 **FIRST CHURCH CONNECTION**

First Congregational UCC of Onekama,

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

**May 2025**

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

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

A poster for a community outreach forum

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of purple flowers next to a card

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Michigan Roots of Mother’s Day**

Mother’s Day was first officially celebrated as a US Holiday in 1914, but Its roots go back much further to the 19th century and beyond. In the years before the [Civil War](http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/american-civil-war-history), Ann Reeves Jarvis of [West Virginia](https://www.history.com/topics/us-states/west-virginia) helped start “Mothers’ Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children. Her daughter Anna Jarvis was the one who pushed to make Mother’s Day a national holiday in memory of her mother.

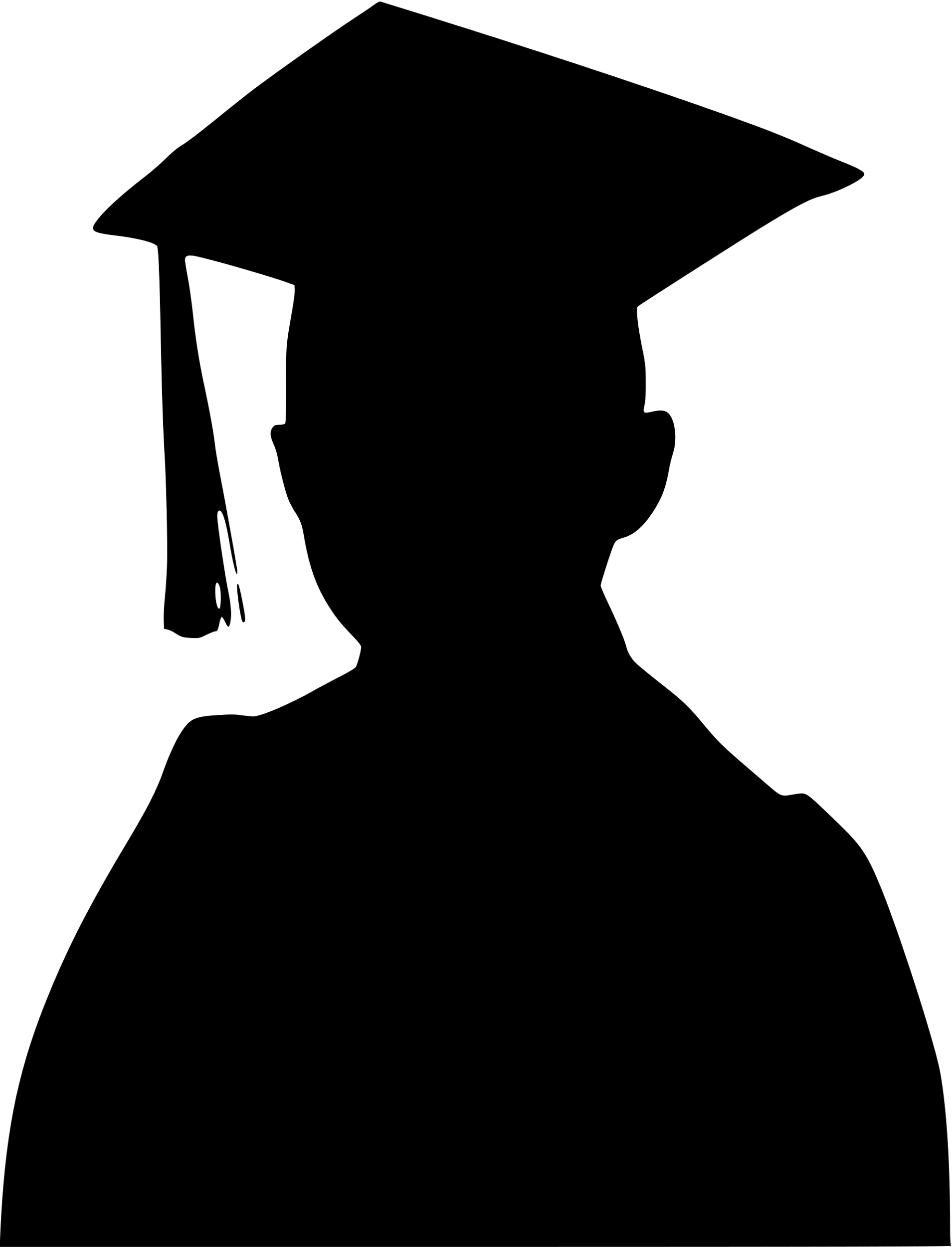
But what you may not know is that another early Mother’s Day pioneer included Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a [temperance](http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/womans-christian-temperance-union) activist who inspired a local Mother’s Day in Albion, [Michigan](https://www.history.com/topics/us-states/michigan), in the 1870s. Juliet Calhoun Blakely, was  “the mother of Albion Methodism”.  Her activities centered in her Albion, Michigan church. And she was a leader in the prohibition movement.

Her first Mother’s Day celebration was an impromptu temperance meeting. And when the minister stepped down from the podium and Juliet Blakely stepped up. She called out to mothers everywhere. And asked them to join the temperance movement. Juliet’s grown sons, Charles and Moses, celebrated the second Sunday in May to honor their mother. Her birthday was May 11. And it became an annual celebration in Albion. It is symbolic therefore that this year’s Mother’s Day falls on that same exact day, May 11th! Happy Birthday and Happy Mother’s Day Juliet Calhoun Blakely! And to all the mothers in our community!

**Home Pictures in May**   by John Clare

A row of trees with pink flowers

AI-generated content may be incorrect.The sunshine bathes in clouds of many hues  
And morning’s feet are gemmed with early dews,  
Warm daffodils about the garden beds  
Peep through their pale slim leaves their golden heads,  
Sweet earthly nuns of Spring; the gosling broods  
In coats of sunny green about the road  
Waddle in extasy; and in rich moods  
The old hen leads her flickering chicks abroad,  
Oft scuttling ‘neath her wings to see the kite  
Hang wavering o’er them in the spring’s blue light.  
The sparrows round their new nests chirp with glee  
And sweet the robin Spring’s young luxury shares  
Tootling its song in feathery gooseberry tree.

 **HONORING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

We will again be honoring all Onekama High School Graduates with gifts before their graduation on May 16th.

Graduate Sunday is May 4th when we will be honoring William Smogoleski, son of Philip and Kathleen, during worship. He is graduating from Kaleva Norman Dixon High School on May 23rd.

A collage of several people

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

The theme of Worship for Sunday, May 25th is “Disciples Together.” We will be acting out this theme in a special way in worship by sharing in a special “Mission Moment” 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.

**NEW CHURCH WEBSITE**

A qr code with black and white squares

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Drum roll please! “Da Da Teh Da Da” . . .Our new website is up and running!! A hand drawing a web page

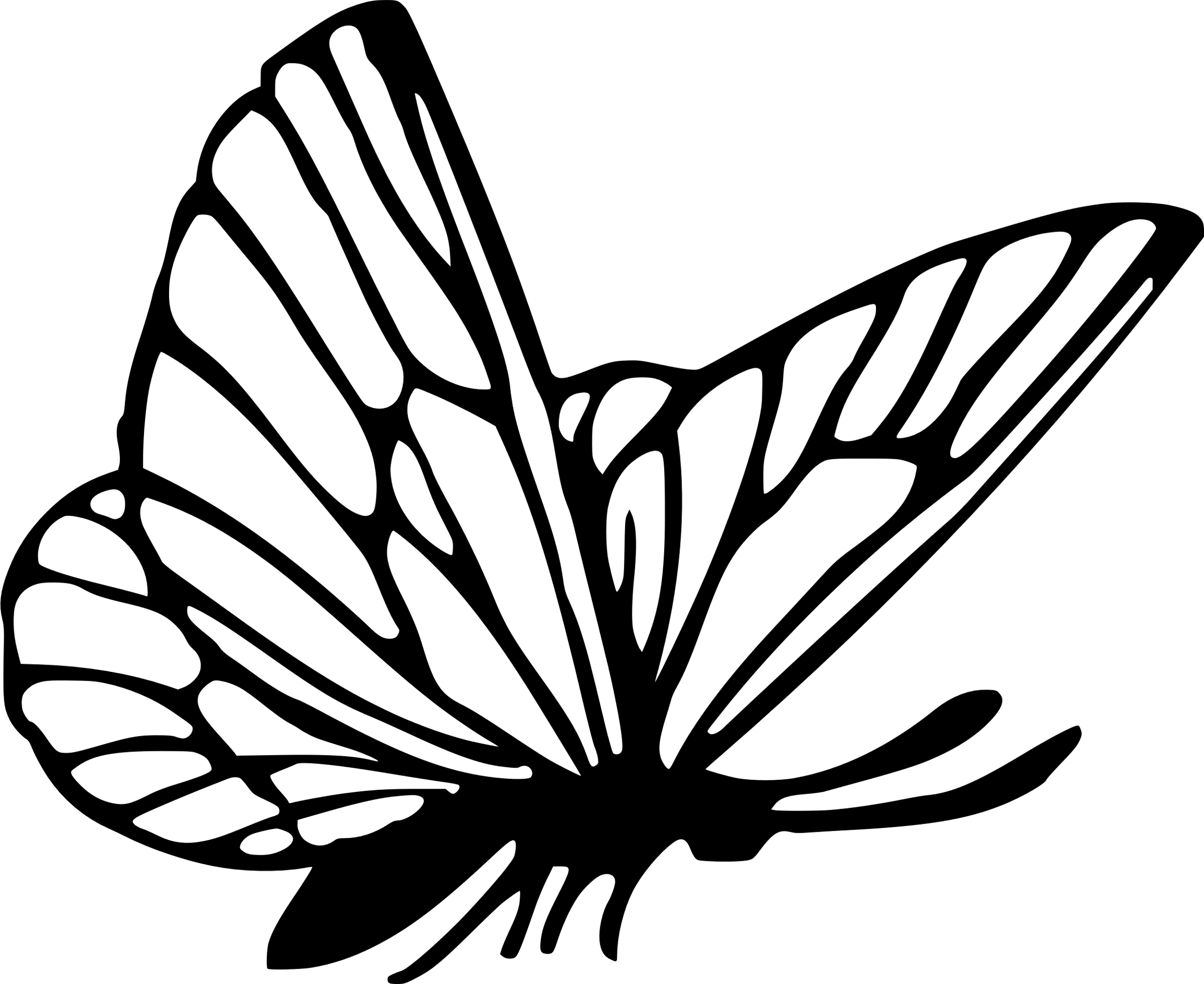
AI-generated content may be incorrect.Go to: [**http://www.onekamaucc.org/**](http://www.onekamaucc.org/)

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

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

**~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!!***

A book and coffee mug on a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Bible Study is taking a break until May 17th - Section 3 of the Genesis Study will be available on Sunday May 4th on the table at the back of the Sanctuary . . .We will meet in the parlor until further notice.



**BLUE SUNDAY WAS A MEANINGFUL EVENT**

Last Sunday, April 27th, was Blue Sunday, a Sunday designated for highlighting the Prevention of Child Abuse. Our church has been designated as a “Blue Ribbon Church”

A blue ribbon with a white circle on it

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A blue ribbon made of hearts

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Over $200 in a freewill offering was raised to give to our local advocacy agency: **www.manisteecac.com**

[**Lakeshore Children's Advocacy Center**](https://www.bing.com/alink/link?url=https://www.manisteecac.com/&source=serp-local&h=meJ5R4OAlrAQ/zUvylk23KX3Vwf2VCfKFLnTEfKGyeo=&p=lw_gbt&ig=D3D5D402A2144AD0A4A83203EA4EA747&ypid=YN873x16715368960227776716)

[385 3rd St, Manistee, MI 49660](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=6b34ee428d3e03b45faa0d95f8accd7f2dd2be95d8eaabde5c149b6240a0e664JmltdHM9MTc0NTg4NDgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=3a009944-6cd4-6355-2704-8d626d9b62ee&u=a1L21hcHM_Jm1lcGk9MTA5fn5Ub3BPZlBhZ2V-QWRkcmVzc19MaW5rJnR5PTE4JnE9TGFrZXNob3JlJTIwQ2hpbGRyZW4lMjdzJTIwQWR2b2NhY3klMjBDZW50ZXImc3M9eXBpZC5ZTjg3M3gxNjcxNTM2ODk2MDIyNzc3NjcxNiZwcG9pcz00NC4yNDM4MzkyNjM5MTYwMTZfLTg2LjMyMjcwMDUwMDQ4ODI4X0xha2VzaG9yZSUyMENoaWxkcmVuJTI3cyUyMEFkdm9jYWN5JTIwQ2VudGVyX1lOODczeDE2NzE1MzY4OTYwMjI3Nzc2NzE2fiZjcD00NC4yNDM4Mzl-LTg2LjMyMjcwMSZ2PTImc1Y9MSZGT1JNPU1QU1JQTA&ntb=1)

[(231) 299-1400](tel:2312991400)

We wore these blue ribbons as we left the service

Outreach Ministry - Continued

May St. Joseph’s Onekama food pantry

The collection item is canned tuna.

**A can of tuna with a fish on it

AI-generated content may be incorrect.** Drop yours off anytime at the church and we will see it gets there.

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

**Calendar of Events**

* May 3 – Rev, Lawrence Richardson Forum on Community Outreach and 501(c)3 possibilities

2:00 – 4:00pm in the church sanctuary.

* May 4 – One Great Hour of Sharing – UCC 5 for 5
  + Rev. Lawrence Richardson preaching
  + Graduating Seniors – Billy Smogoleski
* May 11 – Mother’s Day
* *Our Spring Brunch, originally scheduled for May 18, will be rescheduled when the lower level is ready to be used.*
* June 8 – Pentecost Sunday – new members joining
* June 22 - Strengthen the Church – UCC 5 for 5

Dates of Future Events – Mark Your Calendars

July 10 - Main Street Block Party – games

July 13 - The Christmas Fund – UCC 5 for 5

July 20 – Medical Care Facility Service – 2pm

Aug 1-4 -Onekama Days

Sept. 21- Stewardship Sunday

Oct 12 - Neighbors in Need – UCC 5 for 5

Oct 19 - Medical Care Facility Service – 2pm

Nov-Dec - Christmas Family

***COME EXERCISE WITH US ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS***

***3:30-4:30***

*This session runs through May 29th $5.00 drop-in fee.* Please enter through the red doors as we will be having class in the parlor while our basement is under construction.

**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,

A screenshot of a medical therapy

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

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.

May Goodies

A coffee cup and text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.4th Carol

11th Mothers Day - no refreshments

18th Carol

25th Joy

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**

**LET’S MAKE MAY BASKETS!**

**A vase of flowers on a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**Thursday, May 1st at 9:00am in the Parlor**



**New Member Opportunity**

On Pentecost Sunday, which is June 8th this year, we will be welcoming new members into our congregation. Pentecost was the day in the early days of the church when some 3,000 new members received the Holy Spirit and were baptized into the faith (Acts 2). It is a wonderful time to welcome new members.

If you have been attending the First Congregational UCC of Onekama and wish to formalize your participation here either as a full or associate member, this would be an appropriate time to accomplish that.

Pastor Alison will host two opportunities for a “Conversation on Church Membership” to talk about joining the church and to share information. The two choices for these meetings are: Saturday, May 24th at 2pm or Sunday, June 1st after coffee hour. Please call Pastor Alison at 802-829-3211 if you wish to meet with her at either of these times.

## Monthly 2025 Events & Dates

## 

**Worship** – Every Sunday at 10 a.m. This month Communion will be on the 4th.

**Financial Advisory Committee** – meets on Wednesday May 7th this month at 2:30

**Ministry Council** – 3rd Thurs. each month, this month May 15th at 7:00.

**Outreach Ministry** – Meeting, Monday, May 13th at 1:00pm.

Game Night is on Friday the 23rd this month at 6:00pm

**Music & Worship Ministry** – Sunday May 18th after church.

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

**Bible Study** – Saturdays May 17th, 24, and 31st at 10:00am-11:30am

**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

**May Birthdays**  **May Anniversaries**

4th Kathy Wilson 1st Joe & Susie Halloran

4th Cindy Peterson 20th Steve & Carolyn Brooks

16th Carolyn Brooks 30th George & Mary Ann Johnston

17th John Lyman

20th Andrew McIsaac

A group of people standing in a church

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**Church Staff for 2025**

Pastor – Rev. Alison Andrea Young

Moderator – Bill Sawhill

Vice Moderator - Marcia Rogers

Treasurer & Secretary – Joy Lind

Clerk – Lynn Jans

Church Pianist – Carolyn Brooks

Choir Director & Liturgist – Dan Wilson

Choir Accompanist - Kathy Wilson **Palm Sunday Service**

Sexton – Carol Rackow

A white and green sign with black text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**One Great Hour of Sharing collection will be on May 4, 202**

This is part of the UCC 5 for 5 programs. This offering channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response. It is administered by the Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources. This is an opportunity to contribute to mission work on a national and international level and is completely voluntary

**First Congregational Church of Onekama, UCC**

**Ministry Council**

**April 24, 2025**

**Attendance:** Margaret Cloutier, Lynn Jans, Joy Lind, Carol Rackow, Marcia Rogers, Bill Sawhill, Rev. Young

**Call to Order : 7:02 pm**

**Prayer for Guidance:** Rev. Young

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Financial Advisory Committee(FAC) report

**Amendments to the Minutes and Approval for March 21, 2025 and March 30, 2025**

Moved: Marcia Rogers2nd: Carol Rackow **Motion Carried**

**Treasurer’s Report – Joy Lind**

* Reviewed Treasurer’s reports
* Approved Treasurer’s Report

**Clerk’s Report – Lynn Jans**

* No report

**Ministry Reports**

**Minister’s Report – Rev. Young**

* Good attendance for Lenten, Holy Week and Easter services and programs
* Received Michigan Conference grant; still waiting to hear about grants from UNA and National office (to be used for PLA Community Collaboration activities)
* Leave Request – May 5 -May 12 (not vacation time due to water turn off at church and parsonage) **Approved**
* Publicity – Ads put in MNA for Community Band and Chorus and in OCS Track Meet program

**Worship** **Committee- Carol Rackow**

* Planning for Mother’s Day

**Pastoral Care**

* Continues with calls visits and cards from Pastor and congregation

**Property Maintenance – Bill Sawhill**

* Basement water problem - FSM coming May 5; reviewed details of the job; discussed plans for preparation
* Parsonage – items that need attention: ceiling in office area, removing roofing/siding scraps left in the yard; requested permission to put in split rail fence and 2 raised gardens **(**no cost to church) **Approved**

**Community Outreach – Lynn Jans**

* Next meeting – May 13 @ 1 pm
* MCF – July 20 @ 2 pm
* Revised Calendar of Events to be included in May newsletter

**Christian Education**

* Bible Study continues

**Music Committee- Vickee Sawhill**

* Next Meeting – May 18

**FAC Report**

* Reviewed April report

**Additional Reports**

**Social Media –** web site up to date, sermons, events

**Secretary –** newsletter articles due April 25

**Old Business**

* Revitalization Project “Aging in Onekama” on hold until grant funds have arrived; will be collaboration with PLA
* Tools for Planned Giving – done, information to be printed and distributed

**New Business**

* **Motion**: to contribute $500 to Wilson’s daughter and son-in-law’s mission trip to Uganda using Outreach funds (Thrivent) Moved: Joy Lind 2nd: Marcia Rogers **Motion Carried**
* Onekama Churches Brochure for PLA Welcome Bag is ready. Rev. Young will be meeting with PLA reps.

**Action Plan**

* Prepare basement for FSM
* Schedule scrap clean-up at parsonage

**Other Issues/ Concerns**

**Beacons of Light**

* **Marcia Rogers and Joy Lind** for spearheading the preparation of the lower level for the restoration work.

**Next meeting: May 22, 2025**

**Adjourned: 8:20 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lynn Jans, Clerk**