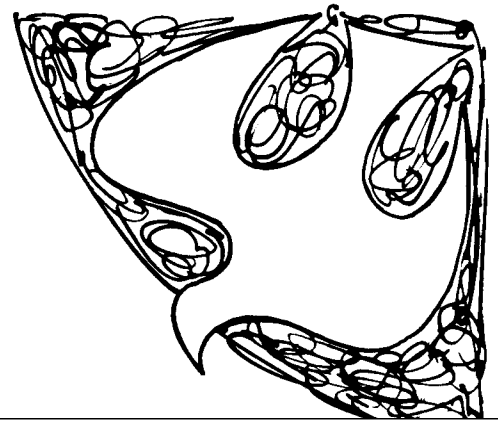


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

February 2014 Newsletter



Soup, Salad & Pie Luncheon

Back by popular demand, are our winter luncheons. On February 19, from 11:30 – 1:00 we will be dishing up soup, a variety of salads and pie. Check the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board and see if you can provide a salad, pie, or can help at the event.

**All are welcome and remember
to bring a friend!**

Your free-will donation helps to support our
outreach programs.



**PRAY. NEVER
LOSE HEART**



From the Pastor

Recently, I received an email from a seminary friend. Her husband – also a seminary friend – was about to be ordained, and she wanted to put together a special gift for him. She sent out the call to all of their friends from seminary asking us a number of questions, one of which was, “What is your favorite Scripture passage and why?”

That’s a difficult question to answer. There are so many passages that have enlightened my own journey of faith ... so many passages that are appropriate for someone about to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament ... so many passages rich with meaning.

And yet as I sat there reading her message, it was clear to me which passage I would send:

[Jesus] put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ~ Matthew 13:31-32

Maybe it’s the farm girl in me, but I love that Jesus chooses to compare the lifecycle of our faith to a seed! It begins as a small, inconsequential-looking thing, but it doesn’t stay that way for long. Once it’s been planted, a mustard seed only takes 5-10 days to germinate. In that short amount of time, it begins to sink its roots deep into the soil and to stretch its little bud up toward the life-giving warmth of the sun. And only a few short months after that initial germination, the mustard is already ready to harvest.

When Jesus compares faith to a mustard seed in this parable, he speaks of a faith that is dynamic – always moving, always growing, always changing.

Ahhh.

Change.

Such a difficult word for the church. We say that we’re open to change, but when it comes time to actually start trying new things and perhaps letting some of our time-honored traditions go by the wayside, we become hesitant. After all, our traditions are just that – long-established statements, beliefs, and customs handed down to us by those who have come before us. We turn to phrases like, “But this is how we’ve always done it,” and “This is what we know how to do.”

And yet, at the Z church annual meeting, an important point was raised – an anecdote that is both powerful and poignant: What are the seven last words of the church?

We’ve
Never
Done
It
That
Way
Before

It’s true that sometimes change can be scary. It’s true that sometimes the new things we try don’t work out. But where would we be if the world based all its movements and decisions on this anxiety? Innovations only come when we’re willing to step out *in faith*.

Think of the way that plants grow. They’re always shooting out a new branch, popping out new leaves, and sending their roots deeper and deeper into the earth. This is the kind of faith that Jesus describes in the Parable of the Mustard Seed – a vibrant and active faith that is rooted in the deep, nurturing soil of tradition but isn’t afraid to reach up and out to find life-giving warmth and nourishment in the glory of the Son. We may feel more like the mustard seed right now, but we have to recognize our potential for growth and maturity if only we open ourselves up to change.

Pastor Lisa

(O) February Luncheon Feb. 19th

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on February 19th for our soup, salad & pie luncheon from 11:30am-1:00pm. A free will offering helps to support our outreach programs. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship room for helpers and food donations. Thank you!

(O) Food Shelf News



The Food Shelf is open 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month from 5pm to 7pm. Persons wishing to make a cash donation to our food shelf are encouraged to submit a check written to Oronoco Food Shelf. Checks should be given to Ellen Simon.

All canned and boxed food items should be gathered at the collection basket in the fellowship room so it can be weighed before being shelved. Members & friends are also encouraged to sign up to serve on a Wednesday evening when the food shelf is open.

****Thank you to everyone that has worked to make the food shelf a success this past year and to those that have donated food and cash. The need is great and it is an outreach of the Gospel that we are able to fulfill. God bless you!**

In Gratitude

(O) Thank you to everyone who shared gifts for the busy bags. We filled 30 bags, which were presented to the Women's Shelter and Ronald McDonald House.

(O) Thank you so much for the Christmas gift and for thinking of me. The angel fit perfectly on my tree. I am grateful for all of you.

Eunice Markham

OZ Textile Group



Brrrrrrrr!! It's been so cold lately that we've decided to postpone meeting as a knitting/crocheting/sewing/crafting group until April. Be on the look out for

more info when things get a little warmer!

(O/Z) Special Music

I will be compiling a list of possibilities for future special music that we could include in our service. If you know of anyone who might be willing to share their music gifts with us in worship, please let me know.

(O/Z) Pastor Out of the Office

Pastor Lisa will be on vacation from Feb. 20-23 (Thurs.-Sun.)

(O) O Has a New Web Site

Over the next few months, we will be working toward adding the final touches-updated pictures, linking to Pastor Lisa's blog and the Church's calendar. During this process, we ask for your feedback and patience. Please feel free to contact one of the committee members with your comments. Website Committee Members are Peter Johnson, Kay Erdahl, Kim Stanton and Joy Bertsinger.

Check us out at: www.oronocochurch.org

(O/Z) Learning the WAY – Empowering Lay Leadership

When: Sat., Feb. 8 -- 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Where: Peace United Church of Christ
1503 2nd Ave. NE, Rochester**

Fee: \$20 (this includes lunch)

What: This is a practical workshop for developing a "catechumenate," an intentional and ongoing formation for de-churched and un-churched seekers in our communities. This process is rooted in ancient practice. The word "catechumenate" derives from the meaning to be taught orally, and is the name given to the preparation of persons for baptism from the earliest centuries of Christian experience. Rev. Hoffman and Ms. Linn will share how to gather and engage people in learning what it means to follow Jesus in the world today.

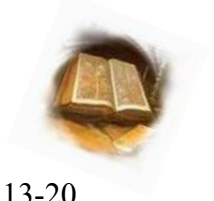
Birthdays for the Month of February

2/8 Jill Huebert
2/9 Jenny Wiederanders
2/11 George Vallejo
2/12 Tori Kylo
2/14 Dawn Pahl
Teri Paulson
2/15 Dick Ostrom
Steve Paulson
2/18 Ann Hawkins
2/20 Jacky Rueber
2/23 Sandy Pahl
2/24 Mark Wedge
Kristin Matthees
2/29 Arlen Kylo



Scripture Readings for February 2014

Sun., Feb. 2
Psalm 15; Matthew 5:1-12



Sun., Feb. 9
1 Samuel 17:33-50; Matthew 5:13-20

Sun., Feb. 16
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Sun., Feb. 23
guest preacher

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 Quammen, Clerk
Connie Wendt, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
David Pahl, Trustee
Rex Wiederanders, Trustee
Arlen Kylo, Trustee
Gary Ofstie, Deacon
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Nattalie Rolland-Vath, Deacon
Hailey Vath, Deacon
Bob/Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Coleen Johnston, Deacon

Presbyterian

Leadership Team

Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Asst. Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, 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
Judy Wilder, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Carol Tiede, Deacon
Ted Midthun, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator
Judy Wilder, Co-Moderator
Joanne Schenck, Secretary
Judy Wilder, Treasurer

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

Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...pcusa.org
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...
ptcaweb.org
PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact [communi-
cations@ptcaweb.org](mailto: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

Directory Corrections/Additions

(O) Linda Sorensen's new email address:
richie.sorensen@gmail.com

Daily Lectionary Readings - February 2014

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.

Saturday, February 1

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Gen. 18:1–16
Heb. 10:26–39
John 6:16–27

Sunday, February 2

4th Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Gen. 18:16–33
Gal. 5:13–25
Mark 8:22–30

Monday, February 3

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Gen. 19:1–17 (18–23) 24–29
Heb. 11:1–12
John 6:27–40

Tuesday, February 4

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Gen. 21:1–21
Heb. 11:13–22
John 6:41–51

Wednesday, February 5

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Gen. 22:1–18
Heb. 11:23–31
John 6:52–59

Thursday, February 6

Morning: Pss. 116; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Gen. 23:1–20
Heb. 11:32–12:2
John 6:60–71

Friday, February 7

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Gen. 24:1–27
Heb. 12:3–11
John 7:1–13

Saturday, February 8

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Gen. 24:28–38, 49–51
Heb. 12:12–29
John 7:14–36

Sunday, February 9

5th Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Gen. 24:50–67
2 Tim. 2:14–21
Mark 10:13–22

Monday, February 10

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Gen. 25:19–34
Heb. 13:1–16
John 7:37–52

Tuesday, February 11

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Gen. 26:1–6, 12–33
Heb. 13:17–25
John 7:53–8:11

Wednesday, February 12

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Gen. 27:1–29
Rom. 12:1–8
John 8:12–20

Thursday, February 13

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Gen. 27:30–45
Rom. 12:9–21
John 8:21–32

Friday, February 14

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Gen. 27:46–28:4, 10–22
Rom. 13:1–14
John 8:33–47

Saturday, February 15

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Gen. 29:1–20
Rom. 14:1–23
John 8:47–59

Sunday, February 16

6th Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Gen. 29:20–35
1 Tim. 3:14–4:10
Mark 10:23–31

Monday, February 17

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Gen. 30:1–24
1 John 1:1–10
John 9:1–17

Tuesday, February 18

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Gen. 31:1–24
1 John 2:1–11
John 9:18–41

Daily Lectionary Readings - February 2014

Wednesday, February 19

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Gen. 31:25-50
1 John 2:12-17
John 10:1-18

Thursday, February 20

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Gen. 32:3-21
1 John 2:18-29
John 10:19-30

Friday, February 21

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Gen. 32:22-33:17
1 John 3:1-10
John 10:31-42

Saturday, February 22

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Gen. 35:1-20
1 John 3:11-18
John 11:1-16

Sunday, February 23

7th Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Prov. 1:20-33
2 Cor. 5:11-21
Mark 10:35-45

Monday, February 24

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Prov. 3:11-20
1 John 3:18-4:6
John 11:17-29

Tuesday, February 25

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Prov. 4:1-27
1 John 4:7-21
John 11:30-44

Wednesday, February 26

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Prov. 6:1-19
1 John 5:1-12
John 11:45-54

Thursday, February 27

Morning: Pss. 143; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Prov. 7:1-27
1 John 5:13-21
John 11:55-12:8

Friday, February 28

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Prov. 8:1-21
Philem. 1-25
John 12:9-19

SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

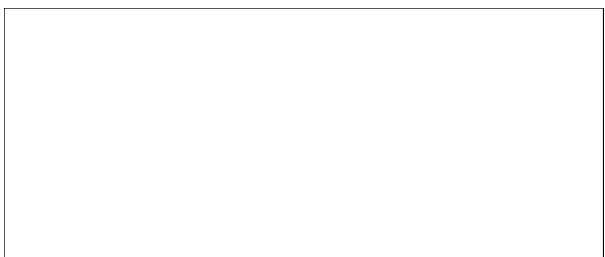
**Tuesday in Oronoco 10-3:00
Thursday in Oronoco 10-3:00**

**Office Phone #507-367-4711
Email address: 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.oronocochurch.org
www.ucczumbrota.com



Worship Times for the Month of February 2014

2/2	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
2/9	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
2/16	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
2/23	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)

(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

Pastor Lisa's Office Hours:

Mondays 1-4:00PM at Oronoco Tuesdays 8-11:00AM at Zumbrota