 **FIRST CHURCH CONNECTION**

First Congregational UCC of Onekama,

4920 Spring St. PO Box 307 Onekama, MI. 49675

**Church Phone 231-889-4081 e-mail appledumplingchurch@yahoo.com**

**Rev. Alison Young** at 802-829-3211 or ajacobs.4818@gmail.com

**June 2025**

**Pastoral Ponderings**

*“****8****Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.****2****For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set youfree from the law of sin and of death . . .*

***12****So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—****13****for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.****14****For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.****15****For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”****16****it is that very Spirit bearing witnesswith our spirit that we are children of God,. . .” (Romans 8:1-2;12-16 NRSVUE)*

Not all of us were privileged to have attentive and hands-on parenting from our fathers. Mine was away a good deal of the time on Marine Corps’ business, sometimes over a year at a time. My sisters and I adored him from afar, but the parenting was left mostly to my mother.

Ironically for me then, it is interesting that it was a twice-married, twice-widowed Civil War veteran and father of 14 children who inspired the founding of Father’s Day. Perhaps it was out of necessity that William Jackson Smart was such a devoted and self-less parent, being left with 14 motherless children, but he could have “farmed them out” to be raised by other families as was often the case in those times, but he didn’t.

His daughter, Sonora Smart Dodd, after hearing a Mother’s Day sermon decided to circulate a petition to honor her father by establishing Father’s Day. The first Father’s Day was subsequently celebrated on June 19, 1910, in Spokane Washington. It would take Sonora over 60 more years to work with the federal government to establish the holiday she wanted to honor her father. It wasn’t until 1972, six years before Sonora’s death at the age of 96, that President [Richard Nixon](https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/richard-m-nixon) finally signed a Congressional resolution declaring the third Sunday in June to be Father’s Day.

The Hebrew word *Abba* used here by Paul to call out to God, means something like “Daddy.” A tender plea to the Creator to embrace us in parental love like we would want our human parents to do. As a Christian, this plea has always comforted me. As the mother of adopted children, it has also always comforted me on their behalf. With God as our “Daddy” we enjoy the embrace of the divine which nothing can take away. Happy “Abba’s” Day!

With Love—

**Pastor Alison**

**Community Outreach Ministry News**

This ministry is picking up speed and here is what’s coming:

**Sat. Aug. 2 will be our “Pies, Plants and More” entry for Onekama Days.** This is our main fundraiser for the year, and we have our system well worked out. Watch for details in the next few months.

**Sun. Aug. 3 from 2-4 pm, we will host local author John Wemlinger again.**

**Welcome to Our Onekama Churches** is the beautiful, colorful brochure we created (thank you Vickee Sawhill!) as part of our Revitalization project. This project is a collaboration with the Portage Lake Association who will include them in their Welcome to Onekama packets for new residents. We will also distribute them to Onekama area motels.

**June 22 – Strengthen the Church special offering**. This is part of the UCC 5 for 5 that offers an opportunity to contribute to the continuing development of the United Church of Christ. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation for existing churches **(grants**, etc.).

Thank you for your continuing contribution to the **Onekama Food Pantry**. Everything is appreciated and we get a thank you note from them every month.

# Our group is small, and we would love to have you join us. Our next

# meeting is Tuesday, June 9th at 1 pm.

# Save the Date!

A group of people on a trailer

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ONEKAMA DAYS

JULY 31st – AUG 4th, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Website: Onekama.Info

**NEW CHURCH WEBSITE**

Drum roll please! “Da Da Teh Da Da” . . .Our new website is up and running!! A hand drawing a web page

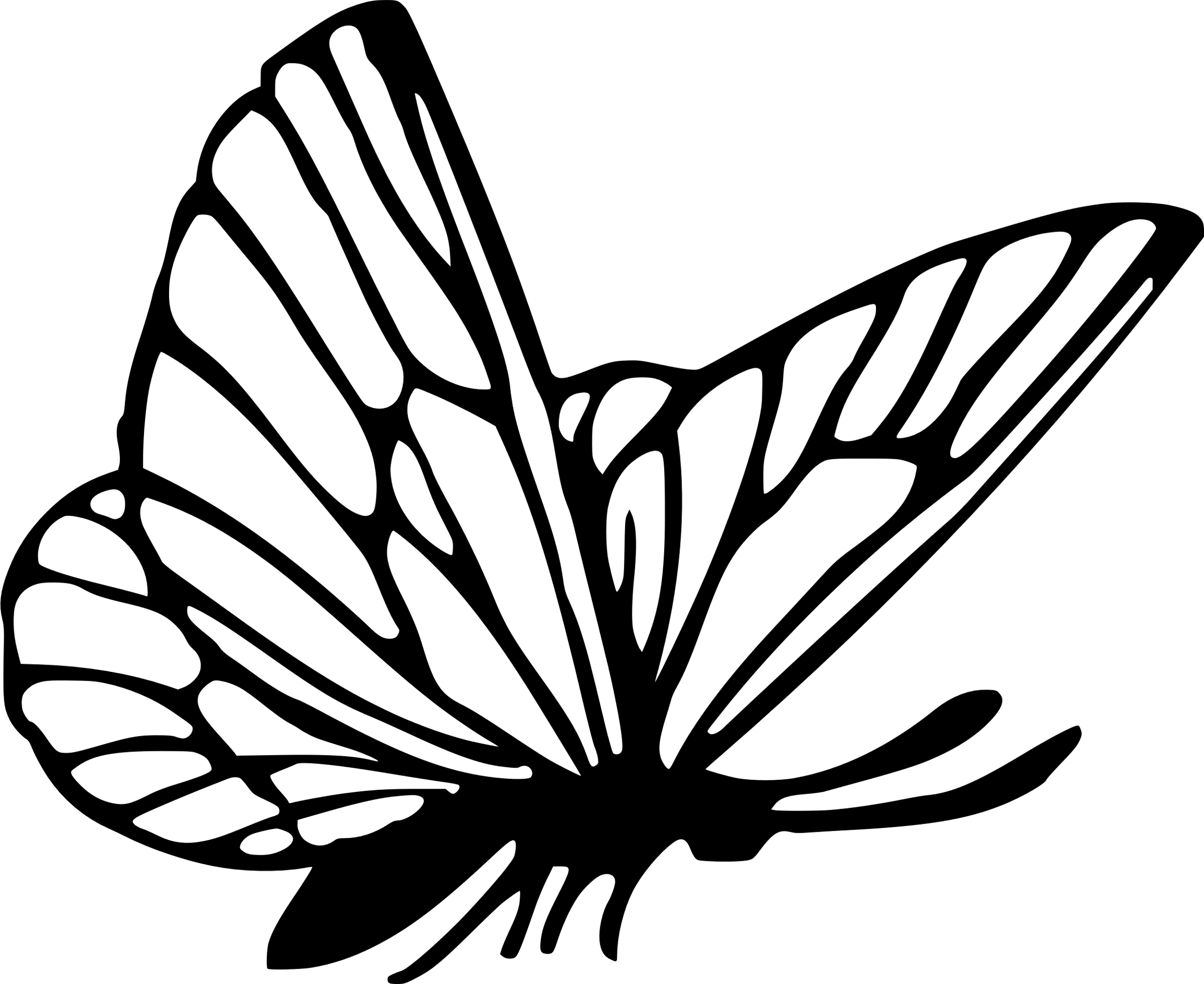
AI-generated content may be incorrect.Go to: <http://www.onekamaucc.org/> A qr code with black and white squares

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**And see what all the fuss is about!**

**~Sermons**

**~Newsletters and News Articles**

**~Online Donation Button **

**~UCC Devotional (An especially good one about**

**butterflies is there for**

**March 26th by Quinn Caldwell)**

**~Details about our church leadership and history**

***CHECK IT OUT!!***

***QR Code for electronic giving.***

****** *June 15th*

**April Treasurers Report**

## Income from Contributions $6,848.91 Food Pantry $30.00,

## Mission Collection for the Lake Shore Children’s Advocacy Center $190.00, Fundraising Coffee cups $40.00, Easter Lillies $215.00, Budgeted Endowment four-month extraction $3,000.00, Memorial Basement Lighting $100.00

**Expenses** $7,628.1

## May Treasurer Report

**Income** from Contributions $4,785.00, Thrivent line of credit $15,000.00

**Grants** $1,500.00, **Mission** One Great Hour of Sharing $ 185.00, Kids Helping Kids $60.00, **Memorial** Basement lighting $75.00, Gladys Robina Quale Leach Estate gift $68,129.73, Easter Lillies $30.00,

**Expenses** $\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

A book and coffee mug on a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.June’s classes are Saturday

7th, 14th, 21st & 28th.

A coffee cup and text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.June Goodies

1tst Steve Brooks

8th Lynn Jans

15th Sharon Phelps

22nd Vickee Sawhill

29th Sharon Phelps

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**

## Monthly 2025 Events & Dates

## 

**Worship** – Every Sunday at 10 a.m. This month Communion will be on the 1st.

**Financial Advisory Committee** – meets on Wednesday June 4th this month at 2:30

**Ministry Council** – 3rd Thurs. each month, this month June 19th at 7:00.

**Outreach Ministry** – Meeting, Tuesday, June 9th at 1:00pm.

Game Night is canceled till the fellowship hall is completed.

**Music & Worship Ministry** – Sunday June 15th after church.

**Choir Practice -** Sunday afternoons 3:30.

**Bible Study** – Saturdays June 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th at 10:00am-11:30am

June St. Joseph Community Food Pantry

The collection item is boxed potato products.

Drop yours off anytime at the church

and we will see it gets there.

  We continue to receive a Thank-you letter from the Onekama Community Food Pantry every month, so please know that all contributions are welcomed and extremely helpful.

**Calendar of Events**

June 22 -- Strengthen the Church – UCC 5 for 5 July 13 – The Christmas Fund – UCC 5 for 5 July 31 – August 4 - Onekama Days Sept. 21 – Stewardship Sunday Oct 12 – Neighbors in Need – UCC 5 for 5 Nov-Dec – Christmas Family

**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

**June Birthdays**  **Anniversaries**

2nd Ed Jans 6th Richard & Gail Verplank

6th Nathan Milarch 12th Bob & Kathy Kiefer

15th Tom Jasperse 24th Jim & Cindy Herkelrath

17th Pat Bradford

21st Karen Martin

26th Joy Lind

**Church Staff for 2025**

Pastor – Rev. Alison Andrea Young

Moderator – Bill Sawhill

Vice Moderator - Marcia Rogers

Treasurer & Secretary – Joy Lind

Clerk – Lynn Jans

Pianists – Carolyn Brooks & Kathy Wilson

Choir Director – Dan Wilson

Sexton – Carol Rackow

A collage of several people

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**SPECIAL MISSION MOMENT**

As we move into the post-Pentecost Season of the Spirit, we will be honoring the spirit of giving in a special way in worship by sharing in a special “Mission Moment” on Sunday, June 15th, featuring Dan & Kathy Wilson’s daughter, Sarah, and son-in-law, Cory Bledsoe, who will be traveling to Uganda as missionaries in July under the auspices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The Ministry Council has already provided seed money of $500 to this Mission effort and anyone who wishes to do so can add to this gift. Brochures about the Bledsoe’s trip will be available in the literature rack in the Parlor in the next few weeks.

**Basement Remediation/ Renovation Project Update**

First, a big THANK-YOU to all the folks who have come together to move this large project along—GO TEAM!

The following is a composite of information from several team members, after discussions at the “Basement Reno Committee” (for lack of an official title) meeting, as well as the Ministry Council.

The electrician, Andy Pruyne of Paradigm Electric (Bear Lake) surveyed our needs on Friday, May 30, at 7am and will provide an estimate for replacing the original electric wiring and adding outlets along the east wall, updating the ceiling lights to LED fixtures, including adding lights over the pass-through counter. He will be asked to test and repair faulty switches and outlets and restore outdoor inoperable lights to working order.

Once the initial electrical work is completed, a construction contractor will be hired to finish the walls, etc. Estimates have been received.

New insulation and paneling will be installed to restore the wallcoverings, with a chair rail added to blend the two styles. All the walls will be painted, along with new baseboards.

As part of the basement update, new lights will be installed in the drop ceiling. They have been chosen and will be ordered from Home Depot

The furnace room was painted by Pam and Joanie and Joy, who also scraped and prepped the rough surface.The freezer will be removed, and the shelving will be put in place. Bruce & Tom have volunteered to do the move. Tarps will need to come off items stored temporarily on tables, and some organization is needed to re-store those things into totes. ***Additional help can be used to move totes, etc.\****

Paint colors for walls have been chosen and painting should begin prior to carpet installation.

The carpet has been selected & will be ordered from Haglund's after the upstairs has been measured, with the installation date to be determined.

Carpet installation for classrooms & office is July 1 & 2. The rest of the basement carpet is scheduled to be installed for August 4.

A note about the Pastor’s office: Pastor Alison will be working in a corner of the Parlor so things can be removed from her office to facilitate the tearing up of the tile, wall painting & placing of carpet in that room.

***Volunteers are needed to help move some books upstairs, and pack others temporarily in boxes (or clean bins). If anyone has boxes that can be used, or a bookshelf or two that she could use in the Parlor for the interim, please let Marcia know.***

***\*To volunteer for other tasks noted above, please contact Pam.***

Discussions on updating the basement entry are ongoing (paint, carpet, lighting, etc.) Replacing and/or repainting doors on storage cupboards on back wall is under discussion, as well. Lots of "moving parts" on this remodeling project.

**First Congregational Church of Onekama, UCC**

**Ministry Council**

**May 22, 2025**

**Attendance:** Lynn Jans, Joy Lind, pam Lyman, Carol Rackow, Marcia Rogers, Bill Sawhill, Vickee Sawhill,

**Call to Order: 7:07 pm**

**Prayer for Guidance:** Vickee Sawhill

**Amendments to the Agenda -** none

**Amendments to the Minutes and Approval for April 24, 2025**

Moved: Lynn Jans 2nd: Marcia Rogers **Approved**

**Treasurer’s Report – Joy Lind**

* Reviewed all accounts
* Received bequeath from Robina Quale Leach estate
* **Motion**: to repay our Line of Credit and pay off the shed with a portion of Robina Quale Leach bequeath. Moved: Marcia Rogers; 2nd: Carol Rackow **Motion Carried**
* Grant Funds- received 2 small grants totaling $2,000
* Reviewed FSM work: inspection still needed
* **Moved to Approve Report**- Marcia Rogers 2nd: Carol Rackow **Motion Carried**

**Clerk’s Report – Lynn Jans**

* Updated membership is 62

**Ministry Reports**

**Minister’s Report – Rev. Young**

* No reports

**Worship Committee- Carol Rackow**

* Noel Niemann will preach on May 25
* June 8 – Pentecost Sunday

**Pastoral Care**

* Rev. Young continues to make calls and visits.
* Cards are sent out

**Property Maintenance – Bill Sawhill**

* Water problem in basement – reviewed estimates for all repairs; Bill Sawhill will put together a schedule of tasks to be completed
* Front railing repair and painting – has a temporary fix

**Community Outreach – Lynn Jans**

* Spring Brunch cancelled and rescheduled for Oct. 19
* June 22 - Strengthen the Church – UCC 5 for 5
* July 10 – Main St. Block Party – kids’ games; need ideas and volunteers
* Aug 1-4 – Onekama Days; need to submit details
* MCF – July 20

**Christian Education**

* Study of Genesis continues May 31 at 10 am

**Music Committee- Vickee Sawhill**

* Will reschedule meeting when Rev. Young returns

**Additional Reports**

**Social media** – postings on Facebook and website are kept current

**Secretary –** newsletter articles due May 25

**Old Business**

* Revitalization project “Aging Well in Onekama” awaiting notification of final grant funding
* Onekama churches brochure – printed and ready for distribution (PLA and area motels)

**New Business**

**Action Plan**

* Created schedule and finalized plans for basement
* Bill Sawhill will contact welder; all railings need painting
* Lynn Jans will submit our event info for Onekama Days

**Beacons of Light**

Jeremy Stubbert and Shelley Lyman for extraordinary work on removing 3 layers of old vinyl flooring in one afternoon.

**Next meeting: June 16, 2025**

**Adjourned: 8:45 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lynn Jans, Clerk**