***PJ Ponderings…*** **August 2018**

As I celebrated another birthday in July, my thought turned to my **beloved United Church of Christ**. You see… we are the same age!

I was born just three weeks after the merger of our 4 predecessor bodies; **Evangelical, Reform, Congregational, & Christian**. I am a first generation UCC member!

Over the many, many years I have been blessed to watch up close our denomination grow in faithfulness even in the midst of a multitude of changes. While we seem to constantly be in a state of change, we still are, at our very core, who we were at birth. **We still value our ability to sit in the pew with those whose faith may take them in different directions on social issue. We remain a united and uniting church of Christ.**

Let us celebrate our heritage!

**The Purpose of the United Church of Christ:**

To love God with all our hearts, mind, soul and strength

and our neighbor as ourselves*. (Matthew 22)*

**The Vision of the United Church of Christ:**

United in Christ’s love, a just world for all.

**The Mission of the United Church of Christ:**

United in Spirit and inspired by God’s grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

**The Core Values of the United Church of Christ**:

 Extravagant Welcome

 Continuing Testament

 Changing Lives

*I invite you to join me in giving thanks for our beloved church.*

 *~ Pastor Jane*