

Climate Change: Paris COP21 and Beyond

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 or CMP 11 was held in Paris, France, from November 30 - December 12, 2015. It was the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. According to the organizing committee of the summit in Paris, the objective of the 2015 conference was to achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world. The conference negotiated the Paris Agreement, a global agreement on the reduction of climate change, the text of which represented a consensus of the representatives of the 196 parties attending it.

Our very own, Peter Johnson, attended this conference and will be sharing his experience with two presentations. The first will be held Sunday, April 24th following 11:00 worship at Z and the second will be held Sunday, May 1, following 11:00 worship at O.

Feel free to invite your friends, neighbors and family members to attend this very interesting and informative presentation.

Refreshments will be served.

From Our Rastor

Holy Week is barely behind us – a week that began with the celebration of Palm Sunday and continued through the intimacy of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and the solemnity of Good Friday into the joy of Easter morning.

I find it incredibly interesting how the world around us has coincided with this liturgical progression this year. Palm Sunday was sunny, beautiful, warm (well ... warm by March-in-Minnesota standards, anyway). By Maundy Thurs., we had all been driven to the intimacy of the indoors by colder temperatures and a blanket of snowfall. Good Friday was chilly, wet, overcast. It was a darker sort of day, both inside the church and out.

And then, by Easter evening, we had this:



Light.

Beauty.

Glory.

And in that moment, when Peter and I were standing in our backyard marveling at the sunset

with the boys in our arms, I kept having this hymn running through my head.

For the beauty of the earth,
For the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), an English poet, was inspired to write these words by the beauty of a spring day in his native town of Bath, England. He originally penned the words to this hymn intending for them to be used during communion – a way to infuse joy into a part of the service that was usually very solemn.

Just as Pierpoint intended to infuse the solemn and sacred ritual of the Lord's Supper with an element of joy, so the joy and the miracle of Easter infuse our lives and hearts with joy, even in the midst of the solemn, the troublesome, the worn-out, and the mundane. In the miracle of Easter – in the elation of the unexpectedly empty tomb and the declaration of the Good News: HE IS RISEN! – we find a Light that cannot be extinguished. We find a Light more awe-inspiring even than the most stunning sunset the world has ever seen. We find a Light warmer and more life -giving that the brightest rays of sunshine. Into the solemnity of our days and worries and responsibilities, God injects the Light of Hope – hope in a life everlasting, hope in a Savior who came and died and rose again for our sake, hope in a future that is unknowable in the particulars but sure in grace.

"Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and a good hope. May he encourage your hearts and give you strength in everything you do or say." ~ 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Alleluia! Amen.

Paster Sina

(O/Z) Peace Camp 2016 SonSpark Labs



Our dates and theme for Peace Camp 2016 are set!! This year, we will be working with a curriculum called SonSpark Labs – learning about God's lifechanging plan for us as we explore various scientific principles: gravity, cause and effect, motion, transformation, and chain reactions.

Dates: Mon., June 13 – Thurs., June 16 Time:

Dinner -5:30-6:00 p.m. Activities -6:00-8:00 p.m.

Place: Covered Bridge Park Picnic Shelter,

Zumbrota

Cost: \$15 per student

Any students in kindergarten-6th grade (the grade that they just *finished*, not the grade that they will be starting in the 2016/2017 school year) are welcome to register. You can find the registration link on either church website. On the Z church site, click on "Programs" and then on "Peace Camp." On the O church site, click on "What We Do" and then on "Youth Peace Camp." Or you can visit http://goo.gl/ forms/s2gVZ6dCOa.

(O/Z) Peace Camp Planning Meeting

The Peace Camp Planning committee will be meeting Sun., May 1 at 3:00 p.m. at Z church. Please come to this meeting with definite ideas about crafts, make-able healthy snacks, games, etc. We're doing our last planning push before we put up the fliers and start advertising.

(O) Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery meeting is **Tues.**, **May 10** at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater. As always, Presbytery meetings are open to anyone. If you're interested in coming, please contact Pastor Lisa.

(O) Celebrating Our Seniors

We have one student graduating from high school this year – Keanan Peterson-Rucker – so we'd like to celebrate and honor him both during worship and in a time of fellowship following worship. We will hold this celebration on Sun., May 22, 2016. Please come

join us as we show Keanan how much we appreciate, support, and love him!

(O/Z) Confirmation Schedule



Wed., Apr. 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m. @ Oronoco Wed., Apr. 20, 6:00-8:00 p.m. @ Zumbrota

(O/Z) Confirmation Dinners

Each time we meet for confirmation, we come together for a meal first. This gives us a great opportunity to participate in fellowship together and to unwind a bit before the "real" class starts. Each month, we meet in both congregations once - the first Wed. at O, the third Wed. at Z. I'm asking for people to help make meals for those gatherings - another great way we as congregations can support these confirmation students in this journey. All of the meals in Zumbrota are covered. Thank you! Here are the days we still need help in Oronoco:

Oronoco-Wed., May 4

(O/Z) Ordinary Grace is April **Readers of OZ Selection**

The interchurch book group, Readers of OZ, will meet Tuesday, April 12, at Coleen Johnston's home in rural Mazeppa at 7 p.m. Ordinary Grace, by William Kent Krueger, will be up for discussion. Krueger is a Minneapolis author mostly known for his mystery writing. In this book, he "turns his attention to the biggest mystery of all: God. An awardwinning author for his long-running Cork O' Connor series, Krueger aims higher and hits harder with a standalone novel that shares much with his other work.... 'the awful grace of God,' as it manifests itself within the novel, would try the faith of the most devout believer. Yet, ultimately, the world of this novel is one of redemptive grace and mercy, as well as unidentified corpses and unexplainable tragedy. A novel that transforms narrator and reader alike." (Kirkus Reviews (starred))

The Readers of OZ welcome you to join the group and explore the issues of grace and forgiveness that this Edgar award winning novel explores. For more information, call Coleen at 507-843-4719, or reach her by email: <u>coleenlou@gmail.com</u>.

In Our Prayers

Joyce Rucker, Eunice Markham, Joy Bertsinger, Sue Wedge, Jo Ludington and Monica Blue (sister-in-law to Dick & Janice Ostrom).

(O/Z) 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. It's also an opportunity for us to participate in the relationship of the yoke — O people can come to the campfire at Z, and Z people can come to the campfire at O. Bring your neighbors and friends. Bring kids. Let's have fun!

Z dates:

June 12: 7:00-8:00 p.m.July 10: 7:00-8:00 p.m.Aug. 14: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

O dates:

June 26: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
July 24: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Aug. 28: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Sept. 25: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

(Z) Open and Affirming Celebration 2016



When the United Church of Christ's General Synod called on the various settings of the church to become OPEN to and AFFRIMING of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith, lives were changed. The lives of our congregations have been changed by the Still-Speaking God. Folks on the margins have been received into the church with our

Extravagant Welcome and their lives have been change. We have been changing live together in our witness for inclusion and justice as we live out our faith in the world.

Now it is time to celebrate our ministries, celebrate how being OPEN and AFFIRMING changes lives. Join us for our annual Minnesota Open and Affirming Celebration on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at Linden Hills Congregational United Church of Christ, 4200 Upton Avenue South in Minneapolis. There will be workshops for learning more about the Open and Affirming movement starting at 1:00 PM. A worship service will begin at 2:30 PM. Our host church will offer refreshment after worship for us to continue to share with each other the life changing work we have been a part of.

The various workshops will offer us a place to reflect on how being Open and Affirming can change the life of a congregation, how being Open and Affirming changes lives in youth ministry and how being Opening Open and Affirming calls us to the intersection of other justice issues.

During worship we will celebrate each Open and Affirming setting within the Minnesota Conference while being ministered to by the Mizpah United Church of Christ choir from Hopkins. Our preacher will be the Rev. Lawrence T. Richardson, Minister for Digital Evangelism with the church's national setting. Rev. Richardson is an African-American transgender man who has been changed in so many ways by being in the United Church of Christ and is in turn challenging the church to change and adapt to the new realities of ministry that unfold with each new day.

This event is sponsored by the Open and Affirming Ministry Team, of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ. The public is welcome to this celebration. The building is accessible on all levels and child care will be provided.

Ed & Ellen Simon's new address: 1333 Arthur Lane N.W. Rochester, MN 55901

New phone# 507-258-4507

(O) Clearwater Forest Summer Camps!



It may still be chilly outside, but camp is right around the corner! Clearwater Forest offers camp experiences for those entering 3rd grade through recent graduates and more! With a wide variety of programs centered on the theme "Fearless Faith: Courage in Community" there is sure to be something for everyone this summer! Below are a few highlighted camps:

Elementary camps: These camps offer all the essentials of a fantastic week! From making new friends, getting active in the outdoors, and experiencing the compassionate leadership of caring cabin counselors, children ages 8-11 (entering grades 3-6) will discover an amazing week!

Junior high camps: These camps offer incredible experiences for youth entering grades 7-9 including opportunities to grow and try new things. Our traditional weeks are packed with activities to ensure a life-changing experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. Jr. High/Sr. High Sailing Camp; Pedal, Paddle, and Climb are sure to be huge hits for those wanting something more adventurous than our traditional programming.

Senior high camps: (grades 9-13th) Senior high camps offer the pinnacle experiences for our campers – those that have attended for years as well as first-timers. We offer six senior high camps that include a C.I.T. Camp (Leadership Training), our Sailing Camp, a Beach Camp, and a two-week senior high camp. If those aren't enough, our Endless Summer Camp closes up the senior high's summer with fantastic opportunities to experience God's amazing creation!

Check out <u>www.clearwaterforest.org</u> for more information about these and **SO MANY MORE** programs happening this summer at Clearwater Forest!

Check out www.clearwaterforest.org for more information about these and SO MANY MORE programs happening this summer at Clearwater Forest!

(O) 2016 Synod School July 24—29, 2016 Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. We seek to create an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth, and children.

Connecting with Jesus in an Over-Connected World is the theme of Synod School 2016.
Come...

- to participate in a unique experience of Christian community as we worship, study, play, and live together;
- to grow in faith through action, relationships, and a centering of the spirit;
- for continuing education, for a special family experience, or for individual growth;
- to take it all in, then return home to share and serve. Synod School is a leadership development ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with support from the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation.

Visit our website at: www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html

Celebrate Earth Day Friday, April 22, 2016



If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it.. People would walk around it marveling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in the water. The people would declare it as sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so it would not hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love it, and defend it with their lives because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it.

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.

April 2016 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.

Friday, April 1

Morning: Pss. 96; 148 Evening: Pss. 49; 138 Exod. 13:1–2, 11–16 1 Cor. 15:51–58 Luke 24:1–12

Saturday, April 2

Morning: Pss. 92; 149 Evening: Pss. 23; 114 Exod. 13:17–14:4 2 Cor. 4:16–5:10 Mark 12:18–27

Sunday, April 3

2nd Sunday of Easter Morning: Pss. 93; 150 Evening: Pss. 136; 117 Exod. 14:5–22 1 John 1:1–7 John 14:1–7

Monday, April 4

Morning: Pss. 97; 145 Evening: Pss. 124; 115 Exod. 14:21–31 1 Peter 1:1–12 John 14:(1–7) 8–17

Tuesday, April 5

Morning: Pss. 98; 146 Evening: Pss. 66; 116 Exod. 15:1–21 1 Peter 1:13–25 John 14:18–31

Wednesday, April 6

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 9; 118 Exod. 15:22–16:10 1 Peter 2:1–10 John 15:1–11

Thursday, April 7

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, April 8

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

Saturday, April 9

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

Sunday, April 10

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, April 11

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, April 12

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

Wednesday, April 13

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

Thursday, April 14

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

Friday, April 15

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

Saturday, April 16

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

Sunday, April 17

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, April 18

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

Tuesday, April 19

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

Wednesday, April 20

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

Thursday, April 21

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

Friday, April 22

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

Saturday, April 23

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

Sunday, April 24

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

Monday, April 25

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

Tuesday, April 26

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

Wednesday, April 27

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

Thursday, April 28

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

Friday, April 29

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

Saturday, April 30

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



Connecting with Jesus in an Over-Connected World

Why do they keep returning to Synod School?

- Christian fellowship
- Inspiring worship and song
- Growth in knowledge and faith
- Personal and spiritual renewal
- Fun for families and singles of all ages

July 24–29, 2016 Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Discover Synod School!

www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool 800-328-1880, ext. 207

Readings for the Month of April

Sunday, Apr.il 3 HYMNSING



Sunday, April 10

John 20:19-31; Revelation 1:4-8

Sunday, April 17

Psalm 30; John 21:1-14

Sunday, April 24

Psalm 104:1-13, 31-35; Colossians 1:15-20 **Earth Day service**

IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

United Church of Christ Contact Information

UCC national website...ucc.org
Minnesota UCC website...uccmn.org
Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact alisonb@uccmn.org
United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online at ucc.org/ucnews

Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...pcusa.org
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...ptcaweb.org
PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact 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

Chad Vath, Moderator
Cindy DeBlieck, Clerk
Amy Pahl, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
Connie Hawley, Trustee
Bob Hawley, Trustee
Arlen Kyllo, Trustee
Sandy Pahl, Deacon
Nattalie Rolland-Vath, Deacon
Hailey Vath, Deacon
Marlene Kosobucki, Deacon
Kayn Wilshusen, Deacon
Wendy Kyllo, Deacon

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Asst. Treasurer
Ron Peterson Rucker, Ruling Elder
Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder
Peter Johnson, Ruling Elder
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Sandy Bowers, Deacon
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Joanne Schenck, Deacon
Karen Peterson Rucker, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Gail Rucker, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator Joanne Schenck, Secretary

Birthdays for the Month of April

4/5 Vivien Williams

4/6 Donna McIntire Linda Sorensen

4/10 David Midthun

4/13 Julie Beck

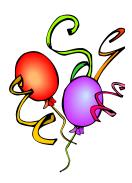
4/16 Will Midthun

4/17 Trevor Paulson

4/19 Ina Brown

4/21 Larry Thomforde

4/23 Matt Roth



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

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 www.ucczumbrota.org

Worship Times for the Month of April 2016



 4/3
 9:00 (O)
 11:00 (Z)

 4/10
 9:00 (O)
 11:00 (Z)

 4/17
 9:00 (O)
 11:00 (Z)

 4/24
 9:00 (O)
 11:00 (Z)

Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information Cell Phone (507) 696-8753 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com