

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

## November 2017 Newsletter



### Local Presbyterian Youth Events

The local PC(USA) pastors have gotten together and planned some area youth events. Currently, the participating congregations are First Pres in Hayfield, First Pres in Rochester, First Pres in Kasson, Associated Church in Owatonna, and Community Pres in Rochester. Westminster Pres in Austin may participate as well. These events are all open to students in grades 6-12.

Planned events:

**Jan. 5-6, 2018 – lock-in and service opportunity:** joint lock-in at The Barn in Hayfield and a Sat. morning service opportunity at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan for an 11:00-1:30, then lunch in the cities before heading home

**Start time: 8:00 p.m. on Fri.**

**End time: 4:00 p.m. on Sat. (estimation)**

**Cost: \$5, a snack to share & money for lunch**

**Feb. 17, 2018 – sledding and pizza party:** sledding at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville, then heading to the Pizza Ranch in Stewartville for lunch

**Start time: 10:00 a.m.**

**End time: 1:30 p.m. (estimation)**

**Cost: FREE**

**Mar. 17-18, 2018 – 30-hour Famine event:** 30-Hour Famine is a national event sponsored by World Vision as a way to raise money for hunger relief around the world. It is exactly what it sounds like – 30 hours of fasting for participants. No food allowed. As the fundraising part of this event, students will collect pledges from people (e.g. - \$.50 for every hour that they fast). Students will spend Saturday together participating in a number of different activities, then will go home for Sat. night. (That means they'll need your help continuing their fast!) On Sun. morning, they'll be in their own congregations to talk about what they're doing and what they're learning during this fast time. On Sun. afternoon, we will all re-gather to break the fast with communion and a meal provided by the participating congregations.

**Start time: TBD**

**End time: TBD**

Optional events:

**Feb. 25, 2018 – tobyMac concert:** Associated Church in Owatonna (combined PCUSA/UCC congregation) is taking their youth to the tobyMac concert up at the Target Center on Sun., Feb. 25. The concert starts at 7:00 p.m., and cost for tickets is \$50.

**Youth group opportunity:** If your students is looking to participate in a youth group, we have an open invitation from First Presbyterian Church in Rochester. Here's their info:

**Wednesday nights @ 5:45 p.m.**

**Jan. 25-28, 2018 – Teens Encountering Christ:** This is a powerful multi-day event that helps students walk through the final days of Jesus as a way to deepen their understanding of their faith and their relationship with Christ. It's a Thurs.-Sun. event (so they would need to miss school on that Fri., Jan. 26), and applications are required. The Jan. event is being held in Owatonna. Applications and more information can be found at <http://www.southernotec.org/>.

We're also discussing a joint mission trip next summer. Plans are still in the early stages for that, so I will get you more information on that when I have it. *Please talk to Pastor Lisa if your student is planning on attending any of these events or if you're interested in chaperoning.*

# From Our Pastor



When it comes time to flip that calendar page (or your digital planner) from October to November, one thought tends to dominate: thankfulness. In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, so the month of November tends to be a month in which people spend a little more time thinking about the things in their life for which they are thankful. Something that has become popular on social media within the last few years is posting one thing that you're thankful for every day in November. The philosophy behind this is to extend the gratitude and blessing of Thanksgiving beyond the single day itself.

But sometimes, it can be difficult to be thankful. Sometimes life is hard. Sometimes life is insanely busy. Sometimes we're feeling down or discouraged. And if you're listing one thing that you're thankful for every day for 30 days, maybe sometimes you just draw a blank trying to come up with something you haven't already listed! Not being able to come up with a million things that we're thankful for at the drop of a hat doesn't make us bad people. It doesn't make us bad Christians. It makes us human.

So I wanted to give us some alternative ways to approach the idea of being thankful this month – some different prompts that may turn your mind to thankfulness in ways you may not expect. This is a list of November journal prompts from [www.brittneyamoses.com](http://www.brittneyamoses.com), a website for various devotional and journaling material. Whether you're already someone who journals every day or are someone who has not, does not, will not ever journal, you can still use these prompts as a way to devote a few moments every day to think about gratitude and thankfulness and how God is speaking to you.

**Day 1:** 10 things I'm grateful for right now ...  
**Day 2:** 5 goals I'd like to accomplish by the end of

this month ...

**Day 3:** The biggest mistake I made this week and what I learned ...

**Day 4:** One a scale of 1-10 my mental health is at a \_\_\_ today because ...

**Day 5:** 3 things I'd do if I wasn't afraid ...

**Day 6:** Today my favorite quote is \_\_\_ because ...

**Day 7:** 5 words I'd use to describe myself are \_\_\_ because ...

**Day 8:** Where was I this time last year and what have I learned since then?

**Day 9:** One thing outside of my control that I need to stop worrying about is ...

**Day 10:** One recipe I'd like to attempt to make this month ...

**Day 11:** The best advice I've ever received ...

**Day 12:** A bad habit I'd like to start getting rid of ...

**Day 13:** My prayer for the day is ...

**Day 14:** Take a social media break for the day and write/think about your experience.

**Day 15:** My life mission in one sentence is ...

**Day 16:** A letter of encouragement to myself on a really bad day ...

**Day 17:** An experience that changed my outlook on life ...

**Day 18:** 3 people I'm thankful for today are \_\_\_ because ...

**Day 19:** I can take better care of myself this week by ...

**Day 20:** Today my favorite Bible verse is \_\_\_ because ...

**Day 21:** An area where I need to trust God more is ...

**Day 22:** 5 core beliefs that guide my life are ...

**Day 23:** 5 things I'm thankful for on this Thanksgiving day ...

**Day 24:** 3 qualities of someone I admire ...

**Day 25:** One a scale of 1-10 I think my physical health is at a \_\_\_ because ...

**Day 26:** A letter of forgiveness to someone who has hurt you

**Day 27:** What's floating through your mind today? No edits, erasing, or overthinking.

**Day 28:** 3 ways I can be more selfless are ...

**Day 29:** Something I did really well this week and something I could have done better ...

**Day 30:** Highs and lows for this month and a good habit I'd like to start ...

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Sometimes, when it comes to feeling thankful, we need a little jump start. In his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Christians in Corinth, Paul says,

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ... You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” ~ 2 Corinthians 9:6, 11-12*

Paul is encouraging the Corinthian church to express their faith generously through their actions which will lead them to thanksgiving. Because at the root of all that we are and all that we hope to be, there is God. And for that, we can always be thankful.

*Pastor Lisa*

## “Coffee & Conversation”



On Sept. 10, we launched what we’re calling “Coffee & Conversation” 9:00-9:45 on Sunday mornings – a time of discussion on faith, life, and everything in between. This is a time to come together with coffee and snacks (or breakfast ... depending on how early you get up J) and have some discussions around a variety of faith topics – some Bible study, some prayer, some faith formation, some topical studies. No pre-reading or prior knowledge required. Our topic for the first few months is "Shalom: A Biblical Understanding of Peace." It is truly a fascinating look at some of the obvious and some of the not-so-obvious references to God’s peace in the Bible. Anyone is welcome – to attend, to lead the discussion, to suggest a new topic of study.

## Fall Sermon Series #2: Enemies of Gratitude

Stewardship season is around the corner – a chance for us to talk about how and why we contribute to

this beloved little white church on the hill. You’ll find more information about our 2017 stewardship plans in this newsletter, but from the pulpit, we will be addressing the idea of giving from the standpoint of gratitude. How do we express our gratitude through our giving? What stumbling blocks get in the way of our gratitude and hinder our giving? How can recognizing the blessings in front of us inspire our giving?

## In Gratitude

A big shout to all the people who made food and served dinner to the Dorothy Day House residents on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. As usual, the residents were especially grateful for the amazing food and kindness shared by all.

Thank you to all who prepared the treats for the Pine Haven Nursing Home residents on Oct 26<sup>h</sup>. Special thanks to Janice Ostrom, Paul & Julie Pendergrass, Lance Sorensen, & Ellen Simon for helping the residents with Bingo and serving them some delicious treats! A good time was had by all!

## Christmas Baked Goods/Craft Sale

Please join us December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the annual Christmas Sale where you will find delicious baked goods including cookies, candy, and holiday treats for your holiday gatherings. Crafts made by members of the congregation will also be available. For those who bake or craft please provide your goods for a free will donation sale after the service. Everyone should be prepared to go home with some treats and craft items! If you have any questions please contact Janice Ostrom or Jenny Rand.

## Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery meeting is **Mon., Nov. 6 at 4:00 p.m.** at Presbyterian Church of the Way in Shoreview. As always, Presbytery meetings are open to anyone. If you’re interested in coming, please contact Pastor Lisa.

## Border Battle Sunday Results

If you are a football person, you're more than likely already aware of the results of the actual Border Battle football game itself. But what about the Border Battle that we were having to raise donations for the Oronoco Food Shelf? Well, the winner (by a LANDSLIDE) was .....

THE VIKINGS TEAM!!!!

But really, the winner was the Oronoco Food Shelf. Through your incredible generosity and good-natured competition, we raised **893.5 lbs** of food and other items for the food shelf – the biggest donation (weight-wise) they've ever received! So thank you all so much for participating and helping to support this incredibly important ministry in our church and in our community.

## Food Shelf Sunday is November 5 Our Food Shelf Needs Your Help

Our food shelf provides individuals and families with a variety of nutritious food and the opportunity to stretch limited household budgets. The food shelf is sustained by donations of dollars, food and personal care items. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Please Note: The food shelf will be open from 4-6:00pm November 22 through March to accommodate those who have difficulty driving in the dark.**

## Wine & Painting Fundraiser



We will be hosting a wonderful afternoon of painting, refreshments, and fellowship! We will be joined by Nicki Novotne from Art on the Go in Rochester ([www.artonthegorocheater.com](http://www.artonthegorocheater.com)). There will be painting (all materials provided)! There will be delicious treats! There will be gourmet coffee and wine! And all the funds raised will go toward Vacation Bible School!

When: **Sat., Nov. 11, 1:00-3:30 p.m.**  
Where: **Presbyterian Church of Oronoco**  
Cost: **\$35** per person (\$10 required at registration, \$25 required the day of the event)

Pre-registration for this event IS REQUIRED, and space is limited to 30 seats. So sign up soon! To register, go to the Art on the Go website, click on "Calendar," then find Nov. 2017 and click on "Vacation Bible School."

We've also created a Facebook event ("Wine & Painting Fundraiser" found on the church's Facebook page) that you can share with others. **\*\*Responding as "Going" to the Facebook event doesn't sign you up for a seat. You must register through the Art on the Go website to reserve your seat.\*\***

## Kids' Sunday School

We are starting a Sunday school program! Children ages 6-12 are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings after worship from **10:45-11:30a.** **\*\* Please note that this is a time change.\*\*** *Children will be dismissed during the hymn after the sermon or, on communion Sundays, after communion.* We'll be exploring God's compassion throughout Scripture with fun lessons and great materials. While the kids are having fun and learning, parents are welcome to join us in the fellowship room for treats and coffee. And a big, GIANT thank you to Karen Peterson-Rucker, Gail Rucker, Mike Rand, Jenny Rand, and Joanne Schenck for volunteering to teach!!

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, you can either check out the Mission Connect newsletter on the information board at church or go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/shelvis-and-nancy-smith-mather/>. In the top right portion of the screen you will find a box with a 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.

## Stewardship 2017

Stewardship is an important facet in the life of the church. It's a chance for us to share the ways that God has gifted us with each other and with the world in new and different ways. Sometimes that involves sharing financially. Sometimes that involves sharing in other way, too – sharing our time, sharing our special talents/interests, sharing our dedication. That is what stewardship is all about: caring for God's church and God's world with responsibility and action.

Our 2017 stewardship campaign kicked off on Oct. 29, so there are a few things I'd like to remind you of concerning some ways that you can help.

\* *Electronic giving reminder* – This congregation doesn't follow the typical stewardship pledge model. However, if you're the kind of person that prefers to take care of your financial obligations electronically, we can help with that! We have the capability to do an electronic pull either once or twice a month for whatever amount you designate. There are yellow forms on the information board in the fellowship room if you're interested in this. Simply fill out the form and return it to our current treasurer, Kay Erdahl. Also, if you've already signed up for electronic giving and would like to alter your amount, fill out the green form and return it to Kay Erdahl as well.

\* *Giving Tree* – This year, we're going to try something different. We'll be creating a stewardship giving tree, giving people the opportunity to "sponsor" various portions of our budget in addition to your regular giving. There will be small envelopes hanging on the tree, each corresponding with something you can sponsor. For example, you could sponsor one month of our average electric bill. The amount for each of these items will be listed on the outside of the envelope. Simply place your donation in the envelope and either place the envelope in the offering plate or in Kay Erdahl's box.

\* *1% suggestion* – Sometimes people want to start giving, but they aren't really sure how to begin. Or people want to increase their giving but, again, don't really don't know where to start. So let me challenge you with something that is hopefully fairly manageable. The challenge is to increase your monthly giving by 1% of your monthly income. So if your monthly income was \$1500, for example, 1% of that would be \$15. If you were already giving \$75 a month, that would increasing it to \$90 a month. If you weren't

giving anything regularly in the past, that would be simply giving \$15 a month. If you're unsure of how to start thinking about your stewardship giving, start by considering a 1% increase.

## Door-to-Door Food Shelf Collection



During a recent congregation discussion, we spent some time talking about some of the new ideas/endeavors that we'd like to tackle. The first one that came up was a door-to-door Food Shelf collection in Oronoco. This would entail groups of us going door-to-door throughout different parts of Oronoco on a specific day and asking people for Food Shelf donations – whatever they might have in their cupboard that they might be willing to part with. As we're doing this, we're also looking to spread the word about who we are as a congregation, handing out some basic informational cards with our contact information, worship time, and upcoming events. Kim Stanton, Mike Rand, and Jenny Rand have volunteered to head up this new endeavor (thanks, y'all!!), so if you're interested, please contact one of them. And be on the lookout for a date so we can head out and pound the pavement together.

## Treats After Church



Everyone loves hanging out after worship with coffee or juice and a tasty treat, right? So let's do it *every Sunday!* 😊 We're looking for people willing to bring after worship treats. They can be as simple or as fancy as you like. The coffee is here, but you may want to consider bringing juice for all of our beloved non-coffee drinkers. If you (or you and a group of others) are interested, please put your names on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We've currently got the months of Oct.-Dec. listed, and as of today, most of Oct. is covered but Nov. and Dec. are wide open. Thanks!



## Readings for the Month of November



Sun., Nov. 5 – Psalm 19; Matthew 6:25-34  
**Enemies of Gratitude #2**

Sun., Nov. 12 – Matthew 22:1-14;  
Philippians 4:1-9  
**Enemies of Gratitude #3**

Sun., Nov. 19 – Psalm 99; Matthew 22:15-22  
**Enemies of Gratitude #4**

Sun., Nov. 26 – Deuteronomy 34:1-12;  
2 Corinthians 7-18  
**Enemies of Gratitude #5**

## In Our Prayers

*Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am therein the midst of them.*

*Matthew 18:19-20*

Karen Vallejo, Eunice Markham, Joan Swarthout

## November Birthdays

11/7 Anthony Vallejo  
11/10 Helen Craft  
11/18 Kamyn Peterson-Rucker  
11/20 Karen Vallejo  
11/24 Carol Tiede  
Margie Lowrie



## Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson  
Secretary: Sue Johnson  
Custodians: Sue Johnson  
Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

## Presbyterian Leadership Team

Kay Erdahl, Treasurer  
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer  
Mike Rand, Clerk of Session  
Ron Peterson Rucker, Ruling Elder  
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder  
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder  
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder  
Linda Sorensen, Ruling Elder  
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder  
Deb Nelson, Deacon  
Joanne Schenck, Deacon  
Karen Peterson Rucker, Deacon  
Jenny Rand, Deacon  
Gail Rucker, Deacon

## People of the Church

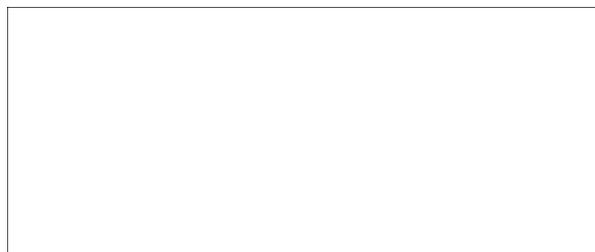
Janice Ostrom, Co-Moderator  
Jenny Rand, Co Moderator

## SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday in Oronoco 10:00-2:00**  
**Thursday in Oronoco 10:00-2:00**

**Office Phone (507) 367-4711**  
**Email address: [oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)**

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco  
PO Box 118  
Oronoco, MN 55960  
(507) 367-4711



**Check out our website at  
[www.oronocochurch.org](http://www.oronocochurch.org)**

**Worship is held at 10:00 each Sunday.  
Communion is on the first Sunday of each month.  
Adult Coffee & Conversation 9:00—9:45 a.m.  
Sunday School for ages 6-12 10:45—11:30 a.m.**



**Rev. Lisa Johnson— Contact Information  
Cell Phone 1-507-995-7310  
Email address: [pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com)**