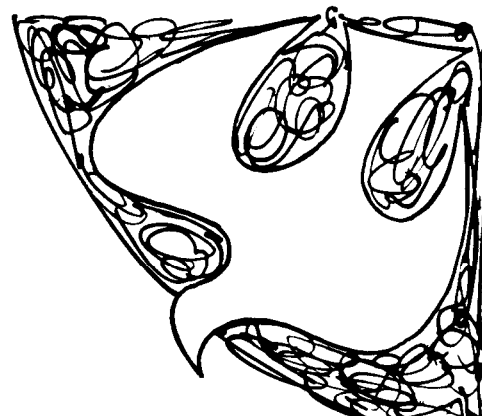


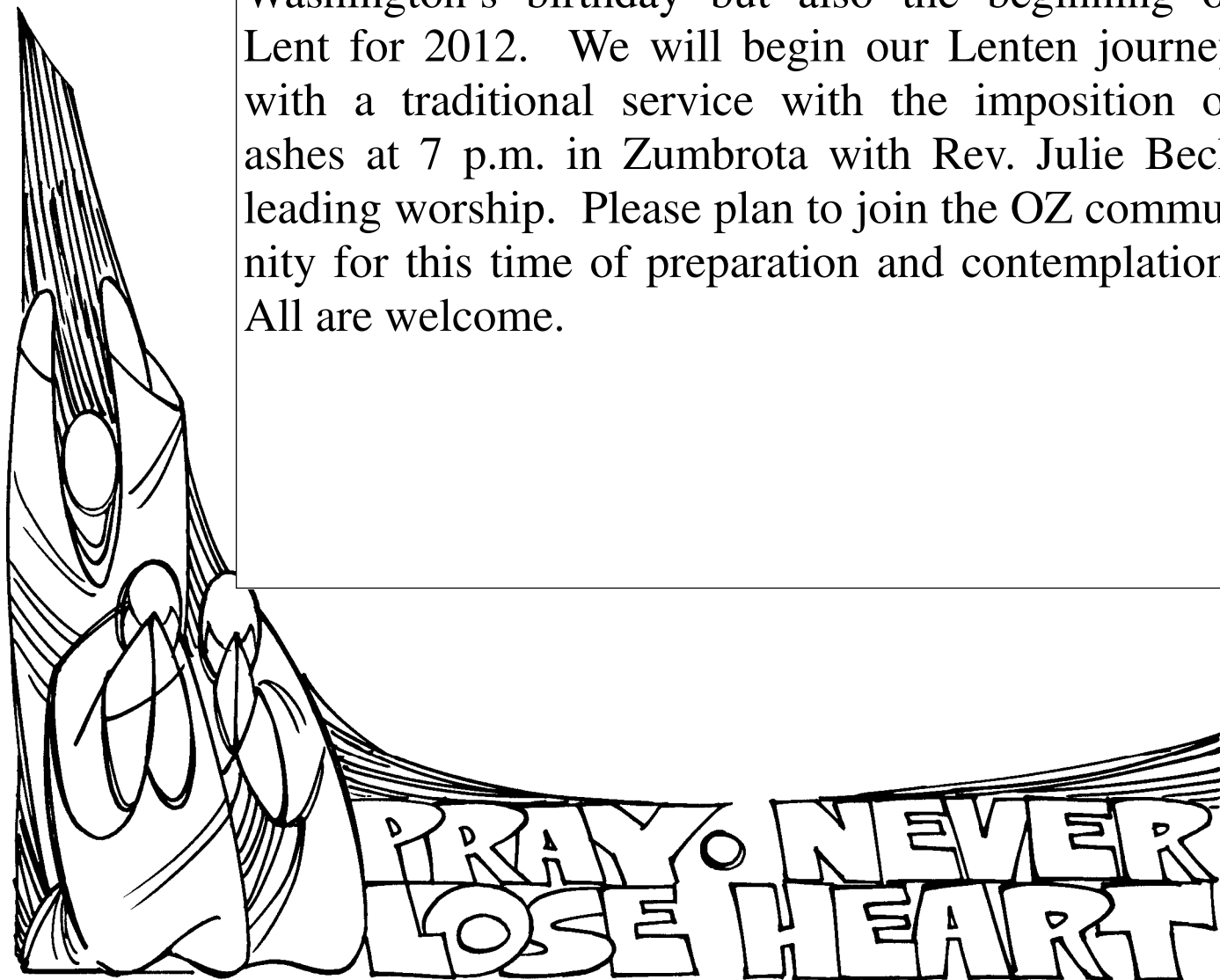
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
ZUMBROTA  
and  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

**February 2012 Newsletter**



**Ash Wednesday Service  
To be Held at Z**

Wednesday, February 22, marks not only George Washington's birthday but also the beginning of Lent for 2012. We will begin our Lenten journey with a traditional service with the imposition of ashes at 7 p.m. in Zumbrota with Rev. Julie Beck leading worship. Please plan to join the OZ community for this time of preparation and contemplation. All are welcome.





Epiphany is the season of light and daily we are physically regaining light. Epiphany serves as the bridge between the birth of Jesus and the passion story in Lent. Jesus calls the disciples and begins preaching good news, teaching religious leaders, and healing people that come to him.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. During Lent we journey with Jesus into his passion, last meal on Maundy Thursday, and death on Good Friday. Lent is a time for us to be mindful of things that need healing and repentance in our lives. It is a time to practice a discipline that helps us focus on our faith in intentional ways.

Many times people give up something meaningful during Lent that will help them focus on their faith. Sometimes people add a discipline that will do the same thing but from a different vantage point. Regardless of what one chooses – the point is to be intentional about choosing something that creates the opportunity to focus on one facet of faith during the Lenten Season.

Joyfully,  
Julie

**In Gratitude**

(O) Dear Deacons and friends,  
Thank you for the Christmas gift. It's wonderful to be remembered. I wish all a healthy and happy 2012, with God's blessings.

Joyce Rucker

(Z) To First Congregational Church,

Thank you for remembering me this joyous season of Jesus birth. The people within your church are so friendly and welcoming. My husband and I work

together as a team, and we both appreciate your generous Christmas gift.

Gary and Deb Floan

(O) I sure appreciated the Christmas gift. Also for Ellen delivering it.

God Bless  
Helen Craft


(Z) Members of the UCC,  
Thank you for providing such a beautiful place of worship—it gave our family comfort. Also, thanks to everyone who helped with providing and serving lunch. It was such a joy to be home in the church again. Mom always loved the church and the congregation.  
God bless, Steve & Teri

(Z) Thank you for the soup and salad dinner and your many other kindnesses this Christmas season! It's not just the gift but the ones who gave it. Not just the gesture, but the ones who made it. Not just the kindness but the warm heart behind it. Thank you for being such a kind and giving people.  
The Towers Residents

(O) Pine Island Area Home Services thanks the people of your congregation for the donation of \$200 to ur Fall Annual Campaign.

Karel Titus  
Board Treasurer

**In  
Our  
Prayers**



We offer prayers of comfort and support to Ethyl DeBlicke and Nancy Lorentzson (friend of Sue Johnson).

## **(O/Z) Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday**

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten Season. We will do the traditional imposition of ashes. Both congregations are invited to worship together at Zumbrota at 7:00pm and then on Maundy Thursday (April 5, 2012) we will both be invited to worship together in Oronoco.

## **(O) Per Capita Dues**

Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA). The per capita amount requested from each congregation is a combined total of requests from the presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located and the General Assembly to support their budgets for the coming year. It pays for publication used by congregations, staff salaries, property upkeep, meetings and committees, ordination examinations, etc.

Per capita dues for 2012 are \$31.63 per member. Your contribution is appreciated. Please note your per capita payment separately in your offering so we follow up accurately.

## **(Z) Per Capita Dues**

As we enter into the New Year, it is time to remind UCC members of their commitment of \$10 for per capita dues. Please indicate on the "memo" portion of your check that the \$10 is designated for "dues." Thank you!

Kay Wilshusen,  
Treasurer

## **(Z) UCC Rummage Sale Coming in March**

Clean those closets—donate those Christmas gifts you know you will never use: The annual rummage sale is coming up on Saturday, March 31! As you pack up your donations, remember that we are not able to accept analog TVs because of the cost of disposing of them when they do not sell. Also, we do

not take treadmills or other exercise equipment, or baby strollers/cribs/car seats because of safety issues.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations. More information will follow in the March newsletter.

## **(Z) New Members Class**

There will be a new member class on Sunday Feb 5<sup>th</sup> following worship. This will be a time to share and learn about the United Church of Christ. New Member Sunday will be on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>. It gives us (as a congregation) the opportunity to celebrate your presence in our midst!

## **(O/Z) Welcome Baby**

Proud grandparents, Rev. Gary Titusdahl and his wife Diane, would like to announce the arrival of their first grandchild. Amelia Diane was born on Tuesday, February 17 weighing 6lbs. 8oz. and is 20 inches long. Congratulations and our best to proud parents Karl & Laura Boleen.

## **(O) Food Shelf News**



The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 5pm to 7pm. Persons wishing to make a cash donation to our food shelf are encouraged to submit a check written to Oronoco Food Shelf. Checks should be given to Ellen Simon.

All canned and boxed food items should be gathered at the collection basket in the fellowship room so it can be weighed before being shelved. Members & friends are also encouraged to sign up to serve on a Wednesday evening when the food shelf is open.

**\*\*Thank you to everyone that has worked to make the food shelf a success this past year and to those that have donated food and cash. The need is great and it is an outreach of the Gospel that we are able to fulfill. God bless you!**

## (O/Z) Readers of OZ



The next book discussion group will meet on February 7th at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Coleen Johnston (47421 County Road 11, Mazeppa). Call Coleen at 507-843-4719 if you need directions. Please join us and bring a friend. All are welcome.

Our book selection this time is "*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*" by Rebecca Skloot. A recent book summary had this to say:

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.

Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave. Henrietta’s family did not learn of her “immortality” until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. And though the cells had launched a multimillion-dollar industry that sells human biological materials, her family never saw any of the profits. As Rebecca Skloot so brilliantly shows, the story of the Lacks family — past and present — is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of. Intimate in feeling, astonishing in scope, and impossible to put down, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* captures the beauty and drama of scientific discovery, as well as its human consequences.

## (Z) New Website Welcomes All

Can four people all use one computer at the same time? Our secretary, Sue Johnson, along with Rex Wiederanders and Coleen Johnston gathered around web designer Justin Hawley of Hawley Productions in the church office on January 4 for a lesson in updating the church website ([www.ucczumbrota.com](http://www.ucczumbrota.com).) At first, Justin’s were the only fingers on the keyboard, but as the afternoon went on, everyone had a chance to click in the right places and make things happen. The four, however, did not manage to all type and click at the same time—although Justin may have felt like his students were trying to be a little too “hands on.”

One important change on the website is that the newsletter will be posted there, making it possible for Sue to send out emails with a link to it, rather than having to attach the newsletter to each individual email. Attachments like that take lots of time to send, and so this will be a timesaver for Sue, in addition to making the newsletter available to anyone who chooses to look at our website.

More changes will be coming, as photos are updated, historical information and other tabs are added, but for now we hope visitors will find it a welcoming and affirming site. If you have suggestions for additions or corrections, please let Sue, Rex or Coleen know.

## Valentines



### Valentines Day

Valentines Day was named after two martyrs named Valentine: St Valentine of Terni (197 AD) and St Valentine of Rome (269AD). Both were martyred for their faith and honored for their personal sacrifices. Through the centuries Valentines has taken on a more romantic nature that encourages couples to give gifts to one another and make time to celebrate the relationship that they share. The original observance did not have a romantic emphasis, and in many countries like Finland, Estonia, Mexico, and Costa Rica the day is more of a “Friends Day” in which acts of appreciation are done for friends.

## Birthdays for the Month of February

2/4 Larry Gruenberg  
2/8 Jill Huebert  
2/11 George Vallejo  
2/12 Tori Kylo  
2/14 Dawn Pahl  
Teri Paulson  
2/15 Dick Ostrom  
Steve Paulson  
2/18 Ann Hawkins  
2/19 Leanne Brevig  
2/20 Jacky Rueber  
2/23 Sandy Pahl  
2/24 Mark Wedge  
Kristin Matthees  
2/29 Arlen Kylo



July 22–27, 2012

**Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa**  
*“Singing the Lord’s Song in a Strange Land”*  
**Discover Synod School!**

Synod School, an annual midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is for laity, clergy, families, and singles. It’s fun and mind-stretching courses, worship and singing you’ll long remember, and times for both fellowship and private reflection. Discover Synod School and you’ll know why so many people keep returning.

**Choose among 60+ courses.** Examples include Bible studies: *The Epistles (Peter, John, and Jude)* and *How to Interpret the Bible*; body and mind renewal classes: *Yoga, Pine Needle Baskets, Stained Glass, Healthy Lifestyles* and *Qigong*; classes for living faithfully in the world: *Great Decisions, the Church’s Response to Domestic Violence* and *Forgiveness*; classes for leader development: *Smaller for a Purpose, Bullying* and *Relationship Strategies*. Daily convocation speaker Carol Howard Merritt is a pastor of Western Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, and a frequent speaker on generational issues and the future of the church. She is author of *Tribal Church* and *Reframing Hope* and blogs at [www.tribalchurch.org](http://www.tribalchurch.org). She will explore how the church can be faithful in a changing world that often feels strange.

Go to [www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html) or phone 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207

**Brochures about Synod School are in the fellowship room.**

## IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

### United Church of Christ Contact Information

UCC national website...[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)  
Minnesota UCC website...[uccmn.org](http://uccmn.org)  
Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact [alisonb@uccmn.org](mailto:alisonb@uccmn.org)  
United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online at [ucc.org/ucnews](http://ucc.org/ucnews)

### Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...[pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...[ptcaweb.org](http://ptcaweb.org)  
PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto: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

## (Z) Minnesota Conference will Gather June 8-10, 2012

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota  
Conference of the United Church of Christ



St. Benedict College  
St. Joseph, Minnesota

Come and Join the Celebration!

## Scripture Readings for February 2012

February 5

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 40:21-31

Mark 1:29-39



February 12

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

2 Kings 5:1-14

Mark 1:40-45

February 19

*Transfiguration*

2 Kings 2:1-12

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 26

*First Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 9:8-17

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

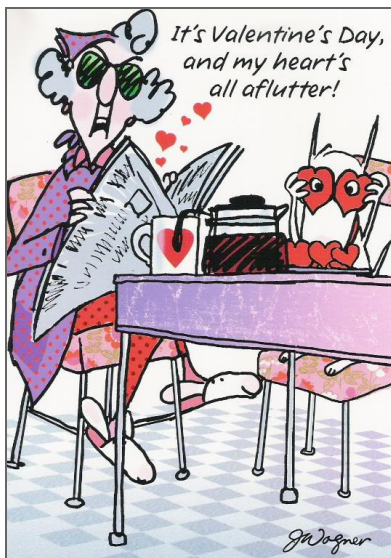
### Directory Corrections/Additions

(O) New Address:

George, Karen, and Anthony Vallejo

1520 5<sup>th</sup> Street NE

Rochester, MN 55906



### Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson  
Secretary: Sue Johnson  
Custodians: (O) Marcy Burt  
(Z) Debbie Floan  
Pastor: Rev. Julie Beck

### UCC Leadership Team

Rex Wiederanders, Moderator  
Lynn Wiederanders, Clerk  
Connie Wendt, Financial Secretary  
Kay Wilshusen, Treasurer  
Jim Wendt, Trustee  
Gerry Webster, Trustee  
Larry Thomforde, Trustee  
Bob Hawley, Deacon  
Connie Hawley, Deacon  
Parker Quammen, Deacon  
Marjorie Davies, Deacon  
Cindy DeBlicek, Deacon  
Wendy Kylo, Deacon

### Presbyterian

#### Leadership Team

Judy Wilder, Clerk  
Kay Erdahl, Treasurer  
Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer  
Kay Erdahl, Elder  
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Elder  
Linda Sorensen, Elder  
Judy Wilder, Elder  
Joy Bertsinger, Elder  
Kim Stanton, Elder  
Karen Vallejo, Deacon  
Anthony Vallejo, Deacon  
Ellen Simon, Deacon  
Vivien Midthun, 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

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday in Oronoco 10-3:00**  
**Wednesday in Oronoco 10-3:00**

**Office Phone #507-367-4711**  
**Email address: [oronocopc@pitel.net](mailto:oronocopc@pitel.net)**

## **Faribault Concert Follows Annual Meeting— Let's Go!**

Deb Braun, seminarian and soprano, will offer "Reflections on Calling: Selections from my Spiritual Autobiography and the Music Which It Recalls," at 3:00 pm at the Congregational Church of Faribault, UCC, on January 29th. You may remember Deb, who sang at both OZ churches when Rev. Jan Bodin was our interim pastor in the early 1980s. If you do, you will remember her beautiful, clear voice—and it hasn't changed.

Deb will be accompanied by Marc Robinson, extraordinary keyboardist and professor of Russian at St. Olaf College in Northfield. A free-will offering will be taken to defray the costs of the church in supporting Deb as a Member in Discernment. The Faribault UCC is located on the corner of 3rd Street and 3rd Avenue Northwest (behind the courthouse.) For information on carpooling to Faribault, please contact Coleen Johnston (843-4719.)

## **Puppet Workshop Is April 15 (OZ)**

On April 15th, Kurt and Kathy Hunter, professional puppeteers from St. Louis Park, MN, and their amazing puppets will present worship at 10:00 a.m. at the Congregational Church of Faribault UCC. Lunch and a seminar will be held in the Parish House (across the street from the church building). The seminar will begin at 2:00 pm.

If you have ever marveled at the huge puppets in parades, or have seen a puppet ministry used in a worship service, you may already have an idea of how learning about making puppets might be helpful to our OZ congregations. Anyone who loves puppets, loves creative experiences, works with children and youth is invited to this wonderful event. Children and youth are most welcome, too. The workshop is sponsored by an Ashley Grant from the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. For more information, call Coleen Johnston, 843-4719. Carpooling will be available.

## **In the Community**

### **Shopko Discount**

Shopko would like to extend an invitation to attend a special shopping event for senior citizens. Seniors, age 55 and older, will receive a **15% discount** of their total purchases on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. (Some restrictions do apply.)

### **Elder Network Opportunities**

#### **A Countryside Murder Mystery— Elder Network Fundraiser**

Elder Network puts the "Fun" in Fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 11 with "A Countryside Murder Mystery" at the Plummer House in Rochester. It's the early 1900s as we gather in the country for a wonderful weekend of merriment, when suddenly a murder is discovered and everyone is a suspect. So come join the fun! Enjoy wine sampling and delicious desserts, while you are collecting clues. Tickets are \$30 each and must be purchased in advance. You must be 21 years of age to attend. There are two performances—6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.—to choose from, so call now at 507-285-5272 for more information or to order your tickets over the phone by credit card. Elder Network is a non-profit agency, helping seniors remain living independently in Olmsted, Winona and Wabasha counties.

#### **Community Clothesline Silent Auction Fundraiser**

Waterford Crystal, and Items that present "a sense of excitement and beauty"

Bidding begins on Wednesday, February 8th at 11:00am. Bidding ends on Wednesday, February 29th at 6:00pm.

Community Clothesline  
814 11th Ave. NE  
Rochester, MN 55906  
507 282-8050

Store Hours:  
Mon.—Thurs. 11:00am—6:00pm  
Fridays and Saturdays 9am—2:00pm

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.pcomn.org](http://www.pcomn.org)**

**[www.ucczumbrota.com](http://www.ucczumbrota.com)**

**Worship Times for the month of February 2012**



2/5	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
2/12	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
2/19	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
2/26	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)

(O) Nursery available during worship for ages  
6 weeks through Pre-K

(O/Z) Confirmation on Wednesdays at 6:30p.m.

**Reverend Julie Beck - Contact Information**

**Cell Phone (507)696-8753 E-mail address: [jbeck7639@gmail.com](mailto:jbeck7639@gmail.com)**