

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA
and
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

June/July 2010 Newsletter

Summer Activities

JUNE

- 6/6 (O/Z) Food Shelf & Communion Sunday**
- 6/9 (O) Food Shelf open 5-7 p.m.**
- 6/10 (O) Food Shelf delivery & restocking shelves 10:30 a.m.**
- 6/11-6/13 (Z) MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting**
- 6/13m (O/Z) Rev. Paul Reppe is guest preacher**
- 6/15—6/17 (O/Z) Peace Camp 6-8:30 p.m. at O**
- 6/20 Father's Day**
- 6/23 (O) Food Shelf open 5-7p.m.**
- 6/27(Z) Logan Pacheco baptism during worship**

JULY

Reverend Gary on vacation July 5—July 19

- 7/3—7/10 (O) General Assembly**
- 7/4 NO WORSHIP AT O. Worship at 9am at Z with Rev. Dick Scheerer**
- 7/8 (O) Food delivery & restocking the shelves at 10:30a.m.**
- 7/11 (O/Z) Worship with Rev. Paul Reppe**
- 7/14 (O) Food Shelf open 5-7 p.m.**
- 7/18 (O/Z) Worship with Rev. David Marcham**
- 7/20 (Z) Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.**
- 7/21 (O) Session meeting at 6:30 p.m.**
- 7/22 (O) Lawn Supper 5-700 p.m.**
- 7/28 (O) Food Shelf open 5-7 p.m.**

A Message from the Pastor



We are living in times of great divisions between people and nations. Physical walls divide nations, like the wall at the US-Mexico border. And then there are the walls of language, ideology, ethnicity, and on and on. I love that poem by Robert Frost ("Mending Wall") that has the line, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall, that wants it down."

Fortunately for us we follow a God who doesn't love walls, either. We are in the season of Pentecost. A season of wind and breath, and the huffing and puffing of the Holy Spirit, who "blows the little house down." Well, not the house actually. But walls!! God created us for community and fellowship. The Gospel story is revealed to be a universal tale of redemption, one that communicates beyond human barriers.

That's why I love the Pentecost text of Acts 2. Read it sometime and hang onto your hat! The many became one. The disparate became united. When the mighty swoosh of God rattled Jerusalem that day, the world's people entered into close communion and shared all things in common. When Babel in the earlier accounts turned things upside down, Pentecost turned it back aright.

We have joined ourselves to this first turnabout. We are united with the early church and take a share in their missionary work. What they began, we continue. We do this empowered by God. We have the same source of strength and the same fire they experienced. God doesn't leave us breathless. The Holy Spirit is moving among the outpost congregations of the nations, being partners of succeeding generations. It's nice to know we aren't alone, trying to do

this by our lonesome selves.

It's great to catch our breath. Even greater to catch God's breath. So, take a deep breath! Inhale God's breath. Then let our lives and ministry be the exhale. Do some swooshing ourselves! Knock down a few walls.

In Christ's love, Rev.
Gary

In Gratitude

Thank you one and all for remembering my birthday with cards and well-wishes. It is such a blessing to be 99 years young and surrounded by such wonderful family and friends.

I love you all,
Irma Brooks

And Then There Was Light

Our gratitude goes out to Jim Wendt for installing extra lighting in the ladies washroom at the Presbyterian Church. How nice it is to be able to see yourself in the mirror finally!

Many thanks,
The Ladies of O

In Our Prayers

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

Remember in our prayers Joanne Schenck, Bruce Johnston, Irma Brooks, Dick Tiede, Dick Brooks, Don Wilder, Dorothy French, Don DeBlick's sister, Jo Ludington's sister and Bob Larsen and the Larsen Family.

**Just a reminder -
No Book Club or Poetry Study
June-August**

(O/Z) Lawn Supper



The Oronoco annual lawn supper is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, from 5-7 p.m. at the church. All our friends, members and neighbors near and far are invited. We'll have a great time rain or shine as we have both indoor and outdoor seating. O members, watch for the sign up poster to help set up, serve, cleanup or to provide cakes, barbecue or to grill brats. Be sure to invite your friends and family to join us.

(O) Presbyterian Church of Oronoco May Financial Status

The year to date income for the Oronoco church has been approximately \$19,500. This is principally offerings from those supporting the church and a small amount of interest. The year to date expenses has been about \$25,700 resulting in a deficit of \$6,200. The church currently has financial assets of \$134,500 of which \$26,000 is in a memorial fund. A major near term expense is the cost of converting to Oronoco city water which is estimated to be between \$7,000 and \$10,000. A water fund has been established and currently we have had \$1,400 of donations to it. If you are interested in more detail, the monthly financial report is posted on the bulletin board.

Kim Stanton
Treasurer

(Z) Lift Committee Meets with Lift Products Supplier

Rex Wiederanders, Jim Wedge and Arlen Kylo met with Dixon Rypka, president of the Premier Lift Products, Inc. of Owatonna on Friday, April 30, at the church to discuss plans for the new lift. Mr. Rypka assessed the site (just inside the Sunday School room) and assured the group that a lift could easily be installed with minimal construction. This type of product does not require a deep pit below the level of the basement floor, as an elevator would, but it will require that a small section of cement be re-

moved so that when the lift is lowered, its floor will be level with the basement floor to allow for handicap accessibility. The committee members feel that this will not present a problem.

Premier Lift Products has installed lifts in many area churches, including the UCC in Dodge Center, which is where the committee first saw one in action, and also at Stordahl Lutheran near Zumbrota. Although there are other lift companies, their more distant location makes them less attractive candidates for our project. With almost half of the money already in hand, the dream of having a lift in the church "someday" is becoming a reality. More information as plans develop...but remember, your gifts will help that reality come sooner rather than later.

(Z) Speak Up—Or Whisper— New Microphones on the Way

After an informal poll at worship a few weeks back as to whether or not people can hear the announcements and prayer requests made by members of the congregation during worship (they can't), the council voted to buy a new cordless microphone from Nelson Electronics of Wanamingo. This mic can be passed around among those who wish to speak. A new stand mic for the pulpit is also on order. Technological advances in the past few years offer improved products. Our old mics have served us well, but the council believes that improving the worship experience for people is important enough to warrant an upgrade. Soon you, too, may get your chance to be the next UCC Zumbrota Idol. (Oh dear—aren't we forbidden to have those?)

Graduation

(Z) You are invited to Hailey Vath's Graduation Open House, Sunday, June 6th, from 5pm to 9pm. Address is 122 east 3rd St, Zumbrota. For more information please call Nattalie Vath at 732-7917.

(O/Z) Food Shelf Reminder

The first Sunday of each month is Food Shelf Sunday. All are invited to bring food items to share with our food shelves.



(O) Food Shelf News

The food shelf is open 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.

(O) Dorothy Day House

Three cheers for Carol and Richard Tiede for coordinating the May Dorothy Day House meal and to all who contributed food and helped serve. Our next scheduled meal at Dorothy Day House is September 22nd. We will post a sign up sheet ahead of time for those who are able to assist. Thank you!!!

(O/Z) Mark Your Calendar: OZ Joint Worship August 8

On Sunday, August 8, 10:00 a.m., we will be gathering for our annual Joint OZ Worship. It will be hosted by the Z church. Worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by lawn games and pot luck meal. This year we will not have a softball game. Instead, we will have lawn games for young and old. Watch for details on what food items to bring. Let's hope this year's weather, attendance and ENTHUSIASM will bring lots of fun and fellowship for all. Wear your casual clothes. OZ is celebrating 43 years together!

(Z) Check Us Out On the Web!

The OZ websites have been up and running for some time, but webmaster George Vallejo has recently updated the Z page (www.ucczumbrota.com) with a more wel-

coming format we hope everyone will like. Several photos have been added, but we could use more. If you have pictures from church events, please email them to George. If you don't have email, get the pictures to our wonderful secretary, Sue Johnson, so that she can scan them and send them to George. If you have suggestions for additions/corrections to the page, please contact Coleen Johnson, 843-4719, coleenlou@yahoo.com.

We hope to tweak the website a bit more, but once everything is in place, we plan to advertise our web address in more places, such as our *News-Record* weekly church notes, so that people who may be looking for a church home can learn more about us. They will also be able to access our newsletter, calendar, etc. The web is one more way we can reach out to and beyond our community. Thanks to George for helping to make this a reality.

Z Reps to UCC Annual Conference

At a special meeting Sunday, May 9, after worship, Sue Wedge and Carol Eick were elected as delegates to this year's UCC Annual Conference. If you read over the resolutions up for discussion and have an opinion on how our delegates should vote, please let them know.

Also attending the Conference from Z will be: Rev. Gary, Parker Quammen, Rev. Dick Scheerer and Nancy Scheerer, and Rev. Dick Eick. Thanks to all of these wonderful people for giving of their time and many talents on behalf of our congregation!

(Z) Give Thanks for Flowers

Once again this year, Jim Law has funded the planting of the church outdoor flowers in memory of his late wife, Norma (Dorothy French's sister.) Once again we need someone to check on them every two or three days. Is there anyone out there who would like to take this on? The faucet is close by, which makes the job easy and fun. If you would like to help, talk to Coleen Johnston. Our thanks to Jim Law for this beautiful and much appreciated gift.



(Z) Financial Report

Income	7,235.61
Expenses	9,025.57
Total	- 1,789.96

(O/Z) We Welcome Guests to Our Pulpits This Summer

Rev. Gary will be away for the UCC Annual Conference, the Presbyterian General Assembly and some vacation time in July. Rev. Paul Reppe will lead worship at OZ on June 13 and July 11. Rev. Dick Scheerer will do the honors on July 4 at Z, and Rev. David Markham will be with us on July 18. We look forward to our time with these special people, and send our best wishes to Rev. Gary for a relaxing vacation, along with much learning and uplifting worship experiences at both the UCC and PC gatherings.

A Fundraiser at Z

At its May meeting, the Z council decided to plan for a brat supper on the lawn on a Tuesday night before Music in the Park (instead of during the Covered Bridge Festival, as last month's newsletter indicated.) The date is yet to be decided, pending the listing of the music calendar. Please watch the bulletin and the *News-Record* for date and time. We will need lots of hands to help with this—picnic table haulers, grill movers, grill chefs, potato salad servers, etc. If you like cookouts, you won't want to miss out on this one. More information to come soon.

Riding for a Great Cause

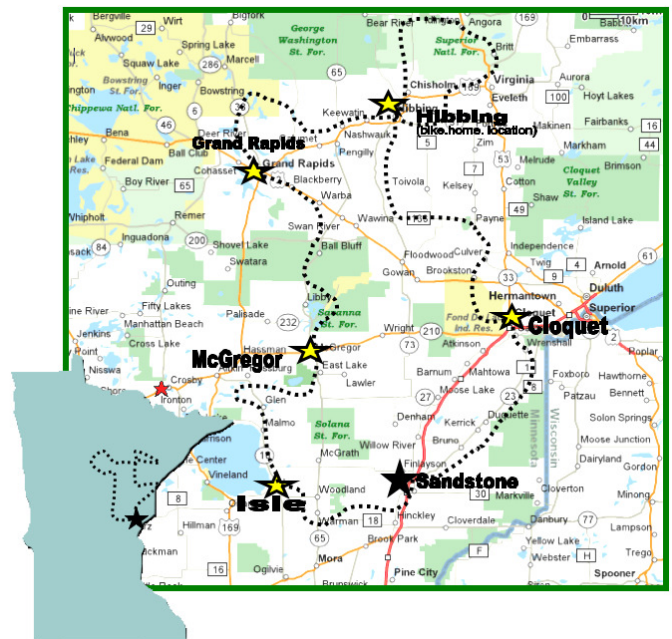
Parker Quammen is training to participate in the 18th annual Habitat 500 Bike Ride to be held July 11 - 17, 2010 and is looking for financial support from members of the OZ congregations. This year's 500-mile route will loop through scenic northern Minnesota starting and ending in Sandstone (Sandstone – Isle – Hill City – Grand Rapids – Hibbing – Esko – Sandstone). Along the way, the riders will celebrate the construction of the 1,800th Habitat home to be built in Minnesota (also known as the "bike home") located in Hibbing on the Iron Range. As riders, the bike home embraces our passion for cycling and our desire to create homeownership opportunities for those in need of adequate housing. Riders will also raise thousands of dollars in support of the construction of Habitat homes throughout Minnesota and beyond.

The bike home will be funded, designed, and built in part by Habitat 500 ride participants. The design incorporates "green" or sustainable design principles into Habitat for Humanity's existing mission of building safe, decent and affordable homes with low-income families.

Last year, Habitat 500 riders raised \$265,000, which was disbursed to 64 Habitat for Humanity affiliates worldwide with over half going to Minnesota affiliates. During the past seventeen years, the ride has raised over \$3.5 million for Habitat home construction in Minnesota, the United States, and around the world. Parker's personal goal this year is to raise \$3,000 with the funds designated to Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity.

Due to the strong volunteer base and donations of food and other supplies, just 4 percent of the funds raised are used to cover the costs of the ride. Thus \$0.96 of each \$1.00 raised by Habitat 500 riders goes to support the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

To pledge your support, please contact Parker at his home (507-732-7761 parkerdq@gmail.com) or at the Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity office (651-388-9360 x32 gchfh@charterinternet.com)



(Z) Pilgrim Point Camp Summer Opportunities

It's time to start thinking about summer plans and coming to Pilgrim Point Camp. There are programs for all ages. There are brochures on the table in the back of the church. Information can also be found at www.pilgrimpoint.org. The camp can also be reached at 320-763-6549.

(O) Summer Camp at Clearwater Forest

Clearwater strives to provide fun, relaxation and spiritual nurturing for all ages, from the oldest to the youngest. We offer a variety of programs for you to choose from including:

- *Family Camp - June 18-20, 2010
- *Grands Camp - June 27-30 or July 7-10, 2010
- *Senior Retreat - August 23-26, 2010
- *Adult Sailing and Adult Kayaking - July 16-18, July 17-22, August 24-29, 2010

You may still register for Summer Camp!

It's not too soon to register for **Fall and Winter Retreats!**

Call 218-678-2325 or visit www.clearwaterforest.org for more information or to register.

(Z) CUE Seminaries of the UCC Thanks You

Dear Members and Friends of First Cong. UCC,

Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries provide a vital ministry in the United Church of Christ training and equipping leaders for ministry with individuals, congregations, and in the wider world. Each seminary strengthens the life of the church by enlivening critical reflection on faith, and supporting bold Christian discipleship. Each school is a vibrant, caring and challenging place in which to pursue theological education.

Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries strengthen our churches by providing lay theological education pro-

grams and continuing education for the leaders in our churches. The seminaries bring greater vitality to our churches—in worship, in Christian education for all ages, and in providing meaningful justice and outreach ministries.

Thank you for your support of Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries!

(Z) A Message from the MN Conference UCC

The Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Team of MN. Conference UCC thanks you for your gift of \$2,000 to OCWM basic support.

Truly, God has spoken to you, and God is still speaking through you.

Through your contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), you have demonstrated your commitment to changing lives. OCWM connects us to a global village; it enables us to address injustice, transform systems, and impact the world.

65% of what you give to basic support stays in the Minnesota Conference, and 35% sustains the ministry of the national church. These gifts provide UCC pastors and churches with the support and resources to make a difference in people's lives.

Thank you also for your gifts to our OCWM special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, and the Christmas Fund. These offerings help people move out of poverty and despair, and cope with disaster and conflict. They meet the needs of retired clergy who are struggling financially, and allow our church to grow in innovative and faithful ways.

We rejoice with you in the recognition that you are changing lives!

The Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Team

Directory Changes and Corrections

(Z) John Christensen (friend of the church)
Ridgeway Place #225
155 E. Ridgeway
Waterloo, IA 50702

Readings for the Months of June & July 2010



June 6

Psalm 30
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 7:11-17

June 13

Psalm 32
Galatians 2:15-21
Luke 7:36-8:3

June 20

Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 27

Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

July 4

Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11

Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 18

Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 25

Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson
Secretary: Sue Johnson
Custodians: (O) Marcy Burt
(Z) Debbie Floan
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Gary Titusdahl

UCC Leadership Team

Rex Wiederanders, Moderator
Brenda Watkins, Clerk
Connie Wendt, Accountant
Kay Wilshusen, Treasurer
Matt Biever, Trustee
Gerry Webster, Trustee
Larry Thomforde, Trustee
Bonnie Rolland, Deacon
Bob Rolland, Deacon
Wendy Kylo, Deacon
Hailey Vath, Deacon
Cindy DeBleick, Deacon
Larry Gruenberg, Deacon

Presbyterian

Leadership Team

George Vallejo, Clerk
Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Elder
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Elder
George Vallejo, Elder
Judy Wilder, Elder
Gail Rucker, 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

Birthdays for the Month of June



6/1 Don Brown
6/3 Marcy Burt
6/4 David Tri
6/9 Aleta Grose
6/14 Gabe Langbehn
6/17 Brenda Watkins
6/19 Kay Erdahl
6/20 Helen Stolp
6/22 Patrick Johnson
6/29 Kay Wilshusen
Neal Kylo

Birthdays for the Month of July

7/1 Jean Roth
7/3 Natalie Rolland-Vath
Larry Barnhart
7/4 Kevin Titusdahl
Bill Wendt
Jason Bluhm
7/11 Jakalyn Arendt
7/14 Shane Matthees
7/15 Kaedyn Peterson-Rucker
Kevin Kylo
7/16 Judy Wilder
7/17 Tom Wendt
7/19 Zack Waller
Dave Olson
7/20 David Pahl
7/21 Gail Rucker
7/23 Luella Rueber
7/24 Marjorie Gruenberg
7/28 Sue Wedge
Karen Peterson-Rucker
Siri Sorensen
7/29 Torri Simon

Church Office Hours

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

Office Phone (507)367-4711
Email address: oronocpc@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.pcomn.org
www.ucczumbrota.com

Worship Times

June

July

6/6	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)	7/4	9:00(Z)	11:00(O)
6/13	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)	7/11	9:00(Z)	11:00(O)
6/20	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)	7/18	9:00(Z)	11:00(O)
6/27	9:00 (O)	11:00 (Z)	7/25	9:00(Z)	11:00(O)

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