

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

March 2013 Newsletter

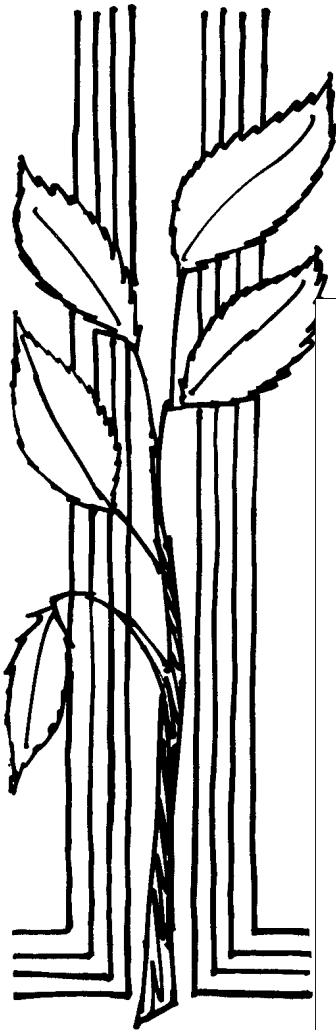
Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

*Maundy Thursday service – Thursday, Mar. 28 @ 7:00 p.m., Z church
Good Friday/Tenebrae service – Friday, Mar. 29 @ 7:00 p.m., O church*

In the Maundy Thursday service, we have the opportunity to come together as brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate and remember the meal that Jesus shared with his most beloved friends. It is an intimate service in which we can share with each other the conviction and compassion that Jesus shared with his disciples that night thousands of years ago as we share the bread and wine in communion.

I know that we haven't done a Good Friday service in some time, but I'm going to encourage everyone to attend this service. It's a Tenebrae Service – a service of light and dark. In this service, we walk through Jesus' last days and hours, interspersing Scripture passages with hymns and choir pieces. As we go deeper and deeper into the story of Christ's arrest, torture, and crucifixion, the sanctuary will grow darker and darker. We will end in darkness, leaving us room to contemplate Christ's death and celebrate his imminent resurrection

Easter worship on Sunday, March 31, will be held at the regular times in both churches (9:00 at Z, 11:00 at O.)



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HAS

RISEN

alleluia alleluia



FROM THE PASTOR

Last month, we talked about using the season of Lent to draw closer to God. It is my hope and prayer that you're all making strides along this journey. But if you're not, remember that this path isn't going to be an easy or quick.

This Lenten excursion is a two-fold journey. First, it is a journey through our own souls. As we navigate the hidden corners and dark side streets, we can discover things about ourselves that we may not have known before. Sometimes, we uncover weaknesses or shortcomings we wish had stayed hidden. When this is the case, it's important to remember the words of Philippians: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (4:13) Believe it or not, that "all things" even includes conquering whatever demons lay in wait for us, in the world or in our souls.

But along this journey through the soul, we can also discover strength and resilience we didn't know we possessed. We can find bright spots – unexpected spaces of beauty and inspiration, faith and trust, compassion and potential for growth. These are places in our souls that have been touched by the Holy Spirit. They are the footprints of Jesus within us. They are gifts from God that help us get through the rough patches, that remind us we are never alone as we navigate this path through our faith and our lives.

Second, Lent is a journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem. Unlike the disciples that were with Jesus millennia ago, we are aware that as we walk this well-trod and dusty road, we are walking toward the darkness of Christ's betrayal, arrest, torture, crucifixion, and death. We know that Jesus is moving ever closer to his end, and we know how truly painful and agonizing that end will be. And when we come together to worship on Good Friday, we experience the significance and power of this part of the journey – the anguish, the fear, and the ultimate acceptance.

But there is beauty in this part of our Lenten journey as well. There is a powerful intimacy in the way we celebrate the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. Je-

sus not only shared bread and wine but his very self with those he loved the most, and as we participate in this special observance of the Lord's Supper, we have the joy and the privilege of sharing that same trust, companionship, and love with our brothers and sisters in Christ. There is also a formidable love in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross – in his willingness, in his humility, his prayerfulness. This is truly a love above any other. It is a love that crosses any and all boundaries. It is a love that can move mountains and pull us up out of the deepest depths. It is a holy love.

Everyone's Lenten journey will look different. We each struggle with different things. We find hope and joy in different places, and we discover renewals through different practices. Whatever shape your Lenten journey is taking, I pray that Jesus remains at the center of it. I pray that you feel the Holy Spirit guiding you, lifting you up and infusing you with strength when you need it. And if there is anything that you feel you need to talk about or pray about, my door is always open.

Blessings,
Pastor Lisa

(O/Z) Prayer Chain

Since prayer is such a part of our spiritual lives, one of the first things I'd like to do is revitalize the prayer chains in both congregations. Being a part of the prayer chain means that when there's a prayer request in the congregation, the pastor will be notified and will call the first person on the chain. That person then calls the second person on the chain, the second person call the third, and so on. Then, as a part of the prayer chain, you pray for those whose request is being passed along. We're also talking about doing some sort of prayer workshop (possibly joint with both churches) as a kick-off for the new prayer chain, though nothing has been scheduled yet. If you are interested, please let Pastor Lisa know. (pastorlisaj@gmail.com or 507-696-8753)



In Our Prayers

Richard Tiede, Nick Pahl and Ann Hawkins

(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 homemade 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 (pastor LisaJ@gmail.com) or call her on the church cell phone (507-696-8753).

(O) Presbyterian Briefs (from the O Publicity Team)

In America, the first presbytery was organized in 1706, the first synod in 1717, the first General Assembly was held in 1789. Today's Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was created by the 1983 reunion of the two main branches of Presbyterians in America, separated since the Civil War: The Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The latter had been created by the union of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the United Presbyterian Church of North America in 1958.

Source: "Who Are We Presbyterians?"

Readers of OZ Novel for Next Meeting

The February 12 meeting of the Readers of OZ was rescheduled for February 26 because of the weather, and so the newsletter will be ready to go out before we know for certain the date and place of the next meeting (which would normally be on March 12.) To find out when and where the group will meet, please call Coleen Johnston, 843-4719.

The book to be discussed at the meeting is *The Testament of Mary*, by Colm Toibin. Here is a segment

of the NPR introduction to the discussion of his book:

"In his new novel, *The Testament of Mary*, Irish writer Colm Toibin imagines Mary's life 20 years after the crucifixion. She is struggling to understand why some people believe Jesus is the son of God, and weighed down by the guilt she feels wondering what she might have done differently to alter — or ease — her son's fate." It is a short book, but promises to be a story that will open up great discussion questions. Everyone is welcome to join in, so please call for more information.



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!

Readers Needed

There will be a number of different readings – some from Scripture, others that are more dramatic readings – that we'll be using for both the Maundy Thursday service and the Good Friday service. Anyone who is interested in helping out and being a reader can contact Pastor Lisa (PastorLisaJ@gmail.com or 507-696-8753). If you want prep time beforehand, I can get you the readings as soon as you'd like them.

In Gratitude

(O) Thanks to Lance and Linda Sorensen for donating a phone for the pastor's office. Our old one kicked the bucket and the Sorensens came to the rescue.

(O/Z) Easter Plant Order Reminder

(Z) If you wish to order Easter flowers, there are sign up sheets on the back table at church. The plants will come from Flowers on Main in Zumbrota. Donors are reminded that they can take their plants home after worship if they wish. For more information or assistance in ordering, call Connie Hawley, 507-250-1469 .

(O) The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco will be offering Easter flowers, similar to last year, for display during the Easter service as part of a memorial garden. Order forms are on the table in the fellowship room. Contact is Carol Tiede at 282-6273.

(O) People of the Church Luncheons

Thanks to all who contributed food, worked and/or enjoyed a meal at our February luncheon. We raised \$337 for our outreach programs. Watch for the sign up sheet for our last luncheon of the winter which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, from 11:30-1:00. We have decided to switch from BBQs to another casserole, salad and dessert luncheon as it is so popular.

Extra posters are available on the fellowship room credenza if you can help us get the word out. Be sure to invite your friends and family.

(O) Elder Commissioner to Presbytery

Thank you to Lance Sorensen who has volunteered to represent our church at the regular meetings of the Presbytery throughout the year.

(O) New Deacon & New Ruling Elder

Thank you to Ted Midthun who has volunteered to serve as a new Deacon and to Ellen Simon who is a new member of Session.

(O/Z) March is Minnesota FoodShare Month



Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign recruits thousands of people statewide to collect cash and food for their local food shelves. For more than three decades, the March Campaign has been making a major difference relieving hunger throughout the state. The annual cash and food drive raises money and food to stock more than 300 food shelves throughout Minnesota. The contributions from this passionate annual effort, which brings together families, companies, faith communities, schools and civic groups, raises more than half the food distributed each year by those food shelves.

(Z) At the Zumbrota Area Food Shelf all donations are used locally, serving people in need in Zumbrota, Wanamingo, Goodhue, Mazeppa, Bellechester and the surrounding areas. Monetary donations can be mailed to PO Box 43, Zumbrota, MN 55992.

(O) Donations of non – perishable food or household supplies can be dropped off at the church. Cash contributions are accepted and will be used to purchase additional food for distribution. Checks can be written out to Oronoco Food Shelf and given to Ellen Simon.

**Hours of the Oronoco Food Shelf are:
Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 5pm – 7pm**

(O/Z) Per Capita Dues Reminder Membership Dues for the OZ churches in 2013

(O) Per capita dues for 2013 are \$32.37 per member. Your contribution is appreciated. Please note your per capita payment separately in your offering so we follow up accurately.

(Z) As we enter into the New Year, it is time to remind UCC members of their commitment of \$10 for per capita dues. Please indicate on the "memo" portion of your check that the \$10 is designated for "dues." Thank you!

PASTOR LISA'S OFFICE HOURS
 (O) Mondays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
 (Z) Tuesdays, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
 I'll continue to evaluate whether or not these are working, so any feedback on these hours is appreciated. And I'm always available outside these hours, too. Just call my cell phone: 507-696-8753

**(O) One Great Hour of Sharing
 March 24, 2013**

Catastrophic storms and wildfires throughout the United States. War and political uprising in the Middle East. Malnutrition and starvation. Extreme poverty and urban squalor. Stories of disaster, hunger, poverty, and other tragedies filled our newspapers and television screens in 2012. With such stories, it is easy to become disheartened and experience compassion fatigue. In the midst of these times, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that we are called to be "the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in" (Isa. 58:12). We are called to make God's community livable for all.

Through abundant and generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Presbyterians have for many years faithfully heeded God's call to serve people seeking to reclaim and restore their lives.

Your gift to this offering allows Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to restore communities around the world affected by disaster including those now recovering from Hurricane Sandy. It helps the Presbyterian Hunger Program work with Presbyterians and other partners to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in this country and internationally and makes it possible for Self-Development of People to affirm the dignity of all by assisting in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people.

As a result of your gifts and the gifts of other congregations across the church, OGHS will continue to be

a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God's abundance in surprising ways. Thank you for your longtime support of this offering, as together we are **Sharing Resources . . . Changing Lives.**

**(Z) SHARING BRINGS JOY –
 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

Over the last year, the gifts shared through One Great Hour of Sharing offering, brought joy to every corner of the world, including here in the US. It proves that our church cares for people in their time of need. Here's where:

- countries battling chronic famine were supported through programs that improved their food production.
 - Young men and women were given leadership training for their communities through the YWCA and YMCA programs for stronger local decision-making.
 - Women found their voice through empowerment projects which gave them skills needed to improve their economic situations.
 - Families and communities hard hit by natural disasters in the US like Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast, flooding in ND; or tornados in MO and NC, received assistance to rebuild lives and communities.
- MARCH 10, Fourth Sunday in Lent, the Z congregation will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing. O will receive the offering on Easter Sunday. READ the Sunday bulletin inserts, prepare your gift and your hearts for Sharing the Brings Joy. In many ways, IT IS AN OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING: We can give rather than need to receive. GOD BLESS OUR GIVING.

Directory Additions
 Don & Cindy DeBlieck's new email:
cindy.deblieck@gmail.com

Birthdays for the Month of March

3/1 Carlyle Johnson
3/2 Rex Wiederanders
3/3 Lance Sorensen
3/6 Jace Matthees
3/7 Bill Budensiek
3/9 Deb Nelson
3/10 Bonnie Rolland
3/13 Theodore Larson
3/18 Bruce Johnston
3/19 Ron Peterson-Rucker
 Eunice Markham
3/24 Kim Stanton
3/27 Joyce Rucker
3/29 Sarah Wedge Maguire
3/30 Darin Hartzell
 Doug Maguire
 Cayden Wiederanders



Readings for the Month of March 2013

March 3

Jonah 2:10-10
Romans 7:14-25



March 10

Psalms 73:1-9, 21-28
Luke 17:11-19

March 17

Ruth 1:3-5, 11-13, 19-21, 4:13-17
Luke 17:36-50

March 24

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11

March 31

Easter

Isaiah 30:18-21, 26
John 20:1-18

***Please note the leadership changes**

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 Madgsick, 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
Cliff Swarthout, Deacon
Joan Swarthout, Deacon
Ted Midthin, Deacon
Richard Tiede, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Vivien Midthin, 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 10-3:00
Wednesday in Oronoco 10-3:00
Office Phone# 507-367-4711
Email: oronocopc@pitel.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.pcomn.org

www.ucczumbrota.com

Worship Times for the Month of March 2013



3/3	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
3/10	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
3/17	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
3/24	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
3/31	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

(O) Nursery available during worship for ages 6 weeks through Pre-K

Reverend Lisa Johnson - Contact Information

Cell Phone (507)696-8753 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com