

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

**May 2014 Newsletter**

**Peace Camp is Back!**

That's right! We're planning Peace Camp again!

Here's the basic information for this year ...

**Where:** Z church (both churches are involved, though)

**When:** Wed., July 9-Sat., July 12, 2014

- Wed.-Fri., we will have activities from 6:00-8:00 p.m. with optional dinner available from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

- Overnight on Fri., we will be camping out on the church lawn (parental participation required)

- Sat. morning, we will have a nice breakfast and a final worship before dismissing.

**Cost:** \$15 per child (scholarships available)

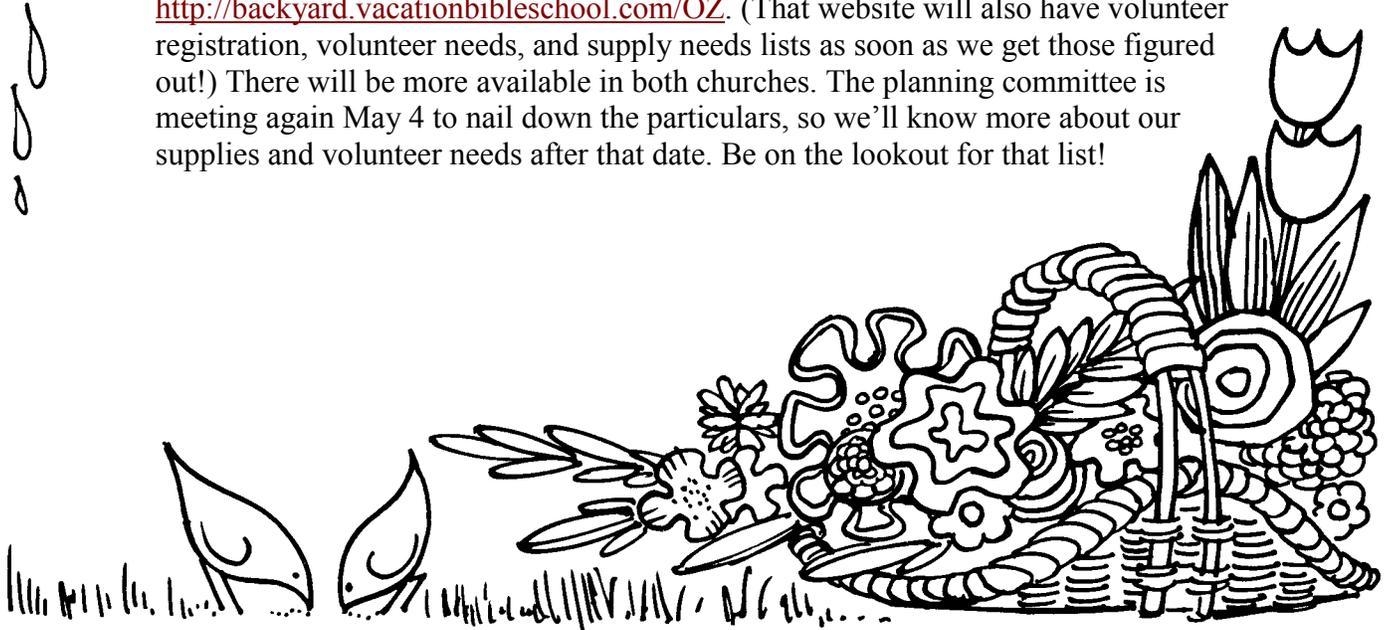
**Registration deadline:** June 23, 2014

**Ages of "campers":** kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade (grade they will be starting in the fall, not grade they just completed)



This year's theme is "**God's Big Backyard – Under the Stars**".

You can find the registration form in this newsletter, or you can register online at <http://backyard.vacationbibleschool.com/OZ>. (That website will also have volunteer registration, volunteer needs, and supply needs lists as soon as we get those figured out!) There will be more available in both churches. The planning committee is meeting again May 4 to nail down the particulars, so we'll know more about our supplies and volunteer needs after that date. Be on the lookout for that list!



## From Our Pastor



Life in a small town in North Carolina has been thrown into a tizzy ... and it's all because Jesus has come to town.

Well, *a statue* of Jesus has come to town.

But this isn't the comfortable, warm, easy Jesus we're used to seeing. There's no smiling face. There are no open arms. There's no compassion radiating from his eyes. In fact, you can't even see his face. According to a recent NPR report, "The statue depicts Jesus as a vagrant sleeping on a park bench. St. Alban's Episcopal Church installed the homeless Jesus statue on its property in the middle of an upscale neighborhood filled with well-kept townhomes.



Jesus is huddled under a blanket with his face and hands obscured; only the crucifixion wounds on his uncovered feet give him away."

It's amazing what an uproar this statue has caused. There are people that love it. There are people that hate it. There are churches that cannot wait to install their own version of this statue on their properties, and there are churches that, though Canadian artist and creator Timothy Schmalz offered them a statue, declined to install one on their property.

Isn't it funny to see how we react when we think of Jesus from a less-than-perfect vantage point? When we picture Jesus, what does he look like? What color is his skin? His hair? His eyes? How is he dressed? What is he doing?

I'd be willing to bet that none of us readily picture Jesus huddled under a blanket for warmth. We don't picture Jesus with his arm outstretched asking for

assistance or sleeping on a park bench for lack of anywhere else to lay his head. And yet we are confronted by Jesus' own words in the Gospel of Matthew:

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

~ Matt. 25:35-40.

Friends, if we were to see Jesus today – if Jesus were to actually appear on our doorstep looking like he did 2000 years ago and preaching the same words that we read every Sunday – what would we do? If he were to show up looking more like the homeless man on the corner than like the sparkling clean Son of God we learned about in Sunday school, what would we do? Would we welcome this stranger, give him food and drink, compassion and time? Or would we turn away out of discomfort, fear, and prejudice?

Just a few short weeks ago, we celebrated Christ's resurrection. We rejoiced as the stone was rolled away and the tomb was revealed to be empty. Now that the Easter lilies have all been taken home and the plastic eggs have been packed away again for another year, our challenge is to live as Easter people – people who lift up hope in the face of despair, people who lift up forgiveness in the face of hostility, people who lift up promise in the face of apathy. All of these are beautiful blessings that have come from God, but we have to remember that they came out of something dark and ugly and scarred. The cross wasn't pretty. It wasn't sparkling. It wasn't perfect. But it brought us the reality of God's saving grace, and nothing can be more beautiful than that.

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Each and every day, we have the privilege of encountering God in a hundred different ways – in people that we meet who need our help, our time, our patience, and our compassion. People in Davidson, North Carolina are starting to realize this: “Back at St. Alban's in Davidson, the rector reports that the Jesus the Homeless statue has earned more followers than detractors. It is now common, he says, to see people come, sit on the bench, rest their hand on the bronze feet and pray.” Statue or not, can't we do the same?

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*John Burnett. "Statue Of A Homeless Jesus Startles A Wealthy Community." Original air date: Apr. 13, 2014 at 4:43 p.m. (EST). Accessed online on Apr. 22, 2014 at <http://www.npr.org/2014/04/13/302019921/statue-of-a-homeless-jesus-startles-a-wealthy-community>.*

### **(O/Z) Pastor Out of the Office**

Pastor Lisa will be at a conference and therefore out of the office from May 19-23.

### **(O) Garden Care**



The Garden Committee has created an annual calendar which is posted in the Fellowship room. It lists gardening tasks for each month. Please look it over and sign up where you can help.

### **(O) Birthday Offering: People of the Church**

We continue to have our collection box in the shape of a birthday cake in the fellowship room. If you are able, please contribute to the Birthday Offering to help celebrate your birthday and/or that of a loved one.

This year, the Presbyterian Women have identified Blue Corn Mothers' Alliance as the recipient of all birthday coins. The goal is to support this project by raising \$500,000 through combined donations and

grant monies. The matching grant money will come from the City of Albuquerque, the Department of Justice and the Administration for Children & Families.

Blue Corn Mothers' Alliance provides a range of services, from crisis intervention to education, for Albuquerque's Native American women who experience domestic violence. Research has shown that one in three Native women will be raped in her life and 39% experience domestic violence. At least 70 percent of the violent incidents and a full 86% of reported rapes are perpetrated by non-Native people, suggesting they are taking advantage of the Reservations lack of jurisdiction over non-Native people. The goal for the money collected is to open a shelter. Statistics are from the National Institute of Justice, Centers for Disease Control, *Suffolk University Law Review* and the Bureau of Justice.

### **(O) Refreshing the Fellowship Hall**

The session has decided that it's time our wonderful fellowship space had a bit of a facelift. 😊 We spent quite a bit of time at our April session meeting discussing the changes, and now we're asking for your help! There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. If you're willing to do some painting, some moving, some cleaning out, and some general re-decorating, please add your name to that list. We'd like to get this work done sometime this summer.

### **(O) Annual Spring Bake Sale**



There will be a bake sale on May 4<sup>th</sup>, so bring your goodies for others to enjoy and take home someone else's goodies, too. Everyone wins!

*May flowers line your path and sunshine light your day. May songbirds serenade you every step along the way. May a rainbow run beside you in a sky that's always blue. And may happiness fill your heart each day your whole life through.*

**Irish blessing**

## (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) Thank You

We had a lot of people lending their voices, their hands, and other wonderful gifts to our Holy Week services. I want to thank ...

- Sarah Rand, Rachel Rand, Maddie Rand, Michael Rand, Keanan Peterson-Rucker, and Kaedyn Peterson-Rucker for their help during the Maundy Thursday service
- Nancy Scheerer and Parker Quammen for being willing to both read and sing during the Good Friday service
- Sam Tudor and Isabelle Tudor for their gifts of music during the Good Friday and Easter services

Thank you thank you thank you, all!! You are a blessing!

## Birthdays for the Month of May

- 5/1 Carol Eick
- 5/2 Dick Scheerer
- 5/3 Sara Hartzell
- Ian Johnson
- Luke Johnson
- 5/8 Jim Wendt
- Mindi Arendt
- 5/10 Michael Sapp
- 5/12 Jenny Rand
- 5/13 Michelle Pahl
- 5/14 Joy Bertsinger
- Nancy Scheerer
- Madelyn Rand
- 5/23 Bob Larsen
- 5/26 Dorothy French
- 5/28 Jo Ludington
- Deb Larsen



## (O/Z) Appreciating Our Gifts

Pentecost is right around the corner (Sun., June 8), and this year, I'd like to make the service a celebration of our gifts as individuals and as a community. And what better way to celebrate the beautiful blessings of the gifts of our communities than with the beautiful blessing of flowers? 😊 Throughout May, there will be "Carnation Appreciation Forms" available in both churches as well as a collection envelope. (There's also a copy in this month's newsletter.) If you have someone (or multiple someones) whose gifts you appreciate, please fill out one of these forms. To help balance the cost of the carnations, please consider donating \$1 per carnation. Pastor Lisa will compile a list of our gifts to be celebrated during the worship services on Pentecost. If you have any questions, please feel free to either call or email Pastor Lisa.

## (O/Z) Worship Advisory Team

Just a reminder that the Worship Advisory Team consists of:

- Lance Sorensen (O) Linda Sorensen (O)
- Peter Johnson (O) Connie Hawley (Z)
- Hailey Vath (Z) Sue Wedge (Z)

We are continuing to discuss a number of different things, so if you have any ideas or feedback about worship, please feel free to share your thoughts with one of these people.



## In Our Prayers

**Matthew 21:22** *And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.*

The family and friends of Cliff Swarhout, the family and friends of Mary Larson, Dorothy French, Karen Vallejo, Gary Ofstie, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, Mary Larson, Larry Glasenapp.

## (O/Z) Readers of OZ Meet May 13

In May the Readers of OZ will gather at the home of Ellen Simon to view the DVD of an earlier read: "The Book Thief". All who wish are welcome to join us at 7:00 P.M. on May 13. No reading required! For directions or more information contact Ellen at (507) 367-4348.

We will not meet during the summer months and will reconvene on September 9 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Coleen Johnston. The selection for September is "The Bridge on the Drina" by Ivo Andrić. The editor's note has this to say about our selection:

*"The Bridge on the Drina" is a vivid depiction of the suffering history has imposed upon the people of Bosnia from the late 16th century to the beginning of World War I. As we seek to make sense of the current nightmare in this region, this remarkable, timely book serves as a reliable guide to its people and history.*

*"No better introduction to the study of Balkan and Ottoman history exists, nor do I know of any work of fiction that more persuasively introduces the reader to a civilization other than our own.*

Our selection for October is "The Good Lord Bird" by James McBride. The New York Times Book Review had this to say about this winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction: *a magnificent... brilliant romp of a novel about [John] Brown. McBride—with the same flair for historical mining, musicality of voice and outsize characterization that made his memoir, The Color of Water, an instant classic—pulls off his portrait masterfully, like a modern-day Mark Twain: evoking sheer glee with every page. McBride sanctifies by humanizing; a larger-than-life warrior lands—warts, foibles, absurdities and all—right here on earth, where he's a far more accessible friend. In [McBride's] hands, John Brown is a wild and crazy old man—and more a hero than ever before.*

Plan ahead, and enjoy a couple great summer reads. Then join us for a fine movie in May and great discussion in September and October. We always meet on the second Tuesday of September through May at 7:00 P.M. Mark your calendar for a good time with good friends.

## (O/Z) We're on Facebook!!

Both congregations now have a Facebook presence, so be sure to check us out and "like" us!

**Z: First Congregational Church UCC Zumbrota**  
**O: Oronoco Presbyterian Church**

We'll be posting various events. Pastor Lisa will be linking her blog posts. Any last-minute changes such as weather-related closings will be posted as well (though \*hopefully\* we're through with those until next winter rolls around!) We're also hoping to get some picture up of various events, so if you have ideas for photos (Sunday school, Lenten study, luncheons, etc.), please feel free to either take the pictures yourself and pass them along to Pastor Lisa to post or to post them yourself through your own Facebook account.

## (O/Z) Updating the Directory

Both the session (O) and the council (Z) have decided that it's time to update our directories. At each church, there will be a clean copy of the directory sitting out for the next month or so. When you have time, please check the information pertaining to you/your family. If there are corrections to make, please just write those into the directory. Also, please write in your birthday and the birthdays of anyone else connected to your household (spouse, children, etc.) as well as your anniversary. Finally, if you either don't have a picture currently in the directory or if you'd like to update that picture, please either email a new picture to Sue or put a picture into the marked manila envelope provided with the directory. Thanks!



## Readings for the Month of May 2014

### Sun., May 4

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35



### Sun., May 11 (Mother's Day)

Psalm 23; John 10:1-10

### Sun., May 18

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55-60

### Sun., May 25 (Memorial Day weekend)

Isaiah 49:1-7; John 14:25-31

## IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

### United Church of Christ Contact Information

UCC national website...[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

Minnesota UCC website...[uccmn.org](http://uccmn.org)

Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact [alisonb@uccmn.org](mailto:alisonb@uccmn.org)

United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online at [ucc.org/ucnews](http://ucc.org/ucnews)

### Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...[pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...[ptcaweb.org](http://ptcaweb.org)

PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact [communications@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

## 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

Mike Rand, Clerk

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

Jenny Rand, Deacon

### People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator

Judy Wilder, Co-Moderator

Joanne Schenck, Secretary

Judy Wilder, Treasurer

## Directory Changes

Dorothy French's new address:

295 W. 4th St. Apt. 104

Zumbrota, MN 55992

### Secretary's Office Hours

Tuesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

Thursday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

Office Phone# 507-367-4711

Email: [oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)

### Pastor's Office Hours

Mondays in Oronoco 1-4:00 p.m.

Tuesdays in Zumbrota

(Bridget's Café) 8-11:00 a.m.

**Reminder: Pastor Lisa will be out of the office May 19-23.**

## May 2014 Daily Lectionary

*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.*

### Thursday, May 1

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 68; 113  
Exod. 16:10–22  
1 Peter 2:11–3:12  
John 15:12–27

### Friday, May 2

Morning: Pss. 96; 148  
Evening: Pss. 49; 138  
Exod. 16:23–36  
1 Peter 3:13–4:6  
John 16:1–15

### Saturday, May 3

Morning: Pss. 92; 149  
Evening: Pss. 23; 114  
Exod. 17:1–16  
1 Peter 4:7–19  
John 16:16–33

### Sunday, May 4

3rd Sunday of Easter  
Morning: Pss. 93; 150  
Evening: Pss. 136; 117  
Exod. 18:1–12  
1 John 2:7–17  
Mark 16:9–20

### Monday, May 5

Morning: Pss. 97; 145  
Evening: Pss. 124; 115  
Exod. 18:13–27  
1 Peter 5:1–14  
Matt. (1:1–17) 3:1–6

### Tuesday, May 6

Morning: Pss. 98; 146  
Evening: Pss. 66; 116  
Exod. 19:1–16  
Col. 1:1–14  
Matt. 3:7–12

### Wednesday, May 7

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 9; 118  
Exod. 19:16–25  
Col. 1:15–23  
Matt. 3:13–17

### Thursday, May 8

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 68; 113  
Exod. 20:1–21  
Col. 1:24–2:7  
Matt. 4:1–11

### Friday, May 9

Morning: Pss. 96; 148  
Evening: Pss. 49; 138  
Exod. 24:1–18  
Col. 2:8–23  
Matt. 4:12–17

### Saturday, May 10

Morning: Pss. 92; 149  
Evening: Pss. 23; 114  
Exod. 25:1–22  
Col. 3:1–17  
Matt. 4:18–25

### Sunday, May 11

4th Sunday of Easter  
Morning: Pss. 93; 150  
Evening: Pss. 136; 117  
Exod. 28:1–4, 30–38  
1 John 2:18–29  
Mark 6:30–44

### Monday, May 12

Morning: Pss. 97; 145  
Evening: Pss. 124; 115  
Exod. 32:1–20  
Col. 3:18–4:6 (7–18)  
Matt. 5:1–10

### Tuesday, May 13

Morning: Pss. 98; 146  
Evening: Pss. 66; 116  
Exod. 32:21–34  
1 Thess. 1:1–10  
Matt. 5:11–16

### Wednesday, May 14

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 9; 118  
Exod. 33:1–23  
1 Thess. 2:1–12  
Matt. 5:17–20

### Thursday, May 15

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 68; 113  
Exod. 34:1–17  
1 Thess. 2:13–20  
Matt. 5:21–26

### Friday, May 16

Morning: Pss. 96; 148  
Evening: Pss. 49; 138  
Exod. 34:18–35  
1 Thess. 3:1–13  
Matt. 5:27–37

### Saturday, May 17

Morning: Pss. 92; 149  
Evening: Pss. 23; 114  
Exod. 40:18–38  
1 Thess. 4:1–12  
Matt. 5:38–48

### Sunday, May 18

5th Sunday of Easter  
Morning: Pss. 93; 150  
Evening: Pss. 136; 117  
Lev. 8:1–13, 30–36  
Heb. 12:1–14  
Luke 4:16–30

## Daily Lectionary Readings - May 2014

### **Monday, May 19**

Morning: Pss. 97; 145  
Evening: Pss. 124; 115  
Lev. 16:1-19  
1 Thess. 4:13-18  
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18

### **Tuesday, May 20**

Morning: Pss. 98; 146  
Evening: Pss. 66; 116  
Lev. 16:20-34  
1 Thess. 5:1-11  
Matt. 6:7-15

### **Wednesday, May 21**

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11  
Evening: Pss. 9; 118  
Lev. 19:1-18  
1 Thess. 5:12-28  
Matt. 6:19-24

### **Thursday, May 22**

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20  
Evening: Pss. 68; 113  
Lev. 19:26-37  
2 Thess. 1:1-12  
Matt. 6:25-34

### **Friday, May 23**

Morning: Pss. 96; 148  
Evening: Pss. 49; 138  
Lev. 23:1-22  
2 Thess. 2:1-17  
Matt. 7:1-12

### **Saturday, May 24**

Morning: Pss. 92; 149  
Evening: Pss. 23; 114  
Lev. 23:23-44  
2 Thess. 3:1-18  
Matt. 7:13-21

### **Sunday, May 25**

6th Sunday of Easter  
Morning: Pss. 93; 150  
Evening: Pss. 136; 117  
Lev. 25:1-17

James 1:2-8, 16-18  
Luke 12:13-21

### **Monday, May 26**

Morning: Pss. 97; 145  
Evening: Pss. 124; 115  
Lev. 25:35-55  
Col. 1:9-14  
Matt. 13:1-16

### **Tuesday, May 27**

Morning: Pss. 98; 146  
Evening: Pss. 66; 116  
Lev. 26:1-20  
1 Tim. 2:1-6  
Matt. 13:18-23

### **Wednesday, May 28**

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11  
Evening: Pss. 9; 118  
Lev. 26:27-42  
Eph. 1:1-10  
Matt. 22:41-46

### **Thursday, May 29**

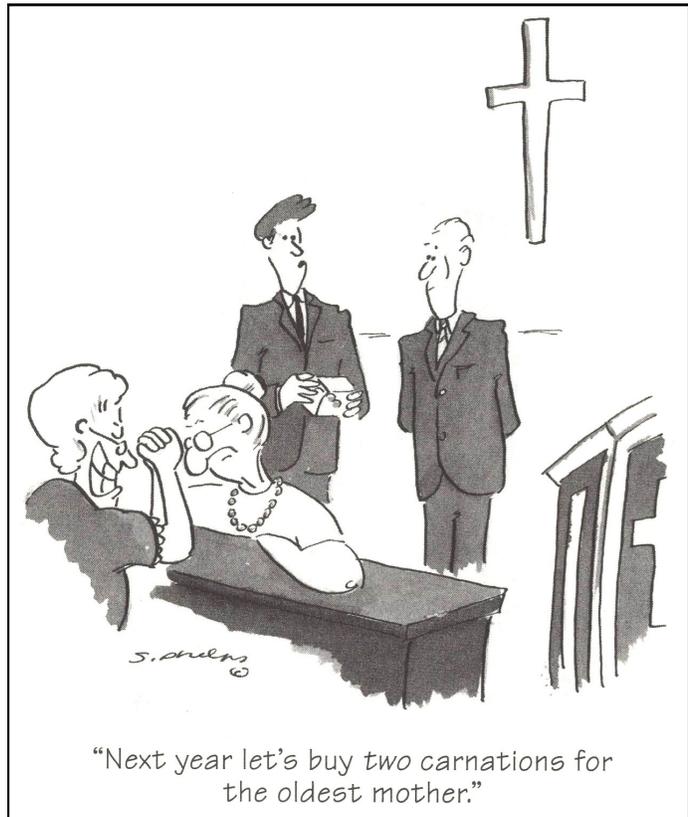
Ascension of the Lord  
Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20  
Evening: Pss. 68; 113  
Dan. 7:9-14  
Heb. 2:5-18  
Matt. 28:16-20

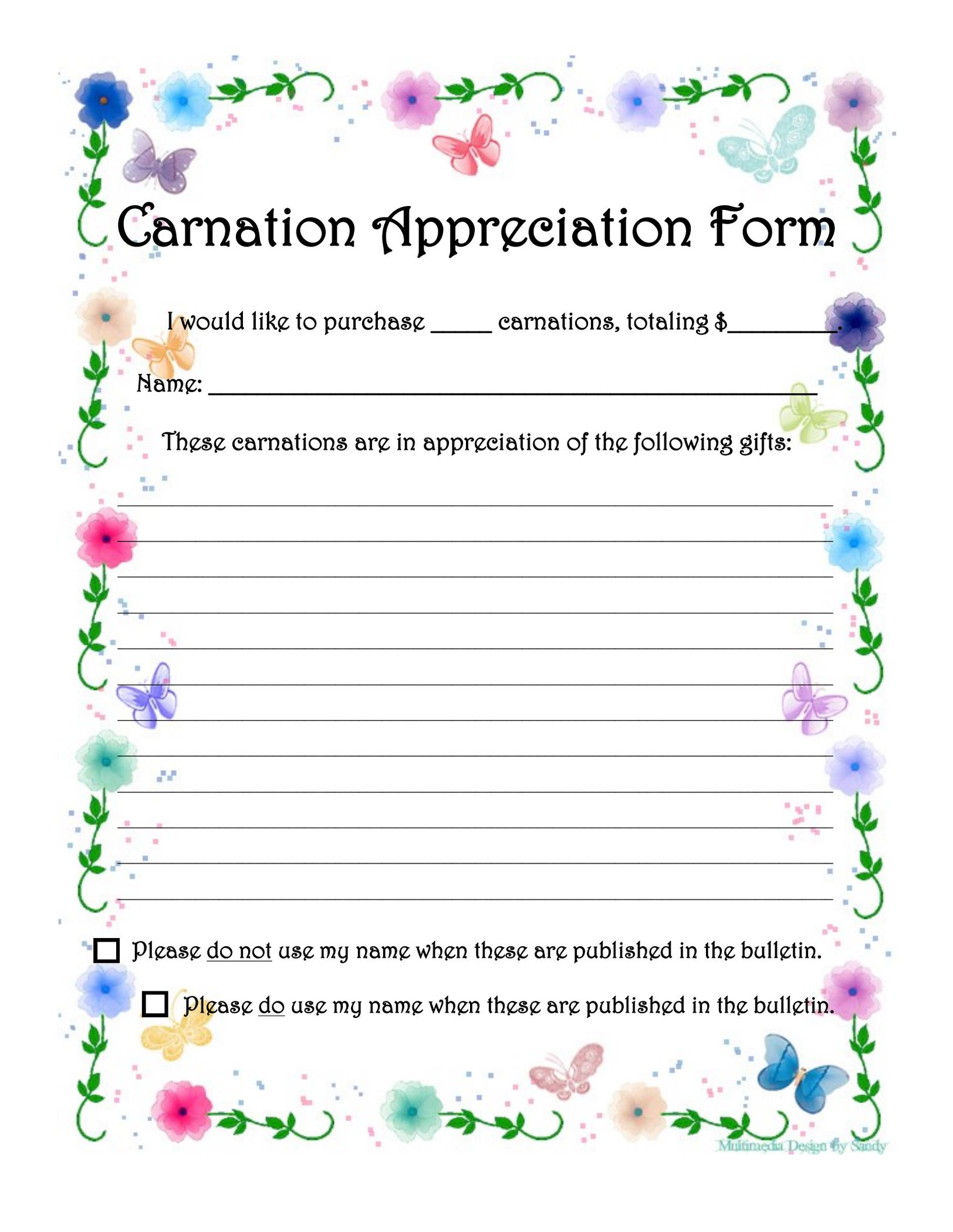
### **Friday, May 30**

Morning: Pss. 96; 148  
Evening: Pss. 49; 138  
1 Sam. 2:1-10  
Eph. 2:1-10  
Matt. 7:22-27

### **Saturday, May 31**

Morning: Pss. 92; 149  
Evening: Pss. 23; 114  
Num. 11:16-17, 24-29  
Eph. 2:11-22  
Matt. 7:28-8:4





# Carnation Appreciation Form

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ carnations, totaling \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

These carnations are in appreciation of the following gifts:

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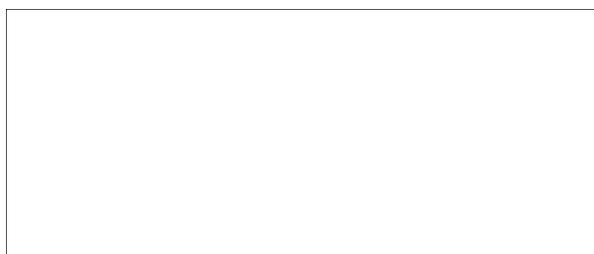
Please do not use my name when these are published in the bulletin.

Please do use my name when these are published in the bulletin.

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](http://www.oronocochurch.org)  
[www.ucczumbrota.com](http://www.ucczumbrota.com)

### Worship Times for the Month of May 2014



5/4	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/11	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/18	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/25	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

(O) Nursery for ages 6 weeks through Pre K is available during worship

**Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information**  
**Cell Phone (507) 696-8753 E-mail address: [pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com)**  
**Pastor Lisa's Office Hours**  
**(O) Monday 1-4:00PM (Z) Tuesday 8-11:00AM**