

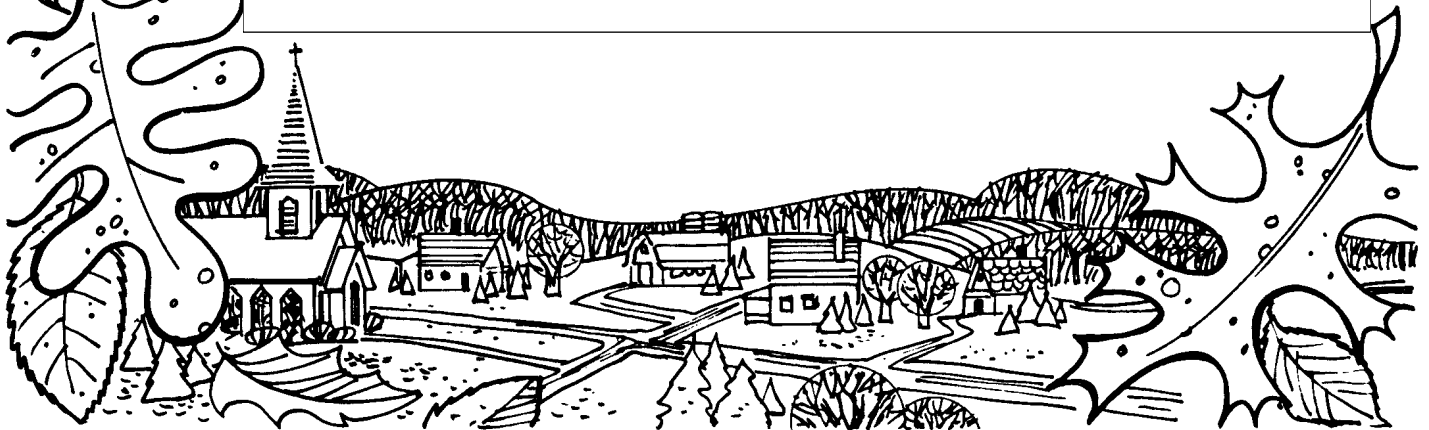
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA  
and  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

**September 2014 Newsletter**

## **Playhouse Raffle**



Bob Rolland, Nick Vath, and Michael Vath worked hard to build the adorable playhouse that is currently on display out in front of the Z church, and we're going to raffle it off during the Country Store in October! But in order to raffle the tickets, somebody needs to sell them. To get tickets to sell or to buy tickets yourself, please talk to Nattalie Vath or Bonnie Rolland. Tickets are \$5 a piece or 6 tickets for \$25. **Thank you, Bob, Nick, Michael, Bonnie, and Nattalie!**





## A Message from Our Pastor

Uh oh.

It's that time again.

Time to bring up the dreaded 'S' word in church ...

### STEWARDSHIP.

I know it's been a while since stewardship has been discussed in this wonderful land of OZ, but I also think that it's a really important thing to talk about in the context of our faith – acknowledging the ways that God has blessed us and sharing that blessing as we do God's work in the world.

In the beginning, when God created humanity, God named us as stewards over all the creation.

*So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God he created them; male and female God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "... Be responsible for the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ~ Genesis 1:27-28*

Despite some previous translations, God didn't say, "Subdue the earth." God didn't say, "Perfect the earth." God certainly didn't say, "Do whatever you want with the earth." God named us stewards ... caretakers. God made us responsible for every living thing – the plants, the animals, the bugs, the birds, and most certainly each other.

But when we talk about stewardship in the life of the church, for some reason, the only thing we think of is money. Yes, money is an important part of the way we act on that responsibility for our church, our world, and one another. Jesus told us to feed those who are hungry, clothe those who are naked, and tend to those who are in need of care, and we know that those things cannot be done without some sort of financial investment. Even if you're growing the food, you have to purchase seeds. Even if you're making the clothes, the cloth must come from some-

where. And we all know that care costs – whether the care is received in a hospital, in prison, or in our homes – are growing more and more expensive by the day. In order to do God's work in this world, we need to be willing to share the financial resources with which we've been blessed, whether that means \$10 or \$1000.

But money is only a part of the picture. Money is not the only medium through which we can accomplish God's acts of ministry. We have all been gifted with different skills and talents. There are different causes and convictions that speak to our hearts and tug at our souls. Every day, we are presented with new ways in which we can be God's hands and voice and love for the people around us. Jesus' words from the gospels of both Matthew and Luke ring familiar and clear: *In everything do to others as you would have them do to you* (Mt 7:12; Lk 6:31). This dedication and enthusiasm for mission are a form of stewardship as well. Caring for *every living thing* involves engaging all the resources at our disposal – financial resources, time and talents, and the commitment of our whole hearts.

So that's what our worship is going to be focused on in September:

Stewardship of our financial resources – Sunday, Sept. 7

Stewardship of our time and talents – Sunday, Sept. 14

Stewardship of our hearts and attention – Sunday, Sept. 21

The sermon each Sunday will follow along with these themes listed above, but the rest of the worship service will also be centered around different ways that we can give – different ways that we can be faithful stewards of this beautiful creation that God has entrusted to us.

One particular element that often gets overlooked in the stewardship discussion is the idea of gratitude. We tend to focus solely on the ways and means of giving ... and giving certainly isn't a bad thing! But giving is never done in a vacuum. When something is given – be it time, talents, resources, or commitment – that same thing is also received. So as we talk and think and worship around the idea of giving,

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we're also going to be talking and thinking and worship around the idea of cultivating gratitude. What does it mean to receive? How can/do we express our gratitude? How can/do we receive gratitude when others express it? What does cultivating a spirit of gratitude have to do with our faith? After each sermon in this upcoming series, we'll be having a time to cultivate gratitude in our service. After all, our Scripture – both the Old and New Testaments – are **full** of thanks:

*O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever. ~ Psalm 107:1*

*Pastor Lisa*

### **(O/Z) Pastor on Vacation**

**Pastor Lisa will be on vacation Sept. 22-Oct. 5.** Please contact Bob Hawley for Z (612-245-1445) or Joy Bertsinger (507-367-2172) for O if you need to.

### **(O/Z) Food Shelf Sunday**

The deacons are asking all who are able to participate in Food Shelf Sunday, September 7th. All non-perishable food items and freshly washed garden over-flow are welcomed. We would like to thank all who have given over the summer and continue to help with stocking the shelves for our families in need. You are appreciated!



### **(O) Church Picnic**

We're having a picnic!! We had so much fun hanging out at the Oronoco City Park during National Night Out that we decided it would be a good idea to hang out there as a church.

When: Sun., Sept. 14

*We'll head down to the park after the 11:00 service and hang out until 4:00 p.m.*

The church will provide sloppy joes as a main dish. Bring any other sort of dish you'd like to share. Also feel free to bring any lawn games you'd like to play.

### **(O) Tithing by Direct Deposit**

We're working to set up the option of tithing by direct deposit. In order to make this a little easier, we're also setting up an account at Think Bank in Rochester. If you're interested in making your financial contribution electronically, you could either add you name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or contact Kim Stanton.

### **(Z) Sunday School Class**

Regular Sunday school class will begin on September 7. We are again using a curriculum called *The Whole People of God* which consists of lessons and activities focused on the lectionary readings for each week of the church year and emphasizes our roles and responsibilities as the instruments of God's love and the builders of God's kingdom in our families, our communities, and the larger world. Our multi-level class will be led by Hailey Vath and will meet each Sunday at 10:15 a.m.

### **(O) Garden Helpers**



Please check the sign up sheet on the church bulletin board for a task you can do to help keep our grounds looking great through the autumn months. Some are ongoing, weekly needs and others are one time opportunities. Anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

### **(O/Z) Appreciation**

Thanks to the committee members from both congregations who once again planned and organized a fine joint worship at the Goodhue County Fairgrounds. And thanks to Justin Hawley and the band 'Light 45' for the wonderful music. It was a delightful and meaningful time together.



## **(O/Z) Readers of OZ**

The book discussion group will meet on Tuesday, September 9, at the home of Coleen Johnston, 47421 Co. 11 Blvd., Mazeppa. If you need directions or have any questions feel free to call Coleen at 843-4719.

Our selection for this time is "The Bridge on the Drina", a Pulitzer winning book by author Ivo Andric. Spanning generalities, nationalities and creeds the bridge, built in Bosnia three centuries ago, stands witness to the countless lives played out upon it. It is not a novel in the usual sense of the word, it is a wonderful historical chronicle full of local color and characters who might have been living today. From this book, there are lessons to be learned about the futility of war and it's affect on the average person.

Please join us for a provocative discussion.

## **(O) Peacemaking Offering (World Communion Sunday) October 5, 2014**

We make a special point of remembering our unity with Christians worldwide on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October (10/5/14). The Peacemaking Offering encourages all parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to work for peace. Each congregation is invited to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. The Peacemaking Offering supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Please watch for the special envelopes and consider how you may help.

## **(Z) Special Offering**

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries

(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

We will receive the NIN offering on **October 5, 2014** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance.

## **(O) Supporting Missionaries**

As a congregations, we're going to start helping to support a PC(USA) missionary. Allow me to introduce you to Revs. Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather: Shelvis and Nancy work with RECONCILE, (Resource Center for Civil Leadership), an indigenous ecumenical Christian organization, which promotes "peace-building" in South Sudan. RECONCILE provides training in trauma recovery, conflict transformation, and civic education in areas of high inter-ethnic conflict.

Originally from the Atlanta area, Shelvis and Nancy are parents to Jordan (nearly 2 yrs. old) and are expecting their second child any day. To learn more about Shelvis and Nancy, their mission, or to read any of their monthly update newsletters, visit <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/smith-mather-shelvis-nancy/>.

As a part of our dedication to this powerful and important mission, our children are going to be collecting loose change at the beginning of each church service. I'm sure they would be thrilled if you would give in this way. However, if you decide to help support Shelvis and Nancy on your own, you can give through the website above or send a donation to:

Presbyterian World Mission  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

*\*In the memo line of your check, write their names as well as the number E00316.\**

## Readings for the Month of September

**Sun., Sept. 7**

1 Kings 17:8-16; Mark 12:41-44



**Sun., Sept. 14**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; Matthew 4:18-25

**Sun., Sept. 21**

Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Luke 12:22-34

**Sun., Sept. 28** – *guest preacher*

## Birthdays for the Month

9/2 Jim Wedge

9/14 Sarah Rand

Peter Johnson

9/15 Mia Ke Zhen Tiede

9/23 Mike Rand

9/19 Paulette Barnhart

9/24 Colton Webster

9/26 Hannah Watkins

9/27 Mary Anne Moechnig



## (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.

## (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.

## In Our Prayers

*The Lord is near to all who call on Him,  
To all who call on Him in truth.  
He fulfills the desire of all who fear Him;  
He also hears their cry and saves them.*

Psalm 145:18-19

Dick Wedge (Jim's brother), Dorothy French, Karen Vallejo, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, Mae Stee, Sandy Bowers.

## Directory Changes

Karen & Anthony Vallejo's new address:  
208 4th St. SW  
Pine Island, MN 55963



## (O/Z) “Illuminating the Word” – Presentation on the St. John’s Bible



The Congregational Church UCC (Rochester) invites all churches and surrounding communities to a special presentation and reception:

“From Inspiration to Illumination: An Introduction to The Saint John’s Bible” presented by Tim Ternes, Director of The Saint John’s Bible project

Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary  
The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
974 Skyline Dr. SW, Rochester, MN

Creator, Donald Jackson, introduced the concept of the handwritten Bible with the vision “to ignite the spiritual imagination of people around the world of all faith journeys.” Through video, reproductions, and rich visual images, Mr. Ternes will guide us through the story of *The Saint John’s Bible*. We will learn about processes, tools, methods, and materials behind the making of *The Saint John’s Bible*.

This exceptional presentation is open for all to enjoy at no cost. If you have any questions, please contact [church@congoroch.org](mailto:church@congoroch.org) or call 507-289-4581.

### 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

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www.glasbergen.com



“DOG is GOD spelled backwards.  
That’s pretty much all the religion  
I know, but it works for me.”

### Secretary’s Office Hours

Tuesdays in Oronoco 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Thursdays in Oronoco 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Office Phone# 1-507-367-4711  
Email: [oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)

### Pastor Lisa’s Office Hours

Oronoco—Mondays 1-4:00 p.m.

**Pastor Lisa will be on vacation Sept. 22-Oct. 5.**

Please contact Bob Hawley for Z (612-245-1445) or  
Joy Bertsinger (507-367-2172) for O if you need to.

## September 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.

### Monday, September 1

Morning: Pss. 62; 145  
Evening: Pss. 73; 9  
Job 12:1–6, 13–25  
Acts 11:19–30  
John 8:21–32

### Tuesday, September 2

Morning: Pss. 12; 146  
Evening: Pss. 36; 7  
Job 12:1; 13:3–17, 21–27  
Acts 12:1–17  
John 8:33–47

### Wednesday, September 3

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 132; 134  
Job 12:1; 14:1–22  
Acts 12:18–25  
John 8:47–59

### Thursday, September 4

Morning: Pss. 116; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 26; 130  
Job 16:16–22; 17:1, 13–16  
Acts 13:1–12  
John 9:1–17

### Friday, September 5

Morning: Pss. 84; 148  
Evening: Pss. 25; 40  
Job 19:1–7, 14–27  
Acts 13:13–25  
John 9:18–41

### Saturday, September 6

Morning: Pss. 63; 149  
Evening: Pss. 125; 90  
Job 22:1–4, 21–23:7  
Acts 13:26–43  
John 10:1–18

### Sunday, September 7

13th Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning: Pss. 103; 150  
Evening: Pss. 117; 139  
Job 25:1–6; 27:1–6  
Rev. 14:1–7, 13  
Matt. 5:13–20

### Monday, September 8

Morning: Pss. 5; 145  
Evening: Pss. 82; 29  
Job 32:1–10, 19–33:1, 19–28  
Acts 13:44–52  
John 10:19–30

### Tuesday, September 9

Morning: Pss. 42; 146  
Evening: Pss. 102; 133  
Job 29:1–20  
Acts 14:1–18  
John 10:31–42

### Wednesday, September 10

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 1; 33  
Job 29:1; 30:1–2, 16–31  
Acts 14:19–28  
John 11:1–16

### Thursday, September 11

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 16; 62  
Job 29:1; 31:1–23  
Acts 15:1–11  
John 11:17–29

### Friday, September 12

Morning: Pss. 51; 148  
Evening: Pss. 142; 65  
Job 29:1; 31:24–40  
Acts 15:12–21  
John 11:30–44

### Saturday, September 13

Morning: Pss. 104; 149  
Evening: Pss. 138; 98  
Job 38:1–17  
Acts 15:22–35  
John 11:45–54

### Sunday, September 14

14th Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning: Pss. 19; 150  
Evening: Pss. 81; 113  
Job 38:1, 18–41  
Rev. 18:1–8  
Matt. 5:21–26

### Monday, September 15

Morning: Pss. 135; 145  
Evening: Pss. 97; 112  
Job 40:1–24  
Acts 15:36–16:5  
John 11:55–12:8

### Tuesday, September 16

Morning: Pss. 123; 146  
Evening: Pss. 30; 86  
Job 40:1; 41:1–11  
Acts 16:6–15  
John 12:9–19

### Wednesday, September 17

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 48; 4  
Job 42:1–17  
Acts 16:16–24  
John 12:20–26

### Thursday, September 18

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 80; 27  
Job 28:1–28  
Acts 16:25–40  
John 12:27–36a

**Friday, September 19**

Morning: Pss. 130; 148  
Evening: Pss. 32; 139  
Esther 1:1–4, 10–19  
Acts 17:1–15  
John 12:36b–43

**Saturday, September 20**

Morning: Pss. 56; 149  
Evening: Pss. 118; 111  
Esther 2:5–8, 15–23  
Acts 17:16–34  
John 12:44–50

**Sunday, September 21**

15th Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning: Pss. 67; 150  
Evening: Pss. 46; 93  
Esther 3:1–4:3  
James 1:19–27  
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

**Monday, September 22**

Morning: Pss. 57; 145  
Evening: Pss. 85; 47  
Esther 4:4–17  
Acts 18:1–11  
Luke (1:1–4) 3:1–14

**Tuesday, September 23**

Morning: Pss. 54; 146  
Evening: Pss. 28; 99  
Esther 5:1–14  
Acts 18:12–28  
Luke 3:15–22

**Wednesday, September 24**

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 125; 91  
Esther 6:1–14  
Acts 19:1–10  
Luke 4:1–13

**Thursday, September 25**

Morning: Pss. 143; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 81; 116  
Esther 7:1–10  
Acts 19:11–20  
Luke 4:14–30

**Friday, September 26**

Morning: Pss. 88; 148  
Evening: Pss. 6; 20  
Esther 8:1–8, 15–17  
Acts 19:21–41  
Luke 4:31–37

**Saturday, September 27**

Morning: Pss. 122; 149  
Evening: Pss. 100; 63  
Esther 9:1–32  
Acts 20:1–16  
Luke 4:38–44

**Sunday, September 28**

16th Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning: Pss. 108; 150  
Evening: Pss. 66; 23  
Hos. 1:1–2:1  
James 3:1–13  
Matt. 13:44–52

**Monday, September 29**

Morning: Pss. 62; 145  
Evening: Pss. 73; 9  
Hos. 2:2–15  
Acts 20:17–38  
Luke 5:1–11

**Tuesday, September 30**

Morning: Pss. 12; 146  
Evening: Pss. 36; 7  
Hos. 2:16–23  
Acts 21:1–14  
Luke 5:12–26



First Congregational UCC  
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Presbyterian Church of Oronoco  
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Oronoco, 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 September 2014**



9/7	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
9/14	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
9/21	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
9/28	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

**(O) Nursery available during worship service**  
**(Z) Sunday school at 10:15**

**Reverend Lisa Johnson—Contact Information:**  
**Cell Phone 1-507-696-8753 Email address: [pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com)**