



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

April 2013 Newsletter

It's A Shower—and You're Invited!

Honoring Pastor Lisa, Peter, and the Twins-To-Be

Date: Saturday, April 13

Time: 10:00 to Noon

Place: First Congregational UCC Downstairs



Sponsored by: OZ Members and Friends

The Johnsons are registered at Target.

Baby Theme: Noah's Ark

In lieu of an Ark, a stroller/car seat is on the Johnsons' wish list.

If you don't shop, you might like to give a few dollars to help
the twins ride in comfort and safety.

For more information, contact Jo Ludington, 732-4766.

From the Pastor



*“Christ is Risen!”
“He is risen indeed!”*

The familiar call and response that we used to celebrate Easter just a few days ago. This joyful exclamation is the culmination of a long journey through Lent – what was hopefully a journey of reflection, self-discovery, and re-dedication for all of us.

*“Christ is Risen!”
“He is risen indeed!”*

The resurrection! This is what we’ve been waiting for. In this one event, we find glory and grace, majesty and mercy, rejoicing and redemption. In this one event, the ferocity and finality of death are flipped on their heads. Yes, Christ died. Yes, Christ remained in the grave for three days. But death could not keep its hold on the Son of God. After those three days, Christ rose again, snatching us away from the clutches of death and giving us the opportunity for eternal life through faith. This is what we celebrate on Easter morning – the resurrection of Christ and the dawn of salvation.

But what now? Where do we go with the joy and fervor of Easter?

What better example to look to than that of Christ? When we look to the gospels, we find Christ out and about in all four of them following the resurrection. Following the glory and triumph of Easter, Jesus ensures that his message – God’s message – of forgiveness and unconditional love will continue to multiply among the people, reaching as many ears and hearts and souls as possible.

Matthew tells us that Jesus appeared to the women (Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary”) as well as the disciples before bestowing on them the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded

you.” (Mt 28:19-20a)

Mark’s longer ending also describes Jesus appearing to Mary and the disciples and giving them a commission: “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” (Mk 16:15)

In Luke, Jesus appears to a select few on the road to Emmaus before he appears to the rest of the disciples, breaking bread and eating with them and giving them his peace. (Lk 24:13-49)

John’s gospel reports Jesus appearing to many: Mary, a room full of disciples, and later to Thomas. Following these appearances, he stays with them for a time before leaving Peter with a challenge: “Feed my sheep.” (Jn 21:17b).

And we are living proof that the disciples did as they were instructed. In the weeks that followed, they spent time in Jerusalem regrouping, worshiping and praying, teaching and preaching before Pentecost happened and they all dispersed to various countries and territories, taking the good news of the gospel with them.

Jesus took the message out. After he ascended into heaven, the disciples followed in his footsteps and took the message out even further. And now it’s our turn. Instead of going back to “life as usual,” instead of silently and causally slipping back into our old routines, let’s take that message even further. On Easter morning, we celebrated the salvation and hope of a resurrected Christ. After all of that miracle and mystery, how can we act as though we aren’t changed by the good news of the gospel: Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we have been saved from the clutches of sin and death for a life of eternal and blessed relationship with God, creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all.

*“Christ is Risen!”
“He is risen indeed!”*

Blessings,
Pastor Lisa

In Our Prayers

Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice. Psalm 55:17

The friends and family of Richard Tiede, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins and Dianne Pinney (Pastor Lisa's mother).

(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 home-made 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 (PastorLisaJ@gmail.com) or call (507-696-8753).

(O/Z) 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/Z) Prayer Chain

Since prayer is such a central part of our spiritual lives, one of the first things I'd like to do is revitalize the prayer chains in both congregations. After much thought and discussion with both congregations, I've decided to do something a little different with the prayer chain, though. For the most part, it will be an email tree. When a prayer request comes to my attention, I will send it out via email to all those who wish to participate. When the prayer request shows up in your inbox, you can print it off and use it as part of your daily prayer routine, you can say a short

prayer right then and there before you delete it, or you can keep it in your inbox and say a prayer every time you see the email. *However, if you would prefer to receive a phone call about the prayer requests, I'm more than happy to call you instead of sending an email.* If you're interested, please let Pastor Lisa know

(PastorLisaJ@gmail.com or 507-696-8753). Also, please let me know whether you'd prefer being part of the email tree or whether you'd like a phone call. Thanks.

**Annual Open and Affirming (ONA)
Worship Celebration - "Widening the Circle"
Union Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
118 4th St., Elk River
April 14, 2013
Workshops at 2:30 p.m.
Worship at 4 p.m.
Reception following.**

This year, our Conference Open and Affirming (ONA) Celebration will be something new! The success of the "Vote NO on the Marriage Amendment" campaign last fall gives our 39 churches an additional reason to gather and celebrate being in community with together. We need to see and embrace each other; worship, sing, pray, study, eat and vision together; and for some this year to lodge and travel together.

The worship this year will be led by Rev. Dr. J. Bennet Guess, Executive, Minister for Local Church Ministries of the UCC. Guess has written more than 500 articles on all aspects of the church, earning him more than 60 awards. His writing demonstrates his broad knowledge of the UCC and local-church life and demonstrates his capacity to think critically as well as creatively. He is a member of numerous ecumenical organizations and is a member of the UCC's 5 member national Collegium of Officers.

Music will be provided by the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ sanctuary choir.

Two workshops are offered at 2:30 p.m.: "A New Way of Doing Church" presented by Shift UCC - a brand new ministry setting within the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, led by Lawrence T. Richardson, and "Sing Out" led by Gigi Nauer, co-director at Pilgrim Point Camp and Music Director for Pilgrims' UCC in Maple Grove.

Readers of OZ

Due to weather and absences, the Readers of OZ March meeting was canceled. We will discuss the March selection "The Testament of Mary" by Colm Toibin at our April 9th gathering at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Rex & Lynn Wiederanders (40054 Hwy 58 Blvd, Goodhue). If you need directions call the Wiederanders at 651-923-4164. All are welcome.

If you wish to get a head start on reading our May selection, we have chosen "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak. The Barnes and Noble overview states:

"It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery. . . .

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul."

(O) Presbyterian Clearwater Forest

A stunningly beautiful camp and retreat setting on Clearwater Lake in central Minnesota, Clearwater Forest has been changing lives in God's woods and waters since 1954.

Clearwater Forest provides programming including summer youth camps, women's retreats, spiritual renewal events, non-summer youth retreats, family events, senior adult programs and teambuilding opportunities for all types of groups.

See our website at: www.clearwaterforest.org

We hope to see you in 2013 at Clearwater Forest!

(O) 2013 Synod School

July 21-26, 2013

Buena Vista University

Storm Lake, Iowa

Synod School is a special learning and personal enrichment experience for all ages. The week is designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth and children – some separately, some intergenerational – to stretch the mind, nurture the soul, and offer hope.

"*Belonging to God*" is the theme of Synod School 2013. Come...

- to participate in a unique experience of Christian community as we worship, study, play and live together;
- To grow in faith through action, relationships, and a centering of the spirit;
- For continuing education, for a special family experience, or for individual growth;
- To take it all in, then return home to share and serve.

Visit our website at: www.lakesandprairies.org

Brochures and catalogs can be found on the credenza in the fellowship room.



Tithing...

There were two men shipwrecked on this island. The minute they got to the island, one of them started screaming and yelling.

"We're going to die! We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We're going to die!"

The second man was propped up against a palm tree and acting so calmly it drove the first man crazy.

"Don't you understand?!" We're going to die!!" the first man said.

"You don't understand. I make \$100,000 a week," said the second man.

The first man looked at him quite dumbfounded and asked what difference does it make? We're on an island with no food and no water! We're going to die!!!"

The second man answered, " You just don't get it. I make \$100,000 a week. I tithe. My pastor will find me!"

IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

United Church of Christ Contact Information

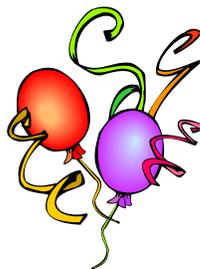
UCC national website...ucc.org
Minnesota UCC website...uccmn.org
Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact kareng@uccmn.org
United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online at ucc.org/ucnews
or free subscription at United Church News, P.O. Box 247, Bellmawr, NJ 08099 or call 1-800-363-0575

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

Birthdays for the Month of April

4/5 Vivien Williams
4/6 Donna McIntire
Linda Sorensen
4/10 David Midthun
4/12 Bridget Webster
4/16 Will Midthun
4/17 Trevor Paulson
4/21 Larry Thomforde
Larry Glasenapp
4/23 Matt Roth
4/25 Roxanne Webster



(O/Z) Stephen Ministry Training Opportunity

Peace church in Rochester will be offering a half day Stephen Ministry training session. Stephen Ministry provides one-to-one confidential Christian care to people going through a difficult time. Anyone interested should contact Pastor Lisa. Session has agreed to cover expenses for O members.

Location: Peace UCC in Rochester
1503 2nd Ave. NE

Date: Saturday, April 27

Date: 9:00a.m.—1:00 p.m. (Check in at 8:00 a.m.)

(O) Presbytery Recognition

Our church received recognition certificates from the Presbytery recently. One was for membership growth in 2012 and the other was in appreciation for payment of our Per Capita Dues.

(O/Z) We Have a New Email Address

Pine Island telephone co. has been bought out by BEVCOMM. All email addresses ending in 'pitel.net' will now be ending in 'bevcomm.net'. Our new email address is oronocopc@bevcomm.net.

(Z) Volunteer Opportunity

Looking for volunteer(s) for the "Packing for the Weekend" program. Contact Sue Wedge at 732-7025 or 421-1146 for more details.

(O) Session Personnel Coordinator

Thanks to Joy Bertsinger who has agreed to serve in the newly developed role of Session Personnel Coordinator. In this capacity, Joy will be responsible for providing direction, oversight, feedback and assistance to the church secretary, the organist, custodian, grounds keeper and any other employed staff. She will conduct the secretary performance appraisal every other year (shared responsibility with Z), will provide new committee members, new staff and volunteers with copies of pertinent policies and procedures and will provide orientation for new members of the congregation, new session members and new deacons.

These responsibilities were previously assigned to the Clerk of Session and the change should make both positions more easily handled by their incumbents. Thank you Joy for breaking new ground!

Readings for the Month of April



April 7

John 20:19-31
Acts 5:27-32

April 14

Psalm 30
Revelations 5:11-14

April 21

Genesis 1:26-2:1
Luke 12:22-28

April 28

John 13:31-35
Acts 11:1-18

IN THE COMMUNITY

All You Can Eat Dad's Belgian Waffles and Silent Auction

Sunday, April 14th—9am - 1pm

Pine Island American Legion

\$7.50 Advance/\$8.50 Door

UNDER 5 - FREE!!!

Serving Waffles, Sausage, Syrups & Drinks

Advance ticket sales through Thursday, April 11th.

Tickets available at Pine Island Area Home Services,
Pine Island Bank and through our volunteers.

Proceeds Benefit: Pine Island Area Home Services

Peer Support Volunteers

Elder Network is seeking volunteers age 55 and "better" who have a desire to bring hope to others. Peer Support Volunteers provide support and encouragement to older adults via weekly home visits. Volunteers also help with making connections to community resources. For more information on becoming a Peer Support Volunteer, please contact Renee at (507) 285-5272.

Do You Have Unused or Expired Medications?

Drop off your unused or expired medications

NO QUESTIONS ASKED

Mayo Clinic

Gonda Circle Drive

Rochester, MN

Take 2nd Street SW to 3rd Avenue SW

April 27th, 2013

10:00a.m.—2:00p.m.

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
Linda Magdsick Quammen, Clerk
Connie Wendt, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
David Pahl, Trustee
Rex Wiederanders, Trustee
Jim Wendt, Trustee
Gary Ofstie, Deacon
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Chad Vath, Deacon
Connie Hawley, Deacon
Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Coleen Johnston, Deacon

Presbyterian

Leadership Team

Judy Wilder, Clerk
Kay Erdahl, Treasurer
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Ruling Elder
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder
Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder
Ellen Simon, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Kim Stanton, Ruling Elder
Karen Vallejo, Deacon
Ted Midthin, 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 10:00-3:00

Wednesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

Office Phone# 507-367-4711

Email: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday 1-4:00 P.M. in Oronoco

Tuesday 8-11:00 a.m. in Zumbrota

Pastor's email: pastorlisaj@gmail.com

Pastor's cell phone: 507-696-8753

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.pconn.org
www.ucczumbrota.com

Worship Times for the Month of April 2013



4/7	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
4/14	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
4/21	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
4/28	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)

(O) Nursery available during worship for ages 6 weeks –pre-K

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