

April
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

5

Palm Sunday
(see bulletin inside)

9

Maundy Thursday
(see bulletin inside)

12

Easter Sunday
(see bulletin inside)

13

Board Meeting
has been cancelled
(due to precautions)

19

Sunday Worship (will
be recorded, not held.
Please stay home.)

If you do not have
access to a comput-
er to **view** the three
services on our web-
site, **please call Bri**
(356-1795). Thanks!

A Word From Our Minister: “Virtual” Worship

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance III

A microscopic virus is wreaking havoc with people’s daily lives the world over. The virtue of “better safe than sorry” is the mode of the day... of the month, actually! Concern about contagion has mandated “stay home, stay safe” orders from Michigan’s governor, especially for folks who are older or who have compromised immune systems. Frankly, that describes many of our members.

While most of us take precautions against ordinary colds and seasonal flu — and our custodian, Mike LaMarre, comes in every day to wipe down door handles, crash-bars, elevator buttons, etc. in the Church — our Board of Directors has decided to call off worship services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday.

However, those of you who have a computer at home will be able to join us for “virtual” worship — virus-free and at your convenience.



Our organist/choir director, Kat Tomaszewski, and I will record the worship services for all three of those days. She will provide the music, and we’ll print the lyrics in this Newsletter, along with the responsive readings. I will preach the sermons and Lynn Borke will be the Lay Reader. Our Church Secretary, Bri Fastnaught, will up-load them to our website — uccalpena.org. They will be on our “home page” so you can view Palm Sunday on April 5, the Maundy Thursday “Lord’s Last Supper” service on April 9, and the Easter Sunday worship service on April 12. (Unfortunately, there will be no “Easter Sunrise” service at the Yacht Club this year. We will miss it.)

Easter brings new hope and new life. We may have to “stay home”, but we can “stay connected” using the internet. Let’s put some “**virtue**” into being “**virtual**” — maybe we’ll “go viral” without the virus! With God’s help, we can make it through these tough times. Even though the virus is spreading, God is with us. No difficulty is too vast for God. Spring time brings more sun, and flowers, and animal life to our community. This would be a good time to **re-vive** our relationships by phone calls/email and to **reconnect** beyond the “quarantine” and “social distancing” required by the coronavirus precautions. I’ll see you at “virtual church”. — Rev. Lance

Palm Sunday worship – April 5 – (go to uccalpena.org to view the video)

Words of Welcome

Lynn Borke, Lay Reader

Opening Hymn “**Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates**” (see Newsletter insert for words) **Kat Tomaszewski**

Call To Worship and Morning Prayer

One: Psalm 118 declares: “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

All: Save us, we beseech You, O Lord. Save us, Hosanna! Lord, save us.”

One: The prophet Zechariah said: “Rejoice greatly, O Zion! Shout loudly, Jerusalem, for, lo, your king comes to you.

All: Triumphant & victorious is he! Humble and riding on a donkey, is he; on a colt, a foal of a donkey.

One: He will cut off the chariots, and the war horses from Jerusalem.

All: The battle bow will be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations.”

One: In the isolation of our homes, we remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. We have no crowd around us, but may we imagine the joy of the people that day, and may we share their hope for liberation.

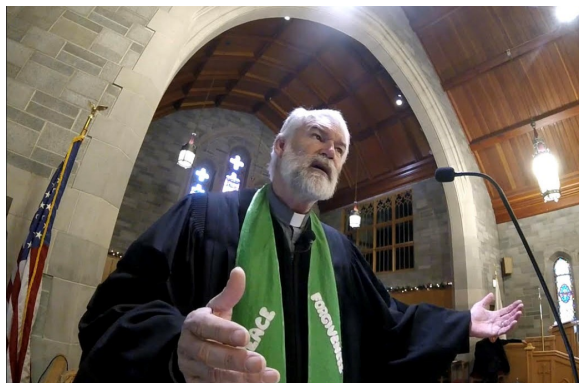
All: And may we also take to heart the challenge that Jesus brought to the status quo, confronting the way things were back then and, unfortunately, in some ways, still are.

One: Bless us, O Lord God, our Creator, in this hour of worship. We may be separated in our homes, but we are united in Thy Spirit. Let us now pray, using words Jesus taught us to say together:

All: “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.”

The Gloria Patri (sung)

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.”



Scripture John 12:12-19

Hymn “**The King of Glory**”
(see the Newsletter insert for the words)

Sermon “King Jesus – A Contradiction in Terms”
Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance, Minister

Doxology “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen”

Benediction

Rest secure in the loving grace of Jesus Christ; live in the joy of the Gospel of good news; and proclaim the faith which leads to life, not death; all in the name of Jesus, the Christ, our Lord & Savior. **Amen.**

Unison Response (sung)

And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.
(words and music by Michael Joncas, 1979,
used with permission CCLI#1117-0235)

Easter Sunday worship – April 12 – (go to uccalpena.org to view the video)

Words of Welcome and Opening Remarks

Lynn Borke, Lay Reader

Opening Song

Were You There?

Kat Tomaszewski, Organist/Pianist, Choir Director

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O -- sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

(verse 2) Were you there when they placed him in the tomb?

(verse 3) Were you there when Christ rose up from the grave?

Call To Worship

One: Christ the Lord is risen today! He bears witness to God's power and to God's victory over sin and death. Each in our individual homes, nevertheless united in Spirit, we say:

All: Christ the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Let us rejoice and be glad for it.

One: Christ the Lord is risen! Through him, and to all those who believe, there is the promise of new life and new beginnings. Separated in our homes, we are united in our faith, through God's Holy Spirit.

All: Christ the Lord is risen indeed! Let our alleluias bear witness to all that He has done.

The Gloria Patri (sung)

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen."

SCRIPTURE Mark 16:1-8

Hymn of Faith

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All Creation joins to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let all people join to sing: Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, Christ lives to save. Alleluia! Where's your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done. Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Him rise. Alleluia! God has opened paradise! Alleluia!

SERMON: "The Easter Event in Mark's Gospel: An Unbelievable Story" Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance, Minister

Pastoral Prayer and Our Lord's Prayer (we say "debts" instead of "trespasses")

Doxology "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." (words on preceding page)

Benediction

God of Eternal Life, transform us this day into a people of life, healed and whole, filled with new life... so that every thought we have, every word we speak, and every deed we do may reveal your Resurrection promise, risen & alive among us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Unison Response (sung)

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

(words and music by Michael Joncas, 1979, used with permission CCLI#1117-0235)



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: 9:00 am — 1:00 pm Monday — Thursday

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

(Services are cancelled until April 19)

Minister: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance III

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case

Choir Director/Organist: Kat Tomaszewski

Treasurer: Denise Fusina

Secretary: Bri Fastnaught

Custodian: Mike LaMarre

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Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Birthdays and Anniversaries in April

4/1 - Joan Chrzan

4/8 - Max & Vicky Lindsay (42 years)

4/11 - Miranda Plume

4/12 - Janet Southwell

Brian Hanna

Curtis & Sharyl Davis (51 years)

4/14 - Bill Lewis

4/15 - Katie Mack

4/17 - Alison Bloom-Storey

Dan Storey (21 years)

4/19 - Kristin Barden

Dottie Haase

4/20 - Dennis Artley

4/21 - Lydia Hanna

4/24 - Debra Grubaugh

Patty McNeil

Jere Standen

4/28 - Bob Kelly

Donna Marsh

**Patrick Labadie & June Perry
(47 years)**

4/29 - Patty Lance

The altar shown here includes the candle for Palm Sunday and the "cairn" (pile of prayer stones) and other Lenten elements provided by Rev. Ginny Titus. *Thank you, Ginny.*



May God bless you as you stay "homebound". Be well. God loves you!