

**October
2020**

Still Speaking

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Board of Directors:

- **Dennis Artley, treasurer**
- **Bill Dempsey**
- **Blair Diamond**
- **Boris Gerber**
- **Ann Gerow, vice-chair**
- **Nancy Wedge**
- **Vicky Lindsay**
- **Jim Mc Neil, chair**
- **Beth Petty**

Dates to Remember

4

Sunday Worship

Virtual Worship is also available

11

Sunday Worship

Rev. Lance's retirement reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the service

12

Board Meeting in Fellowship Hall 5:30pm

Everyone is welcome (masks required to enter; seated more than 6-feet apart)

18

Sunday Worship

Virtual Worship still available

25

Sunday Worship

Virtual Worship still available

NOTE: Please don't forget about the sign-up sheet for the Altar Flowers!

A Word From Our Minister: Your Transitional Pastor

Rev. Case

Some people would call it a coincidence and others, like my wife Judith, would call it a "grace-idence". Grace or coincidence — some things happen that have positive impacts on a life without any input by the individual. When the Rev. Dr. Lance (Paul) was ordained, it was my privilege to be part of the Ecclesiastical Council that recommended his ordination and to take part in his ordination here in the sanctuary of our church. These last few years, he has been our family's pastor and ministered to us in a difficult time. Now it is my privilege to be present at his retirement and able to wish him & Patty the best as they start a new chapter in their life together. Congratulations Paul and thank you for your ministry.

Starting on Oct. 1, I will become the "Transitional Minister" here at the church. It has been 17 years since I retired in 2003 after serving as the church pastor for almost 20 years. A lot has changed since then and the church is not the same church that I left and I am not the same person I was when we left.

It has been my honor to be your Pastor Emeritus. Many of you I have known since 1984 when I became your pastor, others of you I have come to know during my time serving as Interim Minister at various churches and after a significant length of time attending services here at our church. There are some of you I hardly know at all and look forward to getting to know you. Let me very briefly introduce myself to you.

My first church was in Fulton Michigan, 1969-1973, where I served as a student pastor and then was ordained there in 1972. I have served as a pastor for 51 years and been ordained for 48 years. I served in Lewiston from 1973 until I came here in 1984. As most of you know my name is Bob Case (Harold Robert Case) and I received my master's degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and my doctorate from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. My wife's name is Judith. She taught elementary school for 32 years. We have four children... three of whom live in the area. (That is the reason we stayed in Alpena after our retirement.) We have ten grandchildren and seven live in Alpena. We are surely blessed by this. I taught Philosophy, Ethics and World Religions at ACC. The Rev. Tom Downs, Trinity Episcopal Church, and I had a television show every Sunday on WBKB for 15 years. The church also established a relationship with our sister church in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Well, that is more than enough about me. As I said, I look forward to meeting all of you.

As was mentioned earlier, the title that the Board has given the position is "Transitional Minister" and that is different than an interim. An "interim" usually works full time and helps to evaluate the church's common life and ministry. I have been asked to preach on Sunday mornings, hold office hours one day a week, and officiate at funerals, weddings, and baptisms. I will be available at other times as needed. How can I be reached? My address is 209 Woodland Dr. (off of Long Rapids Rd.), my cell phone is 989-657-0477 and my email address is revdrcase@hotmail.com. Please feel free to contact me.

As I mentioned: God's Speed to Paul and Patty, and I look forward to serving as your Transitional Minister.

Bob Case

Creating a Beloved Community

Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of Alpena

MONTHLY BOOK & FILM DISCUSSION SERIES

RAISING COMMUNITY AWARENESS ABOUT RACIAL ISSUES
EMAIL: ABELOVEDCOMMUNITY.ALPENA@GMAIL.COM TO REQUEST ZOOM LINK

** Books Available at the MLK, Jr. Bookshelf at United Way**
108 Water Street, Alpena

Contact: abelovedcommunity.alpena@gmail.com

OCT. 7 at 6:30 p.m. (on Zoom)

INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL BY HARRIET JACOBS

This book documents Jacobs's life as a slave and how she gained freedom for herself and for her children. Explore the practice of slavery, along with the practice of slave resistance. 176 pages, \$13.32 new, \$4.99 paperback

Sandra Pilgrim-Lewis, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Victim Services, Discussion Leader

Each Cub Scout grade level is a rank and is associated with an animal or symbol.

Scouting continues this fall for the Scout troops and Cub packs sponsored by our church.

Do you know of any families with boys and girls who would be interested in the *hands-on fun* and *learning of life-long leadership skills* offered by scouting?

Our boy and girl **Troops** will be meeting on Monday evenings, either in our parking lot (when weather allows) or in Fellowship Hall (if Covid-19 allows). The **Cub scout pack** meetings will be at the convenience of the den leader. Some of them may meet on Mondays in church classrooms.

For more information, please call:

- ***Boy** Troop 78 Scoutmaster Joe: (989) 766-3683
- ***Girl** Troop 278 Scoutmaster Mary Ann: (989) 255-7717
- ***Pack** 3078 Cubmaster Dave: (810) 887-7494
- *Charter Organization Representative **Boris**: (860) 794- 7547



The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on World Communion Sunday, October 4, supports the United Church of Christ’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. (There is an offering envelope enclosed in this Newsletter when it is mailed to you.)

Thank you.

The prolonged impact of COVID-19 has caused increased economic challenge for many of our churches and UCC Conferences.

Due to the effects of this pandemic, the elected officers of the United Church of Christ believe that the highest priority for our churches is to offer relief where possible. Thus, monies from Neighbors in Need will be used to provide financial assistance for local church ministries helping people in crisis.

Neighbors in Need helps make A Just World for All possible.

October 4th is World Communion Sunday – Discussion Class – Sermons etc.

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday so we will be having a Communion Service. This is the first week I will be in the pulpit. The worship committee met via Zoom and we decided to use **prepackaged communion supplies**. When you come into the church there will be a table set up with the prepackaged cup and wafer for you to pick up. They will be placed on the table by a person wearing gloves. When you pick up your cup and wafer they will be in one package but separately wrapped. Simply take off the first wrap and you will find a wafer, while we are doing this we will sing **Let Us Break Bread Together**. Then when it is time for the cup simply remove the foil on the plastic glass with the juice and we will sing **Walls Mark Our Bound'ries**. When the service is over we will ask you to place the used cup and plastic in the receptacle at the sanctuary exit. This should be very similar to our normal communion Sunday.

If you are not worshipping with us in the sanctuary (but viewing the virtual worship service), we ask you to have some bread and some juice to receive Holy Communion with us. If you wish, you can call the office and we can save one of the prepackaged communion wafer and cup (like the one we will use in the Sanctuary Service) at the entrance of the church for you to pick up. Everyone who handles the communion packages will be wearing sterile gloves. If you have any questions you can call the church office (989) 356-1795, or feel free to call me at 989-657-0477.

This is the first time I have tried out doing worship via YouTube and if you have any ideas or comments about the service and that includes the sermon let me or a member of the worship committee know of your ideas.

Thanks,

Bob



Some of you are familiar with the very famous New Testament Scholar **N.T. Wright**. He has just finished a short book, about 80 pages, entitled **“God and the Pandemic”**. We have heard a lot about the Pandemic from many different sources, but not much on how a Christian should approach the Pandemic and what it does and does not say about God.

If there is interest I would like to do a discussion group around this book. It is a very readable book if anyone would like to have your own copy. It will not be necessary to have the book to be part of the discussion group. If you would be interested please let me know by calling the office or me. You can also drop me an email. My email address is included in this newsletter on the front page article.

I hope to have a discussion group every week with each topic lasting 3-4 weeks except during the holiday season. If there is a subject, book, or idea you wish to use for a discussion group please let me know. You can simply leave a note or drop in to the Church office. I plan on having office hours one day a week. That day is yet to be determined. – Rev. Case

First Congregational United Church of Christ
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Alpena, MI 49707

Phone: 989-356-1795 Fax 989-356-8825
Web Site: <http://uccalpena.org>
Email: officeuccalp@gmail.com
Office Hours: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Monday – Thursday

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Transitional Minister: Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case
Choir Director/Organist:: Kat Tomaszewski
Treasurer: Denise Fusina
Secretary: Kristi Blackaby
Custodian: Mike LaMarre

Still Speaking

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Birthdays and **Anniversaries in October**

Let's Celebrate October

Birthdays for:

Paul Lance	10/01
Linda Clegg	10/03
Sarah Zeller	10/03
Linda Christiaens	10/04
Thomas Cook	10/05
Timothy Standen	10/05
Sharyl Davis	10/09
Thelma McDonald	10/09
Bonnie Bartz	10/18
Bobbi Zubi	10/21
Lori Zeller	10/26
Marcia Aten	10/27
Nathan Barden	10/28

Wedding Anniversaries in October

Jim & Cindy Straley	10/01	14 years
Bill & Linda Clegg	10/21	59 years
Jay & Marilyn Kettler	10/23	50 years
Richard & Mary Bloom	10/28	53 years

