

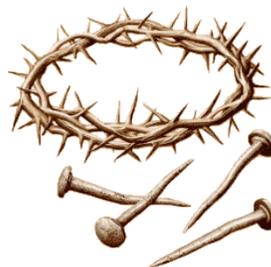
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

April 2015 Newsletter

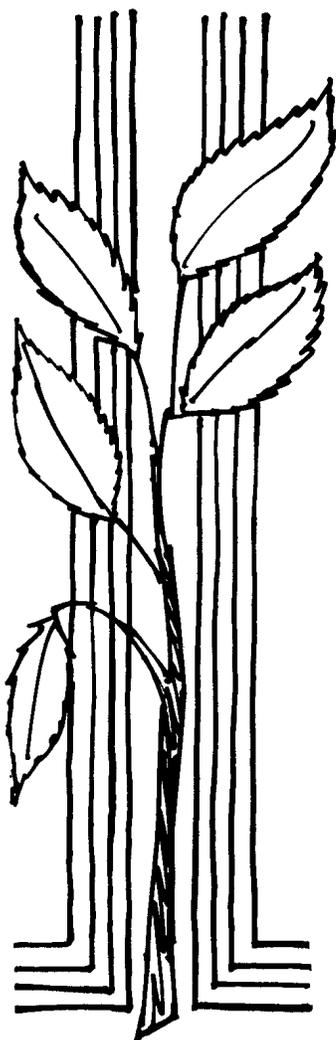
*Holy Week and Easter
Worship Schedule*

*Maundy Thursday service
Thursday, April 2 @ 7:00 p.m., Z church*

*Good Friday/Tenebrae service
Friday, April 3 @ 7:00 p.m., O church*



*Easter Worship
on Sunday, April 5, will be held at the
regular times in both churches
(9:00 at O, 11:00 at Z)*



**HE
HAS
RISEN**

alleluia alleluia

From the Pastor



“We are Easter people.”

It seems like a funny phrase, doesn't it? Especially considering all the commerciality that has come to surround the Easter holiday – pastel eggs, more varieties of candy than you could ever imagine (unless, of course, you happen to be Willy Wonka), brightly colored baskets filled with toys and trinkets, a giant omnipresent bunny (huh??), and that plastic grass that is the bane of every parent's very existence. In our increasingly secular and consumer-driven society, this is what Easter has become.

And yet in the church, we proclaim, “We are Easter people!”

But what does that even mean?

Being Easter people means being people of belief. The gospels all tell a slightly different story about who found the empty tomb and when and how, but they all include an element of belief in the face of a cogently unbelievable event. Considering what the disciples and all of Jesus' other followers had been through, we certainly cannot blame them for their moments of confusion and incredulity. We may even find ourselves resonating more with Thomas who doubted than with the unnamed beloved disciple in John who saw the emptiness of the tomb and immediately believed. But eventually those in all the gospel tellings of the resurrection believed. They believed in the resurrection itself. They believed in Jesus as the Son of God. They believed. Even those who did not see believed. And we who centuries later cannot see with our eyes must believe, and in believing, we become Easter people.

Being Easter people means being people of conviction. I can only imagine what it must have been like for those who first encountered the empty tomb to bring that news back to the rest of Jesus' followers. They were probably anxious. They were probably excited. They were probably worried their friends

might think they had lost their minds. This plays out in Luke's gospel: “When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ... but they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.” Did the rest of Jesus' followers laugh at them? Did they ridicule them? Whatever reception their remarkable tale received, none of the gospels tell us that the women who found the empty tomb ever recanted their story. The gospels tell us they were afraid, yes. But shining through that fear was their conviction in the miraculous thing that they had witnessed. They knew their story was outlandish. They knew their story was unbelievable. But they knew their story was true, and they dared to cling to that truth in the face of unbelief.

Being Easter people means being people of hope. Jesus had been dead for three whole days. Before that, he had been arrested, mocked, beaten, tortured, and publicly humiliated. That's a whole lot of darkness to be dealing with – a whole lot of pain and turmoil and distress. But out of the midst of that darkness and distress stepped a risen Christ, a Christ who had overcome even the cold finality of the grave to restore God's everlasting grace to all people. In this one profound and holy act, we find a ray of hope stronger and more powerful than any darkness that we will encounter. It is the hope that accompanies all forms of new life from a newly-planted garden to a newborn baby – a hope immersed in possibilities and blessings and unmitigated intentions. It is vivid and sure. It is strong and warm. It is whole and holy. It is hope.

And so when we declare on Easter morning that we are, indeed, Easter people, we do so expressing our belief, clinging to our conviction, and radiating hope.

We are Easter people! Hallelujah!

Pastor Lisa

(O/Z) Pastor Out

Pastor Lisa will be out of the office Thurs., Apr. 9.

***Orphan Train* is (O/Z) Readers of OZ April Selection**

The Readers of OZ will meet Tuesday, April 14, at Paulette Barnhart's home in Mazeppa at 7 p.m. Up for discussion will be *The Orphan Train*, by Christina Baker Kline. This book was brought to the group's attention by Ellen Simon, who noted that after reading the book she visited the Orphan Train Museum in Owatonna, a destination she recommends to all with an interest in this topic.

The following description of the novel appears in *Booklist*: "A long journey from home and the struggle to find it again form the heart of the intertwined stories that make up this moving novel. Foster teen Molly is performing community-service work for elderly widow Vivian, and as they go through Vivian's cluttered attic, they discover that their lives have much in common. When Vivian was a girl, she was taken to a new life on an orphan train. These trains carried children to adoptive families for 75 years, from the mid-nineteenth century to the start of the Great Depression. Novelist Kline (*Bird in Hand*, 2009) brings Vivian's hardscrabble existence in - Depression-era Minnesota to stunning life. Molly's present-day story in Maine seems to pale in comparison, but as we listen to the two characters talk, we find grace and power in both of these seemingly disparate lives. Although the girls are vulnerable, left to the whims of strangers, they show courage and resourcefulness. Kline illuminates a largely hidden chapter of American history, while portraying the coming-of-age of two resilient young women."

All are welcome to join in the discussion of this little-known topic in Minnesota history. Please contact Paulette if you need directions: 507-272-5664. The reading selection for May will be *The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan*, by Jenny Nordberg. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter.

(O) Donations Needed

We will be collecting sweat pants, sweat shirts, socks and lap blankets for the residents of Pine Haven Care Center through the months of March and April. (Men's and women's sizes med/large) Your dona-

tions can be dropped off at the church. Questions? Please speak with Joy Bertsinger.



(O/Z) Peace Camp 2015!!!

That's right, all, it's time to get ready for Peace Camp again! The committee is still working out the nitty gritty details, but we've got the basics nailed down for this summer.

Dates: Mon., June 15-Thurs., June 18

Time: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Like last year, this will include dinner from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Place: Covered Bridge Park

Theme: Body, Mind, Spirit Wellness

We're going to be making our own healthy snacks, engaging in all sorts of fun and healthy activities (Zumba, yoga, walking/obstacle course, water aerobics, and a wide variety of crafts and games), and learning about how and why our health is special to God.

Instead of a camp-out this year, we will be finishing off the week with a family friendly pool party! More details will come in the next few months, but these are the basics. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

(O/Z) Peace Camp Planning Meeting

The Peace Camp Planning committee will be meeting Sun., Apr. 12 at 4:00 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) Publicity Team Meeting

The Publicity Team will meet Mon., Apr. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone who may be interested in joining us to talk about ways to promote the church - to get our name out there and help people understand just what a wonderful congregation this is - please feel free to come join us for the meeting! 😊

In Our Prayers



The friends and family of Bev (Judy Wilder's sister-in-law), Sandy Bowers, Joanne Schenck, Eunice Markham, Dick Wedge (Jim's brother), Virginia Wendt, Dorothy French, Karen Vallejo, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins, the friends and family of Paulette Barnhart as they mourn the loss of her mother.

(Z) Pack the Pews

The Z congregation struck a blow against hunger when their Pack the Pew donations brought in over \$900 on March 22. Part of the gifts will go to the Oronoco Food Shelf and some to the Zumbrota Area Food Shelf. Many bags of food were also donated, packing the pews with healthy additions for local diets. The mission outreach committee helped to sponsor the trip to Feed My Starving Children (see photos of our wonderful volunteers in their lovely hairnets which not only promote food safety but also humility!), as well as the Lenten Study series *At Risk: Our Food, Our Water, Ourselves*, (Fall 2014, *Reflections*, Yale Divinity School). Thanks to all who help others in need, either through these efforts or through their private donations of time and funds. We all *do* make a difference!

(O/Z) Hymnsing Coming Up

The Sunday after Easter (Apr. 12) we will be having another hymnsing! We'll read some Scripture and do some of the things that we normally do during worship (Passing of the Peace, Song of Peace, offering, etc.), but our hymns will be chosen by you on the spot! Katha has been wonderful enough to once again agree to this, so we certainly want to thank her for her flexibility. So be thinking about what your very favorite hymn is, and hopefully we'll get a chance to sing it.

On Saturday, March 7, members of the UCC gathered in Edina to help package food for the 'Feed My Starving Children' program. Everyone was impressed with this FMSC operation and its use of hundreds of volunteers to fill nutritious food packets sent around the world to meet emergency hunger needs. We plan to do this again and we hope you can join us next time.



Our gang in the warehouse ready to pray over the cartons of food.



Filling bags with rice/soy/veggie meals to send to Afghanistan.



Attaching labels to plastic food bags.

(O/Z) Lenten Worship Participants Needed



Two other people are needed to help with readings during the Good Friday service. If interested, please contact Pastor Lisa. Thanks!

O) New Session Assignments

Thanks to all who have volunteered to serve our congregation in the following leadership roles:

Clerk of Session: Mike Rand

Treasurer: Kay Erdahl

Asst. Treasurer: Kim Stanton

Representative to Presbytery: Mike Rand

Trustee: Peter Johnson

Asst. Trustee: Ron Peterson-Rucker, Kim Stanton

Interchurch Council Members: Mike Rand, Kay Erdahl, Jenny Rand, Brenda Longman, Janice Ostrom.

(Z) Historical Scrapbook Made Available to UCC

A scrapbook compiled by Lettie Rogers McIntire in the 1920s and 30s is currently on loan to First Congregational by Charlie Buck, a resident of the Zumbrota Nursing Home. He will be donating the scrapbook to the Zumbrota Area Historical Society, but has loaned it to the UCC for scanning so that its information can be added to the church archives.

Many of the clippings pasted into the scrapbook by Ms. McIntire refer to events in the church's history, or to its early members.

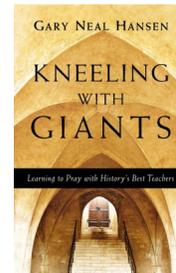
At the present time, not much is known about Ms. McIntire, but the tag taped to the front of the scrapbook is scrawled with the note "Zumbrota teacher". Coleen Johnston is working with the scrapbook and hopes to find out more about Ms. McIntire's history in Zumbrota. She will make a copy of the scrapbook available as soon as possible. We thank Dr. Kevin Kish for bringing this wonderful document to our attention on Mr. Buck's behalf.

(Z) Church Life Committee

The Church Life Committee will meet on Sun., Apr. 19 after the 11:00 worship service. Just a reminder that this is the committee that will be dealing with all of our congregational get-togethers – opportunities for fellowship, spending time with each other and continuing to get to know each other beyond the basic Sunday morning pleasantries. If you're at all interested in being a part of this committee, please feel free to join us for this meeting.

(O/Z) Prayer Study

This year, we will be doing a Lenten study surrounding prayer – different forms of prayer, the traditions that these forms come from, and how we react to them. We will primarily be using the book *Kneeling With Giants: Learning to Pray with History's Best Teachers* by Gary Neal Hansen. We will be meeting **Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** There will be coffee and refreshments provided.



Please note: This is not the kind of study that requires you to read the book beforehand. Each week, we will be introduced to a new form of prayer – it's history, the principle behind it, and the "nuts and bolts" of how it's done. Then, I will ask you to try out that form of prayer throughout the next week. See how it fits into your schedule, your lifestyle, and your faith. The following week, we will spend some time talking about how that style of prayer felt/resonated with everyone before moving on to learn about a new style. This also means that if you miss a week here or there, *it's not a big deal.* It will not ruin your experience of this study.

April 2015 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.

Wednesday, April 1

Wednesday of Holy Week

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 27; 51

Jer. 17:5–10, 14–17 (18)

Phil. 4:1–13

John 12:27–36

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 126; 102

Jer. 20:7–11 (12–13) 14–18

1 Cor. 10:14–17; 11:27–32

John 17:1–11 (12–26)

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

Morning: Pss. 22; 148

Evening: Pss. 105; 130

Gen. 22:1–14

1 Peter 1:10–20

John 13:36–38 or John 19:38–42

Saturday, April 4

Holy Saturday

Morning: Pss. 43; 149

Evening: Pss. 31; 143

Job 19:21–27a

Heb. 4:1–16

Rom. 8:1–11

Sunday, April 5

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150

Evening: Pss. 136; 117

Exod. 12:1–14

John 1:1–18 or Isa. 51:9–11

Luke 24:13–35 or John 20:19–23

Monday, April 6

Morning: Pss. 97; 145

Evening: Pss. 124; 115

Jonah 2:1–10

Acts 2:14, 22–32

John 14:1–14

Tuesday, April 7

Morning: Pss. 98; 146

Evening: Pss. 66; 116

Isa. 30:18–26

Acts 2:36–41 (42–47)

John 14:15–31

Wednesday, April 8

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 9; 118

Micah 7:7–15

Acts 3:1–10

John 15:1–11

Thursday, April 9

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 68; 113

Ezek. 37:1–14

Acts 3:11–26

John 15:12–27

Friday, April 10

Morning: Pss. 96; 148

Evening: Pss. 49; 138

Dan. 12:1–4, 13

Acts 4:1–12

John 16:1–15

Saturday, April 11

Morning: Pss. 92; 149

Evening: Pss. 23; 114

Isa. 25:1–9

Acts 4:13–21 (22–31)

John 16:16–33

Sunday, April 12

2nd Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150

Evening: Pss. 136; 117

Isa. 43:8–13

1 Peter 2:2–10

John 14:1–7

Monday, April 13

Morning: Pss. 97; 145

Evening: Pss. 124; 115

Dan. 1:1–21

1 John 1:1–10

John 17:1–11

Tuesday, April 14

Morning: Pss. 98; 146

Evening: Pss. 66; 116

Dan. 2:1–16

1 John 2:1–11

John 17:12–19

Wednesday, April 15

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 9; 118

Dan. 2:17–30

1 John 2:12–17

John 17:20–26

Thursday, April 16

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 68; 113

Dan. 2:31–49

1 John 2:18–29

Luke 3:1–14

Friday, April 17

Morning: Pss. 96; 148

Evening: Pss. 49; 138

Dan. 3:1–18

1 John 3:1–10

Luke 3:15–22

Saturday, April 18

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
 Evening: Pss. 23; 114
 Dan. 3:19–30
 1 John 3:11–18
 Luke 4:1–13

Sunday, April 19

3rd Sunday of Easter
 Morning: Pss. 93; 150
 Evening: Pss. 136; 117
 Dan. 4:1–18
 1 Peter 4:7–11
 John 21:15–25

Monday, April 20

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
 Evening: Pss. 124; 115
 Dan. 4:19–27
 1 John 3:19–4:6
 Luke 4:14–30

Tuesday, April 21

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
 Evening: Pss. 66; 116
 Dan. 4:28–37
 1 John 4:7–21
 Luke 4:31–37

Wednesday, April 22

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 9; 118
 Dan. 5:1–12
 1 John 5:1–12
 Luke 4:38–44

Thursday, April 23

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 68; 113
 Dan. 5:13–30
 1 John 5:13–20 (21)
 Luke 5:1–11

Friday, April 24

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
 Evening: Pss. 49; 138
 Dan. 6:1–15
 2 John 1–13
 Luke 5:12–26

Saturday, April 25

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
 Evening: Pss. 23; 114
 Dan. 6:16–28
 3 John 1–15
 Luke 5:27–39

Sunday, April 26

4th Sunday of Easter
 Morning: Pss. 93; 150
 Evening: Pss. 136; 117
 Gen. 18:22–33
 1 Peter 5:1–11
 Matt. 7:15–29

Monday, April 27

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
 Evening: Pss. 124; 115
 Jer. 30:1–9
 Col. 1:1–14
 Luke 6:1–11

Tuesday, April 28

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
 Evening: Pss. 66; 116
 Jer. 30:10–17
 Col. 1:15–23
 Luke 6:12–26

Wednesday, April 29

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 9; 118
 Jer. 30:18–22
 Col. 1:24–2:7
 Luke 6:27–38

Thursday, April 30

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 68; 113
 Jer. 31:1–14
 Col. 2:8–23
 Luke 6:39–49
 Office

**Presbyterian Women
 of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area
 2015 Spring Gathering**



**Saturday, April 25
 9:00am to 3:00pm**

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN.
 Come hear Rev. Bebe Baldwin and Rev. Alika Galloway
 share stories from their book

**"Living Water, Living Stories: African American
 Women & Their Biblical Sisters"**

(O) Clearwater Forest Summer Camp!



It may still be chilly outside, but camp is right around the corner! Clearwater Forest offers camp experiences for those entering third grade through recent graduates and more! With a wide variety of programs centered on the theme “Power Up, Living in the Spirit” 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. Sailing Camp; Pedal, Paddle, and Climb Camp; Music, Art and Drama (MAD); and our **NEW Night Owl Program** are sure to be huge hits for those wanting something more adventurous than our traditional programming.

Senior High camps: (Grades 9-13) 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 around enough, our Endless Summer Camp closes up the senior high’s summer with fantastic opportunities to experience God’s amazing creation!

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

(O) 2015 Synod School July 26-July 31, 2015 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.

A Future with Hope is the theme of Synod School 2015. 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

(O/Z) Worship Advisory Team

NEXT MEETING: TBD

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.

Readings for the Month of April

Sunday, April 5 (Easter Sunday)

Isaiah 25:6-9; Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, April 12

HYMNSING

Sunday, April 19

Luke 24:13-49; 1 John 1:1-10

Sunday, April 26

Isaiah 12:1-6; John 20:19-31



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
Cindy DeBlieck, Clerk
Amy Pahl, Financial Clerk
Parker Quammen, Treasurer
Connie Hawley, Trustee
Rex Wiederanders, Trustee
Arlen Kylo, Trustee
Bruce Johnston, Deacon
Nattalie Rolland-Vath, Deacon
Hailey Vath, Deacon
Bob/Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Coleen Johnston, Deacon
Wendy Kylo, Deacon

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Mike Rand, Clerk
Kay Erdahl, Treasurer
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer
Lance Sorensen, 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
Deb Nelson, Deacon
Carol Tiede, Deacon
Ted Midthun, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Gail Rucker, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator
Joanne Schenck, Secretary

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

Birthdays for the Month of April

4/5 Vivien Williams

4/6 Donna McIntire

Linda Sorensen

4/10 David Midthun

4/12 Bridget Webster

4/16 Will Midthun

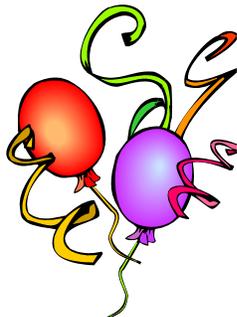
4/17 Trevor Paulson

4/19 Ina Brown

4/21 Larry Thomforde

4/23 Matt Roth

4/25 Roxanne Webster



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

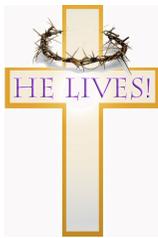


Presbyterian Church of Oronoco
PO Box 118
Oronoco, MN 55960
(507) 367-4711



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

Worship Times for the Month of April 2015



4/2 Maundy Thursday worship at Z 7:00 p.m.
4/3 Good Friday worship at O 7:00 p.m.
4/5 Easter Sunday 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)
4/12 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)
4/19 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)
4/27 9:00 (O) 11:00 (Z)

(O) Nursery available during worship for ages 6 weeks –pre-K
(Z) Sunday school at 10:15 a.m.

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