



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

June 2016 Newsletter

## Vacation Bible School

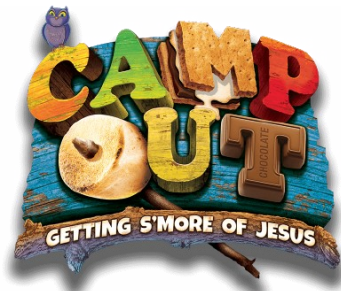
This year, we're going to try something new. We'll be doing a shortened, 3-day vacation Bible school experience right here in Oronoco. This year's theme will be "Camp Out: Getting S'More Out of Jesus" – pretty perfect considering how much we enjoy our summer camp-fire gatherings! Here's the details:

**Where:** Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

**When:** July 17-19, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Ages:** 4-12

**Cost:** \$15/person or \$30/family



We will be serving the kids dinner from 6:00-6:30 p.m., then enjoying some really fun programming after that. Registration is required, so check out [www.oronocochurch.org/vbs](http://www.oronocochurch.org/vbs) for the registration link as well as more information.

We will be looking for volunteers to help and volunteers to provide some of our supplies later on, so be on the lookout for more details!



# From the Pastor



What a day!  
What a day!  
What a glorious day!

<sup>1</sup> When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. ~ Acts 2:1-4 (CEB)

We think of Pentecost as the birthday of the church. Up until that point, Jesus' followers were just a bunch of people hanging out together, remembering their beloved Rabbi and all of the miraculous things they'd seen him do. But on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came down upon them and loosed their tongues to speak the Good News of Jesus Christ for all the world to hear – loosed their tongues in languages that were not their own. When they began spreading that Good News – when they began testifying and teaching people about who Jesus was and how he came to bring God's love and salvation – the Church was born.

And so the disciples dispersed. Some of them, including Peter, stayed around Jerusalem for a time while others headed out to lands unknown, taking with them the Good News of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit – a power to heal and to bless, a power to baptize and to uplift.

This was the first time God had sent people out into the world to bring them into the fold – to share that message of grace and salvation and acceptance with the goal of encouraging people to believe. In God's dealings with the people of Israel, the focus had been maintaining their identity and their heritage. Now, the focus was turned outward – open eyes, open arms, open hearts.

That's why it's so fitting that we are celebrating so many milestones and wonderful things in worship on Pentecost – Sunday, June 4. We will be celebrating our high school graduating, Will. We'll be honoring him and blessing him as he embarks on a new path in life – a new adventure, a new journey – not unlike the journey that those earliest disciples embarked upon.

We will be welcoming our two confirmands, Michael and Kaedyn, as members of the congregation via their statements of faith. These two young men will be claiming and declaring for themselves the promises of faith that their parents made when they were baptized. They will be choosing that faith for themselves, wherever it may lead them.

And we will be hearing from Sam, a guest to the congregation, about his upcoming year-long mission work in Israel with the Benedictine Volunteer Corps and about how God has placed that gentle but persistent tug on his heart.

On a day when we celebrate the birth of the Church – the first time when the Good News was sent out into the world for the good of all people – what a joy it will be to see that Good News embodied in the milestones and transitions of so many near and dear to us here at the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco.

God is indeed still working, still calling, still equipping men and women for God's holy work in this world. The Holy Spirit is still active among us – still coming down, if not in tongues of flame, then in the nudge, the embrace, and the encouragement of the community of believers.

What a day!  
What a day!  
What a glorious day!

*Pastor Gina*

## Pastor's Open House



We are finally moved in!! Well ... mostly. The majority of the boxes are gone, anyway. And so we would love to invite you to our new home for an open house on Sun., June 11 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Join us at 317 Pinecrest Ct. SW in Pine Island! (Incidentally, that's our new address if you're looking to update your directories. )

## New Worship Time

The surveys are in!! By an overwhelming majority (25 to 7), the congregation has chosen **10:00 a.m.** for the new worship time. This will begin on Sun., June 4.

## All Around the Campfire

We had so much fun with our campfire gatherings last summer that we're at it again this summer! One Sunday a month, we'll be gathering in the evening on the church lawn. There will be a campfire. There will be lawn games. There will be s'mores. This is a chance for us to spend some fun, relaxed, unstructured time together, and to invite people who may not be as comfortable coming through the church doors for the first time. Bring your neighbors and friends. Bring kids. Let's have fun!

- June 25: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- July 23: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Aug. 27: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Sept. 24: 6:00-8:00 p.m.



## Congratulations, Graduate!

We want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Will Midthun who is graduating from Mayo High School this year. Hooray and God bless!! We will be honoring will during worship on June 4 and with a joint reception with our confirmands after worship. Congratulations, Will!

## Special Worship: June 4

We have quite the worship service coming on June 4, 2017! June 4 is Pentecost Sunday – the birthday of the Church, one of my favorite days in the liturgical year. June 4 is also Confirmation Sunday during which we will be welcoming two new members – Michael Rand and Kaedyn Peterson-Rucker – into our congregation via their statements of faith. And we will be recognizing and honoring our high school graduate, Will Midthun.

Finally, on June 4, we will meet a special guest: Sam Burns. Sam is a young man who grew up in Le Sueur and is preparing to spend a year working in Israel with St. John's Benedictine Volunteer Corps (<http://www.saintjohnsabbey.org/our-work/giving-support/benedi/>). As a congregation, we're going to "adopt"

Sam for a year, sending him cards, care packages, little reminders of home, etc. So on June 4, Sam is going to come meet the congregation – share a little bit about who he is, what St. John's Benedictine Volunteer Corps is, and the mission work he'll be doing. He's also going to share his incredible gift of music with us in worship.

## Spring Clean Up



Our spring cleaning list is up on the bulletin board. There are a number of tasks both inside and out that we would like taken care of, so if you can help with any of those, please add your name next to the task and cross it off when it's done. Thanks.

## Father's/Mother's Day Brunch

Our hearts and our lives are full of people who have helped us grow – mother and father figures, whether they're the ones who brought us into this world or the ones we've found along the way, whether they are still with us or whether they have passed over from this world to the next. After worship on Sun., June 18, we will be having a brunch to celebrate all of those mother and father figures who have blessed our lives.

## In Our Prayers

*Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice. Psalm 55:17*

Karen Vallejo, Joyce Rucker, Eunice Markham

## Readings for the Month of June 2017

Sun., June 4 – Acts 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
**Pentecost, Confirmation, Graduation celebration**

Sun., June 11 – Acts 7:54-60; 1 Peter 2:1-10  
**Visioning Sunday**

Sun., June 18 – Acts 17:16-28; 1 Peter 3:13-22  
**Father's Day**

Sun., June 25 – *guest preacher,*  
*Rev. Martha Hendricks*

## Visioning Sundays

It cannot be denied that we have some interesting times ahead as a congregation. And the really wonderful part is that all the feedback I've gotten from people is how excited we all are – excited for something new, excited for what could be. That's so fantastic!! And I'm also hearing a whole bunch of great ideas – outreach ideas, mission ideas, worship ideas, fellowship ideas, fundraising ideas. Yay!!

So in an attempt to start funneling all of our wonderful ideas into one place, we're going to hold some Visioning Sundays. After worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of June, July, and August (June 11, July 9, and Aug. 13), we'll be holding some brainstorming/visioning sessions. We'll have refreshments and some great conversation. Summer schedules are certainly busy, but the session wants to encourage you to attend at least one Visioning Sunday session so that we can begin to forge our way ahead with as much input as possible!

## Clearwater Forest Summer Camps

THE FUN HAS BEGUN! Camp has started! Bring on the games! Boating! Hikes! High ropes! Worship! Laughter! Fun! Triumphs! Songs! Skits! Adventure! And it is not too late for you to be a part of it all! Experiences for campers, grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-recent graduates are still open. Check out [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org) or give the office a call at 218-678-2325 to find out which camps are still open. Don't let the opportunity to see what God can do in a child's life slip through your fingers – register them today! Remember, we are offering a \$25 gift certificate to the store for campers who refer a friend!

Never been to Clearwater Forest? Are you a little nervous about having your child away for the week? Ask around the congregation to find out what it is all about, come up for Friends and Family Day (June 10<sup>th</sup>) or call 218-678-2325 with questions.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

## (O) Mowing Schedule

The sign-up sheet for sharing in the lawn mowing duties is up on the bulletin board. If you can help, please sign up for the week you intend to mow. The

church mower is in the shed. Talk to Ron Peterson-Rucker or Pastor Lisa if you need the shed key.

### 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

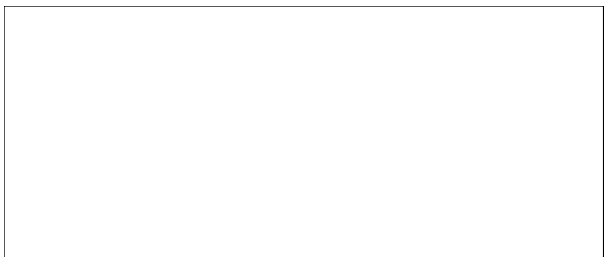
Janice Ostrom, Co-Moderator  
Jenny Rand, Co Moderator

## Birthdays for the Month of June

6/6 Rachel Rand  
Michael Rand  
6/9 Kay Erdahl  
6/28 Cindy Tiedeman



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



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

**Worship Times for the Month of June 2017**



**6/4 10:00  
6/11 10:00  
6/18 10:00  
6/25 10:00**

**Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information**  
Cell Phone (507) 995-7310      E-mail address: [pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com)  
Pastor Lisa's Office Hours: Mondays 1-4:00 p.m.  
Pastor Lisa's blog: [pastorlisaj.wordpress.com](http://pastorlisaj.wordpress.com)