

# March Newsletter Presbyterian Church of Oronoco 2019

## Ash Wednesday Service

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6. This will be a special service of prayer, reflection, and the imposition of the ashes.

## March Luncheon

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on Wednesday, March 20 for our casserole, salad, and dessert luncheon from 11:30a-1:00p. A free will offering will be collected to help support our outreach programs. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship room for helpers and food donations, and there are fliers on the table in the fellowship room that you can take and hang up or distribute in your area.

Thank you!

## March

### Scripture Readings

Sun., Mar. 3 – Esther 1:1-21; John 4:7-29, 39-42

#### Transfiguration/Gifts of Women Sunday

Wed., Mar. 6 – *Ash Wednesday service @ 7:00 p.m.*

Sun., Mar. 10 – Genesis 21:9-20; Luke 4:1-13

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. in Lent, God on the Move #1

Sun., Mar. 17 – Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. in Lent, God on the Move #2

Sun., Mar. 24 – Romans 2:1-11; Luke 13:1-9

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Lent, God on the Move #3

## From the Pastor...

A few years ago at Synod School, I took a class on using photography as a spiritual discipline. It was so peaceful and meditative and profound to spend the morning wandering around the Buena Vista University campus thinking about God ... and faith ... and life ... and expressing those through the lens of a camera. Sometimes there was a prompt (“take pictures of things that are each color of the rainbow,” “take a picture that captures where you are in life right now,” etc.). Sometimes our instructor just said, “Go. Find. Then come back and share.” I’ve taken a lot of classes at Synod Schools over the years, and this is still hands down one of my favorites.



Throughout the season of Lent, we’ve done a very similar thing for the past few years now. Before Lent, I make up our list of words, assigning one word per day – words that will get us thinking, praying, and reconnecting with God. The hope is that these words will stay with you throughout the day, whether you take your picture right away in the morning or ruminate all day and take it later. They are meant to challenge you, inspire you, and guide you through your own Lenten journey. Some of the words are chosen intentionally; the ones on special days (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, etc.) are chosen to reflect the attitude of that particular holy day, and the ones on the various Sundays in Lent are chosen to reflect the theme of that Sunday’s sermon. But many of the other days are simple pulled from my master list because I hope that they might strike a chord with you in some way.

If you’re a social media person – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. – the hope is that you will post your pictures and include #PCOLentPhoto. That hashtag means others participating can search for all the Lenten photos that everyone has posted, giving you a chance to be a witness to your faith and where you see God in the world. It also gives people outside our congregation the chance to participate. Last year, our friend, Sam, participated in the Lenten photo challenge from the Benedictine monastery he was serving at in Jerusalem. We also have people from up in the cities who have found our photo challenge through presbytery resources and other pastoral connections and participated as well. It’s a beautiful, visual chance to be the body of Christ together ... even when we are apart.



But even if you aren’t a social media person, that’s okay. You’ll find copies of the word list in this newsletter as well as at church. You could still take pictures for yourself. If you want to, you could send those pictures to me, and I’d be happy to post them on the church Facebook page (either attributed or

 anonymously) along with the hashtag. Even if you don't want to take any pictures, I encourage you to keep the word list with you and meditate or pray over the word of the day. Let it be a way to keep you centered and more spiritually aware during this time of Lent.

In his letter to the Christians in Colossus, Paul says, *“Because all things were created by [Christ]: both in the heavens and on the earth, the things that are visible and the things that are invisible. Whether they are thrones or powers, or rulers or authorities, all things were created through him and for him. He existed before all things, and all things are held together in him.”* (Colossians 1:16-17) I encourage you to let this Lenten photo challenge open your eyes and your heart to the visible and invisible ways that God is reaching out and showing up in the world around you. Let these words remind you of who and where and how and why God is, even in the midst of all the craziness of life.

After all, as the old adage says, a picture is worth a thousand words .....



*Pastor Gira*



## Lent Readers

During Advent, we light one candle a week to signify the coming of the light of Christ into the world. During Lent, as we draw closer to the cross and the crucifixion of that same Christ, the light dims. So, throughout our Lenten worship services, we will be participating in a “backwards Advent wreath” of sorts. There will be a short reading, a few verses of Scripture, the extinguishing of one candle per week, and a prayer. On Easter morning, there will be a final reading that will include the relighting of all the candles.

So, I’m looking for individuals or families willing to help with those readings. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and an envelope hanging under the sign-up sheet that contains all the readings. If you’d prefer an electronic copy of the reading, let me know, and I’d be happy to email it to you.

## Seeking a deacon

We currently have four deacons serving our congregation – Ellen Simon, Jenny Rand, Karen Peterson-Rucker, and Gail Rucker. While this is within the parameters of our by-laws, we would certainly welcome one or two more people willing to serve as deacons. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), deacons are ministers of presence and compassion. In our particular congregation, the greatest role of the deacons is to help prepare and serve communion on the first Sunday of every month as well as special occasions (Christmas Eve, Easter, etc.) as well as helping serve at funeral luncheons when needed. In order to serve as a deacon, you do have to be a member of the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco. If you feel called to serve as a deacon or have questions about what it may be like to serve, please talk to one of the current deacons or Pastor Lisa.

Thank you.



## Next Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 13

6:30 p.m.

*\* Please note this is a change from our regular mtg. date due to Ash Wednesday falling on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of March.\**

## Next Presbytery Meeting

Saturday, March 16

9:00 a.m..

The Korean Presbyterian Church  
of Minnesota– Minneapolis

## Stated Clerk's Visit and Special Session Meeting

On Sun., Mar. 31, Barbara Lutter, stated clerk for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, will be joining us in worship and for fellowship afterward. Following that time of fellowship, Barbara will be meeting with the session to have a discussion about the mission and ministry of our church and how the presbytery can best help in that mission and ministry. This is a discussion that the Presbytery Leadership Team has been having and is having with every congregation in the presbytery throughout the past year. We are happy to welcome Barbara into our worship and our community that day so that she and the presbytery can have a clear and accurate understanding of our small church and our big mission.

## Lenten Sermon Series- "God on the Move"

The four Gospels tell different stories about Jesus – different encounters, different experiences, different relationships. But throughout all those different stories, there is one commonality that cannot be denied: Jesus MOVES. Jesus never stays in one place for long. He and the disciples are always going from one place to the next. "He also moved through every part of the human experience, encountering everything from temptation, to joy, to suffering and even death" (Rev. Jessica LaGrone). And God continues to move through our lives – leading us, inspiring us, protecting us, and shaking us up. So, as we journey through Lent, we're also going to be journeying with Jesus – through the movements of the gospel, through the movement of faith, and through the movement of the Holy Spirit.

## Lent Photo Challenge

For the last few years, throughout Lent, we have don a Photo Challenge. We assigned a word to each day of Lent – something to get us thinking and praying and digging deeper into our faith in some way. Sometime throughout the day, you take a picture that makes you think of that word. For example, if the word was “light,” you could take a picture of a candle or the sun rays or the smile of a friend (as it LIGHTS up your day), etc. 

# 2019 Lenten Photo Challenge

Post to Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using #PCOLentPhoto

### March

6	sacred space	20	found
7	patience	21	time
8	home	22	entrance
9	focus	23	gratitude
10	endurance	24	change
11	thanks	25	near
12	hear	26	something given
13	vice	27	symbol
14	place of healing	28	spirit
15	speak	29	persevere
16	generosity	30	heaven
17	wrestle	31	road
18	imagination		
19	heart		

### April

1	something old	15	have
2	refuge	16	dream
3	guide	17	serve
4	blessing	18	celebrate
5	seek	19	sorrow
6	grief	20	silence
7	something humble		
8	people		
9	glorify		
10	alone		
11	hand		
12	curiosity		
13	something new		
14	vulnerability		

Easter

bonus:

embrace



Once you have your picture, there are two ways to participate. First, you can take a picture and post it to Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram. Include the word of the day with your post as well as #PCOLentPhoto so we can all find each other's photos. But if social media is not your forte, you can still participate. Take the pictures with your phone or your regular camera and keep track of which pictures go with which words. You can either share them with others on Sunday morning during fellowship, or if you want, get them to Pastor Lisa and she can post them on the church's Facebook page for you (either credited to you or anonymously, whichever you choose).

In advance, thank you!



## Summer Fun Nights

This summer, instead of trying to organize a vacation Bible school for one particular week and hoping it's a week that works out for everyone, we're going to try something different. We're going to host a weekly summer fun night open for everyone – ages 9 months to 99 yrs.! These weekly summer fun nights will include an activity, a snack, and a take-home devotional. *If you're interested in helping plan these summer fun nights, please talk to Pastor Lisa.*

## 150th Anniversary

The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco is turning **150 this year!!** That's pretty amazing, friends! And the bonus is that the actual date of our anniversary – June 30<sup>th</sup> – just happens to be a Sunday this year. So we want to **CELEBRATE!!** The session will certainly be talking about this in the months to come, but if you have any ideas for ways to celebrate or would like to be a part of the planning for that, please talk to Pastor Lisa.



## Directory



We are in the final stages of putting together our 2019 Directory. There is a sample copy on the table in the fellowship room. Please take a look at your entry in that copy to make sure all the information is accurate and there is a picture. If you need to make any changes, you can either write them in the sample copy or email those changes to Brianna ([oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)).

## **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign**

For more than 30 years, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches has partnered with local food shelves to bring food to those in need in communities throughout the state. The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together hundreds of companies, civic groups, schools and congregations to help keep 300+ food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. This grassroots campaign is our most enduring program. Schools, business, restaurants, congregations and stores are invited to participate in specified action weeks in March, so we will be joining in “A Different Kind of Food Fight” (this year’s campaign) by signing up your group or organization and join the fight against hunger here!

Throughout March, we will be collecting food donations and funds for the Oronoco Food Shelf. At the end of the month, we will total up our donations in dollars and pounds and report it to the Minnesota FoodShare organization, joining our efforts with those of other businesses, schools, and organizations around the state. You can designate any special offering during the month of March for this purpose by writing “March Campaign” in the memo line of your check or by using one of the small manila offering envelopes and writing “March Campaign” on the outside of the envelope.



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## March 2019

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Worship 10:00 a.m. Lance Sorensen's Birthday	4 Geoff Warner's Birthday	5	6  ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.	7	8 Carlyle Johnson's Birthday	9 Debbie Nelson's Birthday 
10 Worship 10:00 a.m. Confirmation 11:30 a.m.	11 Dick & Janice's Anniversary	12	13 Food Shelf 5-7 p.m. Session Meeting 6:30 p.m. Mark Finney's Birthday	14	15 	16 Presbyterian Meeting 9:00 a.m.
17 Worship 10:00 a.m. Confirmation 11:30 a.m. Pack the Pew Campaign St. Patrick's Day	18 	19 Eunice Markham's & Ron Peterson-Rucker's Birthday	20 Luncheon 11:30 a.m. 	21	22	23
24 Worship 10:00 a.m. Confirmation 11:30 a.m. Kim Stanton's Birthday 31 Worship 10 a.m. Special Session Meeting 12:00 p.m.	25	26	27 Food Shelf 5-7 p.m. Joyce Rucker's Birthday	28	29	30