

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

“God does not give us everything we want, but God does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOTTIE HAASE, LAY READER

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

***OPENING HYMN: #570 WE SHALL OVERCOME** (VERSES 1, 2, 4)

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Word is a lamp and a light. The Word illuminates our life.

All: We welcome The Word with praise and thanksgiving.

Leader: The Word comes from the mouth of God and accomplishes His purpose.

All: We hear The Word that loves and embraces, challenges and convicts, renews and restores.

Leader: The Word is life and offers a future of hope. It creates peace in the midst of the storm.

All: We receive The Word among us, with rejoicing! We worship The Word in Spirit and in Truth!

*Opening Prayer

All: Creator, your presence among us illuminates our lives. Make us fertile soil, receptive to the seeds planted by your Word. Nourish us with Living Water and grow us through the energy of your empowered and healing rays of light. Let us encounter you afresh as we gather in community. May our worship show our love for you and, each other. Make your presence known to us and through us, for your glory. 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.

FIRST READING: GENESIS 28:10-19

SECOND READING: PSALM 139:1-12, 23-24

SERMON: “PILLOW TALK”

REV. LAURA HOFFMAN

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

***HYMN: #425 FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION** (VERSES 1, 2)

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING (PLEASE BE SEATED)

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: #8 PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD** (VERSES 1, 4)

*BENEDICTION

Minister: “May God give you the grace no to sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good, grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but Truth, and too small for anything but Love.”

*Unison Response:

And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breadth 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

Lay Reader: **Dottie Haase**
Fellowship Hosts: **Bob & Diane Kelly**
Greeter: **Bill & Debbie Dempsey**

Altar Guild: **Deb Butler**
Ushers: **Lill Banas & Boris Gerber**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 23, 2023

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



Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*
Office Administrator: *Nancy Ross*
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Office hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Thursday
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This Week's Calendar

Sunday July 23 10:00 AM Worship Service and Fellowship Time

Announcement

- ❖ We are pleased to welcome Reverend Laura Hoffman to lead our worship service today.
- ❖ **Fellowship Hosts are still needed for August (including partial month availability). Please use the sign-up sheets at the back of the sanctuary.**
- ❖ July Ladies luncheon is August 11, Friday at 11:45 am at Chee Peng Restaurant, 1237 US 23 N, in Alpena. Please note that we have changed the place that we usually meet. Reservations are not necessary. Call Peg at 989-352-281-2283 or Dottie at 989-916-4104 with questions. Friends and guests are always welcome.
- ❖ Feed A Family Needs - Individual crackers & cheese packets, crackers & peanut butter packets or cookies packets, Jello or pudding 4-packs, canned Spaghettios or macaroni & sauce, soups (any kind). *Thank you for your continued support to our food pantry. ~Kathy, Salvation Army*
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.
- ❖ Deadline for Newsletter articles is July 24.
- ❖ Worship Committee meeting Monday, August 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm.
- ❖ Your 6 month Giving Statements can be found in the Alpha Pouches outside the Pastor's Office. Thank you for your support.

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.

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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  
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