

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

March 2010 Newsletter

**Palm Sunday Clothing Drive
March 28**

IN LUKE'S ACCOUNT OF JESUS' TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM DURING HOLY WEEK, "THE PEOPLE KEPT SPREADING THEIR CLOAKS ON THE ROAD." AS A GESTURE OF OUR LOVE FOR JESUS WE ARE INVITED TO SPREAD NEW OR USED CLOTHING ON THE ALTAR STEPS ON PALM SUNDAY. THESE ARTICLES OF CLOTHING WILL BE DONATED TO A LOCAL AGENCY HELPING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. COME TO CHURCH THAT DAY AND LAY YOUR DONATIONS AT THE ALTAR. WE'LL PROCESS WITH PALM BRANCHES IN OUR TRADITIONAL WAY TO BEGIN WORSHIP. THANK YOU!





From the Pastor

You've heard it said before that, "every saint has a past and every sinner has a future." We are redeemable people. In this age of green technology, I guess we can say that we are recyclable and not garbage to be thrown away.

Lent is the season of recycling, then. That is, a season of repentance. We are in the midst now of 40 days of honest reflection upon our identities as sinners who, by the grace of God, are being redeemed in Jesus Christ. Yet, we shall not be redeemed unless we repent.

Once the church seemed preoccupied with this message of repentance. When we thought of church, we usually imagined it as a place where we fell on our knees and begged forgiveness. That's a message too often neglected nowadays. Talk of sin is depressing, a put down. We settle for being, not good, but good enough.

This is not the focus of Jesus, to be good enough. He is on his way to Jerusalem where he finds our sins so serious that he dies for us. By the grace of God, the cross stands as a sign that God forgives. Therein is our hope, our only hope in our sin. Jesus moves to Jerusalem, not to punish, but to call us to repentance. Isn't that why we love the hymn, "Amazing Grace"? We once were lost but now we're found. How wonderful to be found!

Jesus calls us to truthful consideration of our lives. How have we wandered from God's ways? What are those habits, those inclinations, those propensities that need to be changed if we want to live the abundant life?

The good news is that Jesus means to have us, to have each inch of us, to have all of us, as we are meant to be. We can change. Jesus is more powerful than our own devising. We can't trick him. He sees

through us. There is a power unleashed in life beyond us. God certainly intends to have God's way with us! When God created the universe, God didn't say, "Good enough." No, God wants more than that. That's why Jesus is called the "Good News" and not the "Good Enough News."

He is the best, and he brings the best out of us. That's recycling. That's repentance. That's Lent.

Blessings on our meditations and changes.
Rev. Gary

(O/Z) Looking Ahead

Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae service on April 1 will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Oro-noco.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks!

(O) In Gratitude

Dear Friends,
Many, many thanks for the beautiful floral bouquet that was given to me At the annual meeting. What a nice surprise!

Blessings, Joyce Rucker



In Our Prayers

*The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their cry...
The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears,
And delivers them out of all their troubles.*

Psalm 34:15, 17

Dick Tiede, Eunice Markham, Vernon Markham, Dick Brooks, Don Wilder, Dick Scheerer's mother, Karen Vallejo's father, Lance Sorensen's aunt (Charlotte Stav), Jean Roth's father, Marlene Kosobucki's father, the family of Ruth Larsen, the family of Sandy Bowers, the family of Lesley Kyllö and the family and friends of Mae Stee as they mourn the unexpected passing of her son, Jim.

(Z) Food Shelf Sunday, March 7

The call is always there for our food shelf. This month we could use canned fruit, more pasta and cereal. The giving is greatly appreciated.

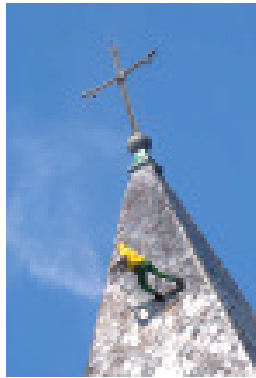
Thank you for supporting the local food shelf.

Becky Tri
Stewardship Coordinator

(Z) Spring Cleaning

Sunday, March 21st is Spring Cleaning Day at the Z church, immediately following worship. Wear your casual clothes and bring cleaning supplies and plenty of energy!

Who gets to do the steeple?



(Z) Bring Rummage Sale Items by March 22

It's time again to look through those closets and out in the garage, round up all of those nice things you no longer need or want and bring them to the UCC by Monday, March 22, to be sorted and priced for the annual rummage sale. Nattalie Vath and Coleen Johnston will organize the event again this year with lots of help from their professional rummage sale staff (that would be YOU!)

The sale will be held on Saturday, March 27. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a bag sale beginning at noon (\$1 buys as many unstickered items as fit in a grocery bag.) Unsold items will benefit Third World Friends and the Salvation Army.

Once again this year, the proceeds will go to the Lift Fund. If you don't have anything to donate, please come and shop. Have a roll and a cup of our delicious FREE coffee. And, most of all, invite your friends to come and join the fun, too.

(O/Z) One Great Hour of Sharing March 17

This year the theme for ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is *Feed My Sheep*. Based on scripture of John

21:15-17. Jesus asked Peter "Do you love me?" Peter confesses he loves Jesus. Jesus then said, "Feed my sheep."

We as Christians are called to care and help all who are in need.

There are people who need clean water, food to eat, shelter, healthcare, and education. Through OGHS these basic needs are met. With our contributions to OGHS the work can continue to help all over the world.

Watch for inserts and posters to see what has been done through the giving to OGHS.

Thanking you for your support!

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

Poetry Study, Sunday, March 21, 6:30 p.m., at Z In March we will discuss the poem, "Awaken As The Beloved," by St. Symeon the Theologian. Here is a poem that celebrates the joys we experience in our relationship with Christ. It's unabashedly exuberant in the love we feel as Christ awakens and stirs our hopes and dreams. Read it and smile! Join us for an hour of lively and meaningful conversation and inspiration. Rev. Gary leads.

(O/Z) Bible Study March 14, 6:00 p.m. at the Z church

Topic: The Bible Re-run for ONA

Rev. Dick Scheerer has graciously offered to lead another presentation/conversation on homosexuality and the Bible.

We will look again at what we mean by "the authority of Scripture", the Old Testament world of commandments, abominations, purposes of purity, what WAS allowed, what WAS NOT allowed and why. We'll use a similar approach with the New Testament reviewing Jesus' teachings, Paul's teaching and his world and how the Church has responded. Finally, we'll talk about the Holy Spirit and interpretation of Scripture and how it is mis-used to clobber people who disagree.

Dessert will be served with the presentation following. Hope you can join us!

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

Peace Camp 2010: Sharing Our Gifts

This year's Peace Camp: Sharing Our Gifts will focus on ways we can share our talents and gifts with the community and greater world. Peace Camp will be held June 15th, 16th, and 17th (T,W,Th) from 6pm to 8:30 pm at O church. It will be open to children going into grades Pre-K through 8th in the fall of 2010. Registration will be free for this event! Peace Camp is open to everyone so please share this wonderful opportunity with anyone you know who has children.

(O/Z) Mission Opportunities
for Peace Camp

This year's Peace Camp is going to be focused on community service and mission work within our communities and the greater world. I am asking members of both churches to send me any ideas they have for local or world-wide mission projects that our Peace Campers could participate in during the week of Peace Camp. If you have any ideas please email them to me, Erin Bluhm at erinelizabeth3280@hotmail.com. I appreciate your help as we work to make Peace Camp 2010: Sharing Our Gifts a success!

(O) Luncheon Update

The February luncheon raised \$281 for our outreach programs. Thanks to all who contributed time, food, money and appetites. We had a great turnout this month. The next luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 11:30 -1:00. Sign up sheets are on the O bulletin board. Please see how you can help with this...our last luncheon for 2010.

And be sure to invite all your friends and family!

(O) Getting to Know Your Newest Member

Larry Glasenapp joined the church on Sunday, January 17. Larry is the son of Harriet Glasenapp. Larry is retired from the retail business and moved here recently from Pennsylvania. He loves to read, swim and ride bike in the summer months. Skiing and skating are his favorite sports during the winter. He is excited to be a part of the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco and is looking forward to re-

newing old friendships and cultivating new ones. Larry is already actively serving the church as a deacon. Welcome Larry!

(Z) Sunday School Collects Items for Haiti--\$600 Delivered through OGHS

Hats off to the Z Sunday School students, who began collecting items to be sent to Haiti the Sunday after the earthquake on January 12. So far, the church school has assembled 10 hygiene kits and plans to assemble 10 baby kits. These will be shipped to MN Conference UCC office by the first week in March.

In addition, donations to One Great Hour of Sharing for Haiti Relief topped \$600 during two weeks of collections. Some members also responded to the UCC's immediate online appeal for donations, forwarded by Rev. Gary in the OZ News.

The UCC website reports the following:

Since the earthquake hit parts of Haiti January 12, the

UCC supported ACT Alliance has assisted more than 150,000 people. The majority of people are assisted with ongoing support such as water, sanitation, shelter



or regular food supplies/meals. Others have received relief items such as cash, family kits or hygiene sets. Others have benefited from medical assistance and supplies to health clinics.

UCC members and friends have donated over \$1 million dollars in support of the Haiti Earthquake Relief fund, with more gifts arriving each day. Thanks to this generous outpouring of love and compassion, the United Church of Christ is now able to financially accompany our Haitian sisters and brothers on the long road to recovery.

Thanks to all of you who have given prayers and resources so generously. Let us continue to remember these people in need.

OZ Hosts World Day of Prayer Friday, March 5 in Zumbrota



Plans are in the making for this year's World Day of Prayer service, hosted by the OZ women this year on Friday, March 5, at 1 p.m. The service of song and praise will be held at the Zumbrota UCC, where eight other churches will worship with us. Our gathering will join churches in 170 countries around the world in a day of worship that begins at sunrise in the Pacific and follows the sun around the world like a giant version of "The Wave." You can be part of this!

The service this year has been written by the women of Cameroon in West Africa using the theme "Let Everything That has Breath Praise God." The Cameroon women have chosen to focus on praising God even in or especially during difficult times in their lives, because they consider life to be God's greatest gift. They ask women all over the world to join together on March 5 and to praise God for the gift of life. All are welcome to join in this festival of praise and are asked to bring a musical instrument (Wooden spoons? Penny whistle? Guitar? Drums? Maybe a piano?!)

(O/Z) Got "Milk"?

Everybody knows the "Got Milk" commercials, but not everybody knows the movie *Milk*, starring Sean Penn as Harvey Milk, the gay man who led the way for the gay rights movement in San Francisco in the 1970s. The Open and Affirming committee invites you to view the film Sunday, March 28, at First Congregational. We'll begin with pizza at 5 p.m. A free will offering will be accepted to cover food costs and any extra donations will go to Z's other wonderful Open and Affirming project, the Lift Fund. The movie will be shown around 5:30-5:45.

Following is a review of the film taken from the Netflix website:

"*Milk* is a powerful film of both triumph and heartache and the total dedication of a young man who once declared, "I am almost 40 and have done nothing with my life." Harvey Milk's (Sean Penn) rise as the leader of the Castro Gay Community of San

Francisco begins at this point in his life and we see television footage of police raiding gay bars, handcuffing the occupants and the giving of names to the newspapers which cost so many their livelihood. In rather ramshackle quarters, Harvey established the Castro where gay men of any age could gather and many had no other place to go. With his determination and ever growing realization that it was time to take on the system, he convinces his followers that "politics is theater" and after several unsuccessful attempts, he becomes the first openly gay man to achieve the position of Supervisor of the County. When the Gay Rights Ordinance is passed, his next hurdle is Proposition 6 and this is when he encounters his most forceful opponent, Dan White (Josh Brolin.) Sean Penn is simply amazing and he portrays Harvey as a real flesh and blood man with an often acerbic wit...I love the words Harvey Milk speaks at the end of the film, "If a bullet enters my brain, let it explode every closet door."

Please join us Sunday, March 28, for a film you won't soon forget. All are welcome.



(O/Z) The Readers of OZ

Please join our book discussion group on Tuesday March 16 at 7:00 p.m.

at the home of Sue Wedge for a discussion of "Out of the Wild" by Jon Krakauer. Sue's address is 425 Lally Court, Zumbrota. If you need directions, call Sue at 732-7025.

An introduction to this intriguing book: "In April 1992, a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. He had given \$25,000 in savings to a charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet and invented a life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. Jon Krakauer brings Chris McCandless's uncompromising pilgrimage out of the shadows and illuminates it with meaning in this mesmerizing and heartbreaking tour de force."

The Readers of OZ is a growing group of friends who enjoy reading and discussion. You are invited to join us.

For those who wish to plan ahead: "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout is the April selection for our book discussion group.

(O/Z) March is Minnesota FoodShare Month

March is here and it is once again time for the Minnesota Food Share March Campaign. Each year thousands of volunteers from our state's schools, civic groups, businesses, corporations, and faith communities come together in March to fight hunger.

At the Zumbrota Area Food Shelf all donations are used locally, serving people in need in Zumbrota, Wanamingo, Goodhue, Mazeppa, Bellechester and the surrounding areas. The food shelf will be open for donations of food or money every Tuesday evening during the month of march, from 5:30-7:00pm. Monetary donations can be mailed to PO Box 43, Zumbrota, MN 55992. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deb Walstad at 507-732-7140.

The (O) church has started a food shelf incorporated with Channel One in Olmsted County. There are no income guidelines to use the Food Shelf, so if you know of anyone that is in need of assistance and would like to come, please let them know they are welcome. Donations of non – perishable food or household supplies can be dropped off at the church. Cash contributions are accepted and will be used to purchase additional food for distribution.

**Hours of the Food Shelf are:
Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 5pm – 7pm**

If you would like to donate food you can bring it to the church and place it in the basket in the fellowship room, we will weigh it and then add it to our shelf instead of taking to Channel One in Rochester. Or if you would like to donate funds for our Shelf please give funds to Kay Erdahl.

(O/Z) Per Capita Dues Reminder 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 that it is for Membership. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!!

(O/Z) Youth Grants for Summer Camps

Each of our OZ churches has a fund available to help defray costs for summer camps or denominational events. Please see Rev. Gary or your Christian Education Committee for details. We want the money used!! Marshmallows included.

Readings for the Month of March 2010

March 7
Third Sunday in Lent
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9



March 14
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Psalm 32
Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 21
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

March 28
Palm/Passion Sunday
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40
Philippians 2:5-11

**Please note the leadership changes*

In the Community

St. Paul's Catholic Church, Zumbrota St. Patrick's Ham Dinner

Sunday, March 14, 2010
Serving from 10:30AM to 1:00PM
Adults \$8 Children 6-12 \$4 Under 6—FREE
Take Out Available
(Call 732-5347 by noon)

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
Lesley 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 March

3/1 Carlyle Johnson
3/2 Erin Bluhm
Rex Wiederanders
3/3 Carol Olson
Lance Sorensen
3/6 Jace Matthees
3/7 Bill Budensiek
3/10 Becky Tri
Bonnie Rolland
3/13 Theodore Larson
3/18 Bruce Johnston
3/19 Ron Peterson-Rucker
Eunice Markham
3/24 Kim Stanton
3/27 Rev. Gary Titusdahl
Joyce Rucker
3/28 Jesalynn Bluhm
3/29 Quentin Rucker
3/30 Darin Hartzell
Doug Maguire
3/31 Steve Bluhm



Directory Changes

(Z) Nattalie Vath's Email:
n.vath@live.com

Church Office Hours

Tuesday in Oronoco 10-3:00
Wednesday in Oronoco 10-3:00
Office Phone# 507-367-4711
Email: 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.pcomn.org
www.ucczumbrota.com

Worship Times for the Month of March 2010



3/7	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
3/14	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
3/21	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
3/28	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

(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