

Welcome, All Worshipers

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

*"Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done."
~C.S. Lewis, Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*

~~~~~  
(\* indicates when those who are able will stand.)  
~~~~~

Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BILL DEMPSEY, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

***OPENING HYMN: #125 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH** ALL VERSES

*Call to Worship

Leader: How magnificent is all creation!

All: God's love is poured throughout all God has created.

Leader: God's love is poured out upon us each day.

All: Praise be to God!

Leader: Let your souls and spirits rejoice at the goodness of God.

All: Let all the people praise God! Amen.

*Opening Prayer

All: God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus' birth, sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals. You have given to us a new chance, a reminder of your continual love for us. Be with us in this worship, we pray. Guide our thoughts, our lives, our spirits. Heal and restore us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. 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 Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 63:7-9

ANTHEM

CHOIR

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-23

SERMON: OBEDIENCE IN THE FACE OF DANGER

REV. JON GOUGEON

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

***HYMN: #127 LO, HOW A ROSE E'RE BLOOMING** ALL VERSES

(PLEASE BE SEATED.)

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD. WE SHARE FROM OUR ABUNDANCE WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***CLOSING HYMN: #154 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN** ALL VERSES

*BENEDICTION

Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. Amen.

***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. *Words/music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream obtained from One License #A-739847.*

Postlude

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

Lay Reader: **Bill Dempsey**
Ushers: **Lynne Stewart** and **Pat Labadie**
Communion Ministry: **Nancy Wedge**

Altar Guild: **Nancy Wedge**
Fellowship Hosts: **Jeff & Ann Gerow**
Greeter: **Lillian Banas**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 1, 2023

*We welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	January 1	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday	January 2	9:00 a.m.	Office Closed
Thursday	January 5	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	January 5	7:30 p.m.	Welcoming Committee Mtg (via Zoom)

Announcements:

- ❖ We will be taking down the Christmas decorations next Sunday, January 8 following the worship service. Please plan to help if you are able.
- ❖ The Welcoming Committee is meeting at 7:30pm this Thursday, January 5. The meeting is via Zoom, and all are welcome to attend. To join us just click the "Join Fellowship Hour Here" button on our church webpage. We continue to share ideas for our church's exploration as a welcoming church.
- ❖ Quick reminder for members - Don't forget to check the mail pouches in the hall outside the pastor's office for correspondences and messages.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters each week in the middle hall and to keep the recipients in your prayers.

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 services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.

~~~~~  
A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies' room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men's room is in the middle hallway.  
~~~~~



Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
Part-Time Interim Pastor: *Reverend Jon Gougeon*
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*
Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Live-stream Technician: *Brayden Broad*
Office hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Thursday
Phone: (989) 356-1795

Email: officeuccalp@gmail.com -- Web page: www.uccalpena.org
201 South Second Avenue • Alpena, Michigan 49707