

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, ZUMBROTA  
and  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

January 2012 Newsletter

*Important  
DATE!*

## **Annual Meetings January 29, 2012**

**Z - The Annual Meeting for First Congregational UCC is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, 2012 after 9:00 worship service. Following the meeting we will gather for pot luck lunch and fellowship.**

**O - The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco's Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2012 during worship service. We will follow the meeting with a pot luck lunch. Reports should be submitted in time for the January 9th session meeting. Copies of report should be placed in file in Sue's office. Thank you.**

**All members are encouraged to attend!**



## A Word from Our Pastor

Welcome to the New Year! Many of us are thankful for the clean slate that we give ourselves at the beginning of the new year. It is a time to dream a little, make tentative plans, and hope a lot.

Welcome also to the liturgical season of Epiphany. It is the season of light - sounds funny during the coldest, darkest time of the year, but it gives hope of things to come. It bridges Jesus birth and the passion story when we walk with Jesus through the last days of his life.

This a transitional season between the birth and passion of Jesus. Winter Solstice is past, and we are gaining light daily. As congregations you are also in transition. There is light and hope as the committee begins seeking candidates to interview for the next pastor.

This is a time of pregnant expectation. Newness, light, and hope in how the future unfolds...may God bless us, and shine light upon us as we live into the coming days and weeks.

Joyfully,  
Julie

### (O/Z) Pastor Search Team

Members: (Z) Parker Quammen, Sue Wedge, Jim Wendt, (O) Vivien Williams, Gail Rucker, Joy Bertsinger (Gail Rucker will not be available for the next 3 months. We are looking for a replacement for her position from (O) members. We have one name but let us know if you are interested as well.)

Our first task was to complete the Pastor's Job Description. Per Council's direction, the Pastor will be a part time position of about 32 hours per week. The main responsibility will be Worship and pastoral care. Mission and outreach, education and administration are other facets of the job. The job is posted on the Presbytery's website.

We completed the Church Information Form (Presbyterian form) and the Church Profile (UCC form) is one meeting from being completed. These forms explain "who" we are and what we value and seek in a pastor.

In January, we will start the interviewing process by reviewing applications, interviewing and then hearing applicant's sermons.

Please contact one of the committee members if you have any questions. We ask for your prayers during this important process.

Committee Chair- Joy Bertsinger



### In Our Prayers

*I pray that you may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.* Ephesians 3:17, 18

We offer prayers of comfort and support to the family and friends of Irma Brooks, the family and friends of Esther Maiwald, the family and friends of Glady Smith, Lloyd Lowrie, Nancy Lorentzson (friend of Sue Johnson) and praise and thanksgiving for the safe return of Joe Maguire (grandson of Jim & Sue Wedge) who was serving in Afghanistan and returned home at Christmas.

### Prayer Chains

Each of our OZ churches has prayer chains to offer support and strength for people in spiritual need. Would you like to be a member of a prayer chain? If so, please speak with Rev. Julie.

### Confirmation Reminder

Confirmation will resume on Wednesday, January 4th at 6:30 p.m. at O and is scheduled to meet each Wednesday thereafter.

## **(Z) A Message from Our Moderator**

Aside from the incredible power and influence of the position, being Moderator gives me the advantage of being able to see everything which goes on in a church. In our case, there is a great deal going on. I would like to spend these few paragraphs thanking those who make our church such a great place.

To all our elected officers and council members, who have committed their time regularly on evenings and weekends to maintain the direction of the church and provide their leadership, you are to be commended. It takes a lot of your time and that time, in our fast paced society, is precious. Just stepping up to the position is for some a scary experience, and yet you do it. Thank you.

What amazes me most of all, and yes I am using one of the most overused words in 2011, is the way our various committees operate. From the outside, they make little noise and fuss, but when it comes time to get the (e.g.) tree sales going, the Country Store or Rummage Sale up and in business, you are there. People show up, they all pitch in, help each other fit in and we all have a great deal of fun. It is a thing of beauty. Thank you.

We have many people who are not members who come regularly, and from time to time, new visitors. We state that we are open to all people, where ever they are on life's journey, and that means that we gladly welcome all without a requirement to being a "Member" and having to go through some secret initiation. Just come - you affirm to us that we are living out our doctrine. Thank you.

I have watched the nominating committee do their work and have come to realize that people come to church for a lot of different reasons, and not everyone feels the need to work a committee or be a church officer. We each contribute in our way to the whole and we appreciate everyone's presence among us. Thank you.

We have a new group of Church Council members who will be elected at our annual meeting on Jan 29th. I know your real reason for wanting to be on the Church Council, and I agree that working with the continuing Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer is the ultimate thrill, but this is a significant time commitment. Speaking as continuing Moderator, and for the Clerk and Treasurer, we will make your year a challenge and one to be remembered fondly. I thank you.

When I joined the church quite a few years ago, I was puzzled at our yoke with Oronoco and indifferent to its importance. During our ONA education period, I came to realize how important are the support and camaraderie of

our Oronoco church friends; they are true members of our family, with whom we have a shared set of values and priorities. May our yoke continue and our hearts grow fonder. Thank you.

So you can see it is all of you who make this church a great organization. For making our church the place it is, the living place it is, I thank you.

Peace to you in 2012.

Rex Wiederanders



## **Thank You**

(O) Thanks for the Christmas gift of money, it was very much appreciated. Holiday blessings to all.

Marcy

(O/Z) To the People of OZ,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts you gave me. You are all the best!

Katha

(O/Z) Many thanks for your Christmas greetings, best wishes, and generous Christmas gift of money, and most of all, your cherished gift of friendship. I feel most blessed to work for you. I wish you all good health and much happiness in the new year ahead.

Blessings,

Your secretary, Sue

(O/Z) For all who prayed for Joe Maguire's safe return to American soil from Afghanistan, a grateful thank you. Joe surprised all but his wife on Christmas day. He arrived home on Friday, December 23, with his unit. They had an early release. We give thanks..

The Wedge family

The family of Irma Brooks would like to thank you all for your cards, memorials, and acts of kindness.. no words can express our appreciation for all the help and support at her service. She loved her church family and will be sadly missed. Thank you again.

## **(Z) 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Delights Towers Residents**

For the fifteenth consecutive year, residents of Zumbrota Towers and Halter Terrace were treated to an Advent meal delivered and served by all of us at First Congregational. On Sunday evening, December 4, our friends next door enjoyed soups, salad and pies. Bill Wendt provided wonderful Christmas carols on the organ. Towers residents often tell us how much they appreciate being remembered each year, and they look forward to the homemade treats.

Thanks to Cindy and Don DeBlick for organizing this great event once again this year, and to all who cooked and served. A special thanks to Bill Wendt for giving the gift of music and friendship. What a great team!



## **(Z) Christmas Tree Sales Net Nearly \$500**

Many in the community look forward each year to being able to buy one of our beautiful Christmas trees. This year, when there was an advertising glitch on the first weekend, people actually called *us* to find out if we were selling trees. We are fortunate to have many loyal customers, and to have dedicated sales people like Jim Wendt, Dave and Amy Pahl, and probably some I've missed. A special thanks to Mike Sapp for organizing this event again this year, and to Arlen Kylo for putting up and taking down the fence. Good job!

## **(Z) Counting Down to the Annual Meeting**

This year's worship/potluck/meeting will be held Sunday, January 29. Worship will begin at 9 a.m. (as it does in all of January.) The meeting will follow worship, around 10 a.m., and a wonderful feast of favorite dishes from all of our cooks will follow around 11. Each year, this day celebrates what we have done as a congregation, and looks ahead to what needs to be done. One new thing we need to learn about is the food safety guidelines being recommended to churches by the State of Minnesota.

May the new year bring us many such opportunities to better serve our community.

**Reminder to chairs of all committees—**  
*please have your annual reports in by **January 10, 2011**.* Reports may be emailed to the church office, or given to Rex and Lynn Wiederanders for forwarding. Having the reports in on time (or early!) helps our wonderful secretary, Sue, complete the big job of printing and compiling the reports in time for the meeting. Because both O and Z are having their meetings on the same day this year, Sue will need to be compiling and printing both reports in the same week, so please be sure to help out by getting your report in early if possible.

Reports are needed from the following:

Moderator  
Clerk  
Treasurer/Finance  
ICC  
OZ Adult Ed.  
Deacons  
Trustees  
Christian Ed.  
Nominating Committee



MY TWELVE-WEEK SERMON SERIES IS TITLED,  
"THE DANGERS OF BEING ME-CENTERED."  
I HOPE THE CONGREGATION APPRECIATES  
ALL THE TIME AND PREPARATION I'M PUTTING INTO IT.

## Senior Ageless Tigers (55+) *Activity Schedule for January*

**Games/Cards** at the Congregational Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 1:00 – 4:00.

**Book Club** will meet on January 23 at the Library, 2:00 – 3:00 pm. , “King’s Speech” will be discussed.



### Readers of OZ

The January meeting has been canceled and the group will meet on February 7th at 7:30 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.

### 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 DeBlieck, 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

## **(O) January Luncheon**

The January luncheon will be on Wednesday, January 18th from 11:30 to 1:00. This will be a casserole, salad and dessert luncheon. Please mark your calendars and check the bulletin board for the sign up sheet. Your contributions of food and time will be appreciated and will help support our 2012 outreach activities. All are invited. Be sure to bring your friends!

## **(O) Food Safety Training**



This past year, the Minnesota Legislature passed a bill which requires all churches to provide food safety training to members who work at and/or who provide food for events where the public is invited. Our church will offer a program on Thursday, January 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the church. This will be an informal discussion of safety measures and should last less than an hour. If you are involved in either providing food or working at food events at the church, your participation will be appreciated. If you are unable to attend, please advise Judy Wilder at [jawilder@aol.com](mailto:jawilder@aol.com) or 367-4997. Judy will provide you with written materials to review on your own. Thank you for helping us assure that the food we offer to the public is safe and that our church is in compliance with state guidelines.

## **(O) December Bake Sale & POC Donations**

The December bake sale raised \$257.00 even though we had a snowy day. Thank you to all who contributed goodies and to those who made purchases. We ended the year with income of \$1661.73 and gifts of over \$2,100 to outreach activities. We donated to Pine Island, Oronoco and Zumbro Falls flood relief, Japan earthquake and tsunami relief, Presbyterian Women Missions programs, Pine Island Area Home Services, Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity and local outreach provided through Pastor Gary. Our year end checking account balance is \$163.45. It was a very good year!

## **(O) Christmas Concert Thank You**

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Concert by Jill Pearson and family and to all who attended. It was a lovely way to end our year and we had a fine turnout. The Publicity Team made all arrangements and used memorial funds to cover expenses. It was a gift and an invitation from our church to our community.

## **(O) POC Update**

Thank you to Joanne Schenck for providing the material and sewing busy bags for Ronald McDonald House. And many thanks to all who furnished toys, games, books and goodies to fill the bags. We delivered 21 bags much to their delight!

**\*In January we will collect lap robes, sweatshirts, sweat pants and socks for Pine Haven Nursing Home. Donations can delivered to the church. We will be collecting until January 22nd. Thank you!**

## **(O) Food Shelf**

The Food Shelf is open 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.

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

Food Shelf donation Sunday for both O and Z is January 1, 2012. Non-perishable food items and paper products are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are always welcome. Your generosity is appreciated more than you know.

## Birthdays for the Month of January

1/3 Jayna Lee Hartzell  
1/4 Matthew Biever  
    Hailey Vath  
    Robert Rueber  
1/6 Robert Rolland  
1/9 Andrew Pahl  
1/12 Jack Rucker  
1/14 Coleen Johnston  
1/25 Mitchell Watkins  
    Nickolas Vath  
1/28 Gerry Webster  
    Molly Bluhm  
    Janice Ostrom  
1/31 Larry Smith



## Scripture Readings for the Month of January

**January 1**  
*First Sunday after Christmas*  
Psalm 148  
Luke 2:22-40



**January 8**  
*First Sunday after Epiphany*  
*The Baptism of Christ*  
Genesis 1:1-5  
Mark 1: 4-11

**January 15**  
*Second Sunday after Epiphany*  
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18  
I Samuel 3: 1—10  
John 1: 43-51

**January 22**  
*Third Sunday after Epiphany*  
Jonah 3: 1-5, 10  
Mark 1:14-20

**January 29**  
*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*  
Psalm 111  
Mark 1: 21-28

### Directory Changes & Additions

(Z) Dorothy French's new apartment is #308.  
Dorothy says it's still the same address but a  
new apartment with a much better view.  
Yay Dorothy!

(Z) Dave Quammen  
110 Eden Lane  
Duluth, MN 55805  
507-259-7128  
Email: [dquammen@css.edu](mailto:dquammen@css.edu)

(Z) Josh Quammen  
110 Eden Lane  
Duluth, MN 55805  
507-259-7131  
Email: [Quamm015@d.umn.edu](mailto:Quamm015@d.umn.edu)

### 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)**

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.pconn.org](http://www.pconn.org)

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

### Worship Times for the Month of January 2012



1/1	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/8	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/15	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/22	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
1/29	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

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

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

**Reverend Julie Beck—Contact Information**

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

**I**n this new year, may your blessings overflow and be unceasing, Each day filled with robust health to make life and work a joy. & faith abundant to pass on to others. Wealth enough to support your needs and those in need. & determination to make each day better than the day before. Boundless happiness to share with others. Strength and spirit unbridled to overcome all obstacles. & unremitting optimism to vanish all doubts. Grace to overcome and forgive any transgressions. Patience to remain calm while the untamed world races by. Love enough to conquer all. & a caring outstretched hand, especially to young people. To know that in the central place of every heart must be Respect for the earth, and peace for the people, and Delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs, and Passion for new beginnings. And above all, abiding thanks each day for all our gains, miracle after miracle. To know that our final victories come from hope and faith and love. & the greatest of these is love . . . because it is the wellspring for all else. So that you unleash the power within you and touch the lives of others in endless and wonderful ways. Make every day of this new year a hallowed day of overbrimming thanks and joy and caring.