



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

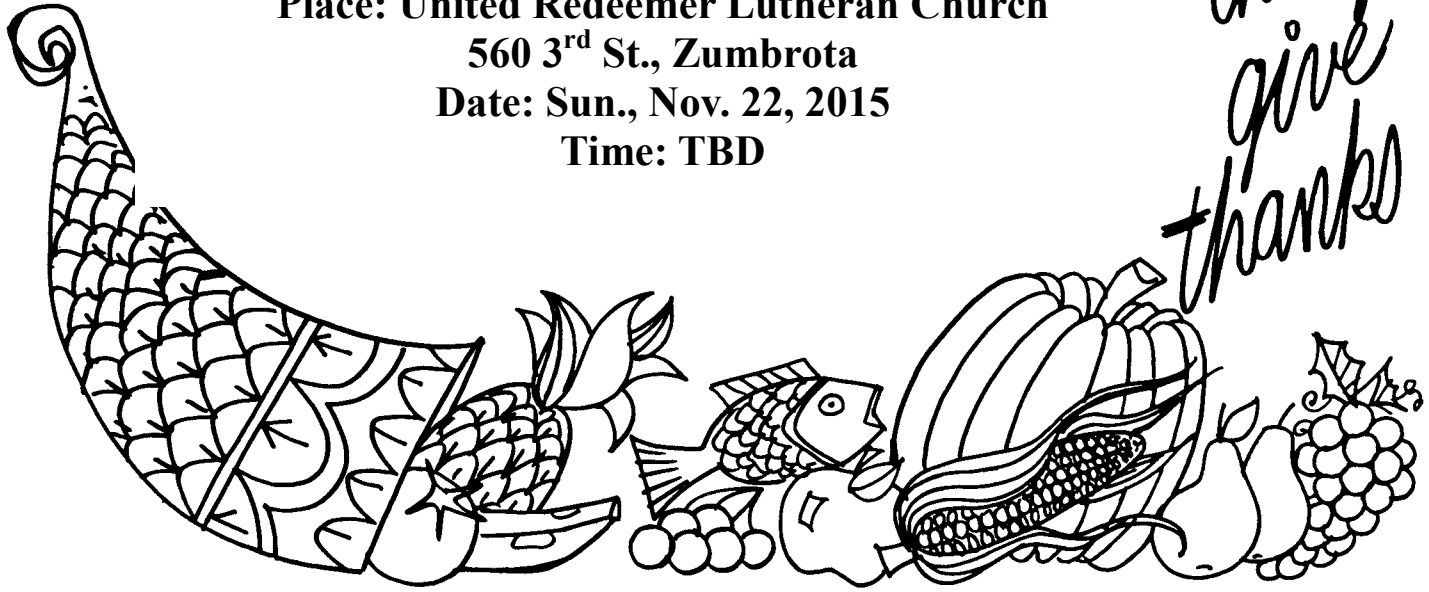
November 2015 Newsletter

**(O/Z) Thanksgiving Service
Songs of Gratitude**

After talking to the local pastors, we've decided to do something different for the ecumenical Thanksgiving service this year. Instead of holding the service on Thanksgiving Eve – when everyone is already either cooking or traveling – we're going to worship together in the late afternoon on Sun., Nov. 22. It will be a service of Songs of Gratitude and will include the gifts and talents of people from all the congregations. So if you or anyone you know is interested in sharing musical talents, poetry or short prose reading (either your own composition or someone else's) as part of the service, please contact Pastor Lisa. We will be sharing in these many expressions of gratitude as well as Scripture readings, hymns, and prayers together. Following the service, we will enjoy a time of fellowship around some coffee, juice, and treats.

*in
all
things
give
thanks*

**Place: United Redeemer Lutheran Church
560 3rd St., Zumbrota
Date: Sun., Nov. 22, 2015
Time: TBD**



From Our Pastor



A few years ago, I came across what I thought was a really great, new Thanksgiving tradition. All you need are a white tablecloth and some fabric markers. As you're setting your Thanksgiving table, scatter the markers along so that everyone can reach one or two markers. Then, once everyone is seated but before the meal begins, ask everyone to pause and think about one thing that they're thankful for this year. Using the fabric markers, they write what they're thankful for on the tablecloth along with their name and the year.

Maybe this idea struck me because words are such a powerful part of who I am and what I do. When you think about it, a giant part of a pastor's job revolves around weaving together the "right" words – for worship, for prayers, for sermons, for visits ... even for newsletter articles. Words have always appealed to me in a special way. They have been my friends and my foes, my expression and my constraint. For me, words truly are a living, breathing thing.

And I know that I am far from alone in this. There are many people who find some sort of journaling to be a very important, very powerful spiritual discipline. In her book on the art of spiritual journaling, Ann Broyles says, "There is something in the physical act of writing that releases creativity and self-understanding. ... Many people who journal discover that the more they write, the more their words become connections to God, unselfconscious prayers, reminders of God's power."

Words connect us both to one another and to God in a truly unique way. Words can be so intimate, so nuanced, so particular. The words we choose for one situation may be completely inappropriate in another. The words that I find comforting may ring hollow for someone else. Even the way that we say different words and assign meaning to them is constantly changing depending on our context – geographical,

Ann Broyles. *Journaling: A Spiritual Journey*. (Nashville, TN: The Upper Room, 1999), 14, 17.

cultural, social, etc. If you're ever looking for a fun way to waste a few minutes, look up some of the phrases and slang that are unique to different parts of American. The phrase "bless your heart" can mean two very different things in the north as opposed to the south, for example. And as we in Minnesota well know, the seemingly-simple word "interesting" can have a whole host of unsaid things attached to it.

In his 2nd letter to the church in Corinth, Paul even likens us to words:

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

~ 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

God took the time and the effort to create each and every one of us with a unique purpose and joy and vision in mind. But just like words, we are constantly in flux – changing, shifting, stretching, growing. We are constantly being guided – being written and re-written, defined and redefined – by the movements and the nudgings and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In every sense of the word, we are God's story, filling a blank page each and every day with the words of our hearts and our souls and our lives. Sometimes those words bleed over onto the pages of another. Sometimes our stories become intertwined. Sometimes they diverge. Sometimes we feel like the pages of our hearts are so full, they could burst, and sometimes we feel like they're so empty, we can hear our own echoes. But through it all, we remain God's favorite story.

Maybe that's why the Thanksgiving tablecloth-writing tradition resonated so profoundly with me. Throughout the years, you keep adding to this tablecloth, heaping thanks upon thanks and gratefulness upon gratefulness and creating a powerful story of the life of you and your loved ones. I picture this tablecloth after 30 ... 40 ... even 50 years – words winding around each other, squeezed in beside each other, overlapping each other, even thanks from one year inspiring those for another, creating and recreating a stirring and authentic story of graciousness and gratitude.

Pastor Gina

(O/Z) All Saints' Day Commemoration

This year, we will be taking some time during our service on Nov. 1 to commemorate those who have gone before us – those who have been beacons of hope and grace and love in our lives but whose light now fills the halls of heaven. With the colorful name flags that will decorate the sanctuary during our All Saints' Day service, we may be surrounded by the vibrant color and light of those whom we love and miss.

(O/Z) Christmas Eve Worship



Worship will be Z at 4:00 p.m. and O at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendars.

(O/Z) Christmas Poinsettias

We will again be offering Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. Look for details in early December.

(O/Z) Advent Readers

Believe it or not, Advent is just around the corner. If you're interested in being one of our advent readers/candle lighters, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary (Z) or on the bulletin board (O). Pastor Lisa will get the readings to you as soon as she can.

(Z) New Website



Our new website is up and running!! As always, things like this are a work-in-progress, so if you have any feedback, please let Pastor Lisa know. <http://www.ucczumbrota.org>

(O) Collecting Pop Can Tabs

Dalton, the heart transplant recipient O is praying for, is collecting pop tabs for the Rochester Ronald

McDonald House. Please consider bringing your pop tabs to church and I will see he gets them at the House. He and his family have been blessed greatly by the House and this is a way he wants to "give back."

(O) Bible Study

We're starting a monthly Bible study. It will be held the **2nd Wed.** of the month from **6:00-7:00 p.m.** (This means that Session meetings will move to 7:00 p.m. starting in November.) If you're interested, please talk to Kim Stanton or Peter Johnson.

(O/Z) Confirmation Class

We are excited to have a number of youth ready for confirmation! We already have a class of 3-4, but if you know of any middle schoolers (6th-9th grade) who would be interested in being confirmed in either church – O or Z – please contact Pastor Lisa. We're still working out all the details, but because the class will be starting in Jan. 2016, we've got some time to get everything settled.

(O) Pine Haven Birthday Party Thank You

A big thank you to all who participated in a very fun October Bingo Party at Pine Haven Nursing Home. Pastor Lisa and several POC members assisted with bingo and served cookies to residents on the evening of October 21st. Thank you to Pastor Lisa, Joy Bert-singer, Ellen Simon, Brenda Longman, and Dick Ostrom for your participation. A special shout-out to Brenda for calling bingo and to all who supplied cookies for the event. It was a very rewarding evening!

"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."
Mother Teresa

(O/Z) Food Shelf Sunday is November 1 Our Food Shelves Need Your Help

Our food shelves provide individuals and families with a variety of nutritious food and the opportunity to stretch limited household budgets. The food shelves are sustained by donations of dollars, food and personal care items. Your support is greatly appreciated.

(O) Please Note: The food shelf will be open from 4-6:00pm November through March to accommodate those who have difficulty driving in the dark.

(O/Z) Worship Advisory Team

NEXT MEETING: TBD

Just a reminder that the Worship Advisory Team consists of:

Lance Sorensen (O)
Linda Sorensen (O)
Peter Johnson (O)
Connie Hawley (Z)
Hailey Vath (Z)
Sue Wedge (Z)

We are continuing to discuss a number of different things, so if you have any ideas or feedback about worship, please feel free to share your thoughts with one of these people.

(Z) Country Store Brings Congregation Together, Again!

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Country Store one of the best ever. We had pies and treats galore, yummy soups, and mouth-watering sandwiches. Great crafts, white elephants, and baked good filled out the day—a splendid array from a splendid group of workers. All donations this year went to support our hunger mission, divided between the Zumbrota Area Food Shelf, the Oronoco Food Shelf, and the UCC's outreach for refugee relief. The totals aren't in yet, but our goal was to earn \$500 for each agency. If you couldn't attend but

want to contribute, you can still send a check to the church marked "Country Store". Our treasurer, Parker Quammen, will make sure that the money goes to the hunger relief fund. In any case, it was a great day for great causes! Thanks again.

(O/Z) In Our Prayers

Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am therein the midst of them.

Matthew 18:19-20

Dave Kaempfer, Kay Wilshusen, Eunice Markham, Dick Wedge (Jim's brother), Dorothy French, Ann Hawkins and Joan Swarhout.

(Z) For a Christmas Tree Come to the UCC!



The Pahl family is going to lead the tree sale effort this year. It will start soon after Thanksgiving. Watch for an ad in the News Record. If you have any questions please feel free to call Dave Pahl at 732-7416.



(Z) Advent Plans at the UCC



Though we associated the season of Advent with the month of December, once again this year the season begins in November, right after Thanksgiving. The UCC deacons have plans underway to help make this season of anticipation beautiful and meaningful for all. In addition, Pastor Lisa is already looking for families to participate in worship by reading and lighting the Advent candles. Many other Advent opportunities present themselves as well.

Sunday, November 29: First Sunday in Advent. We will begin our Advent journey with the placing of the Advent wreath and lighting the first candle.

Sunday, December 6: We will gather at 9 a.m. to decorate the Christmas tree and the rest of the church prior to worship at 11. **ALSO: TOWERS DINNER.** Look for more details on this, along with sign-up sheets at church. Soup makers, pie bakers, salad makers, servers, etc., needed as usual. Join in if you can for a wonderful Advent experience. **ALSO:** Think ahead to buying or baking treats to share in goodie bags on the 13th.

Sunday, December 13: We will gather at 10 a.m. to pack goodie bags for our special seniors. Candies, cookies, fruit, etc., will make for great treats. Come at 10 to join in the packing fun, or leave your treats at church prior to that. Delivery volunteers will be needed, too, so there are many ways to be part of this project.

Sunday, December 20: No activities sponsored by the deacons today, but readers/lighters will be needed.

(Z) A Note of Loss

Diann Olson of Rochester, a friend of our church and the daughter of our former member Margery Manthei, died on October 16 at her home in Rochester. We share in the Olson/Manthei families' loss of this kind and generous woman. Please keep the families in your prayers.

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
or free subscription at United Church News, P.O.Box 247, Bellmawr, NJ 08099 or call 1-800-363-0575

Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...pcusa.org
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...ptcaweb.org
PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact 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

In Gratitude

(O) Thankyou to Janice Ostrom, Brenda Longman, Joy Bertsinger and Jen Rand for helping decorate for the Chocolate Affaire. And thanks to all who donated the time and the goodies that helped make this new event so successful and fun.

(Z) Many thanks to Resx and Lynn Wiederanders, Coleen Johnston, Cindy DeBleick, Dick & Carol Eick, and Bonnie Rolland for helping clean the basement in preparation for the country store. Everything sparkles!

(O) Dear Church Members,
Thank you very much for your generous donation of blankets and personal items.
God Bless,
Dorothy Day Hospitality House

November 2015 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

Sunday, November 1

All Saints' Day

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Isa. 26:1-4, 8-9, 12-13, 19-21
Rev. 21:9-11, 22-27 (22:1-5) or
Heb. 11:32-12:2
Matt. 5:1-12

Monday, November 2

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Neh. 6:1-19 or Ezra 3:1-13
Rev. 10:1-11
Matt. 13:36-43

Tuesday, November 3

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Neh. 12:27-31a, 42b-47 or Ezra
4:7, 11-24
Rev. 11:1-19
Matt. 13:44-52

Wednesday, November 4

Morning: Pss. 89:1-18; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Neh. 13:4-22 or Hag. 1:1-2:9
Rev. 12:1-12
Matt. 13:53-58

Thursday, November 5

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Ezra 7:(1-10) 11-26 or Zech. 1:7-17
Rev. 14:1-13
Matt. 14:1-12

Friday, November 6

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Ezra 7:27-28; 8:21-36 or Ezra
5:1-17
Rev. 15:1-8
Matt. 14:13-21

Saturday, November 7

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Ezra 9:1-15 or Ezra 6:1-22
Rev. 17:1-14
Matt. 14:22-36

Sunday, November 8

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Ezra 10:1-17 or Neh. 1:1-11
Acts 24:10-21
Luke 14:12-24

Monday, November 9

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Neh. 9:1-15 (16-25) or Neh. 2:1-20
Rev. 18:1-8
Matt. 15:1-20

Tuesday, November 10

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Neh. 9:26-38 or Neh. 4:1-23
Rev. 18:9-20
Matt. 15:21-28

Wednesday, November 11

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Neh. 7:73b-8:3, 5-18 or Neh. 5:1-19
Rev. 18:21-24
Matt. 15:29-39

Thursday, November 12

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Neh. 6:1-19
Rev. 19:1-10
Matt. 16:1-12

Friday, November 13

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Neh. 12:27-31a, 42b-47
Rev. 19:11-16
Matt. 16:13-20

Saturday, November 14

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Neh. 13:4-22
Rev. 20:1-6
Matt. 16:21-28

Sunday, November 15

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Ezra 7:(1-10) 11-26
Acts 28:14b-23
Luke 16:1-13

Monday, November 16

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Ezra 7:27-28; 8:21-36
Rev. 20:7-15
Matt. 17:1-13

Tuesday, November 17

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Ezra 9:1-15
Rev. 21:1-8
Matt. 17:14-21

Wednesday, November 18

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Ezra 10:1-17
Rev. 21:9-21
Matt. 17:22-27

Thursday, November 19

Morning: Pss. 143; 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 81; 116
 Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)
 Rev. 21:22–22:5
 Matt. 18:1–9

Friday, November 20

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
 Evening: Pss. 6; 20
 Neh. 9:26–38
 Rev. 22:6–13
 Matt. 18:10–20

Saturday, November 21

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
 Evening: Pss. 100; 63
 Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18
 Rev. 22:14–21
 Matt. 18:21–35

Sunday, November 22
Christ the King / Reign of Christ

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
 Evening: Pss. 66; 23
 Isa. 19:19–25
 Rom. 15:5–13
 Luke 19:11–27

Monday, November 23

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
 Evening: Pss. 73; 9
 Joel 3:1–2, 9–17
 1 Peter 1:1–12
 Matt. 19:1–12

Tuesday, November 24

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
 Evening: Pss. 36; 7
 Nahum 1:1–13
 1 Peter 1:13–25
 Matt. 19:13–22

Wednesday, November 25

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 132; 134
 Obad. 15–21
 1 Peter 2:1–10
 Matt. 19:23–30

Thursday, November 26

Morning: Pss. 116; 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 26; 130
 Zeph. 3:1–13
 1 Peter 2:11–25
 Matt. 20:1–16

Friday, November 27

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
 Evening: Pss. 25; 40
 Isa. 24:14–23
 1 Peter 3:13–4:6
 Matt. 20:17–28

Saturday, November 28

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
 Evening: Pss. 125; 90
 Micah 7:11–20
 1 Peter 4:7–19
 Matt. 20:29–34

[Begin Year 2]

Sunday, November 29
1st Sunday of Advent

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
 Evening: Pss. 25; 110
 Amos 1:1–5, 13–2:8
 1 Thess. 5:1–11
 Luke 21:5–19

Monday, November 30

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
 Evening: Pss. 40; 67
 Amos 2:6–16
 2 Peter 1:1–11
 Matt. 21:1–11

**Readers of OZ**

Our next book discussion meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 PM at the home of Ellen Simon. Our selection this time is "The Invisible Wall" by Harry Bernstein.

The book jacket description: "On the eve of WWI, in a small English mill town, Harry Bernstein's family struggles to make ends meet. Harry's father earns little money at the Jewish tailoring shop and brings home even less, preferring to spend his wages drinking and gambling. Harry's mother, devoted to her children and fiercely resilient, survives on her dreams: new shoes for young Harry, her daughter's marriage to the local rabbi. Then Harry's older sister does the unthinkable: she falls in love with a Christian boy. But they are separated by an 'invisible wall' that divides Jewish families on one side of the street from Christian families on the other. When Harry unwittingly discovers the secret affair, he must choose between the morals he's been taught all his life, his loyalty to his selfless mother, and what he knows to be true in his own heart."

Please join us and feel free to bring a friend. If you need directions to Ellen's home, call her at 367-4348.

Readings for the Month of November



Sunday, November 1
John 11:1-44

All Saints' Remembrance Day

Sunday, November 8
Mark 12:38-44; Hebrews 9:24-28

Sunday, November 15
1 Samuel 1:4-20; James 1:2-8, 12

Sunday, November 22
Psalm 136; Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, November 29
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36
1st Sunday of Advent

November Birthdays

11/4 Michael Vath
11/7 Anthony Vallejo
11/8 Richard Rolland
11/9 Bob Huebert
11/10 Helen Craft
11/12 Tessa Paulson
Emily Moran
Sarah Johnston
11/13 Bob Erredge
11/14 Caleb Matthees
11/15 Josh Quammen
11/18 Kamyn Peterson-
Rucker
11/20 Parker Quammen
David Quammen
Karen Vallejo
11/21 Chad Vath
11/24 Carol Tiede
Margie Lowrie
11/26 Justin Wiederanders
11/28 Angie Gustafson
11/30 Joe Maguire



Church Staff

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

UCC Leadership Team

Bob Hawley, Moderator
Cindy DeBlicek, Clerk
Amy Pahl, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
Connie Hawley, Trustee
Rex Wiederanders, Trustee
Arlen Kylo, Trustee
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Nattalie Rolland-Vath, Deacon
Hailey Vath, Deacon
Bob/Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Coleen Johnston, Deacon
Wendy Kylo, Deacon

Presbyterian

Leadership Team

Mike Rand, Clerk
Kay Erdahl, Treasurer
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Ellen Simon, Ruling Elder
Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Peter Johnson, Ruling Elder
Sandy Bowers, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Carol Tiede, Deacon
Ted Midthun, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Gail Rucker, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator
Joanne Schenck, Secretary

SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

Thursday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

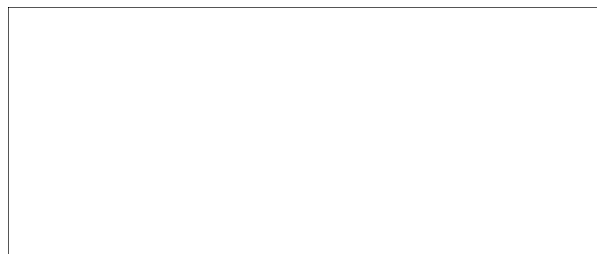
Office Phone (507) 367-4711

Email address: oronocop@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 November 2015

11/1 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

11/8 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

11/15 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

11/25 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service
at United Redeemer Lutheran Church (time TBD)

11/22 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

11/29 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

(O) Nursery available during worship service

Rev. Lisa Johnson— Contact Information
Cell Phone 1-507-696-8753
Email address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com