Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"Joy, not grit, is the hallmark of holy obedience. We need to be light-hearted in what we do to avoid taking ourselves too seriously. It is a cheerful revolt against self and pride."

~Richard J. Foster

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

Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JIM MCNEIL, LAY READER

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

*OPENING HYMN: #107 AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN VERSES 1, 3, 4
ONE LICENSE #A-739847

Call to Worship - Advent Candle Lighting Service -- Please Refer to Insert

*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 7:10-16

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE DEBORAH BUTLER

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

SERMON: WHO IS THAT MAN?

REV. JON GOUGEON

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

*HYMN: #122 COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS VERSES 1-4

ONE LICENSE #A-739847

(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 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 from our abundance with gratitude. May we give with passion for justice, and with God's love guiding our paths. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: #116 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL VERSES 1, 6, 7

This selection is in the Public Domain

*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: Jim McNeil

Ushers: Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski

Advent Candle Lighters: Bev Olsen and Mary Minnick

Altar Guild: Vicky Lindsay

Fellowship Hosts: Bill & Dottie Haase

Greeter: Dan Kibbe

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	December 18	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Thursday	December 22	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday	December 24	6:40 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Announcements:

- ❖ The flowers on the altar today are dedicated by Nancy Wedge in memory of her mother, Patricia Kreft (12-19-2017).
- Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will begin at 6:40 with scripture and music followed by lessons and carols at 7:00.
- ❖ There will be no Christmas Day (Sunday) worship service this year.
- Feed A Family Needs Jello (orange or strawberry), canned corn, carrots or mixed veggies (no green beans needed), and cereals (any kind).
- Reminder The collection of mitten tree items will continue through Christmas. We especially need men's items (hats, gloves, etc.) this year.
- 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.

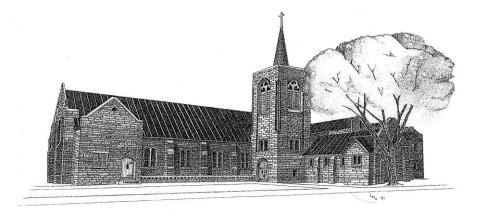
A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies' room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men's room is in the middle hallway.

.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 18, 2022

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 Pulpit Supply 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