

NOVEMBER
2018



CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Date: Sat., Dec. 1

Time: 8:00-11:00 a.m.

\$5 per pound

Boxes will be available



November Scripture Readings

Nov. 4

- Ruth 1:1-18
- Mark 12:28-34

Nov. 11

- Mark 12:38-44
- Acts 20:32-35

Nov. 18

- *Service for Giving Thanks*

Nov. 25

- John 17:1-11
- Acts 1:6-14

We will be asking people to bring at least 10 dozen cookies to sell, and we will need helpers to set up on Fri. as well as 4-5 helpers to be available during the sale on Sat., Dec. 1. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at church if you can help. Also, if you're planning on bringing cookies, please let us know.

We've got full-sized fliers as well as 1/4-sheet mini-fliers that need to be distributed around the area. We've also got a Facebook event (search for "Christmas Cookie Sale") that you can share on your Facebook pages. Help us get the word out!

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

Secretary:

Organist: Katha Johnson

Church Leadership

Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Mike Rand, Clerk of Session
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder

Ellen Warner, Ruling Elder
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder
Linda Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Gail Rucker, Deacon

Ellen Simon, Deacon
Joanne Schenck, Deacon
Karen Peterson-Rucker, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon

Border Battle Sunday ... It's BACK!!

Cue the NFL theme song! Border Battle Sunday is coming BACK!! Every year, we enjoy a little fun in dressing to support our respective teams when the Green Bay Packers play the Minnesota Vikings. Last year, we kicked it up a notch by having a little friendly competition within our congregation to raise donations for the Oronoco Food Shelf in teams—Packers fans vs. Vikings fans. And we had so much fun last year, we're going to do it again!



On **Sun., Nov. 25**, plan to wear your team colors to worship. After church, we'll do some tailgating together in the fellowship area, so bring your favorite pre-game snack to share!

In the weeks leading up to Nov. 25, one pew in the sanctuary will be marked with a Packers' helmet, and another will be marked with a Vikings' helmet. In those 2 pews (and whatever spill-over we need), we will be collecting donation items for the Food Shelf. After worship on Oct. 15, we will weigh the items for each team. Whichever team brings in the LEAST donations will be responsible for providing treats after worship the following Sun. – Dec. 2. Are you game??

Service for Giving Thanks

On **Sun., Nov. 18**, we will be having a special worship service centered around giving thanks—giving thanks for the people, opportunities, and blessings in our lives that we sometimes take for granted.



In preparation for this service, I'm asking that you fill out mini "Thankful for ..." banners. We have a lot of them (and can always make more, if need be!), so don't hold back. The "Thankful for ..." banners will be on the table in the fellowship area along with a number of pens and markers. Make one banner for each thing you're thankful for. Feel free to put your name on them or not—whichever you prefer. We'll be hanging them in the sanctuary for our Service of Giving Thanks.

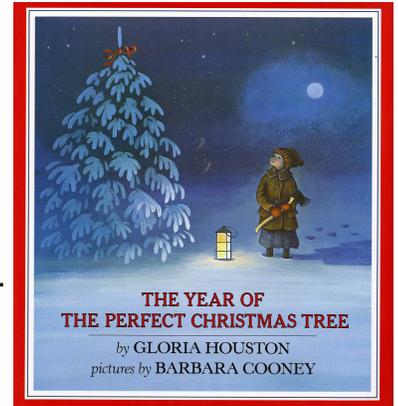
Advent Readers

Believe it or not, Advent is just around the corner. The first Sunday of Advent is Sun., Dec. 2! If you're interested in being one of our advent readers/candle lighters, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Readings are already ready and will be in a labeled envelope hanging next to the sign up sheet, so you can take them that day. In advance, thank you!



Advent Sermon Series

Throughout our Advent sermons this year, we're going to be following along with a story—*The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree* by Gloria Houston. In it, we will meet Ruthie, a little girl who's waiting for her daddy to come home from the Great War (WWI) and trying to make the best of Christmas with her momma in his absence. Like we did with the story of Jonathan Toomey a few years ago, we will be reading a little bit of Ruthie's story every Sunday, then talking about how, like Ruthie, we wait. Advent is that time of waiting ... of anticipating ... of hoping ... of preparing. So as we prepare our hearts and our minds for the coming Savior, we'll walk alongside Ruthie as she and Momma prepare their home for Christmas with the perfect tree ... and so much more.



Coffee & Conversation

Join us for Coffee & Conversation time! We gather from 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. We'll be diving back into our study of the gospel of Mark. Anyone is welcome – to attend, to lead the discussion, to suggest a new topic of study.



Confirmation

Our newest confirmation class has started! This will be a 2-yr. process of classes, mentor time, one-on-one time with Pastor Lisa, service projects, learning, discernment, Scripture study, and faith formation.

Our schedule will be as follows:

- ♥ Sun., Nov. 4—one-on-one time
- ♥ Sun., Nov. 11—class
- ♥ Sun., Nov. 18—one-on-one time
- ♥ Sun., Nov. 25—NO CLASS (Thanksgiving weekend)



Communion Sign-Up



The 2018-2019 Communion Sign-Up sheet is up in the deacon’s closet in the office. If you are a deacon, please take some time to look at the schedule and sign-up for any Sundays you know you’re available.

****Note: Nov. communion is covered, but the schedule is blank after that. So we need people to sign up soon. Thank you.****



Thank you!

Karen (Vallejo) Lohmann would like to thank the congregation for the gift of money to celebrate her marriage to Rick. They were able to spend a few days up in Duluth on a wonderful honeymoon and are so grateful for that time. Karen and Rick also want to thank those who were able to attend their wedding on Sept. 29 and those who prayed for and celebrated with them from afar.

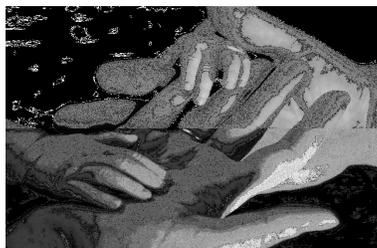
Food Shelf Hours



Our food shelf provides individuals and families with a variety of nutritional foods and the opportunity to stretch limited household budgets. The food shelf is sustained by donations of dollars, food and personal care items, and volunteer hours. Your support in whatever way you can give it is greatly appreciated.

Please note: The food shelf will be open from 4:00-6:00 p.m. starting Nov. 14 through March to accommodate those who have difficulty driving in the dark.

In Our Prayers ...



“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” ~ Philippians 4:6-7

And so we lift up **Eunice Markham, Joan Swarthout, and Joyce Rucker** in prayer.

Next Session mtg.:

**Wed., Nov. 7
6:30 p.m.**

Next Presbytery mtg.:

**Tues., Nov. 13
2:00 p.m.
New Life Pres in Roseville**



From the Pastor ...

In 1969, one of the most influential books of the modern era was published: *On Death and Dying* by Swiss-American psychiatrist Elizabeth Kübler-Ross. In it, Kübler-Ross introduced what she called the five stages of grief: *denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance*. Since the introduction of this model, countless psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors, pastors, friends, and loved ones have walked with people through these stages in times of great struggle and loss.

However, as popular as that five-stage model has become, our grief journeys don't always look that linear ... that simple ... that tidy. Grief doesn't always follow the path that we expect it to or want it to. Sometimes it shows up when it makes sense – life milestones, significant dates or anniversaries, even places that carried great meaning for us and the loved one that we've lost. But sometimes it feels like grief sneaks up out of nowhere and smacks us upside the head.

Sometimes, our grief journeys look a lot more like this:



The holiday season is upon us: Thanksgiving and Christmas, even All Saints' Day – days and times when so many people's focus is on loved ones and family ... days and times when that grief can rear up and threaten to overwhelm us in the span of a broken heartbeat.

First and foremost, it's okay to grieve. Whether the loss you're grieving was 5 minutes ago, 5 days ago, or 50 years ago, it's okay. Grief doesn't have an expiration date. There's no "it's been long enough." There's

no “should be over it by now.” As author Vicki Harrison says, “Grief is like the ocean. It comes in waves, ebbing and flowing. Sometimes the water is calm, and sometimes it is overwhelming. All we can do is learn to swim.”

And yet, we are followers of a Savior who died, yes, but also rose again. Because of that, our grief is tinged with the rosy light of hope – hope in the grace of God, hope in the resurrection, hope in the life eternal. In the face of abject grief, as Mary and Martha mourned the loss of their beloved brother, Lazarus, we hear Jesus’ words:

*“I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me will live,
even though they die.
Everyone who lives and believes in me
will never die.”
- John 11:25-26*

I know that right now, there are a number of us who are grieving. For some of us, that grief is fresh. It’s still new and raw and ragged. For others, old griefs is washing over us again—grief that has become painfully, achingly familiar. No matter how you are grieving, hear this reassurance: In Christ, we find both the compassion to get us through the grief we feel now and the promise that we will be reunited with those we love in the eternal life to come. Hear Jesus’ words of love and compassion. Believe in God’s promise of life everlasting and know that, even as you grieve, there is a love stronger than death that came to shine a light into all our darkness: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Gina

Keeping Up with the Smith-Mathers



Revs. Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather are the missionaries serving in South Sudan and Uganda along with their children—Jordan, Adaly, and Nicole—who we support with our 2nd Sunday Spare Change Sunday funds. 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, please 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 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.



Daylight Savings Reminder

Just a reminder that daylight savings time ends on **Sun., Nov. 4**. Remember to turn your clocks **BACK AN HOUR** on Saturday night ... unless, of course, you want to hang out at church for an extra hour. 😊

PT Office Admin Position

We are still searching for a part-time office administrator. Here are the details:



- up to 8 hrs/wk
- Pay: \$16/hr
- Duties: clerical (typing, answering phones, filing, answering emails, etc.); preparing bulletins and monthly newsletters; helping maintain online calendar, church Facebook page, and website
- Familiarity with Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Publisher, Facebook, and website editor software (e.g.—Wix) is strongly preferred
- Potential to do majority of the work from home/remotely

If you know anyone who may be interested in this position, please have them contact Pastor Lisa. **Note: The session has made the decision to not hire any congregation members for this position.**

Nominating Committee

We're coming up on that time of year when the nominating committee will be contacting people to fill some of our open positions in church leadership for next year. We will be looking for session members, deacons, members for a few committees for next year (budget, audit, and, of course, nominating committee).



In addition, we are seeking someone who would be willing to alternate the Clerk of Session position with Mike Rand. Mike has served as our clerk for 6 years now, and while he enjoys this position, he is hoping to find someone who could give him a bit of a break for a while. Alternating positions has worked well for our Treasure/Asst. Treasure for a number of years. It allows for accountability as well as a bit of a break to keep one person from burning out.

Please prayerfully considering how God may be calling you to help serve and lead this congregation that we love so much.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 🕒 11/7—Anthony Vallejo
- 🕒 11/10—Helen Craft
- 🕒 11/18—Kamyn Peterson-Rucker
- 🕒 11/20—Karen (Vallejo) Lohmann
- 🕒 11/24—Carol Tiede
- 🕒 11/24—Margie Lowrie
- ♥ 11/11—Lance & Linda Sorensen



Monthly Birthday Celebration

Jenny Rand has generously offered to provide cake on the **first Sunday** over every month as a way to celebrate all those who have birthdays in that particular month.

First, THANK YOU, Jenny! 😊

Second, along with the cake, we will be posting a sign with everyone's birthday (day only ... no years!) listed on it, If we don't have your birthday, please let us know what it is so we can include you! Send it to Pastor Lisa. Thanks.



Staying in Touch

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

Office: 507-367-4711

Email: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

Website: <http://www.oronocochurch.org>

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Office: 651-357-1150

Fax: 651-357-1141

Email: office@ptcaweb.org

Website: <http://www.presbyterytwincities.org>

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Office: 800-728-7228

Email: info@pcusa.org

Website: <http://www.pcusa.org>



Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

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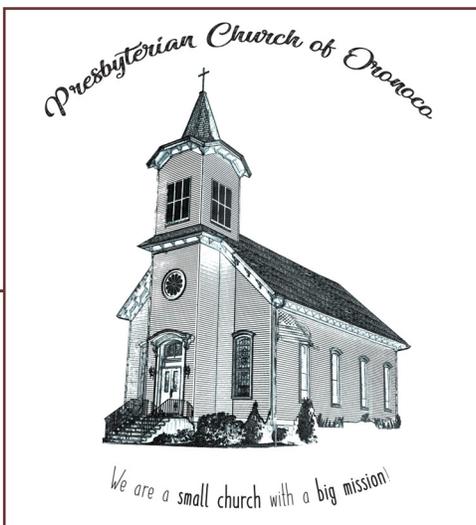
507-367-4711



Basic Information

Website: <http://www.oronocochurch.org>

Facebook: Presbyterian Church of Oronoco



Worship—10:00 a.m.

Communion—1st Sunday of the month

Fellowship hour following worship

Sunday School—2nd & 4th Sundays

Confirmation—2nd & 4th Sundays

Rev. Lisa Johnson—contact information:

Cell: 507-995-7310

Email: PastorLisaJ@gmail.com

Blog: <http://pastorlisaj.wordpress.com>