

October Newsletter

Presbyterian Church Of Oronoco



October Scripture Readings

Sunday October 6—

Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9

Sunday October 13—

Ruth 1:1-17

Sunday October 20—

2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5

Sunday October 27—

1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29

Next Session Meeting

Wednesday October 2

6:30 p.m.

Next Presbytery Meeting

Saturday November 16

9:00 a.m.

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church

Apple Valley

From the Pastor



Go forth into the world in peace.

Be of good courage.

Hold fast that which is good.

Render to no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the fainthearted.

Support the weak.

Help the afflicted.

Show love to everyone.

Love and serve the Lord,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

~ from The Book of Common Worship

These are words that have been used in prayer services, confirmation services, and hundreds of other worship settings since it first appeared in the *Book of Common Prayer* published by the Church of England in 1892. It was adopted by the Presbyterians in their *Book of Common Worship* in 1946. But it's a blessing that goes back even further than that. It's based in Paul's words to the Christians in Thessalonica – 1 Thessalonians 5:13-22, to be exact:

¹³ *Think of them highly with love because of their work.*

Live in peace with each other.

¹⁴ *Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly.*

Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone.

¹⁵ *Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong,
but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else.*

¹⁶ *Rejoice always.*

¹⁷ *Pray continually.*

¹⁸ *Give thanks in every situation*

because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ *Don't suppress the Spirit.*

²¹ *but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good.*

²² *Avoid every kind of evil.*

They're beautiful words.

They're inspiring words.

They're words that have blessed the lives and travels and travails of Christians for centuries.

But ... why am I sharing these particular words with you today?

Because I want to share another variation on this blessing with you today. At the Sept. 2019 presbytery meeting, which was held at Associate Church in Owatonna, those of us present participated in what I and many others considered to be a very special event. During worship (and for those who have never been, there's always a worship service at presbytery meetings), we commissioned the Rev. Dr. Paula Sanders to a ministry with immigrants and refugees down at the US/Mexico border. Rev. Dr. Sanders wasn't going down for just a week or a month or even 6 months. She was ... is ... has moved down to Texas to minister to those in great and desperate need. And so, as a presbytery, we blessed her and sent her out to do this powerful, painful, and vital work.

As part of that commissioning service, Rev. Anna Kendig shared a charge and benediction based on the one above. Rev. Kendig is the current moderator of the presbytery and serves as Lead Chaplain for Adult Behavioral Health at University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview in Minneapolis. Her words of charge and blessing were incredibly powerful and poignant in the face of the task and ministry to which we were commissioning Rev. Dr. Sanders. But I also found them to be compelling and inspiring words in the midst of all the ups and downs of day-to-day life. So this month, I am blessed to share Rev. Kendig's words with you (with her permission, of course):

Go into the world in peace... because radical peacemaking undoes some of the harm that fear and cruelty inflict. Let the humility of unknowing, disorientation, and confusion *be your teachers* – *because peacemaking starts with not knowing all the answers.*

Hold on to what is good ... even if it is small and doesn't feel like enough. Gratitude for a moment of laughter. A hand held. A joke shared. A moment of peace. Never forget that these are real and powerful.

Return no person evil for evil ... that is, guard your heart against bitterness and hatred. In unjust times there's room for anger and deep outrage, but bitterness only takes our strength rather than adds to it.

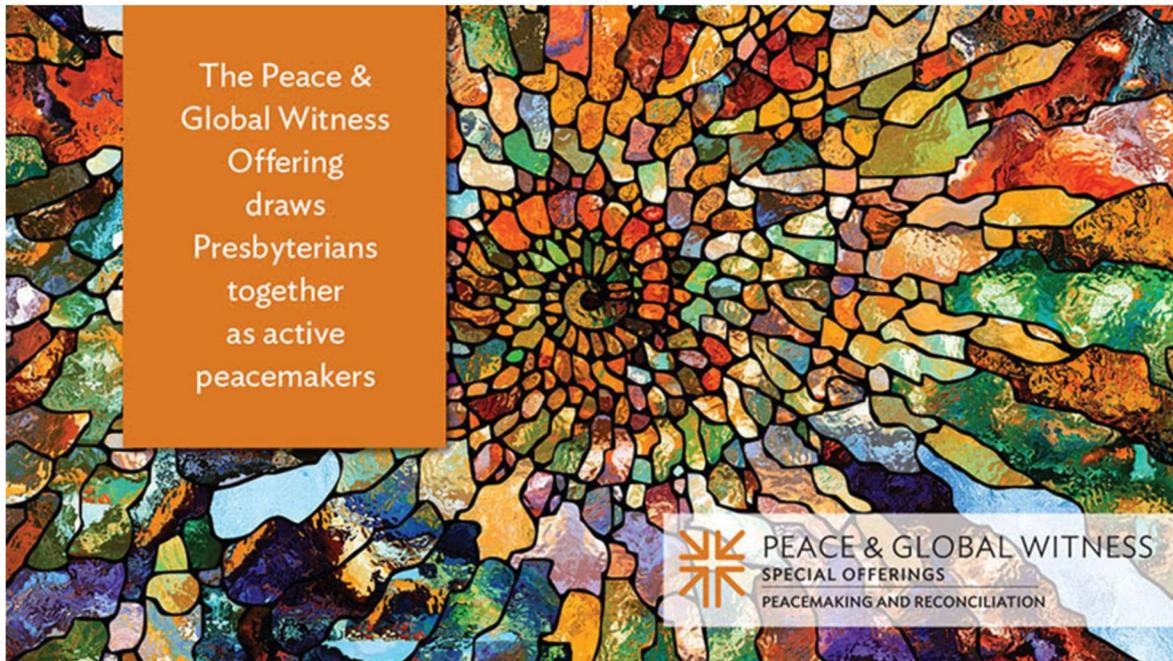
Support those in need of comfort ... that is, stay grounded in God's call to be *enough for now* – not everything to everyone.

Stand with those who seek justice ... and let the painful, powerful stories of others truly *change you...* but not break you.

Honor the dignity of all people --- including yourself ... Let compassion be the engine within your own heart of transforming the trauma and pain that surround you into practical care that can be offered back to hurting people. And take time to rejuvenate -- because no one's help is indispensable if it costs their health.

Be fueled, always, be the knowledge that Jesus stood in such places and called us to such radical work out of love. **We are each called to love and serve Christ by loving and serving others.** Go, and do likewise.

Pastor Lisa



Peace and Global Witness Offering

We make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday – the first Sunday in October. This year, that Sunday is October 6.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages all parts of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to work for peace. Each congregation is invited to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community.

- 25% of the offering stays with your local congregation to support peacemaking in your community
- 25% of the offering stays with your mid council to unite congregations to support peacemaking in you region
- 50% of the offering supports ministries of peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe

The Peace and Global Witness Offering (formerly the Peacemaking Offering) supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world.



Peace & Global Witness Offering— World Communion Sunday

We make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October. World Communion Sunday (formerly called World Wide Communion Sunday) actually originated within the Presbyterian Church and has been adopted by denominations and congregations around the world. The first World Communion Sunday was celebrated at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA in 1933 by Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr.

In the PC(USA) today, the Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages all parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to work for peace. Each congregation is invited to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. The Peace and Global Witness Offering supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Please watch for the special envelopes and consider how you may help.

Trunk or Treat

We're going to host a Trunk or Treat for the community this year! Trunk or Treat is a great way for kids to have some fun in their costumes and get a bunch of treats all in one safe, contained space.

Date: **Saturday, Oct. 26**

Time: **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Place: **Presbyterian Church of Oronoco**

** We will host this event **RAIN OR SHINE**. If it's raining, we'll move indoors.**

Lunch will be available for purchase inside the church:

Hot dogs & chips: \$2

Water/juice: \$1/bottle

We will be asking various Oronoco businesses and organizations if they would like to participate as well. Please consider bringing treats to hand out to the kiddos! The more trunks we have, the better!



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.

Painting Fundraiser

We're back at it! It's time for another painting fundraiser! This time, we'll be working with Sunshine and Roses Canvas Painting, and we're inviting kids to join us! Kids ages 9 and up who are accompanied by an adult are welcome to come paint, too. YAY!

Date: **Saturday, November 9**

Time: **1:00-3:00 p.m.**

Cost: **\$35** per seat

Pre-registration is required, so either search for our Facebook event ("Painting Fundraiser for Kids and Adults") or follow the link on our church website

(www.oronocochurch.org).



Border Battle/ Chili Sunday

The Packers/Vikings scheduled games are a little problematic this year, so we're manufacturing a Border Battle Sunday. On **Sunday, November 24** (bi week for the Vikes, late afternoon game for the Pack), we'll be battling it out again to see which team can bring more donations for the Oronoco Food Shelf – the Packers or the Vikings! After worship, we'll weight the two teams' contributions to see who won this year's battle!

This year, we're combining our Border Battle with a Chili Day. After worship, as we celebrate the friendly rivalry between our favorite teams, we'll also have an "in-house" chili competition. Bring your favorite chili (enough to share!), and



we'll have drinks and sides. We'll vote on who has the best, and if you win you get BRAGGING RIGHTS! And maybe a super cool in-house traveling trophy that can live at your house for a year.



Bingo at Pine Haven

On Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m., we will be helping the Pine Haven Care Center residents play bingo. This is a really fun evening of interacting with the residents, handing out quarters to the winners, and sharing treats. We typically need 5-6 volunteers for this activity as well as some treats to bring to share with the residents – cookies, bars, etc. If you choose to bring treats, please note that they need to be nut-free (as before) and they need to be store-bought (this is new). If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Janice Ostrom. Thanks!





Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Vigil

October 15 is designated as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day – a day set aside to remember all of those precious angel babies that have been held in the hearts of their loved ones, even if they never got to hold them in their arms. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month in 1988, and October 15th has grown into a specific day for families to remember together, grieve together, and honor their littlest loved ones together.

This year, we're going to host a vigil to honor all those who have experienced this terrible kind of loss. We're planning a short service (outdoors, if the weather permits) as well as a walk down to the river to release white carnations into the Zumbro River. Following the service and walk, there will be coffee and cookies available at the church for any who would like to stay and spend some time either with others or in prayer in the sanctuary.

Date: Tuesday, October 15

Time: 5:30 p.m.

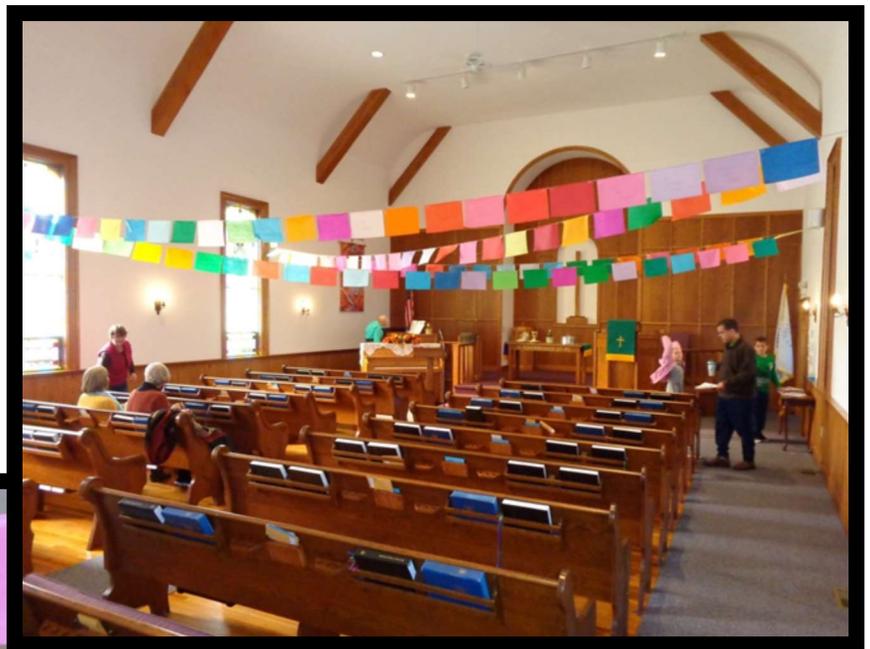
Special Prayer Request

In church on September 22, Lance and Linda Sorensen shared with the congregation that Linda has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer. She began both chemotherapy and immunotherapy treatments a few days later. Any and all prayers, support, and positive vibes are welcome! If you'd like to follow Linda's journey, visit her Caring Bridge website: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lindasorensen>.

Note: Linda will need to approve you to view the site, so you'll have to put your email address in and wait for her to okay it.

All Saints' Day Commemoration

This year, we will once again be taking some time 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. Throughout the month of October, we will have the colorful prayer flags and some markers available in the back of the sanctuary. Putting one name on each flag, please feel free to honor as many people as are near and dear to your heart so that during our All Saint's Day commemoration on **Sunday, November 4**, we may be surrounded by the vibrant color and light of those whom we love and miss.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF ORONOCO
E-MAIL ADDRESS:
oronocopc@bevcomm.net
WEBSITE
www.oronocochurch.org

October 2019
Lisa Johnson, Pastor
507-995-7310
Email: pastorlisa@gmail.com

P.O. Box 118
20 3rd St SW
Oronoco, MN 55960
507-367-4711

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hadley Thompson's Anniversary	2 Session Meeting	3 Brianna Clement's Birthday	4	5 
6 World Communion Sunday	7	8 Ted Middthun's Birthday	9 	10 Keanan Peterson- Rucker's Birthday	11	12
13 Ron and Karen Peterson-Rucker's Anniversary	14 	15 Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Vigil	16 Bingo at Pine Heaven	17	18 Clyde Johnson's Birthday	19
20	21	22 	23	24	25	26 Trunk or Treat
27	28 Ellen Simon's Birthday	29	30	31 		