

FIRST CHURCH CONNECTION

MARCH 2026

First Congregational UCC of Onekama

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49675

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Rev. Alison Dutton Jacobs at 802-829-3211 or ajacobs.4818@gmail.com



Church Website: <https://onekamaucc.org/>

Click the Link and Check it out!

PASTORAL PONDERINGS



It is March. This month always reminds me of Lewis Carroll's classic book Alice in Wonderland. Partially because kids in school used to call me "Alison Wonderland" and partially because cabin fever at this time of year can drive me a bit "mad" like the March Hare and his friend the "Mad Hatter."

Besides which, for the March Hare, it is always teatime! And, for me, except for my two cups of coffee in the early morning, it is always "iced teatime!"

The March Hare is mostly a bit off his rocker in March, but Alice has also remarked that, "The March Hare will be much the most interesting, and perhaps as this is May it won't be raving mad - at least not so mad as it was in March." Ah, in March we often think that it would be lovely if it was that other month that begins with "M!" The joy of May flowers comes to mind.

The fact that I am planning to plunge into ice cold water on March 14th this year may actually give you a slight indication that I might not have all the cards in my deck! The Michigan Special Olympics is such a good cause, however, that I am willing to risk your negative assessment of my mental capacity. **Please see page 4** of this newsletter to see how to donate to my plunge.

And, of course, there is the NCAA College Basketball Tournament in March. Since my son is a Division One basketball coach, March Madness is always a must watch event.

The name March does not seem so appropriate for a time of new beginnings and hope of Spring, this is so as it was derived from the Roman name "Martius," which was the first month of the ancient Roman calendar. Martius was named in honor of Mars, the Roman god of war. As such, the name March carries associations with war and strength because it signaled the start of the military campaign season.

Because Easter falls so early this year, most of Lent is in March. Please take note of our Lenten Soup Supper Schedule **on page 8** of this newsletter and join us for a time of community worship and fellowship.

My heart is full as I write this monthly reflection as our Aging Well Forums have been a rousing success so far and our Ukraine Children's Art Exhibit was hung so well by volunteers. Thank you to all who have helped in setting up for these special mission events, especially: Joy Lind and her friend Cat, Lynn Jans, Janet Adam, Shelley Lyman, Betsey Lyman, my visiting friend, Sami McRae, and Jill from "Carefree Catering." We are truly blessed to be here!

With March Madness Love- Pastor Alison

Community Outreach



Ukrainian Children's Art Auction

These are the 10 art works that will be auctioned to raise money for the U-Care (Ukrainian Children's Aid and Relief Effort). This organization benefits children living under care in institutions, orphanages, and foster care whose parents are at war or lost in war: those internally displaced and homeless, as well as vulnerable Youth. The art is part of the activities at the camps and restorative events run by U-Care in and around Ukraine for these children.

The artwork is on display in Fellowship Hall. The auction will begin on March 22nd (online) and end on April 18th, with the winners being announced at our Spring Brunch on April 19th. We will have two speakers from Ukraine mission organizations at the Brunch. The link for our on-line art auction will be sent to your email. Please be looking for it by March 18th for the auction preview. Bidding will start on March 22nd beginning at 5pm and will end on April 18th at 5pm.

Manistee Medical Care Facility

Sunday church services at the Manistee Medical Care Facility have been scheduled for **April 26th**. A small group has arranged to attend and lead the service on **April 26th at 2 PM**. The visit will be confirmed with staff prior to the service. Call Pastor Alison 802-829-3211. If you have any questions.

March local food pantry

Collection items are boxed energy bars. You can drop them off at the back of the sanctuary and we will see they get to the St. Joseph Church.



Egg-stravaganza is Coming!

On **Sat. March 21, from 1-3 pm**, the Easter Bunny will appear in our Fellowship Hall to welcome children to an afternoon of fun and games. There will be an Egg Hunt, cookies to decorate, crafts to make, a jellybean guessing game and more. The Easter Bunny loves to have its picture taken with children! Volunteers are needed, so please call Lynn Jans at 231-590-1206 if you can help.

Beginning Knitting with "Aunt" Bea

A continuation of knitting classes will be held in Fellowship Hall on the following dates: March 3rd and 10th from 5:30-7:30pm.

Intermediate Knitting

Classes continue into March on the 5th and 12th in Fellowship Hall.

FYI: Bea Cuthbertson at 517-518-0519



Olivia's Basketball Team won one and lost one in their Tournament in Shepherd. Olivia made a basket!! Yay!!! Her team placed Second in the Tournament.



Pastor Alison Making the Plunge!

On March 14th at noon you might want to take your lunch break and come to the Little River Casino to see your pastor become a Frozen Pastor-cicle!

She is taking the plunge to raise money for Special Olympics of Michigan in honor of her friend and parishioner, Olivia Rackow (see above). Her goal is to raise \$1000 and she only has \$125 so far! Please follow the link: give.classy.org/FrozenPastor

A fundraising page for Alison Jacobs. At the top left is the 'POLAR PLUNGE 2026' logo. The main banner features a blue and purple wavy design with the text 'PLUNGE. SUPPORT. INCLUDE.' and a 'SHARE' icon. Below the banner is a small photo of Alison Jacobs. To the right of the photo, it says 'Fundraiser Alison Jacobs'. Below the photo, a progress bar shows '\$125 Raised' out of a '\$1,000' goal. At the bottom, it says 'Polar Plunge for Special Olympics' and a large purple 'DONATE' button.

A circular logo for the 'MANISTEE POLAR PLUNGE 2026'. The outer ring of the circle contains the text 'PLUNGE. SUPPORT. INCLUDE.' repeated. Inside the circle is a cartoon character holding a torch, with the text 'LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN POLAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN' and '2026'. Below the circle, the text 'MANISTEE POLAR PLUNGE 2026' and 'Sat, Mar 14' is displayed.



Lilies for Easter

The Worship Ministry team is taking orders for lilies to decorate our sanctuary. The plants will be \$18.00 apiece. Make checks payable to the First Congregational UCC of Onekama or pay with cash. Deadline to order: Sunday, March 22, 2026. Please make note if the flowers are in **memory** or **honor** of a certain person. Please put order slip and check or cash in the Treasurer's mail in the church office. Thank you!

In Honor

From

or Memory

Name(s)

Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae and Communion



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

**Service of Communion
and Tenebrae
Maundy Thursday *6:00pm**

4920 SPRING STREET, ONEKAMA FMI; 802-829-3211

in the
Sanctuary
at 6:00pm,
April 2nd

UCC WOMEN OF MICHIGAN

**Registration OPEN NOW
For Spring Gathering 2026
“Early Bird” discount due by March 25th!**

JUNE 5-7, 2026
Friday evening thru Sunday morning

THEME: “Fortified in Faith, Clothed in Strength!”
Scriptures: Proverbs 31; Acts 16: 14-16

*She is clothed
IN STRENGTH
AND DIGNITY,
and she laughs
WITHOUT FEAR
OF THE FUTURE.
When she speaks,
HER WORDS
ARE WISE,
and she gives
INSTRUCTIONS
WITH KINDNESS.*

PSO-V3391 11.25.24



ABOUT OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER & PREACHER

The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel

The Michigan Conference Minister is responsible for the spiritual care of our clergy and 140 congregations. Since starting July 1, 2022, the Rev. Dr. Daniel has focused on encouraging, equipping and connecting our Michigan churches in Christ's love and justice. Lillian is based in Grand Rapids and travels most weekends to worship with folks in the Michigan Conference.

***We are excited to announce the 2026 Gathering
event at The Lake Huron Retreat Center
Located at 8794 Lakeshore Rd. Burtchville Twp, MI***

JOIN US FOR OUR CONTINUING ADVENTURE!

REGISTRATION BROCHURE AVAILABLE NOW!

**Watch for it in your email, ON THE UCC WOMEN OF MI FACEBOOK
PAGE, or the MI Conference UCC e-newsletter & website.**

Co-Chairs: Penny Lowes	248-762-5551	revpen73@gmail.com
April Reh	586-291-8827	a.rehofcolor@gmail.com
Kristen Rieder	231-818-3831	k3teacher@hotmail.com
Registrar: Shari Hoppe	614-403-2364	sfhoppe@gmail.com

LAST CHANCE TO SHAPE UP BEFORE SUMMER!

Are you looking to burn some calories and improve your health while having fun with a jovial bunch of people?

Then the “*Stretch, Strength and Balance*” class is for YOU!

Tonya Evans’ exercise classes are still being held in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30 pm through March 12.

We’ll take a short break and begin a 10-week “Spring session” (20 classes) on March 24, which will run through May 28. The discounted cost for prepaying for the whole session is \$85.*

*For the discount, please prepay by the first night of class for each session.

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, stretching and balance practice for an overall effective yet not so strenuous workout. (Co-ed)

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



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 27 years!

Come for the work-out, fun, puns, camaraderie, and great music...

Or just to find out what everybody is planning for supper! 🍴

Monthly 2026 Events & Dates

Worship – Every Sunday at 10 a.m.

Financial Advisory Committee – Will meet Wednesday, April 8th at 2:30pm in the Hall.

Music & Worship – Will meet as announced.

Ministry Council – 3rd Thursday, this month it will be March 19th at 7:00pm n Zoom

Game Night will meet in the **fellowship hall** with potluck on Friday the 20th at 6:00pm

Choir Practice - Sunday afternoons 3:30 to 4:30pm.

Bible Study – is on Saturdays in Fellowship Hall 10-11:30am.

Community Outreach- March 10th at 1:00 pm at the church.

Bell Practice- will start on Thursday March 19th from 2:00 – 3:30pm. The Bells will perform on Sunday, April 26th.

JOIN US FOR LENT



Wednesday Soup Suppers & Lenten Services

Onekama UCC & The Church of the Brethren

5:30 Soup Supper and 6:15 Service

Ash Wednesday, February 18—Church of the Brethren

February 25th - Onekama UCC

March 4th—Church of the Brethren

March 11th-Onekama UCC

March 18th —Church of the Brethren

March 25th—Onekama UCC

Onekama UCC is at 4920 Spring Street

Church of the Brethren is at 8266 Mill Street

February Birthdays
NONE

Anniversaries
29th Kathy & Dan Wilson



March 8th



March

1st Carol
8th Shelley
15th Joy
22nd Steve
29th Lynn



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

February Treasurer's Report

Income from Contribution \$10,513.25

Neighbors in Need \$50.00 **Food Pantry** \$5.00

Memorial gift, special gift towards Church foyer \$200.00

Expenses

Line of credit loan for basement project is \$2,582.07

Line of credit loan for the parsonage shed
\$2,979.59



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

Church Staff

Pastor – Rev. Alison Dutton Jacobs

Choir Director – Dan Wilson

Moderator – Bill Sawhill

Vice Moderator - Marcia Rogers

Treasurer & Secretary – Joy Lind

Clerk – Lynn Jans

Pianist – Carolyn Brooks

Choir Accompanist - Kathy Wilson

Bell Choir Director – Carol Worch

Sexton – Carol Rackow

Custodian – Janet Adam

Third of Eight “Aging Well” Free Public Forums



Fourth Fridays from Jan. thru May then September, October & January

March 27, 2026

Fran Wallace Presenter

11am-1pm

First Congregational UCC of Onekama Fellowship Hall

Corner of Zosel and Spring Streets in Onekama

A Free Lunch will be catered by “Carefree Catering”

Fran Wallace is a volunteer counselor with the State of Michigan’s SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program). Until 2025, it was called the Michigan Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) and is now the State of Michigan’s statewide *MI Options* system which offers free and comprehensive person-centered options, counseling for adults looking for long-term care services and supports and Medicare counseling. Fran will talk about how Medicare is structured, what it covers, and how person-centered options counseling and Medicare counseling can help with:

- Exploring long-term care and support options for adults, including home and community-based service
- Understanding Medicare benefits, including prescription drug coverage options.
- Finding and using Medicare cost savings options, including the Medicare Savings Program and Part D Extra Help.

She will also speak about Medicare marketing scams

Sponsored by Onekama Congregational UCC

And the Portage Lake Association

FMI: Alison at 802-829-3211