

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA
 and
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

November 2013 Newsletter

**Community
 Thanksgiving Eve Service**

at

First Congregational United Church of Christ
 of Zumbrota

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

at 7:00 p.m.

First Congregational UCC will host this year's ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27. Once again, St. Paul's Catholic Church, Lighthouse Ministries and the OZ churches will join in the planning and presentation of the service. Pastor Lisa will be the preacher. A fellowship hour will follow. The service provides one of the few opportunities each year for many churches to worship together, always a wonderful experience. Please mark your calendars, and invite your friends. Everyone is welcome.

*in
 all
 things
 give
 thanks*





From Our Pastor

The storybook version of the first Thanksgiving is beautiful. It includes smiling pilgrims who politely ask the Native Americans for help surviving in a foreign land. In this version of the story, the Native Americans are all too happy to help, patiently demonstrating their own techniques for hunting local game as well as planting and harvesting crops. The still-smiling settlers graciously accept the Native Americans' instruction and say a nice, big, warm 'thank you' by inviting all of the tribe members to a giant dinner that miraculously looks a lot like the food that will grace our tables this November 28.

But this, my friends, is quite a stretching of the truth.

The first settlers almost certainly weren't smiling that much. Roughly 100 settlers left England on the Mayflower and landed on the shores of Massachusetts in late December 1620. Between the bitter cold, disease, and starvation, less than half of those original settlers survived that first winter. Today, historians are still unsure as to how or why those English settlers ended up forming a relationship with the Wampanoag tribe, but we do know that it was a relationship that ended up saving the lives of those remaining settlers. We know that it started off turbulently with seemingly-unprovoked attacks that originated on both sides. Eventually, a tenuous peace treaty was reached between the settlers and the Wampanoag, and they agreed to aid one another when the need arose.

That first Thanksgiving meal almost certainly looked vastly different than the meal we all sit down to today. But the most important point – the point that we *do* still celebrate today – is that they indeed did gather. The remaining settlers sat down for a 3-day harvest celebration with roughly 90 members of the Wampanoag tribe. Thinking of this image, I can't help but be reminded of one of Jesus' more interesting parables:

Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. ... So the slave returned and reported to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lands of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered

has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'" ~ Luke 14:16-18a, 21-24.

I imagine this table to look a lot like the table of those first settlers and the Wampanoag. The feast table that Jesus describes in the parable is full of people drawn from all over. They've been called to fill the seats. They've gathered because suddenly there is food where they may have had none. They've gathered because they've been given the chance to be in the presence of others instead of being alone. Those seated at the table have come from different walks of life. They probably speak different languages, wear different clothes, and customarily eat different foods. And yet they have found themselves celebrating together at this beautiful feast.

Think about what it's like around your family Thanksgiving table. There are multiple conversations buzzing at various points along the table. There is laughter. There are declarations of satisfaction. "This food is so good!" "I'm so full!" "I couldn't eat one more bite ... except for that piece of pecan pie." Maybe there are children running around, giggling and playing. Maybe there's a football game on in the background. There's a warmth in the room – a warmth that touches both your body and your heart. You are in the presence of those whom you love, reliving old memories and making new ones, thankful for old blessings and new ones, nurturing old relationships and maybe even making some new ones.

Friends, as we find ourselves caught up in all the preparations for our own Thanksgiving feasts this year, I encourage you to remember that another table has been set for us – a table infinitely grander and more satisfying than the greatest Thanksgiving table you've ever seen. This table will look a lot like our family thanksgiving tables, but it will also look like the table of the Plymouth settlers and Wampanoag. We can relive old memories and make new ones. We can be thankful for old blessings and new ones. We can nurture old relationships and make new ones. But most importantly, we will be honoring and participating in the greatest relationship of all – our relationship with Almighty God.

Blessings,

Pastor Gina

Information from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plymouth_Colony

(O/Z) Blue Christmas/ Service of Longest Night

Longest Night Service is a time to recognize that at Christmastime, the constant refrain we hear about joy and love and rejoicing doesn't resonate with everyone. Some people are hurting and lonely, worried and fearful, sad and grieving during this time of year as well. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. We need to know God's presence during this season. So during this service, we invite you to experience a meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Join with us to hear scripture, offer prayers for healing and wholeness, and to hear song that acknowledges that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who grieve, for those who struggle. God's Word comes to shine light in our darkness. This is also a wonderful way to remember those you know you might be in need.

Where: First Congregational UCC – Zumbrota
When: Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3:00 p.m.

This will be a service open to the public, so if you know of anyone – church member/friend or not – who could benefit from this service of remembrance, prayer, healing, and acceptance, please extend the invitation.

(O/Z) Textile Group



Next meeting:

- Sat., Nov. 9 at 10:00 a.m.

**Meet at Gail Rucker's house:
2337 White Bridge Rd. NW, Oronoco**

We're still trying to think up names, so come prepared to discuss them. Also, we've had some questions about whether people who don't attend the OZ churches can come. The answer is a resounding YES! The more the merrier, so if you have friends who like to knit, sew, crochet, etc. and would like to join us, they're more than welcome.

(O) Appreciation

Thanks to Janice Ostrom, Jenny, Sarah and Rachel Rand, Debby Nelson, Joanne Schenck, Linda Sorensen and Judy Wilder for providing food and/or serving and cleaning up afterwards at the Dorothy Day House. We served 23 homeless people and they were so appreciative

(O/Z) Worship Team

After sorting through all your responses from the blue worship sheets, some of the most common responses include more familiar hymns, involvement of more people during worship (readers, etc.), and the possibility of adding another joint service or two. Great ideas! If you haven't already, I invite you to let me know what your favorite hymns are. Send me an email or write them down on a piece of paper for me. I'm compiling a master list.

Along those lines, I'm still looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to participate in some brainstorming session about changes that we could make in our worship service as well as help implement some of those changes. I've got some ideas, but it would be great to toss those ideas around with other and get a bunch of new ideas, too. I'm looking for at least one more person from Z church and at least 2 more people from O church. Thank you in advance!

(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.

Secretary's Office Hours to Change



Beginning in November our church secretary will be in the Oronoco office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00a.m.—3:00p.m.

(O/Z) Food Shelf Sunday is November 3 Our Food Shelves Need Your Help

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

IN THE COMMUNITY

Mitten Makers Needed

Please consider yourself invited to help with sewing fleece mittens on November 2, 9 am -noon, at the Oronoco Community Center.

Thanks to a very generous donation of fleece, we will be able to make many, many people's hands warmer this winter.

So I'm going to have a few sewing machines, cutting stations, and some treats set up at the community center, and I'd love to have you join me. Bring your sewing machine, too, if you have a portable one! I will have full directions on how to do these mittens. It's necessary to have a vague head count, though, and I'd like to assure we have enough equipment. Please call me and tell me you will be there, name and phone number to 507-251-8502. Or email me at jonya@homegrowntechnologies.net. More information at www.homegrowntechnologies.net

Thank you so much!
Jonya Pacey

Transportation

The Elder Network is looking for individuals who are willing to provide transportation for seniors to their vital medical appointments. Even giving a ride once or twice a month can make a huge difference. Please call the Elder Network at (507) 285-5272.

Peer Support

Elder Network is seeking volunteers age 55 and "better" who have a desire to bring hope to others. Peer Support Volunteers provide support and encouragement to older adults via weekly home visits. Volunteers also help with making connec-

tions to community resources. For more information on becoming a Peer Support Volunteer, please contact Renee at (507) 285-5272

Caregiver Support Group

Are you caring for an older adult such as a family member, friend or neighbor? Here's an opportunity to meet with other caregivers to exchange helpful tips, give and receive support, as well as learn about new resources. Please join us the 1st Tuesday from 1:30-2:30 p.m. & the 3rd Wednesday from 10-11:00 a.m. of each month. Location: Elder Network 1130 ½ 7th ST NW, Suite 205, Rochester, MN; Contact Holly Brown at (507) 285-5272.

(O/Z) Holiday Events



Time to start thinking about the upcoming holiday season!

(Z) Saturday, November 30th at 11:00 a.m., we will meet to put up and decorate the Christmas tree and decorate the sanctuary.

(Z) Sunday, December 8th, we will be doing our holiday goodie bags after church service. Plan to bring treats or baked goods to fill the bags with. We will have almost a dozen bags to fill and deliver that day.

(O/Z) Christmas Poinsettias

We will again be offering Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. Look for details in early December.

(O/Z) Advent Candle Lighting and Reading

There will be a sign up in the fellowship room (O) and at the back of the church (Z) for families, couples, or individuals who would be interested in lighting one of the advent candles and doing a short reading. We need a volunteer for each Sunday during advent and for the Christmas Eve service.

(Z) For a Christmas Tree, Come to the UCC!

There will be tree sales again this year. Watch for details!

(O) Missing Dishes

There are 2 medium-sized Pyrex dishes with dark blue lids that I keep at church to warm up lunches and so on. Those dishes seem to have disappeared, no doubt ending up home with someone after a luncheon or after church snacks. If one of these dishes happened to make its way to your cupboard, please return it. You can just put it on my desk. Thank you!

Pastor Lisa

(O) Busy Bags

We will once again be filling busy bags in December for the children spending time at the Ronald McDonald House. We are in need of items for any age, cars, books, notebooks, puzzles, bracelets, etc. Items can be left in the fellowship room. If you have any questions please call Joanne Schenck at 289-0093. Thank you!



Readers of OZ

The next meeting of the book discussion group is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 at the home of Parker and Linda Quammen (690 Warren Ave., Zumbrota). If you need help with directions, give Parker or Linda a call at 732-7761. We have a good time together and you are invited to join us.

Our book selection this time is "*Making Toast: A Family Story*" by Roger Rosenblatt.

Reviews have this to say about our selection:

Barnes & Noble: When Roger Rosenblatt's 38-year-old daughter Amy died suddenly in December 2007, she was, by every indication, healthy. Her asymptomatic heart condition was only discovered in the autopsy room. Her sudden demise galvanized the entire family: Rosenblatt, the author of this soulful memoir, and his wife moved immediately into their daughter's Bethesda home to help care for her three young sons, ages six, four and one. *Making Toast* doesn't evade the subject of the family's devastating grief, but it gently prods us forward with its accounts of small daily acts of recovery. A restrained, heartfelt memoir of moving beyond loss.

From reviewer, Leon Wieseltier: "There are circumstances in which prose is poetry, and the unornamented candor of Rosenblatt's writing slowly attains to a sober sort of lyricism...This is more than just a moving book. It is also a useful book.... [Rosenblatt's] toast is buttered with wisdom. "

(O/Z) 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

Bonnie Rolland, Karen Vallejo, Gary Ofstie, Judy Wilder, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, Mary Larson, Larry Glasenapp, friends and family of Helen Stolp and the Mankato UCC whose head pastor, Deb Celley, has stepped down from her position because of a medical disability.

(O) Presbyterian News

(O) Scripture Reading: Please remember to check the sign up sheet and contribute to our Sunday worship by reading scripture if you are able. We need more participants.

(O) Per Capita Dues: Our treasurer will soon submit our last half of the per capita dues (\$32.37 per member). If you are able and have not yet submitted your per capita dues, your contribution will be deeply appreciated. Contact Kay Erdahl if you are unsure whether you have contributed.

(O/Z) Christmas Eve Worship: Worship times have changed. Worship will be Z at 4:00 p.m. and O at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendars.

(O/Z) Joint Worship

Joint Worship 2013: Mark your calendars for our annual joint worship scheduled for August 10, 2014. It will be held at the Zumbrota fairgrounds.

November 2013 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.

November

Friday November 1

All Saints' Day

Morning: Ps. 84; 148

Evening: Ps. 25; 40

Isa. 26:1–4, 8–9,
12–13, 19–21

Rev. 21:9–11, 22–27 (22:1–5)

or Heb. 11:32–12:2

Matt. 5:1–12

Saturday November 2

Morning: Ps. 63; 149

Evening: Ps. 125; 90

Neh. 4:1–23 or Lam. 5:1–22

Rev. 7:(4–8) 9–17

Matt. 13:31–35

Sunday November 3

Morning: Ps. 103; 150

Evening: Ps. 117; 139

Neh. 5:1–9 or Ezra 1:1–11

Acts 20:7–12

Luke 12:22–31

Monday November 4

Morning: Ps. 5; 145

Evening: Ps. 82; 29

Neh. 6:1–19 or Ezra 3:1–13

Rev. 10:1–11

Matt. 13:36–43

Tuesday November 5

Morning: Ps. 42; 146

Evening: Ps. 102; 133

Neh. 12:27–31a, 42b–47

or Ezra 4:7; 11–24

Rev. 11:1–19

Matt. 13:44–52

Wednesday November 6

Morning: Ps. 89:1–18;

147:1–11

Evening: Ps. 1; 33

Neh. 13:4–22 or Hag. 1:1–2:9

Rev. 12:1–12

Matt. 13:53–58

Thursday November 7

Morning: Ps. 97; 147:12–20

Evening: Ps. 16; 62

Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26

or Zech. 1:7–17

Rev. 14:1–13

Matt. 14:1–12

Friday November 8

Morning: Ps. 51; 148

Evening: Ps. 142; 65

Ezra 7:27–28, 8:21–36

or Ezra 5:1–17

Rev. 15:1–8

Matt. 14:13–21

Saturday November 9

Morning: Ps. 104; 149

Evening: Ps. 138; 98

Ezra 9:1–15 or Ezra 6:1–22

Rev. 17:1–14

Matt. 14:22–36

Sunday November 10

Morning: Ps. 19; 150

Evening: Ps. 81; 113

Ezra 10:1–17 or Neh. 1:1–11

Acts 24:10–21

Luke 14:12–24

Monday November 11

Morning: Ps. 135; 145

Evening: Ps. 97; 112

Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)

or Neh. 2:1–20

Rev. 18:1–8

Matt. 15:1–20

Tuesday November 12

Morning: Ps. 123; 146

Evening: Ps. 30; 86

Neh. 9:26–38 or Neh. 4:1–23

Rev. 18:9–20

Matt. 15:21–28

Wednesday November 13

Morning: Ps. 15; 147:1–11

Evening: Ps. 48; 4

Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18

or Neh. 5:1–19

Rev. 18:21–24

Matt. 15:29–39

Thursday November 14

Morning: Ps. 36; 147:12–20

Evening: Ps. 80; 27

Neh. 6:1–19

Rev. 19:1–10

Matt. 16:1–12

Friday November 15

Morning: Ps. 130; 148

Evening: Ps. 32; 139

Neh. 12:27–31a, 42b–47

Rev. 19:11–16

Matt. 16:13–20

Saturday November 16

Morning: Ps. 56; 149

Evening: Ps. 118; 111

Neh. 13:4–22

Rev. 20:1–6

Matt. 16:21–28

Sunday November 17

Morning: Ps. 67; 150

Evening: Ps. 46; 93

Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26

Acts 28:14b–23

Luke 16:1–13

Monday November 18

Morning: Ps. 57; 145

Evening: Ps. 85; 47

Ezra 7:27–28, 8:21–36

Rev. 20:7–15

Matt. 17:1–13

Tuesday November 19

Morning: Ps. 54; 146
 Evening: Ps. 28; 99
 Ezra 9:1–15
 Rev. 21:1–8
 Matt. 17:14–21

Wednesday November 20

Morning: Ps. 65; 147:1–11
 Evening: Ps. 125; 91
 Ezra 10:1–17
 Rev. 21:9–21
 Matt. 17:22–27

Thursday November 21

Morning: Ps. 143; 147:12–20
 Evening: Ps. 81; 116
 Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)
 Rev. 21:22–22:5
 Matt. 18:1–9

Friday November 22

Morning: Ps. 88; 148
 Evening: Ps. 6; 20
 Neh. 9:26–38
 Rev. 22:6–13
 Matt. 18:10–20

Saturday November 23

Morning: Ps. 122; 149
 Evening: Ps. 100; 63
 Neh. 7:73b—8:3, 5–18
 Rev. 22:14–21
 Matt. 18:21–35

Sunday November 24

Christ the King
 Morning: Ps. 108; 150
 Evening: Ps. 66; 23
 Isa. 19:19–25
 Rom. 15:5–13
 Luke 19:11–27

Monday November 25

Morning: Ps. 62; 145
 Evening: Ps. 73; 9
 Joel 3:1–2, 9–17
 1 Peter 1:1–12
 Matt. 19:1–12

Tuesday November 26

Morning: Ps. 12; 146
 Evening: Ps. 36; 7
 Nah. 1:1–13
 1 Peter 1:13–25
 Matt. 19:13–22

Wednesday November 27

Morning: Ps. 96; 147:1–11
 Evening: Ps. 132; 134
 Obad. 15–21
 1 Peter 2:1–10
 Matt. 19:23–30

Thursday November 28

Morning: Ps. 116; 147:12–20
 Evening: Ps. 26; 130
 Zeph. 3:1–13
 1 Peter 2:11–25
 Matt. 20:1–16

Friday November 29

Morning: Ps. 84; 148
 Evening: Ps. 25; 40
 Isa. 24:14–23
 1 Peter 3:13—4:6
 Matt. 20:17–28

Saturday November 30

Morning: Ps. 63; 149
 Evening: Ps. 125; 90
 Micah 7:11–20
 1 Peter 4:7–19
 Matt. 20:29–34



*Christmas Eve
 Services
 4PM in Zumbrota
 7 PM in Oronoco*

(Please note the time change for Zumbrota)

Readings for the Month of November



November 3

Isaiah 55:8-12; 1 Timothy 4:6-16

November 10

Haggai 2:1-9; 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

November 17

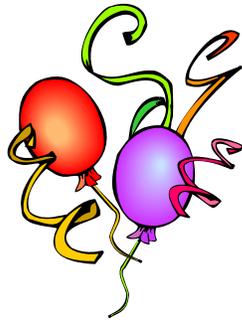
Isaiah 65:17-21; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50

November 24

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20

November Birthdays

11/4 Michael Vath
11/7 Anthony Vallejo
11/8 Richard Rolland
11/9 Bob Huebert
11/10 Helen Craft
11/12 Tessa Paulson
Emily Moran
Sarah Johnston
11/13 Bob Erredge
11/14 Caleb Matthees
11/15 Josh Quammen
11/17 Dan Christopherson
11/18 Kamyn Peterson-Rucker
11/20 Parker Quammen
David Quammen
Karen Vallejo
11/21 Chad Vath
11/24 Carol Tiede
11/26 Justin Wiederanders
11/30 Joe Maguire



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 Magdsick Quammen, Clerk
Connie Wendt, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
David Pahl, Trustee
Rex Wiederanders, Trustee
Jim Wendt, Trustee
Gary Ofstie, Deacon
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Chad Vath, Deacon
Connie Hawley, Deacon
Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Coleen Johnston, Deacon

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Judy Wilder, Clerk
Kay Erdahl, Treasurer
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Ruling Elder
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder
Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder
Ellen Simon, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Kim Stanton, Ruling Elder
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Ted Midthin, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Vivien Midthin, Deacon
Carol Tiede, Deacon
Larry Glasenapp, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator
Judy Wilder, Co-Moderator
Joanne Schenck, Secretary
Judy Wilder, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

Thursday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

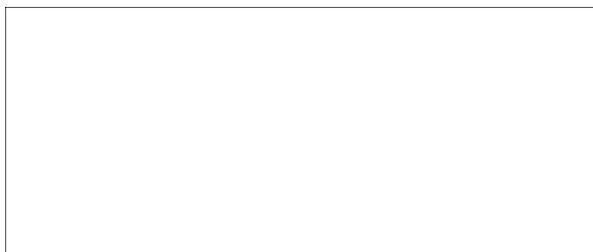
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Check out our websites at
www.pcomn.org
www.ucczumbrota.com

Worship Times for the Month of November 2013

11/3 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)
11/10 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)
11/17 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

11/27 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:00pm
at First Congregational UCC, Zumbrota

11/24 9:00 (Z) 11:00 (O)

(O) Nursery available during worship service

Rev. Lisa Johnson— Contact Information
Cell Phone 1-507-696-8753
Email address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com