; 147:12-20  
Evening: Ps. 126; 102  
Deuteronomy 7:6-11  
Titus 1:1-16  
John 1:29-34

### **Friday February 15**

Morning: Ps. 22; 148  
Evening: Ps. 105; 130  
Deuteronomy 7:12-16  
Titus 2:1-15  
John 1:35-42

### **Saturday February 16**

Morning: Ps. 43; 149  
Evening: Ps. 31; 143  
Deuteronomy 7:17-26  
Titus 3:1-15  
John 1:43-51

### **Sunday February 17**

*First Sunday in Lent*  
Morning: Ps. 84; 150  
Evening: Ps. 42; 32  
Jeremiah 9:23-24  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Mark 2:18-22

### **Monday February 18**

Morning: Ps. 119:73-80; 145  
Evening: Ps. 121; 6  
Deuteronomy 8:1-20  
Hebrews 2:11-18  
John 2:1-12

### **Tuesday February 19**

Morning: Ps. 34; 146  
Evening: Ps. 25; 91  
Deuteronomy 9:(1-3), 4-12  
Hebrews 3:1-11  
John 2:13-22

## Daily Lectionary Readings - February 2013

### **Wednesday February 20**

Morning: Ps. 5; 147:1-11

Evening: Ps. 27; 51

Deuteronomy 9:13-21

Hebrews 3:12-19

John 2:23-3:15

Jeremiah 2:1-13, 29-32

Romans 1:16-25

John 4:43-54

### **Thursday February 21**

Morning: Ps. 27; 147:12-20

Evening: Ps. 126; 102

Deuteronomy 9:23-10:5

Hebrews 4:1-10

John 3:16-21

### **Wednesday February 27**

Morning: Ps. 5; 147:1-11

Evening: Ps. 27, 51

Jeremiah 3:6-18

Romans 1:(26-27) 28-2:11

John 5:1-18

### **Friday February 22**

Morning: Ps. 22; 148

Evening: Ps. 105; 130

Deuteronomy 11:18-28

Hebrews 4:11-16

John 3:22-35

### **Thursday February 28**

Morning: Ps. 27; 147:12-20

Evening: Ps. 126; 102

Jeremiah 9:4-10, 19-28

Romans 2:12-24

John 5:19-29

### **Saturday February 23**

Morning: Ps. 43; 149

Evening: Ps. 31; 143

Deuteronomy 11:18-28

Hebrews 5:1-10

John 4:1-26

### **Sunday February 24**

*Second Sunday in Lent*

Morning: Ps. 84; 150

Evening: Ps. 42; 32

Jeremiah 1:1-10

1 Corinthians 3:11-23

Mark 3:31-4:9

### **Monday February 25**

Morning: Ps. 119:73-80; 145

Evening: Ps. 121; 6

Jeremiah 1:11-19

Romans 1:1-15

John 4:27-42

### **Tuesday February 26**

Morning: Ps. 34; 146

Evening: Ps. 25; 91



First Congregational UCC  
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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.pcomn.org](http://www.pcomn.org)**

**[www.ucczumbrota.com](http://www.ucczumbrota.com)**



**Worship Times for the Month of February 2013**

|      |   |           |
|------|---|-----------|
| 2/3  | 9:00 (O)  | 11:00 (Z) |
| 2/10 | 9:00 (O)  | 11:00 (Z) |
| 2/13 | Ash Wednesday Service<br>@ 7:00 p.m. at Oronoco |           |
| 2/17 | 9:00 (O)  | 11:00 (Z) |
| 2/24 | 9:00 (O)  | 11:00 (Z) |

**Reverend Lisa Johnson - Contact Information**

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

**Pastor Lisa's Office Hours:**

**Mondays 1-4:00PM at Oronoco Tuesdays 1-4:00PM at Zumbrota**