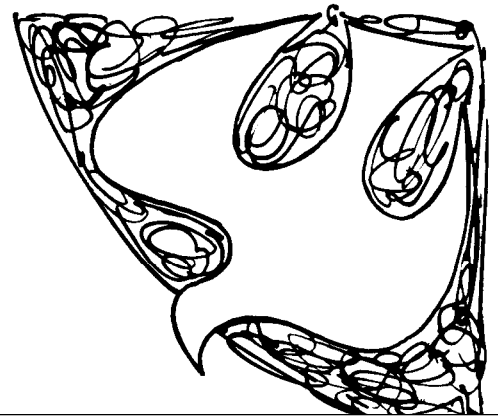


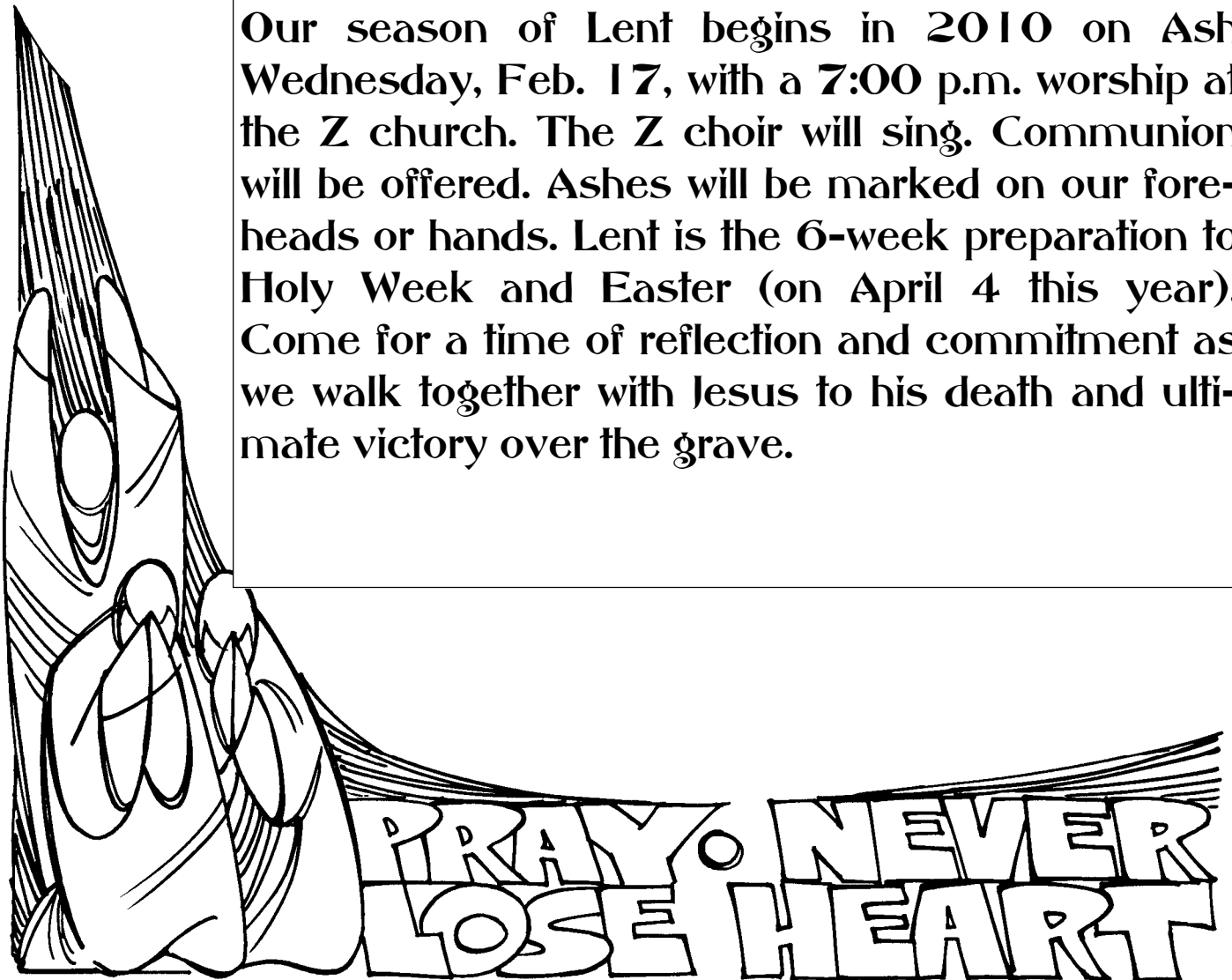
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

February 2010 Newsletter



**Ash Wednesday Worship
Feb. 17
7:00 p.m. at Z**

Our season of Lent begins in 2010 on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, with a 7:00 p.m. worship at the Z church. The Z choir will sing. Communion will be offered. Ashes will be marked on our foreheads or hands. Lent is the 6-week preparation to Holy Week and Easter (on April 4 this year). Come for a time of reflection and commitment as we walk together with Jesus to his death and ultimate victory over the grave.





By the time you receive this, we will be deep into the Epiphany season. Ash Wednesday comes knocking on our door Feb. 17 and then we leave Epiphany for Lent. We have some unfinished business to get to, I think.

Epiphany is the time of year when we remember the words proclaimed over the waters of Jesus' baptism and our own baptisms as well. In baptism we welcome people into the realm of Christ and his church. We also commission the baptized to be a representative of Christ. In effect, we say that the life we live is not our own anymore. We are now named, claimed, and ordained for God's purposes in Jesus. I love it when people say that they have hopes and dreams for me. I really love it when I hear that God has desires for me, too! The saddest of all sad things is to feel an uncalled and an unclaimed life. Just imagine...all that God has, and all that God wants for the world, is in the hands of you and me. It's a strange way for God to run a company, but this is the way God gets what God wants!

Here in mid-winter, when it is so dark across the landscape, we are meant to shine. We were born to reveal the light of God that glows within us. The church is incomplete without all of us holding our candles up; that is, our lives up. What a wonderful Kingdom of God that takes shape through our baptisms and our living in response. Jesus gets a little lonely without us, I believe. We ought to be pleased with the peculiar way in which Jesus invests great faith in us, even as we place great faith in him!

When we think about what we can do with our life in response to our baptisms, here's a good rule of thumb...Where the needs of the world intersect with our God-given gifts, that is our call right there, at that moment, at that place. There's always the right time to do the right thing. As I'm fond of repeating,

the point isn't always to be sure we have the answer. The point is to have Jesus. Or better yet, that he has us!

Blessings,
Rev. Gary

In Gratitude

(O) Your thoughtfulness and gift at the holidays were greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.
God bless, Helen Craft

(O) Oronoco Church Members,
My thanks to all for the Christmas gift of money. It is very much appreciated.
Thanks, Marcy

(Z) To all the good people at Congregational Church in Zumbrota,
I want to thank you for the Christmas goodies! It was great to be remembered. I do miss seeing you folks and want to visit some Sunday soon.
Love, Connie Holst

(O) Dear Rev. Gary,
I want to thank you for the many blessings bestowed on our family at the time of Wayne's passing and his funeral.

He may have spent sixty one years in Wisconsin working (with fifty-five of them in marriage) but now he is home with his beloved church, family and the land in Minnesota.

There is a round window up over the front door of the church which Wayne and I discussed over the years "in need of some (stained glass) attention".

The family would like to follow through and have the window completed as a memorial. A glass artist would have to determine the feasibility of the project and if all goes well, I will make up the difference between the memorial gift and the total cost.

Sincerely, Nancy Tiedeman

(O/Z) Special Presentation following Worship, February 21

A health care directive is important if your attending physician determines you can't communicate your health care choices (because of physical or mental incapacity). It is also important if you wish to have someone else make your health care decisions.

The OZ Adult Education Committee is having a presentation on advanced health care directives February 21st following services at both the O and Z churches. David Midthun, along with Karen Peterson/Rucker and Linda Sorensen, will speak during coffee/fellowship time.

Mark your calendars and please plan to join us after worship to learn more about this very important topic. Questions? Call Kay Erdahl at 356-2196.

(O) Food Shelf News

The 2nd & 4th 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 Kay Erdahl.



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 who has worked to make the food shelf a success this past year and to those who 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) Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi, March 20-26, 2011

We're in!! We have a date reserved for us a year from now, March 20-26, 2011. That means we will be leaving by car sometime on Friday, March 18,

and returning home late Sunday, March 27, or early Monday, March 28. A generous donor has covered the \$200 reservation/materials fee for the group. Each volunteer on the work trip will have costs for travel, housing, and food. We will have fundraisers over the next year as well as request support from each congregation. Thank you in advance!!

We have 4-5 volunteers signed up. We can bring a total of 10-14. Please let Rev. Gary know of your interest soon. We will have a meeting sometime this spring to plan this work trip and get organized for fundraisers. Check out the website www.thebackbaymission.org. God bless our outreach in the name of the churches of OZ.

(O/Z) Poetry Study, Sunday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m. at Z

Our next poem will be, "With That Moon Language," by Hafiz. It's a simple poem, only 10 lines. Yet it packs a powerful punch. We all want to be loved; however, how willing are we to tell others that they are loved? The poem will help us explore the dynamics that block our expressions of affection. Please join us. Led by Rev. Gary

(O/Z) Peace Camp, June 15-17, 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., held at O

Peace Camp is back after being on hiatus last year. This year it will be offered for 3 consecutive evenings, June 15-17, from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The host church will be the O church. Erin Bluhm will be the director, with a support staff of Vivien Midthun, Karen Vallejo, Parker Quammen, Kamyn Peterson-Rucker, and Rev. Gary. We will need the help of many others as well. The Gold Rush Committee of Oronoco blessed the O church with a total of \$1,000 over these past 2 years for the use of Peace camp. With this \$1,000 we anticipate no registration fees for the campers. Details will be forthcoming as we work out the theme, curriculum, and activities/events for the youth and their families. So nice to think of summer and warm weather!!

In Our Prayers



Eunice Markham,
Vernon Markham,
Dick Tiede, Mae Stee, Dick Brooks, Lesley Kylo,
Tom & Janel Schneider, Phyllis Hovel, Don Wilder,
Dick Scheerer's mother, Sandy Bower's mother,
Karen Vallejo's father, Lance Sorensen's aunt
(Charlotte Stav) and the family of Ruth Larsen

(O/Z) Membership Dues for the OZ churches in 2010

Each church has a yearly membership or per capita cost. The dues are set by each denomination and not the local church. The Oronoco church membership cost this year is \$30.01 per member. The cost for the Zumbrota church is \$10.00 per member. These dues support state and national programs and salaries of our church leadership. When you pay your dues, please attach a note or use the memo line on your check so the treasurer knows that it is for Membership. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!!

(O) You Make a Difference!

The Presbyterian Church members and friends have contributed a total of \$899 for the Haiti Relief Fund.

* 1/17 Sunday Offering	\$275
* 1/20 Noon Luncheon	\$279
* 1/24 Sunday Offering	<u>\$345</u>
	\$899

It's not too late to send an offering if you wish. We will forward any amount to the American Red Cross in Rochester.

(O/Z) Book Discussion Group

The book discussion group has selected "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows for our next read. We will meet at 7 p.m. at the home of Parker Quammen (690 Warren Ave, Zumbrota) on Tuesday, Feb-

ruary 9th. All are welcome to participate. The publisher's summary reads as follows:

January 1946: writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name.

The Washington Post book review had this to say:

Though it deals with a dark period in history, this first novel is an essentially sunny work. It affirms the power of books to nourish people enduring hard times—not so surprising, since Mary Ann Shaffer, who died earlier this year, had a long career as a librarian, bookseller and editor. Her niece Annie Barrows, a children's author, finished the manuscript after Shaffer fell ill; between them, they crafted a vivid epistolary novel whose characters spring to life in letters and telegrams exchanged over the course of nine months shortly after the end of World War II... You could be skeptical about the novel's improbabilities and its sanitized portrait of book clubs (doesn't anyone read trashy thrillers?), but you'd be missing the point. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society is a sweet, sentimental paean to books and those who love them.



(Z) Food Shelf FOOD SHELF SUNDAY FEB 7, 2010

This month, for the Z food shelf, the need will be boxed potatoes and/or pasta, ketchup, and canned vegetables. Paper towels run out fast also. Our food shelf is always in need and thanks you for helping to fill their shelves.

If you could please help, bring a bag with you to worship.

With the demands increasing for help, thank you in supporting our food shelf.

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



(O) Synod School 2010

The 2010 Synod School will be held July 25-30, at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. We are providing a welcoming and safe community for people of all ages and interests to learn, to grow spiritually, and to share in fellowship. Special programs for children and youth (infant through 12th grade) allow parents (and grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) to attend classes with other adults, knowing that their children are well cared for and having a great time.

Brochures about Synod School are in the fellowship room. Or you may call the Synod office at 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207, to speak with Diana Barber or you can check out the website at www.lakesandprairies.org

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

(Z) Minnesota Conference will Gather June 11—13, 2010

The 48th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota
Conference of the United Church of Christ

“Witness...to the Ends of the Earth”

We Will Gather to “Affirm and Celebrate Our
Life, Ministry and Mission as a Conference

June 11-13, 2010
St. Benedict College
St. Joseph, Minnesota

Come and Join the Celebration!

Scripture Readings for February 2010

February 7

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11



February 14

Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36(37-43)

February 21

First Sunday in Lent

Psalm 91:1-2,

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 28

Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

Directory Corrections/Additions

(O) Larry Glasenapp

Phone # 507-376-4312

(Temporary mailing address)

1831 Ashland Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55104

(O/Z) Sue Johnson's new email address:

mistymorningfarm@sleepyeyetel.net

Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson

Secretary: Sue Johnson

Custodians: (O) Marcy Burt

(Z) Debbie Floan

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Gary Titusdahl

UCC Leadership Team

Coleen Johnston, Moderator

Jean Roth, Clerk

Connie Wendt, Treasurer

Chad Vath, Trustee

Rex Wiederanders, Trustee

Larry Thomforde, Trustee

Bonnie Rolland, Deacon

Bob Rolland, Deacon

Bill Wendt, Deacon

Hailey Vath, Deacon

Cindy DeBleick, Deacon

Larry Gruenberg, Deacon

Presbyterian

Leadership Team

George Vallejo, Clerk

Joyce Rucker, Treasurer

Joanne Schenck, Elder

Ron Peterson-Rucker, Elder

Lance Sorensen, Elder

Kim Stanton, Elder

Ellen Simon, Elder

Karen Vallejo, Deacon

Sandy Bowers, Deacon

Leanne Brevig, Deacon

Vivien Williams, Deacon

Ellen Simon, Deacon

Janice Ostrom, Deacon

Erin Bluhm

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*

(O/Z) World Day of Prayer at UCC Friday, March 5

“Let Everything That has Breath Praise God” is the theme for this year’s World Day of Prayer, which will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 5, at First Congregational UCC. The service was written by the women of Cameroon, in West Africa, where people focus on praising God even in or especially during difficult times in their lives, because life is usually considered to be God’s greatest gift. The women of Cameroon ask women all over the world to join together on March 5 and to use their breath to sing in the hope that things will be better.

The service will begin with a procession, and the service will feature music and instruments from Africa. An offering will be collected and sent to the World Day of Prayer committee to be used for international and domestic grants focusing on women’s and children’s issues, and for the development of the annual program resources. If anyone out there has an African drum, flute, etc., please contact Coleen Johnston.

Worship participants will come from the local churches, St. Paul’s Catholic, United Redeemer Lutheran, Wanamingo Lutheran, Stordahl Lutheran, Minneola Lutheran, Lands Lutheran, Wesleyan and Oronoco Presbyterian. The program is organized and chaired by women, but all are welcome to attend. A fellowship hour will follow the service. Please come and bring a friend.

(Z) Lift Planning is Underway

The Lift Committee met Sunday, January 17, and did preliminary planning for the installation of the lift. We will seek bids from two or possible three companies, all of which have different specs for their products, but the committee will be asking them to site the lift in the Sunday School room so that it is convenient to the ramp entrance. This will involve some framing and possibly the moving of the pastor’s office to make the best use of space, but the committee members agreed that the site will not require any major construction or reconstruction, and will not interfere with furnace pipes, organ air supply or the existing stairway. Plans for the upgrading of our electrical service have

been budgeted for during the past two years. We will need to have that done before the lift can be installed, and so our first step in the process may not look like a lift, but it will make the lift possible. Jim Wedge will be making a drawing of the site so that everyone can get a sense of how this will all work and look. A brat feed fundraiser, similar to the one we held for our church painting a few years ago, is planned for this summer to help in funding the lift project. Watch for more details—and if you have more creative fundraising ideas, please let one of the committee members know (Rex Wiederanders, Coleen Johnston, Jean Roth, Arlen Kyllö, Jim Wedge.)

(Z) Rummage Sale Reminder

The date for the rummage sale has not yet been set, but it will either be in late March or early April. Watch the next newsletter for details. Remember, donations are welcome except for exercise equipment and baby equipment (like strollers, car seats, etc.) For more information, call Coleen Johnston, 843-4719.

(Z) Valentine’s Day Pot Luck

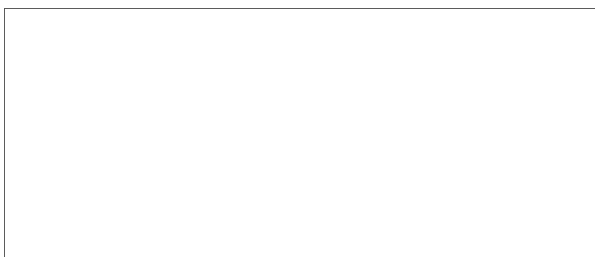


The Z congregation is invited to join a Valentine's Day pot luck social at 5 pm at the Village Cooperative of Red Wing, 2533 Eagle Ridge Drive (across from the new high school, near the community college). Pick a recipe from the OZ cookbook to share! RSVP with Scheerers (385 7690) or Eicks (385 7844, pastordick@yahoo.com). Or use the sign up sheet at church.

Please join this feast of foods we love and friends we cherish.

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.ucczumbrota.com>

Worship Times for the month of February 2010



2/7	10:00 (O) Annual Meeting	11:00 (Z)
2/14	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
2/21	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)
2/28	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)

(Z) Sunday School for grades K-8 at 10:15
(O) Sunday School for grades K-8 meet during worship
(O) Nursery available during worship for ages 6 weeks through Pre-K

Reverend Dr. Gary Titusdahl - Contact Information
Cell Phone (507)696-8753 E-mail address: *titusdahl@mchsi.com*