

DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS

WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE’S JOURNEY, *YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.*

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ADVENT IS A TIME OF PREPARATION, A PERIOD FOR EACH OF US TO EXAMINE OURSELVES IN THE LIGHT OF GOD’S WORD AND WILL - AND TO TURN TO GOD FOR FORGIVENESS AND REDEMPTION.

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(\*) INDICATES WHEN THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK AS IT IS PASSED DURING ANNOUNCEMENTS; THEN PASS IT TOWARD THE CENTER AISLE.)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (RESPONSIVE LITANY)

LEADER: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE CELEBRATE WITH JOYFUL HEARTS.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR JOY.**

LEADER: WE COUNT OUR BLESSINGS, AND GIVE THANKS FOR GOD’S GOODNESS AND GRACE.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR JOY.**

LEADER: WE STRIVE TO SEARCH FOR THE GOOD IN OUR NEIGHBORS NEAR AND FAR.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR JOY.**

LEADER: WE REMEMBER THAT GOD HAS PROMISED US FULL AND JOYFUL LIVES.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR JOY.**

**[JOIN THE CHOIR IN REFRAIN - SEE INSERT]**

\*OPENING HYMN: #116 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (VERSES 4-5)

*PSALTERIOLUM CANTIONUM CATHOLICARUM*, 1710 BASED ON ANCIENT ANTIPHONS FROM ADVENT VESPERS TRANSL. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1851, AND OTHERS; ALT. ST. 2, 7, TRANSL. HENRY SLOANE COFFIN, 1916;ALT.

\*OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

LAY READER, KAREN BACON

**ALL: GOD OF ALL THE EARTH, YOU VISITED THE WORLD WITH YOUR WORD AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME, SETTING IN MOTION THE UNIVERSE. AND NOW YOU VISIT THE WORLD AGAIN, YOUR WORD MADE FLESH. IT IS MORE THAN WE COULD ASK, MORE THAN WE DESERVE, AND MORE THAN WE CAN UNDERSTAND. WE OFFER OUR PROFOUND THANKS AND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE. 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.**

WORDS: ANONYMOUS, 4TH CENTURY. MUSIC: HENRY GREATORREX. THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 24:1-35

SERMON: “WHAT TO EXPECT”

REV. DICK HOTCHKIN

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

\*HYMN: #103 WATCHER, TELL US OF THE NIGHT (ALL VERSES)

JOHN BOWRING; 1825; ALT.

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LEADER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

\*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.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR

JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD’S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. **AMEN.**

\*CLOSING HYMN: #119 My Soul Gives Glory to My God (ALL VERSES)

MARIAM THERESE WINTER, 1987

\*BENEDICTION

\*UNISON RESPONSE:

**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. AMEN.**

POSTLUDE

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

**GREETERS:** DAN KIBBE & LOIS GIBBS  
**USHERS:** MAX & VICKY LINDSAY  
**FELLOWSHIP:** JIM & CINDY STRALEY

**ALTAR GUILD:** VICKY LINDSAY  
**LAY READER:** KAREN BACON  
**COUNTERS:** DENNIS & JANET ARTLEY

#### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

|               |                    |                       |                                             |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY</b> | <b>DECEMBER 14</b> | <b>10:00 AM</b>       | <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>                      |
| <b>FRIDAY</b> | <b>DECEMBER 19</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b>       | <b>WORLD RELIGIONS CLASS</b>                |
|               |                    | <b>5:30 - 7:30 PM</b> | <b>CANDLELIGHT CONCERT &amp; OPEN HOUSE</b> |

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY JIM & CINDY STRALEY IN CELEBRATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP WE SHARE AND THE BLESSINGS WE SHARE AS A CHURCH FAMILY.
- ❖ OUR ANNUAL **CHRISTMAS FUND** COLLECTION WILL BE RECEIVED TODAY. PLEASE INCLUDE A MEMO "**CHRISTMAS FUND**" ON YOUR CHECK WHICH MAY BE DROPPED IN THE COLLECTION PLATE. ENVELOPES FOR CASH DONATIONS ARE AVAILABLE WITH THE USHERS.
- ❖ PLEDGE CARDS MAY BE PICKED UP FROM THE BACK TABLE IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE ONE OR NEED ANOTHER.
- ❖ THE **GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS CLASS** FACILITATED BY REV. GENE BACON WILL CONTINUE ON **DECEMBER 19TH**. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.
- ❖ WE ARE COLLECTING WARM HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES, AND SOCKS FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS WINTER. PLACE THEM ON THE MITTEN TREE ACROSS FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE.
- ❖ **UPCOMING DATES** TO NOTE:
  - **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT & OPEN HOUSE ~ 5:30-7:30PM (DECEMBER 19).**
  - **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ~ 7PM (DECEMBER 24).**
- ❖ SEE NANCY WEDGE TO GRAB SOME DISHCLOTHS (\$2.50 EACH) FOR STOCKING STUFFERS OR GIFT EXCHANGE GIFTS. CORN BROOMS (\$20 EACH) ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.
- ❖ PLEASE CHECK FOR **CARDS AND CARE LETTERS** IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.
- ❖ **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** FOR **DECEMBER** FOOD BOXES: CHICKEN OR TURKEY GRAVY (CANNED OR PACKAGED), AU GRATIN POTATOES (IN BOXES OUR POUCHES), AND CEREAL (ALL KINDS).  
**MESSAGE FROM KATHY CECI:** THE FOOD PANTRY IS UNABLE TO STAY STOCKED WITH CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP. IT SEEMS THAT IS WHAT MOST FAMILIES WANT. THANK YOU FOR BEING SO SUPPORTIVE OF THE FOOD PANTRY.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED, SHOWN ON THE INTERNET, AS THEY ARE HAPPENING AND RECORDED FOR VIEWING ONLINE LATER. PEOPLE IN THE SANCTUARY ATTENDING THE SUNDAY SERVICE MAY BE SEEN AS PART OF THE LIVE-STREAM AND RECORDING.

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A UNISEX HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM IS LOCATED THROUGH THE DOORS TO YOUR LEFT AS YOU EXIT THE SANCTUARY. A HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE LADIES RESTROOM IS NEAR THE LOCKWOOD STREET ENTRANCE. A MEN'S ROOM IS IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.
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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 14, 2025

*As an Open and Affirming congregation,  
we welcome people as they are,  
share Jesus as He is, and serve  
our community and the world in love.*



*The Rev. Dr. Richard E. Hotchkin, Transition Minister*

*The Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus*

Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*

Office Administrator: *Leslie Reynolds*

Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*

Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Office hours: 9:00am — 1:00pm, Monday — Thursday

Phone: (989) 356-1795

Email: [officeuccalp@gmail.com](mailto:officeuccalp@gmail.com) — Web page: [www.uccalpena.org](http://www.uccalpena.org)

201 South Second Avenue • Alpena, Michigan 49707