

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

July 2017 Newsletter



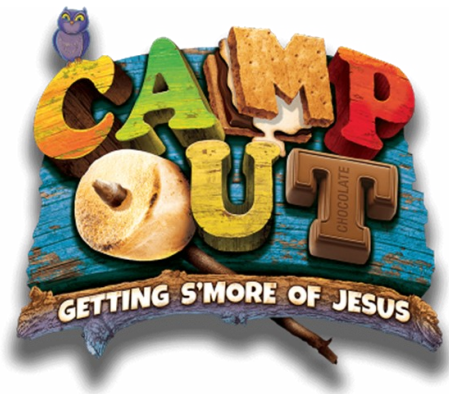
This year, we're going to try something new. We'll be doing a shortened, 3-day vacation Bible school experience right here in Oronoco. This year's theme will be "Camp Out: Getting S'More Out of Jesus" – pretty perfect considering how much we enjoy our summer campfire gatherings! Here's the details:

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 for the registration link as well as more information.

We will be looking for volunteers to help and monetary donations to purchase the supplies that we'll need, so be on the lookout for more details!

A Word from Our Pastor



I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. I will be present for you, declares the LORD” ~ Jeremiah 29:11-14a

June 11 ...

July 9 ...

August 13 ...

These are all the 2nd Sundays in their respective months, and for us at the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco, they are also our **Visioning Sundays**.

So what the heck are “Visioning Sundays” anyway?

Well, I’m so glad you asked. J

As you know, we’re in a place of transition, a place of new things and change and transformation. Part of the reason we’ve come to this place is out of necessity. Our budget is not large, and we know that things cannot continue as they have been forever and ever. Things *need* to change, or we’re going to have to face closing our doors, which is certainly not something any of us want to do.

But we’ve also come to this place out of choice. We’ve come to this place because we want to do something different, try something new, be an active and vital presence for God’s love and grace in this community and in the world. That desire to build ourselves up and embrace what *could be* is popping up all over the place. Ideas are flying around. Energy is high. Attendance is great (and it’s even summertime!). And I must tell you that because of that attitude – that desire to change coupled with the necessary willingness to actually make those changes and try new things – that attitude is what gives me such strong and powerful hope for this little white church on the hill.

And so we are engaging in Visioning Sundays –

chances for all of us who know and love the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco to sit down together, have some refreshments, and talk about our vision for the church:

What do we love and/or have we loved about this church in the past?

What would we like to do as a congregation?

Who are we as the PCO?

Who do we need to reach out to, and how can we do that?

How can we best present ourselves, our core values as a congregation, and our faith to those who may be looking for a church home?

I know summer schedules are busy. That’s why we put 3 Visioning Sundays on the calendar. If you can make it to one, great! If you can make it to all of them, awesome! It doesn’t matter whether you’re a member or a friend or somewhere in between. **We want your ideas, dreams, and contribution.** As part of these Visioning Sunday discussions, we’re both looking at how the congregation’s history has shaped us up to today and how we can not only survive but *thrive* in this community.

I truly believe with every ounce of my soul that God does indeed have plans in mind for this congregation – plans for peace and not disaster, to give us a future filled with hope. So as we embark on this process together – as we think and dream and brainstorm and share in life together, may we remember to do so in conversation with God – praying, listening, discerning together, searching for God with all our hearts.

Pastor Lisa

Pastor Out of the Office

Pastor Lisa will be out from July 23-Aug. 6. The first week, I will be out of town for continuing ed at Synod School in Storm Lake, IA. The following week will be vacation. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, Sue will have the contact information in the office.

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!

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



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 2nd 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!

July Session Meeting

There will be no July session meeting, so session will meet again on **Wed., Aug. 9** at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy your "summer break"!

Mowing Sign-Up

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 Clean-Up Sign-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.

July Birthdays

- 7/13 Joan Swarthout
- 7/15 Kaedyn Peterson-Rucker
- 7/16 Judy Wilder
- 7/21 Gail Rucker
- 7/23 Luella Rueber
- 7/28 Karen Peterson-Rucker



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 July

Sun., July 2

Ephesians 3:14-4:6; Luke 22:7-20

Sun., July 9

2 Corinthians 4:6-18; Luke 7:36-50

Visioning Sunday

Sun., July 16

Genesis 25:19-34; Luke 12:22-34

Sun., July 23

guest preacher, Rev. Katie Whipple

Sun., July 30

guest preacher, Rev. Katie Whipple

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

Synod School 2017



A place where you . . .

Learn

Laugh

Sing

Dance

Try new things

Leave spiritually and
personally renewed

July 23-28, 2017

Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa

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Let Justice Flow



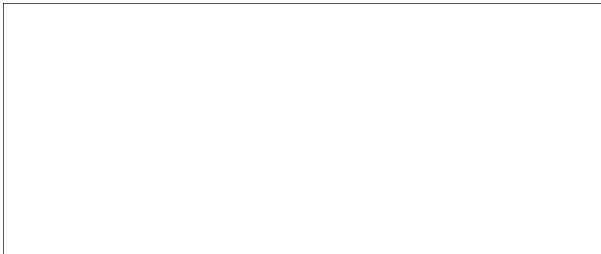
"Bless us all."

Church Office Hours

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

Office Phone# 507-367-4711
Email: oronocpc@bevcomm.net

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



**Check out our website at
www.oronocochurch.org**

**Worship is held at 10:00a.m. each Sunday
Communion is on the first Sunday of each month**



Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information
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Pastor Lisa's blog: pastorlisaj.wordpress.com