



January 2020

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

Next Session Meeting

Wednesday, January 8

6:30 p.m.

Please note, this date is **NOT our normal 1st Wed. of the month.**

Next Presbytery Meeting

Saturday, January 25

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Presbyterian Church of the Way,
Shoreview, MN

January Scripture Readings

Sunday January 5—

Mark 1:1-20 (21-45)

Sunday January 12—

Mark 2:1-22

Sunday January 19—

Mark 4:1-34

Sunday January 26—

Mark 5:1-20

From the Pastor

Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.
~ Isaiah 40:30-31

I've always found this to be both a funny and inspiring passage.

“Even youths will become tired and weary ...”

As someone with a couple of “youths” who run around my house on a regular basis, this is actually incredibly descriptive. Think about what kids are like when they're actually running. Are they reserved about their running? Do they save some in the tank for later? Do they pace themselves? NOPE! They run full out all the time. Their faces turn pink. Their eyes get bright. Their smiles stretch from ear to ear. When kids are running around, they are literally energy incarnate, right?

But when kids have run themselves out, they C.R.A.S.H. Have you ever been watching a kid run around, turned your back for a few minutes, and looked back only to find them curled up in a corner with a blanket and already asleep? Isaiah was right. Even youths – even energy incarnate – becomes tired and weary.

And that's where the inspiration comes in, too. Lord knows I haven't felt like “energy incarnate” since I-don't-know-when!! ☺ But through Isaiah, God reassures us that God knows we're all going to hit the wall sometimes. We're all going to struggle with energy – physical, emotional, mental, spiritual. We're all going to have those times when the most we can do is curl up in a corner with a blanket.

And that's okay.

I feel like as a congregation, we've been dealing with a lot lately. Some of us are dealing with our own struggles. Some of us have friends and family and loved ones who are dealing with struggles. And of course, we live in a world in which we are bombarded by negative headlines, increasing divisiveness, and angry finger-pointing. In the midst of all of that, we need times of rest ... times of rejuvenation ... times to be renewed in the hope of a God willing to risk it all to show us love upon love upon love.

From the Pastor



So as the year turns – as we say goodbye to 2019 and open our eyes and hearts to 2020 – I want to share a prayer with you ... for you ... from you that comes to us from St. Augustine:

*Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch,
or weep tonight, and give your angels and saints
charge over those who sleep.
Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ,
Rest your weary ones,
Bless your dying ones,
Soothe your suffering ones,
Pity your afflicted ones,
Shield your joyous ones,
And all for your love's sake. Amen.*



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.



Cookie Sale Results

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU to all of you who contributed cookies and work to our 2019 Christmas Cookie Sale. We sold almost 300 LBS. of cookies in 3 hours!! We had people from all over come just to buy our cookies, and we had so much good feedback about the variety of cookies that we had available and how much fun people had bringing friends along this year. The first 30 minutes were *really* busy! *Our entire back-up supply was gone within those first 30 minutes!*

And this year we raised **\$1,545!!!** Again, thank you thank you thank you to all who helped with this!

Church Merch!

We've been working on designing some great new church merchandise bearing our new logo. Starting in January, there will be a sign-up on the bulletin board with a few options (a hat, a polo shirt, a regular t-shirt, a travel mug, an apron, and a canvas bag) and prices next to them. If you're interested in purchasing any of those items, please add your name underneath the item name. For many of the items, we need at least 12 items for the order.



Filling Busy Bags

We are continuing to collect items for busy bags – small toys, games, arts & crafts supplies, stickers, etc. Joanne Schenck has already made all the busy bags themselves. Once again this year, we have decided to wait until after the holiday season to fill and distribute the busy bags. There's a box in the fellowship area to start collecting donations. Thanks for your support!



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**

2020 Luncheons

Let's get them on your calendar now: LUNCHEONS! Here are the dates:



Wednesday, January 15
Wednesday, February 19
Wednesday, March 18

Keep an eye out for luncheon sign-up sheets on the bulletin board. Up first: casseroles. YUM!!

About Per Capita

As 2019 comes to a close, I wanted to give you a reminder about per capita payments. Here's a brief rundown 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*

This year's per capita payment is \$35.70 per member. Of that \$35.70, 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 or Hadley Thompson.

And, since the new year is right around the corner, here is the per capita for 2020: \$36.50.

Annual Meeting

The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco's annual meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 2nd** during the 10:00 a.m. worship. We will follow the meeting with a potluck lunch.

A reminder to all those responsible for committees: Please have your reports to Brianna by Sunday, January 19, 2020 so she has a chance to assemble the annual meeting packet. Copies of reports can be emailed (oronocopc@bevcomm.net) or placed in the labeled file folder on her desk.



Nominating Committee

We're coming up on that time of year when the nominating committee will be contacting people to fill some of our open positions in church leadership for next year. In particular, we are looking for **1 ruling elder** (session member) willing to serve a 3-yr. term as well as members for a few committees for next year (budget, audit, and, of course, nominating committee).

Please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to help serve and lead this congregation that we love so much.

Update from Revs. Shelvis & Nancy Smith-Mather

Revs. Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather are the missionaries serving in South Sudan and Uganda who we support with our 2nd 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.

Stewardship Giving Tree

I know we haven't talked about it in a while, but ...

Our Giving Tree envelopes are still available. We will keep them in a basket on the table next to the bulletins throughout the year. Yes, we emphasize stewardship in the church once a year, but the truth is that we have a responsibility to be good stewards of our time, talents, resources, and devotion all day every day – 24/7/365. So if you perhaps missed your opportunity to pick up a few envelopes or would like to continue that giving into 2020, feel free to pick up more envelopes.

We're also adding a mission giving envelope this time around. Neuro Hospitality House reached out to us, and one of the ways that we can help them is by sponsoring/paying for a night for people. Those staying at NHH are asked to pay if they can, but some certainly can't. A night is \$40, so we're adding some envelopes to sponsor a night for someone. Thank you!



Epiphany Star Words

A couple years ago, when we marked Epiphany on the first Sunday in January, we did so with Star Words. For those who missed it or weren't here a few years ago, a star word is a simple, star-shaped piece of paper with a word printed on it. We will pass out the star words via the offering plates – the same offering plates we use in worship every Sunday to collect our gifts will instead be used to offer these star gifts to us.

You are invited to ponder what significance this word might have in your life and how God may be speaking to you through that simple message. You're encouraged to put your star word up somewhere in your home – someplace where you'll see it each and every day so you can keep your special word in the front of your mind and your heart. Then, throughout the year, you are encouraged to share thoughts and reflections about your star gift with the congregation, either publicly during worship or in your own individual conversations.

When we did this a few years ago, everyone was encouraged to make that word a point of inspiration, challenge, and reflection for the year. Buuuuuuuuuut ... after passing them out in worship, we didn't do much with them after that.

I heard from a lot of people after that service about how significant that star word was for them, so we're going to do it again this year. During worship on January 5th, we'll be receiving star words again, but this time around, we're going to do more with it. In each month's newsletter throughout 2020, you'll find a prompt to help you keep thinking and praying about your star word and how it continues to affect, inform, and guide you. On the first Sunday of every month, as we celebrate communion and birthdays, we're also going to designate one of our large fellowship tables as our "Star Table" for anyone that wants to have a discussion about where their star words are taking them throughout the year. And sometime during the summer, we'll do a sort of "Star Check-In Service" to remember and rededicate those words and the work we've done with them.

If you would like a star word but can't make it to worship on Sunday, January 5th, let Pastor Lisa know. She will happily save a word for you.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Worship 10 a.m.	6	7 	8 Food Shelf 5 p.m.	9	10	11
12 Jack Rucker's Birthday Worship 10 a.m. Confirmation 11:30	13	14	15 Luncheon 11:30	16 Hadley Thompson's Birthday	17 	18
19 Worship 10 a.m.	20 	21	22 Food Shelf 5 p.m.	23	24	25 
26 Worship 10 a.m. Confirmation 11:30	27 Janice Ostrom's Birthday!	28 Malachi and Annie Johnson's Anniversary Janice Ostrom's Birthday	29	30 	31	
1 Pastor Lisa's and Malachi's Birthday Session Meeting 6:30				2 	3	4 Robert Rueber's Birthday