 **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

** July 2025**

**Pastoral Ponderings**

*“Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter.”* -- Psalm 74:17 (KJV)

Sometimes we forget that the Seasons are also a part of Creation. Without the seasons we would have no food, or water, or the essentials of life. It is the Seasons that allow the seeds to germinate, the snow and rain to re-circulate all the water that God created for us. The Teacher, writing in Ecclesiastes, famously reminds us of this in Chapter 3 verse 1 when he says: “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven.” I don’t think any of us can hear that verse without singing the 1959 Pete Seeger song, “Turn, Turn, Turn” which was made popular by the Byrds!

In addition, the wonderful hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (#72 in our Hymnal) underlines the work of the Creator by using the Seasons. Verse 2 goes like this: “Summer and winter, springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.” This praise hymn probably describes the beauty of the creation and the Creator better than any other in its use of all four seasons as illustration!

It is no coincidence, I think, that it is through music that we are often most able to grasp the deepest meanings of the Universe. In one of their last great songs when they returned to the Concert stage, Peter, Paul and Mary hit on the very heart of this truth with their song, “Music Speaks Louder Than Words.” The pivotal line in that song is this: “Music speaks louder than words. It’s the only thing that the whole world listens to . . .when you sing, people understand.”

The music of the Creator’s seasons is something we all can relate to birdsong in Spring, Plows in the fields in Fall, Children frolicking as they swim in the Summer and the hush and shush of walking through the woods in the snow in Winter. As we jump into another Michigan July, may we find time to experience all the music of creation that it offers (And, the Concerts in the Park on Monday Evenings)!!

Happy Summer!

**Pastor Alison**

A blue and red sign with white text

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This was one of the recommendations from our brainstorming last fall. We will be advertising it in the community, but it would be great if everyone reached out to personally invite someone to the service that day. Bruce Brooks will be playing his bagpipes for the service.

A pie in a pie pan

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Pie, Plants and More Sale

August 2nd 10:00 -1:00

In the front yard of Dan & Kathy Wilson

on Main Street. Same spot as last year.

Pie making will start at 9;00 am on Friday August 1st at the Kaleva Community Center kitchen. There we will assemble and bake the 50 fruit pies. We will need 8 volunteers to help. No baking skills required!

This is our main fundraiser for the year. Contact Joy Lind if you can help.

231-970-9270

A logo for a church

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**There will be a church service on July 20th at 2:00**

**at the Manistee Medical Care facility.**

## June Treasurer Report

**Income** from Contributions of $9,315.00, **Mission** $240.00,

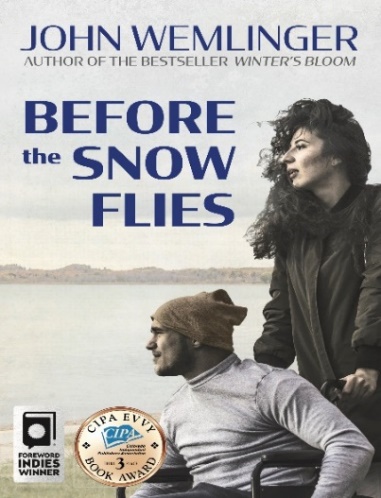
**Memorial** Basement lighting $100.00, **Food Pantry** $52.42,

**Strengthen the Church** collection $55.00, Parsonage Shed payment plus interest $562.24.

**Expenses** $32,968.13 which are **normal operating expenses** along with this month $18,954.80 towards the **basement project**, paid off loan of $3,600.00 off the **line of credit**. Put $7,000.00 into the **Perpetual Ministry Endowment.**

**Onekama Days event, Sunday August 3rd at 2:00 PM**





**NEW CHURCH WEBSITE**

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

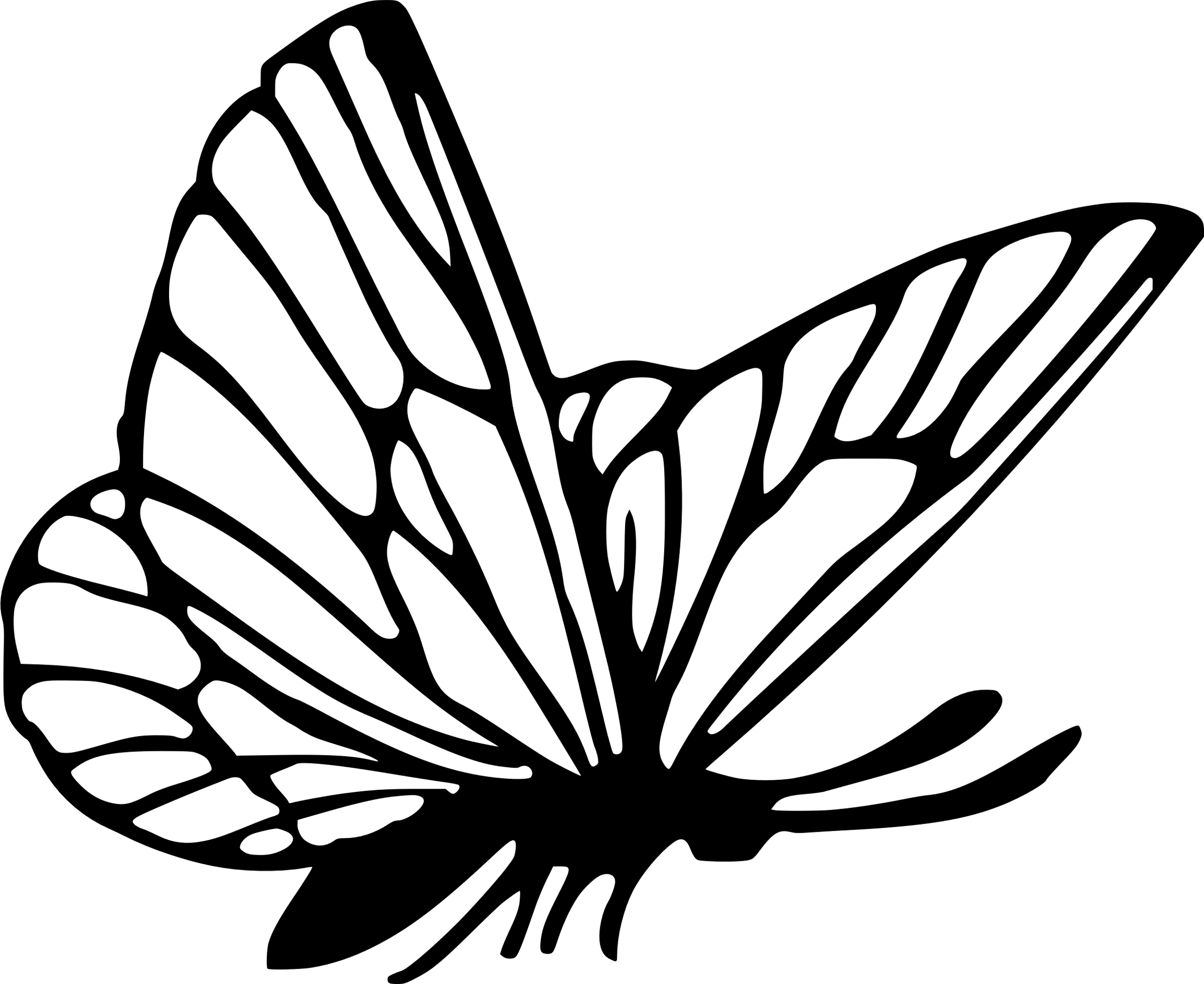
AI-generated content may be incorrect.Go to: <http://www.onekamaucc.org/> A qr code with black and white squares

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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.***

A coffee cup and text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.July Goodies

6th Picnic in the park

13th Joan Milarch

20th Sheely Lyman

27th Carol & Elnora

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

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**Worship** – Every Sunday at 10 a.m. This month Communion will be on the 6th at the Park.

**Financial Advisory Committee** – skipping this month.

**Ministry Council** – 3rd Thurs. each month, but this month it will be July 24th at 7:00.

**Outreach Ministry** – July 21st at 1:00in the parlor.

**Game Night** will meet in the ***Parsonage basement this month*** with snacks.

**Music & Worship Ministry** – August 24th on the 4th Sunday of the month.

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

**Bible Study** –taking the summer off. Will resume in the fall after the basement project is completed.

July St. Joseph Community Food Pantry

The collection item is pasta products.

A group of pasta and tomatoes

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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**

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

**July Birthdays**  **Anniversaries**

16th Carol Rackow 25th Ried & Karen Martin

16th Bob Kieffer 28th Dan & Nancy Behring

20th Steve Peterson

21st Olivia Rackow

22 Joe Halloran

**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

**First Congregational Church of Onekama, UCC**

**Ministry Council June 19, 2025**

**Attendance:** Lynn Jans, Joy Lind, Carol Rackow, Marcia Rogers, Bill Sawhill, Vickee Sawhill, Rev. Young, Dan Behring, Pam Lyman

**Call to Order: 7 pm**

**Prayer for Guidance:** Bill Sawhill

**Amendments to the Agenda;** none

**Amendments to the Minutes and Approval for May 22 , 2025**

**Moved:** Vickee Sawhill; 2nd: Joy Lind **Approved**

**Treasurer’s Report – Joy Lind**

* Reviewed all accounts
* Discussed $3600 loan payoff
* **Moved**: to pay off JUST that portion of LOC of $3,600 (FSM down payment). Marcia Rogers; 2nd: Lynn Jans **Motion Carried**
* Moved: to accept Treasurer’s Report- Vickee Sawhill; 2nd: Carol Rackow

**Motion Carried**

**Clerk’s Report**

6/8/25 Adult baptism of Lesley Ann DeCator

* 6/8/25 Welcomed new members: Lesley Ann DeCator; Cynthia K. Peterson and Stephan W. Peterson
* **6/5/25** **Motion** to approve payment to Paradigm Electric $8,000 for electrical work in basement **Motion Carried**
* **6/11/25 Motion** **t**o replace carpeting on stairs and main level in conjunction with basement restoration  **Motion Carried**
* Lynn Jans and Rev. Young will be gone July 17. Next meeting moved to July 24.

**Ministry Reports**

**Minister’s Report – Rev. Young**

* Continues to make pastoral visits and phone calls
* Planning for “Aging Well in Onekama” will begin in the fall.
* Will take 2 weeks’ vacation in mid-July. Cynthia Corey will preach.

**Worship Committee- Carol Rackow**

* **July 6** - Outdoor Service at Pavilion in Village Park; potluck picnic following

**Pastoral Care**

* Cards continue to be sent

**Property Maintenance – Bill Sawhill**

* Basement Restoration update – reviewed progress and expenses including flooring, carpentry, electrical, heating, plumbing, waterproofing, painting and furnishings.
* **Motion** to accept a budget of $66,000.00 for basement restoration project.

**Moved:** Marca Rogers; 2nd: Joy Lind **Motion Carried**

**Community Outreach – Lynn Jans**

* Strengthen the Church special offering moved to June 29
* MCF service – July 20
* Onekama Days planning- Pies, Plants and More sale on Aug 2; John Wemlinger book talk on Aug 3.

**Christian Education – Rev. Young**

* Bible study continues

**Music Committee- Vickee Sawhill**

* Will meet June 22 with Worship Ministry

**Additional Reports**

**Social Media –** put Outdoor service and potluckon FB and webpage

**Secretary –** newsletter articles due **June 25**

**Old Business**

* Revitalization Project “Aging Well in Onekama” – all 3 grants received ($5,500); collaboration with PLA

**New Business**

* **Motion;** to accept the Recommendation from Financial Advisory Committee to deposit $7,000 in the Perpetual Endowment Fund from the Quale Leach Estate gift.
* **Moved:** Vickee Sawhill; 2nd: Carol Rackow **Motion Carried**

**Action Plan**

* Post the July 6 Outdoor Service on Face Book

**Beacons of Light** Sharon Phelps for cleaning all bugs off the church front entrance after a spring storm.

.**Next meeting: July 24, 2025 at 6 pm at the Sawhill’s home.**

**Adjourned: 8:30 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lynn Jans, Clerk**