

FIRST CHURCH CONNECTION

September 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

“¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ . . . be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, . . .” Ephesians 5:17-19

My teenage and early adult years were filled with the sounds of Peter, Paul and Mary and Simon and Garfunkel. Our Youth Group often used these “contemporary” artists’ songs to illustrate a spiritual point we were trying to make in a church camp or youth worship event. Cue “Bridge Over Troubled Waters” here!

So, it was with a bit of surprise that I read that in an interview with Tom Powers for the CBC, Paul Simon stated that he has no religious inclination. He stated point blank “I am not religious.” This seems even odder when one notes that Mr. Simon’s latest album is called “Seven Psalms:” and is a 33-minute-long work meant to be listened to in one sitting. And . . . it was inspired by a dream he had on January 15, 2019, when a voice said to him “you are working on a piece called Seven Psalms.” And . . . the way that the piece was written was through nightly inspiration from 3:00 to 5:30am in the morning over a long period of time. He felt that he was no more than a scribe writing what he heard. Move over Ezekiel, Joseph and Jacob and all the dreamers in the biblical witness!

When writing about this seeming contradiction in the album’s YouTube trailer, Mr. Simon said “this whole piece is really an argument I’m having with myself about belief, or not.” (CC, p. 69 Sept. 2023) So there it is—an absolutely perfect definition of what it means to be a seeking spiritual person. All of this begs the question that so often plagues the church today. So many people when asked why they don’t go to church they say, “I am spiritual, but not religious.” How do we, as an organized institution, let people know that our community of faith, though based on ‘rock-solid’ traditions, is not hide-bound by them? That all of us here are “having an argument with ourselves about belief?” That all of us have doubts and questions? That all of us are spiritual, as well as, religious? When Paul Simon can write in his Seven Psalms: “The Lord is my engineer/The Lord is the earth I ride on/The Lord is the face of the atmosphere/the path I slip and slide on . . .” how can this not be seen as chock full of religion and spirituality?

In one of his most famous songs of the 70’s, “Loves Me Like a Rock,” Paul Simon writes “When I was a little boy/And the Devil called my name/I’d say, “Now who do (who)/Who do you think you’re fooling?” So, now I want to say to him—“not religious? Really? Who do you think you’re fooling? Mr. Simon?!”

With Love—Pastor Alison

Community Outreach

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 Anishinaabemowin

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.



TENTATIVE Schedule for "Singing Waters Youth Chorus"

Rehearsals, probably Wednesday, after school from 4-6pm at the First Congregational UCC of Onekama. Third Grade to Sixth Grade with Two Eight-Week Cycles, with a "Harvest Concert" the week before Thanksgiving and a "Cabin Fever Concert" in very early or late March (to avoid conflicting with the Cooperative Drama Program Musical) and maybe to help with rehearsal of the musical songs. Grants have been written to pay for the entire cost of the program.



September local food pantry

Collection items are Mac and Cheese. You can drop them off at the back of the sanctuary and we will see they get to the St. Joseph



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. Painting Party Fundraiser
for Safe Harbor Monday, September 21 at 6:30 pm.**

Let's have fun! Bring a friend! Lisa Kennedy of Sip and Stroke Painting will guide us through the process of creating our personal painting with a fall theme. She will guide us step-by-step, using acrylic paints on canvas and we take home something pretty as well as contributing to the mission of Safe Harbor:

Cost: \$40 (scholarship will be available if requested). \$15.00 goes to Safe Harbor.

Lisa provides all the materials (paints, brushes, canvas, easel). 26 people can be accommodated with a minimum of 20 to make this successful. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP: Lisa Kennedy will be taking care of all the registration beginning in September. Watch for more information.

Safe Harbor of Manistee County

Providing shelter to individuals and families experiencing homelessness and working to eliminate barriers to stable housing. Winter sanctuary from November through April providing a warm, safe environment, meals, vital document recovery, housing resources and connections to agencies and resources to those experiencing homelessness in the communities we serve. Safe Harbor, in collaboration with ECHO HIS LOVE Homeless Advocacy Coalition has begun a program to provide educational classes for those experiencing homelessness in Manistee County.

<https://www.wchohislove.org>

Sixth of Nine
“Aging Well”
Free Public
Forums

Presenter



Fourth Fridays from Jan.—May then Aug.—Oct, 2026 & Jan. - Feb, 2027

September 25, 2026

Terri Winegarden Esq.

11am-1pm

Elder Law Attorney

First Congregational UCC of Onekama Fellowship Hall

Corner of Zosel and Spring Streets in Onekama

A Free Lunch will be catered by “Carefree Catering”

Attorney Terri Winegarden established Winegarden Elder Law, PLLC, after having previously worked as an associate attorney from 2011 until 2014 for the Ternes Elder Law Firm, PLLC.

Ms. Winegarden’s practice focuses on elder law and disability matters, particularly Medicaid planning, estate planning, special-needs planning, guardianship and conservatorship petitions, probate and trust administration, and Veteran Administration benefits claims. She will touch on these issues in her presentation.

Sponsored by Onekama Congregational UCC

And the Portage Lake Association

FMI: Alison at 802-829-3211



IMPORTANT HEALTH TIP...

STEPS TO KEEP THAT BEACH BODY YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON ALL SUMMER:

1. MAKE A PLAN TO GET BACK TO AN EXERCISE ROUTINE!

Fall is right around the corner, which means... **Tuesdays / Thursdays 3:30 to 4:30** Stretch, Strength and Balance exercise classes **begin September 15th** in our Church Fellowship Hall.

2. SIGN UP for the next 26-class session, which will last until December 17, 2026, for a prepaid fee of \$115. **NOTE: No class on Oct. 22 nor on Nov. 26.**

3. PLEASE PRE-PAY * by the first night of class with a check made out to Tonya Evans. *Drop-ins are always welcome for \$5 per class.

4. BRING YOUR OWN *weights*, and yoga mat or towel for floor exercises. Chair exercises are available as an option to floor exercises.

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)



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!

5. COME ENJOY: the fun, puns, good music and great camaraderie 😊

Monthly 2026 Events & Dates

Worship – Every Sunday at 10 a.m.

Financial Advisory Committee – September 14th at 1:30

Music & Worship – September 13th after worship in the parlor

Ministry Council – September 17th at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Game Night will meet in the ***fellowship hall*** with potluck on Friday 18th at 6:00pm.

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

Bible Study – Is on Mondays in Fellowship Hall from 1-2:30pm

Community Outreach Ministry- meets at 1:30 September 15th.



**September
27th after
church service
with a potluck.**

DATES TO NOTE

September 21 – Painting Party Fundraiser at 6:30 pm

October 1 – Onekama's Parade of Scarecrows

October 31 – Spooktacular(indoors) – 5-7 pm

November 26 – Community Thanksgiving Dinner

September Birthdays

2nd Kathleen Smogoleski

16th Jerry Brown

26th Jeron Hanson

27th Lusetta Lentz

September Anniversaries

2nd Ed & Dawn Kalis

7th Todd & Kim Lagerquist

18th Carl & Joan Milarch



September Providers



6th Shelly Lyman

13th Sharon Phelps

20th Joan Milarch

27th Carol Rackow

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

Treasurer's Report for August 2026

Income

Contributions of \$ 6,676.00

Christmas Fund #2 \$43.00, Food Pantry \$15.00,

Fundraising \$1,074.50, Contributions for 2027 but received

now so put in our saving account till next year of \$300.00,

Memorial gift \$25.00, refund rental from Maple Grove Community Center where we made the pie's \$100.00, Flood Relief \$6,675.00

Anonymous Gift of \$3,700 to pay off the flood relief loan.



Expenses of \$12,478.81 normal operating expenses along with \$3,700.00 were paid out on our loan from flood relief donations.

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



September

by Rebecca Hey

Now the Earth yields her strength! The teeming ground

Seems lighten'd of its curse: on every side

The hills rejoice, the valleys far and wide

Stand thick with corn, and harvest-songs resound.

The garden its rich dainties scatters round,

While lane and copse, by Nature only till'd,

An ample store of humbler fruitage yield,

Berries and nuts by Autumn suns embrown'd

But, ah! amid such visions of delight,

Those few rich tints upon the forest boughs,

Like the fine flush, so ominously bright,

Which on her victim's cheek Consumption throws,

Too truly speak of wasting and decay,

And, sighing, I pursue my woodland way.