

FIRST CHURCH CONNECTION

APRIL 2026

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 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

The young waiter had a tattoo above his elbow peeking out from under his monogrammed work shirt. Sharp and dancing eyes, he was pleasant to be around—just so alive with energy. The tattoo just declared “Psalm 139:14.” Such a simple thing, and yet a profound statement. “I Praise the Lord because I am fearfully and wonderfully made . . .” Hope sprung up in my Lent-weary heart as he graciously served me and joked about the beginning of his day.

When I was privileged to attend the Concert at Interlochen featuring Yo-Yo-Ma, I came away with the same sense of hope as the young people sang, danced, played, and performed around the Maestro. Hope was everywhere that evening. Yo-Yo-Ma was obviously having deeply felt fun on stage with all of that youthful energy and talent.

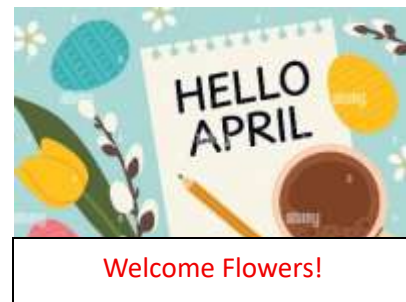
As Palm Sunday is close. Jesus was weary. Why else would he have had the disciples fetch him a donkey on which to ride? His journey had been long, and he was foot-sore and troubled in Spirit. The walking, the stumbling up the hill with a cross on his shoulders was just around the corner, but for that moment, he was able to take a deep breath and relax to the swaying of the donkey’s gait. A lullaby of gentle movement.

Emily Dickinson describes hope in this way:

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all - . . .

That description has always felt “just right” to me. When we hope, our hearts fly, as with feathers, over and above our human-being concerns and worries. Those feathers represent our spiritual selves rising from the ashes of the human world in which we are embedded.

May your gentle feathers raise you up to a new understanding of what it means to be a spiritual being living in a human world. Blessed Easter - *Pastor Alison*



Fourth of Eight “Aging Well” Free Public Forums



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

April 24, 2026

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”

PRESENTERS:

Ashley Gutowski and
Charone Sexton

ADDING PRECIOUS LIFE TO DAYS WITH COMFORT AND CARE

When a serious illness progresses into the final months of life, Hospice of Michigan’s end-of-life experts are here, with comprehensive resources and support, to comfort, ensure quality of life, and help patients reach their goals.

When you have to make one of life’s most important decisions, Hospice of Michigan is here for you and your family so that the time that remains is peaceful and meaningful for all.

Ashley is the local Hospice of Michigan representative based in Ludington, She will speak about end-of-life care and decision making. Charone will join her to talk about advanced care directives.

Sponsored by Onekama Congregational UCC
and the Portage Lake Association

FMI: Alison at 802-829-3211

Seven Stations of the Cross—
Seven Last Words for
Good Friday & Holy Saturday



Good Friday (1-8pm)
Holy Saturday (9-1)

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This is a self-guided meditative walk to stations throughout the sanctuary. You will be provided a script and instructions as you enter the church lobby—come as many times as you wish and bring a friend!

First Congregational UCC of Onekama
4920 Spring Street
(Corner of Zosel and Spring)

FMI: Pastor Alison at 802-829-3211

**Easter Sunrise Service – 7:00am
First Congregational UCC of Onekama &
Church of The Brethren, Onekama
At the Village Park Near the Propeller
The Community is Invited to Join Us
Onekama, Michigan
Sunday, April 5, 2026**



(Photo Credit: Marcia Talley, "Sunrise on Dickie's Key")

**Bring a lawn chair and dress warmly!
Join us after the service for breakfast at the
Church of the Brethren,
8266 Mill Street, Onekama**

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

The First Congregational UCC of Onekama



Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae & Communion
6pm

Self-guided meditative walk "Seven Stations of the
Cross/Seven Last Words" in the Sanctuary
Good Friday (1-8pm) and Holy Saturday (9am-1pm)

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Public Easter Sunrise Service—At the Village Park—  
7:00am

With the Church of the Brethren  
Breakfast after Sunrise Service at the  
Church of the Brethren

Easter Continental Breakfast—Church Parlor—9:30am  
Easter Family Worship—10:00am

# Community Outreach



## Ukrainian Children's Art Auction

These are the 10 artworks 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. This art is the result 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 began on March 22<sup>nd</sup> (online) and will end on April 18<sup>th</sup>, with the winners being announced at our Spring Brunch on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have two speakers from Ukraine mission organizations at the Brunch. The link for our on-line art auction is:

<http://fcuo.betterworld.org/auctions/ukrainian-childrens-art-works>

## Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae and Communion



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

**Service of Communion  
and Tenebrae**

**Maundy Thursday \*6:00pm**

4920 SPRING STREET, ONEKAMA MI 49829 802-829-3211

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

## Manistee Medical Care Facility



Sunday church services at the Manistee Medical Care Facility have been scheduled for Easter Sunday **April 5<sup>th</sup>**. A small group has arranged to attend and lead the service on **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.

## April local food pantry

Collection item is Hamburger Helper. You can drop them off at the back of the sanctuary and we will see they get to the St. Joseph Church.



# 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.*



## **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 | <a href="mailto:revpen73@gmail.com">revpen73@gmail.com</a>         |
| April Reh              | 586-291-8827 | <a href="mailto:a.rehofcolor@gmail.com">a.rehofcolor@gmail.com</a> |
| Kristen Rieder         | 231-818-3831 | <a href="mailto:k3teacher@hotmail.com">k3teacher@hotmail.com</a>   |
| Registrar: Shari Hoppe | 614-403-2364 | <a href="mailto:sfhoppe@gmail.com">sfhoppe@gmail.com</a>           |

## 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. 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 \$85.00.

\*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 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in the Hall.

**Music & Worship** – Will meet as announced.

**Ministry Council** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, this month it will be April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm on Zoom

**Game Night** will meet in the **fellowship hall** with potluck on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> 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**- April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the church.

**Bell Practice**-Thursdays 2:00 – 3:30pm. The Bells will perform on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**April Birthdays**

6<sup>th</sup> Ron Ludema  
8<sup>th</sup> Gail Verplank  
9<sup>th</sup> Dawn Kalis  
10<sup>th</sup> Ellery McIsaac  
16<sup>th</sup> Tom Lind

**Anniversaries**

NONE



**April**

5<sup>th</sup> No Coffee Hour  
12<sup>th</sup>  
19<sup>th</sup> Spring Brunch  
26<sup>th</sup>



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](mailto:rackey1992@gmail.com)

**March Treasurer’s Report**

**Income from Contribution \$**

**Food Pantry      Flowers \$**



**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