

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

April 2017 Newsletter

**Open and Affirming
as Beloved Community**

THE 2017 MINNESOTA CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 29th

11:00 AM Workshops | 1:30 PM Worship

**Hazel Park Congregational United Church of Christ
1831 Minnehaha Avenue East in Saint Paul**



~ Workshop Options ~

All in the Family hear the stories of family life from the perspective of the children of LGBT parent(s) and parent(s) of LGBT children

Getting the Word Out sharing tips and strategies for publicizing your LGBTQ welcome and inclusion

Safe Space for Youth a place for youth (under 18) to share their stories, struggles, and questions with one another with help from trained "Our Whole Lives" facilitators

Lunch will be provided free of charge starting at 12:15 PM, RSVPs are appreciated to help with meal planning

Child Care will be provided free of charge during workshops and worship with advanced notice

RSVP via email to Marc Blakesley at marcblakesley@gmail.com

~ Worship Celebration ~

Acknowledgement of the 47 ministries across Minnesota that have declared themselves "Open and Affirming"

Music that will praise God, lift your spirits and remind us all that we are loved

Preaching by two incredible pastors, Rev. John Fiscus of Peace UCC in St. Cloud and Rev. Leslie Moughty of First Congregational UCC in Brainerd

Communion with one another, that will remind us of our connections as "Beloved Community" in our varied ministries

This event is sponsored by the Open and Affirming Ministry Team of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ, in partnership with the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God..." 1 John 4:7

In Our Prayers

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Karen Vallejo, Joyce Rucker, Eunice Markham, Bob Rolland, the friends and family of Sue Wedge.

(Z) Congregational Meeting



There will be a congregational meeting following the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, April 9. All members are encouraged to attend.

(O) Lenten Sermon series: Boot Camp for the Soul

By now, you're probably all pretty familiar with the fact that I like to embark on sermon series for special times of year ... including Lent. During this Lenten season, we will be embarking on a sermon series called "Boot Camp for the Soul." Lent is a time that emphasizes interiority, personal investigation, and contrition – the intentional work of seeking a change of heart or actions ... maybe even both. But this type of personal faith work can be **hard work**. Lent can be a little bit like a boot camp for the soul – a restart of sorts in a very focused area. We walk this season together, demanding the best of ourselves, ready to support one another, and prepared to see truths that may shatter our self-understanding.

We get the term "boot camp" from the military, but it has expanded far beyond that specific setting in recent decades. We now encounter boot camps in various areas of life: particularly rigorous exercise regimens, a period of training before a new job, or even an intensive retreat for personal transformation. In all of these settings – and in our Lenten journey – the goal is to push beyond what we think our limits are in ways that strengthen us.

(O) Maundy Thursday service



We're going to try something different for Maundy Thurs. service this year. That first Maundy Thursday - the night when Jesus sat down to eat the Passover meal with his disciples before being arrested, tortured, and crucified - was an actual meal. It wasn't one little bit of bread and a smidgen of wine or juice. It was a meal - a time for Jesus and his beloved companions to eat together, drink together, and enjoy one another's company. So for this year's Maundy Thursday service, we will be worshipping around a meal. The service will be held in the fellowship room. There will be a simple meal of soup and bread provided. And as we eat - as we enjoy each other's company - we will also worship: in song, in prayer, in Scripture reading, in celebrating communion at the tables with one another, and in anointing one another in blessing. **The Maundy Thurs. service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2017.**

(O) Holy Humor Sunday

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" This is our joyful cry on Easter Sunday ... and then what?? This year, we're going to try something new the Sunday after Easter. A new tradition has arisen known as "Holy Humor Sunday." The idea of Holy Humor Sunday is to perpetuate the **JOY** of Easter beyond that one single service. Jesus even says it toward the end of his Last Supper, on the very eve when he is facing imprisonment and death: "I have said these things to you so that my **JOY** will be in you and your **JOY** will be complete." (Jn 15:11). Friends, this is quite literally our chance to be silly in church because God created joy and laughter and silliness! Our songs will be songs of joy. Our prayers will be prayers of joy. There will be times to share (appropriate) jokes to make each other laugh because laughter bring people together in celebration, in healing, and in companionship. So be ready to bring your **JOKES** and wear whatever silly, joy-filled clothing you can find!

(O) Good Friday Readers

I 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. I can get you the readings as soon as you let me know. If you can help, please contact Pastor Lisa.

(O) All Around the Campfire

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

Dates:

- June 26: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- July 23: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Aug. 27: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Sept. 24: 6:00-8:00 p.m.



(O) Confirmation Schedule

Wed., Apr. 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thurs., Apr. 13, 6:00 p.m.

Fri., Apr. 14, 7:00 p.m.

Wed., Apr. 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m.



(Z) MN Conference Annual Mtg. Delegates

The Annual Meeting for the MN Conference of the United Church of Christ is right around the corner - **June 9-11, 2017!** It's a wonderful weekend spent at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN - a weekend of gathering and worshipping with other UCC folks from around the state, of better understanding the business of the MN Conference, a weekend of workshops and fascinating keynote addresses, and a weekend of great food!

The theme for this year's annual meeting is "Embracing God's Promise: A Future with Hope." According to the Conference website, it "will focus on what it means to be a truly vital church, understanding that vitality is not limited to only the number of people in worship on Sunday. We will explore this theme in a number of different ways: keynote addresses, table-top conversations, workshops, and worship. This is a time to be inspired by one another with amazing work that is happening already and with new ideas to share across the state. Our two keynoters are Rev. Julian DeShazier, senior pastor from University Church in Chicago, who will provide an energetic and inspiring address about how our church is growing and thriving into the future. Rev. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi from the UCC National Setting will talk about indicators of church vitality, again highlighting that numbers are just one of many indicators."

First Congregational UCC - Zumbrota can send **2 delegates** to this meeting as well as **1 youth delegate**. As these delegates need to be registered before the meeting, please contact a council member if you're interested in being one of this year's delegates.

(O/Z) Book Discussion Group



The book discussion for Tuesday, April 11, is “*On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons From the Twentieth Century*” by Tim Snyder.

Several reviews had this to say about our April selection. “Snyder is superbly positioned to bring historical thinking to bear on the current political scene. . . .

These unpretentious words remind us that political resistance isn’t a matter of action-movie heroics, but starts from a willingness to break from social expectations.” —**Jeet Heer, *The New Republic***

“These 128 pages are a brief primer in every important thing we might have learned from the history of the last century, and all that we appear to have forgotten.”

Tim Adams—*The Guardian*

We will meet **April 11 at 7:00 P.M.** at the home of Ellen Simon (Gramercy Coop, 1333 Arthur Lane NW, Rochester).

May

Our May selection is “*Hillbilly Elegy*” by J.D. Vance. The Barnes & Noble review has this to say. “From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America’s white working class. *Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.” We will gather at the home of Paulette Barnhart (381 First Ave N., Mazeppa) on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to join us.

(O) Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery meeting is **Tues., May 9 at 4:00 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church in Rochester. Yes ... you read that right ... ROCHESTER! Right in our backyard! This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the Presbytery meeting NOT being an hour away! J As always, Presbytery meetings are open to anyone. If you’re interested in coming, please contact Pastor Lisa.

(O) Holy Week Schedule

- **Palm Sunday services** – Sun., Apr 9 @ 9:00 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday service** Thurs., Apr 13 @ 6:00 p.m.,
- **Good Friday service** Fri., Apr 14 @ 7:00 p.m.,
- **Easter Sunday services** - Sun., April 16 @ 9:00 a.m.



(O) 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 that we’re going to do another one this year. You can find a copy of the word list in this newsletter as well as on the websites, and on our Facebook page. There are two ways to participate. First, you can take a picture and post it to Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. 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!

(O) Clearwater Forest Summer Camps!



(O) Clearwater Forest Summer Camps

It may still be chilly outside, but camp is right around the corner! Clearwater Forest offers camp experiences for those entering third through recent graduates and more! With a wide variety of programs centered on the theme “Branching Out: Courage in Community,” there is sure to be something for everyone this summer! Below are a few highlighted camps.

DISCOVERY CAMPS: These camps offer all the essentials of a fantastic week for our grade school campers! From making new friends, getting active in the outdoors, and experiencing the compassionate leadership of caring cabin counselors, children ages 8-11 (entering grades 3-6) will discover an amazing week! In terms of weeklong programs, we offer five traditional weeks and one week of the environmentally-focused ECO Camp. For young campers and those who are unsure about spending an entire week away from home, we offer First Timers Camp, a 3-night program.

JUNIOR HIGH CAMPS: These camps offer incredible experiences for youth entering grades 7-9 including opportunities to grow and try new things. Our traditional weeks are packed with activities to ensure a life-changing experience and memories that will last a lifetime. Sailing Camp; Pedal, Paddle, Climb Camp; and a Boundary Waters Canoe Trip are sure to be huge hits for those wanting something more adventurous than our traditional programming. Also this year, we are offering ECO Camp for those interested in a more environmentally focused camp.

SENIOR HIGH CAMPS: (Grades 9-13th) Senior high camps offer the most variety in programs, and are designed for experienced campers and newcomers alike! We have SIX programs designed for campers entering ninth grade to recent graduates! These include traditional Senior High Camps, Two-Week Camp (for those who can't get enough), Beach Camp and Sailing Camp (for those who like relaxed schedules and lots of time on the water), Endless (our biggest camp of the summer), and our brand new Servant and Leadership Training Camp (SALT). The SALT Program is a great opportunity for campers to learn leadership techniques in a Christian camp setting, and especially great for those looking to see some behind-the-scenes elements of serving at Clearwater Forest. Campers interested in the SALT Pro-

gram must be entering 11th grade, 12th grade, or have just graduated. There is an application process for this program. These Senior High camps, especially Endless, WILL FILL UP.

Check out www.clearwaterforest.org for more information about these and other programs happening this summer at Clearwater Forest!

Directory Updates

Sarah Johnston's new address:
1913 Red Maple Lane
Northfield, MN 55057

Cassie Sapp's new address:
430 Livingston Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801

Hannah Watkin's new address:
10401 Grand Valley Lane
Woodbury, MN 55129

Mark Wedge's new address:
614 Nelson Ct.
Center City, MN 55012

Connie Wendt's new email:
wendtcon@outlook.com

Karen Vallejo's new address:
15 5th Street East Apt. #12
Zumbrota, MN 55992

(O) Readings for the Month of April

Sun., Apr. 2 – Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
Boot Camp for the Soul, #5

Sun., Apr. 9 – Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Palm Sunday, Boot Camp for the Soul, #6

Thurs., Apr. 13 – **Maundy Thursday** service,
6:00 p.m.

Fri., Apr. 14 – **Good Friday** service,
7:00 p.m.

Sun., Apr. 16 – Jeremiah 31:1-6; Matthew 28:1-10
Easter Sunday

Sun., Apr. 23 – **Holy Humor Sunday**

Sun., Apr. 30 – 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

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
Amy Pahl, Financial Clerk
Bob Hawley, Treasurer
Connie Hawley, Trustee
Hailey Vath, Trustee
Jim Wendt, Trustee
Bill Wendt, Deacon
Jo Ludington, Deacon
Molly Hunt, Deacon
Marlene Kosobucki, Deacon
Kay Wilshusen, Deacon
Wendy Kyllö, Deacon

Presbyterian

Leadership Team

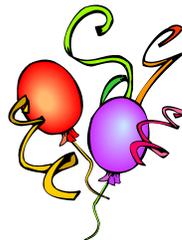
Kay Erdahl, Treasurer
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer
Mike Rand, Clerk of Session
Ron Peterson Rucker, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder
Linda Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Joanne Schenck, Deacon
Karen Peterson Rucker, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Gail Rucker, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom, Co-Moderator
Jenny Rand, Co Moderator

Birthdays for the Month of April

4/5 Vivien Williams
4/6 Donna McIntire
Linda Sorensen
4/10 David Midthun
4/13 Julie Beck
4/16 Will Midthun
4/17 Trevor Paulson
4/19 Ina Brown
4/21 Larry Thomforde



Secretary's Office Hours

Tuesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00
Thursday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00
Office Phone# 507-367-4711
Email: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

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455 East Avenue
Zumbrota, MN 55992
(507) 732-7015



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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 April 2017



4/2	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
4/9	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
4/13	(O) Maundy Thursday	6:00pm
4/14	(O) Good Friday	7:00pm
4/16	EASTER	9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)
4/23	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
4/24	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)

Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information
Cell Phone (507) 696-8753 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com