

FIRST CHURCH CONNECTION

July / August 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 venue held about 17,000 people. The lights dimmed and the vocal artist stepped out to thunderous applause. He took the microphone and welcomed the crowd which became so quiet that it was eerie; and then he said, something like: “The world outside this Arena is a real mess, but in here we are a peaceful, joyful crowd celebrating the unity that only music can bring.” The crowd erupted then again in noisy applause and the concert began.

Josh Groban is a premier singer, who never forgets the people and his roots. He went back and forth between two stages, so that both sides of the Arena could see him perform. He created the youth arts education charity “Find Your Light Foundation” (<http://fylf.org>) which honors his roots here in Michigan as a student at Interlochen and his enduring love for music. His latest album, “Cinematic.” features his father on the trumpet in a beautiful arrangement of “Moon River.” His songs are tender, loving, and realistic and touch the best of humanity. This was reflected by the span of ages attending the concert, from little kids to senior citizens, some using walkers.

The crowd was large, but everyone was civil and polite, and there was no pushing or shoving. People stepped aside and helped those that might need a little extra space. It felt like we were in a bubble of pure “loving-kindness” (*hesed* in Hebrew) and “the wholeness of pure good” (*Shalom* in Hebrew). In short, it was incredible.

As summer proceeds through July and August, it is my prayer that we all find such serenity in all of our activities, no matter how hectic they might feel with lots of visitors and busy-ness!

Shalom—Pastor Alison



250th!

Independence Weekend !

Outdoor Worship & Potluck Picnic

At the New Park Pavilion

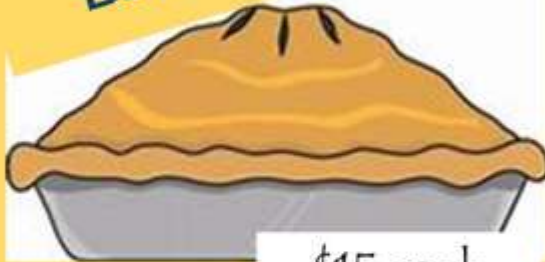
July 5th at 10:00 a.m.

JOIN US FOR A SERVICE OF WORSHIP HONORING THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF OUR COUNTRY. MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED BY BRUCE BROOKS ON THE BAGPIPES! ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A DISH TO SHARE (OR NOT!) THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF DELICIOUS FOOD FOR EVERYONE!

SPONSORED BY: THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC OF OBEKAMA FMI: PASTOR ALISON AT 802-829-3211



CHERRY APPLE
BLUEBERRY



\$15 each

Pies, Plants and
More Sale
August 8th
10AM to Noon

During Onekama Days!

In the front yard of the Wilson's
stone house at the
Corner of M-22 and
5th Street . . .

And MORE . . .



TO BENEFIT THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
OF ONEKAMA

Onekama Days 2026

Book Talks & More

First Congregational UCC of Onekama
Corner of Zosel & Spring Streets

Friday, August 7, 2026—2:00pm
Author: Joseph Stanley
(a.k.a. Joe Suchocki)



Joseph Stanley's writing was inspired by journaling assignments during counseling as he prepared for retirement. After a thirty-five-year career in management consulting, he paired his skills for explaining complex subjects and relating to audiences with learning the nuances of fictional writing.



Joe is an American author and storyteller.

He now studies the art of writing and is in the business of engaging readers through poems, short stories, and novels, as well as sharing content about his journey as a person.

Joe's first novel Collective Vengeance came out to great reviews and will be available for purchase at his talk.

Joe also pairs his poetry with graphic art suitable for hanging in your home.

Website: stanleywrites.com



**Local
Michigan
Authors
Share Their
Talents !**

"Too Many Books, So Little Time!"

Tel: 802-829-3211

**Saturday, August 8, 2026—
4:00pm**

Author: John Wenlinger



John is a retired U.S. Army colonel with twenty-seven years spent on active duty. Half of these years he was deployed overseas and/or serving in command positions. So, he writes about what he knows; our military and its culture. He writes because he wants to be a mirror reflecting the honor, courage and integrity of those who



are currently serving or who have served our country. For those who have not served, he strives to be a window through which they may look and learn about what military service entails.

John will talk about his new book, Finding Innocence.



His other books are:

Winter's Bloom; Operation Light Switch ; Before the Snow Flies ; The Widow and the Warrior ; The Cut ; and The Road to Empire .

**Sunday, August 9, 2026—
2:00pm**

Author: Sylvia Duncan

Sylvia Duncan, is an author and educator, who lives in Bear Lake. Writing for pure pleasure after retirement, Duncan will discuss her three recent works of Michigan fiction, explain her writing process, and provide self-publishing tips and encouragement. Questions and a book signing will follow



**Sylvia's
Books:**



Fifth of Nine “Aging Well” Free Public Forums



Fourth Fridays: August, September, October and January & February

August 28th, 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”

PRESENTER:

Ashley Gutowski

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

**Sponsored by Onekama Congregational UCC
and the Portage Lake Association**

FMI: Alison at 802-829-3211



Community Outreach

Manistee Medical Care Facility

Sunday church services at the Manistee Medical Care Facility have been scheduled for Sunday July 19th. A small group has arranged to attend and lead the service **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.



July / August local food pantry

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



Mark, Your Calendar!

July is just around the corner and it's time for some food & fun!

You are invited to Pam & John Lyman's home (7487 Lyman Rd.) for a church picnic on **Sunday, July 26th at 4:00PM**.

Come prepared to beat last year's corn hole winners and balloon toss champs. The pickleball court will be open for some friendly competition, whether you are experienced or new to the game. If a leisure golf cart ride suits you, Chief Lake is right down the road.

Sloppy joes, lemonade, ice tea & place settings will be provided. You are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Lawn chairs are optional.

Hope you can come!



Squirrels In the Attic

Tough winter for all of us. Even for the squirrels that run around the grounds. Unfortunately, this winter many of them found their way into our church and set up camp in the attic. As we have found out, this is a tough problem to rectify. They won't leave on their own even though the weather has turned warm. To that end we have hired Hogarth's Pest Control out of Williamsburg, MI to remove the pests. Hogarth's visited our church a couple weeks ago, did an assessment and followed up with a proposal as follows:

- Traps will be set around the outside and the inside of the church.
- All the potential entry points will be screened off.
- One or two entrances will be equipped with "one-way boxes". Once they leave through the one-way box, it is not possible to get back inside through the one-way device.
- The work will take a day or two and will be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- Hogarth's will be checking the traps over the next 12 months to ensure that our building is staying squirrel free going forward. The cost of the project will be \$5,500. It will be financed through our line of credit with the bank.

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions. 231-633-7417 Thanks, Bill



Ready for some fun?

Our fall fundraiser will be a Painting Party for Safe Harbor.
Not walls or trim, but a lovely fall scene guided by Lisa Kennedy.
Save September 21st for a delightful evening.
More information will be coming over the summer.

Spring 2026 Basement Water Incursion and What Was Done About It.

You might remember the Maundy Thursday basement water incursion, or the weeks that we had to move coffee hour upstairs because the carpet was soaked. We cancelled exercise classes for two weeks and postponed one of the Friday Forums until late summer. **That was then....**

April 2nd:



Entry door area



Near bathrooms

Mid-April:



Wet Entry



East wall



Door to Kitchen



Pastor's Office



Kids' Room

Grant Johnson from GWJ began work May 26th to alleviate the root cause of the problem, and get the water away from the foundation. His company's work provided a high-performance hydrostatic pressure relief and foundation protection system to improve groundwater management, reduce pressure against the structure, and minimize long-term moisture intrusion risk. It combined a footing drainage system, exterior waterproofing system, and storm water collection improvements.

May 26th:



North Wall Excavation



East Wall Excavation

And--This is Now:

We have grass again! Many thanks to Bill Sawhill for getting more sprinklers, and to Mike Phelps for taking care of the watering!



(North Lawn)





2026 Flood Relief and 2027 Stewardship Program:

Our church has begun to feel like Noah's Ark to us—hasn't it? Last Spring's flooding and major repair work have put a real strain on our congregation's finances. We still had a loan out to finish paying for last year, when this year's flooding hit us! Our "Ark" needs your help both for a limited capital appeal for flood relief and for our 2027 regular pledge appeal.

Our Treasurer has recently cautioned the leadership of the church that our expenses are exceeding our income. Some of this is because of the extra expenses surrounding the water abatement, but mostly we are not able to keep up with our regular budgeted expenses. She has written, "I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but funds are VERY tight right now. We have an outstanding bill for an electrician on the change out of our four outdoor lights. We are gathering bids for a parsonage porch new railing. We are receiving bids to fix the rail at the handicap entrance. The parking lot needs a second coat of sealer. . .How do you plan to fund all these?"

Her question is a valid one. As good stewards of our financial resources we need to prayerfully consider how we can best support our church through our monetary gifts and "keep our Ark dry and afloat!"

You will receive your stewardship materials in the mail in the next few days . . .please take some time to read the letter and complete your Donation Planning Card – Thank you!

(P.S. Please note that our Annual Meeting has been moved to an earlier date. It will be September 27th)

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

FMI: Alison at 802-829-3211

Email: ajacobs.4818@gmail.com

Ages : 3rd Grade to 6th Grade



Youth Choir Opportunity

A new venture is coming for the 2026-2027 School year! A youth choir called "Singing Waters* Youth Chorus" is forming, sponsored by the Onekama UCC .

An organizational meeting will be held in the church sanctuary where rehearsals will be held:

September 1st, 2026, from 5 to 7 p.m.

First Congregational UCC of Onekama
Corner of Zosel & Spring Streets in Onekama

RSVP to ajacobs.4818@gmail.com

Please send an email or return tear-off slip by mail to let us know if your child is interested, Parents or a responsible adult should accompany the youth singer.

* This is what Onekama means in Anishinaabimowen

We are so excited to introduce our Director, Irene Cline. Irene is a teacher at KND schools and also has directed the Manistee Community Music Chorus. She is a CMU graduate.



Tear Off Along Dotted Line and send to: Alison Jacobs, P.O. Box 744, Onekama, MI 49675—0744

Name of Interested Youth Singer _____ Grade _____

Email Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Parent/Guardian Name (S) _____

PASTOR ALISON will be seeking a grant to fund the Chorus so it can begin in 2026 and will apply to the Mitten Project of the Michigan Conference for our church to be a cohort in their second year of activities for 2027 whose theme is "Worship and Prayer with Children through Music & Art." If you wish to contribute to start-up costs for the Chorus, please send a check to:
The First Congregational UCC, P.O. Box 307, Onekama, Mi 49675-0307 with "Singing Waters Youth Chorus" in the Memo Line. Thank you!

Fall Stretch and Balance Class Starts -

GET READY... TO EXERCISE!

TOO MANY SUMMER BARBEQUES?

TOO MANY PARTIES?

TOO MUCH DELICIOUS FOOD AS YOU ENTERTAIN SUMMER VISITORS?

If you 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 will be starting up again September 15, 2026. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 in our Fellowship Hall through December 17—a total of 26 classes.

There will be no class on October 22 or November 26. Drop-in cost is \$5.00 per class. The prepaid discounted rate is \$115. 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 on the far left 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!

Monthly 2026 Events & Dates

Worship – Every Sunday at 10 a.m.

Financial Advisory Committee – to be announced

Music & Worship – To Be Announced

Ministry Council – these two months it will be July 23rd & August 20th at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Game Night will meet in the *fellowship hall* with potluck on Friday July 17th and August 21st 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-July 14th at 1pm.

Constitution and By-laws review committee July 9th at 9:30 & July 29th at 3:30

Pie making is Friday August 7th at Maple Grove Community Center 10:00

Pie Sales August 8th 10:00 to 12:00 in the yard of Kathy & Dan Wilson

July Birthdays

16th Carol Rackow
20th Steve Peterson
21st Olivia Rackow
22nd Joe Halloran



July Anniversaries

25th Ried & Karen Martin
28th Dan & Nancy Behring

August Birthdays

1st Joan Milarch & Vickee Sawhill
3rd Shelly Lyman
5th Roger Sherwood
10th Bonnie Brown
11th Marcia Rogers & Rev. Alison Jacobs
16th Brooklyn Sawhill
20th Cindy Herkelrath
24th Louann Churchill
29th Phillip Smogoleski

August Anniversaries

13th Mike & Sharon Phelps
15th Dick & Marcia Rogers
25th John & Pam Lyman
28th Ed & Lynn Jans & Tom & Joy Lind
30th Jim & Kelly Robinson



**Annual
Church
Meeting**

**September 27th
Following coffee hour.**

A big THANK YOU
to all our coffee hour providers
for the first half of the year.
We appreciate your willingness to help.



July

5th Picnic in the Park
12th Carol Rackow
19th Shelly Lyman
26th Church Picnic at John & Pam Lyman's home

August

2nd Carol Rackow
9th Steve Brooks
16th Shelly Lyman
23rd Sharon Phelps
30th Lynn Jans

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

OUR MISSIONARY – Sarah Bledsoe in UGANDA



On June 24th Sarah Wrote: "Hard to believe that we just completed our last day of clinic! We saw 147 people today - that's a total of 429 people! I think it hasn't even hit me yet! We are absolutely amazed at how God used our "yes" to BU's first medical team!

We ended the day with quite the rainstorm! The P5 class had just come to the tents to be seen next and then we all ended up huddling under the tents! We ended the day by donating supplies to the medical staff from the district that came to help and also to two nurses that help treat our kids at the Bugiri and

Namayemba sites. It was tough to leave the school today - a lot of hugs and some tears as we said goodbye (or see you later since we all want to come back)! We headed to Pastor Tony and Mercy's home for a WONDERFUL dinner and a sweet time of fellowship. Our cup and our bellies are full!!! But our bodies are tired – Off to bed!"

Sarah is now home in Nashville!

May Treasurer's Report

Income from Contribution \$8,420.25

**Shed payment of \$150.00, Thrivent Loan \$13,000.00
One Great Hour of Sharing \$220.00, insurance claim check for
\$17,147.15, 2nd budgeted withdrawal from Endowment gains
of \$3,000.00, Memorial gifts of \$250.00, Ukraine Missions
\$1,012.48**



**Expenses \$25,986.18 with normal operating expenses and with payouts of \$14,850.00
was towards Outside water project starting, Mission payouts totaling \$1,014.98.**

June Treasurer's Report

Income from Contribution \$ 7,244.00

**Shed payment of \$300.00, Thrivent Loan \$5,500.00 for Squirrel removal, Christmas
Fund \$100.00, Strengthen the Church \$30.00, Food Pantry \$30.00, Gift for outside
water project \$1,000.00 & Memorial Gift \$25.00**

**Expenses \$28,490.21 with normal operating expenses and the Elevator three-year
load test as a state requirement of exp. \$3038.00, a 50% Deposit of \$2,750.00 to get
Hogarth's Pest Control started on the Squirrel project and Loan payments of \$1,450.00**

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