

FIRST CHURCH CONNECTION

First Congregational UCC of Onekama,
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Rev. Alison Young at 802-829-3211 or ajacobs.4818@gmail.com
2025



Pastoral Ponderings

On the first Sunday of March we celebrate Sunday (see Luke 9:28-36). The Transfiguration is a concept to get our minds around. Our hearts—well that’s a little easier! Many years ago, I was resting on a beach in Rhode Island in the sun watching my two young sons, 3 years old and 8 years old, run gleefully in and out of the shallow waves at the edge of the beach. All of a sudden there was an ethereal glow around them, and I felt myself being lifted up into the sun. It only lasted for about half a minute, but it was a life-changing event. In my heart, I heard the voice of Jesus saying, “Turn around, you are dying, turn around.” My life at that time had come to a crossroads and this event eventually led me to go to seminary.

Transfiguration
sometimes a hard

No manner of logic can be brought to bear on such a spiritual experience. Like my friend Nancy Fowler’s “transfiguration” photograph below, what looks like a waterfall is actually a spillway of light cascading over a stone wall. The light transfigures the reality of the scene.

Like the words of one of my favorite hymns,

*Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art--
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light,*

The Transfiguration of Jesus reminds us that Jesus IS our vision, IS our best thought and that his presence IS our light! Amen. - *Pastor Alison*

Photo Credit: Nancy Fowler



February 10, 2025

To the Congregation of the First Congregational UCC of Onekama

Dear Friends—

It is with deep gratitude and appreciation that I write this letter to you. Yesterday's brunch commemorating my first-year anniversary of ministering beside you was a great blessing to me. The previously scheduled Music & Worship meeting added a little chaos to the moment, but it also highlighted how far we have come this year in increased activity!

The generous monetary gift was as surprising as it was welcome. Now, as Denis and I take our time away, it will be far more carefree. We will think of your amazing generosity as we take time to rest and relax.

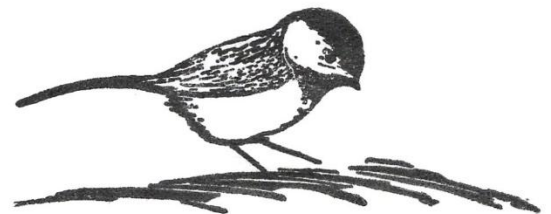
The Apostle Paul once wrote to one of his beloved churches ² "We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 1:2-3). I echo these sentiments as I contemplate how faithfully you all perform your Christian calling together.

See you next month!

With Deepest Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Alison (& Denis)

Pastor Alison





Wednesday Lenten Services
With the Church of the Brethren

5:30 Soup Supper

6:15 Service

Ash Wednesday (3/5) & March 12th—Onekama UCC

March 19th & March 26th—Church of the Brethren

April 2nd—Onekama UCC

April 9th—Church of the Brethren

Good Friday (9-5) and Holy Saturday (9-2)

—Onekama UCC

Self-guided meditative walk “Seven Stations of the
Cross/Seven Last Words” in the Sanctuary



One of our dear, long-time church members, Doris Beard was called home last month on February 9th. Prays for her daughter-in-law, Cindy Beard.



Our Daily Bread for March, April and May and a Lenten Daily Devotions booklet is available in the parlor.



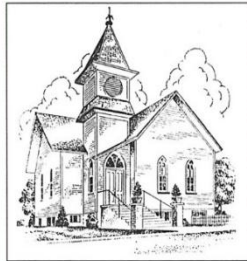
MARDI GRAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST and Celebration

Transfiguration Sunday 3/2/25 in place of Coffee Hour

**Pancakes with Real Maple Syrup
Sausage
Fruit Cup
Orange and Apple Juice
Coffee and Tea**

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!

Bible Study



**Saturday Bible
Study
Beginning
January 11, 2025
10-11:30 am
RSVP**

802-829-3211

We will be
studying Genesis -
Join us in the
Fellowship Hall for
Coffee and Goodies
And lively discussion!

**First Congregational
UCC of Onekama
4920 Spring Street**

Join us for

Knitting Classes

In this 6-week class, learn the basics of knitting and more.

Already knit? Join us anyhow for some social time!

Classes held at the Onekama First Congregational United Church of Christ

fellowship hall on Spring Street, Onekama, MI

Tuesdays, February 18th, 25th;

March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Cost \$60 – supply list included in class description

Register using the code below



Or go to <https://square.link/u/R8eBd2wb>

Bea Cuthbertson, Instructor
Aunt Bea's Farm
auntbeasfarm.com
517-518-0519
AuntBeasFarm@gmail.com

NEAR & FARR FRIENDS March - May Events 2025

March 7 Game Day – Play Nine

March 14 Jacob Wheeler - learning to live with bears in Northwest Michigan

April 3 Game Day – Euchre

April 11 Aimee Brumleve- an expert dog trainer with advice for owners

April 18 Dr. Brian Allen -types of birds to look for this time of the year

May 2 Game Day - Dominos and Qwirkle

May 9 Internet Scams and how to recognize them

May 16 Josh Shields- what trees, shrubs to plant and care for

All Near & Farr events are held at Onekama Township Hall, Friday at 10am-noon. All are welcome. Donations appreciated.



Manistee Medical Care Facility

Sunday church services at the Manistee Medical Care Facility have been scheduled for Easter **April 20th**, July 20th and October 19th. A small group has arranged to attend and lead the service on **April 20th at 2 PM**. This will be a special Easter Service for the residents. The visit will be confirmed with staff prior to the service. Those attending have agreed to respect the standard protocols for entering a residential facility.

Call Pastor Alison 802-829-3211 if you have any questions.



For Sale

**Church Logo
Mugs
\$10 each
2 for \$15**

Add \$5 for shipping and handling, if not able to pick-up at church.



March 9th

Having Trouble Coping with Winter?

Research shows the benefits of exercise and physical activity go beyond just physical well-being. Exercise can:

- Release feel-good endorphins to make you feel happier
- Enhance your mood and overall emotional well-being
- Reduce feelings of depression and stress
- Take your mind off worries and get more social interaction
- Improve your sleep.

COME EXERCISE WITH US ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

3:30-4:30 now till March 25th. Also on Tuesday, March 25th is a free class!

Next session runs from April 1st through May 29th for \$80.00 or \$5.00 drop-in fee.

Class Description:

A strong core, flexibility and balance are your most important assets regardless of your fitness level. This class incorporates core strength training, light weight training upper and lower body workouts,

About the instructor: Tonya Evans is a Physical Therapy Assistant at the Manistee County Medical Care Facility. She helps patients to follow an appropriate exercise program that will increase their strength, endurance, coordination, and range of motion. She has been in the business 26 years!



Come enjoy the fun, puns, good music and great camaraderie ... you know, misery loves company!

stretching and balance practice for an overall effective yet not so strenuous workout. (Coed)

Bring your own weights, and yoga mat or towel for floor exercises. Chair exercises are an option to floor exercises.

Monthly 2025 Events & Dates

Worship – Every Sunday at 10 a.m. This month Communion will be on the 2nd

Financial Advisory Committee – meets on Wednesday March 12th this month at 2:30

Ministry Council – 3rd Thurs. each month, this month it is moved to March 20th at 7:00 by zoom.

Outreach Ministry – Game Night is on Friday the 21st at 6:00pm

Worship Ministry – 2nd Sunday after church.

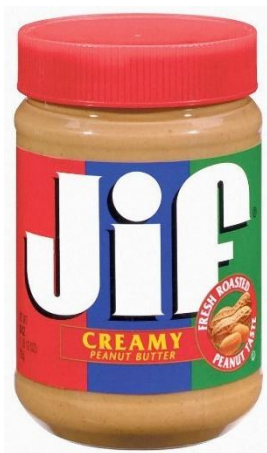
Choir Practice- 3:30 Sunday afternoons.

March Goodies

2nd Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast
9th Steve Brooks
16th Joy Lind
23rd Carol Rackow
30th Shelly Lyman

In the upcoming months, if there is a Sunday that you could help by volunteering, it would be greatly appreciated. Just send me an email with the date.

Carol Rackow – rackey1992@gmail.com



March

St. Josephs Food Pantry
collection item.

Drop yours off anytime
at the church

and we will see it gets there.

Steps for viewing Facebook Live -Streamed Services...

Be sure to like our page on Facebook "First Congregational Church of Onekama".

Find the three dots on a post. Click or touch the dots.

Scroll down and turn on notifications for this post.

You will be notified when the page goes live



March Birthdays

None **for March**

Anniversaries

29th Dan & Kathy Wilson

February Treasurer's Report 2025

Contributions \$6,804.23 - **Food Pantry** \$20.00- **Basement lighting** \$20.00
Miscellaneous income \$21,065.88 (was funds held back by the insurance company to be forwarded to the contractor after completion of work from the hailstorm last April.)

Expenses \$28,711.53 (was large this month due to insurance funds received and then paid out to the contractor.)

Church Staff for 2024

Pastor – Rev. Alison Andrea Young

Moderator – Bill Sawhill

Vice Moderator - Marcia Rogers

Treasurer – Joy Lind

Clerk – Lynn Jans

Secretary – Joy Lind

Pianist – Carolyn Brooks & Kathy Wilson

Choir Director – Dan Wilson

Custodian – Carol Rackow