

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"The Christian's motto should not be 'Let go and let God' but 'Trust God and get going.'"
~J.I. Packer

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

Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BONNIE BARTZ, LAY READER

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

***OPENING HYMN: #211 LORD JESUS, WHO THROUGH FORTY DAYS** VERSES 1-4

*Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

All: **We are learning to follow Jesus.**

Leader: For those who feel Christ near,

All: **May we not turn away from the discomfort of the journey ahead.**

Leader: For those who feel as far from Christ as the desert is from the ocean,

All: **May we find Christ in the wilderness with us.**

Leader: For all of us who stumble and fall in our silence, indifference, and lack of generosity,

All: **May we reach for the hand of Christ, who raises us up to continue on the journey.**

Leader: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

All: **We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.**

*Opening Prayer

All: Holy One, we are constantly bombarded with temptations and enticements. When we yield, when we fail, who will help us? You, Lord, have come to our aid. You teach us, counsel us, and guide us in the ways we should go. We rejoice in your unfailing love. 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 2:15-17 AND 3:1-7; PSALM 32

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 4:1-11

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

REV. JON GOUGEON

SERMON: THE JOURNEY BEGINS

REV. JON GOUGEON

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

***HYMN: #438 WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER** VERSES 1-3

(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: #439 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD** VERSES 1, 2, 4

*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.**

*BENEDICTION

Minister: The Scriptures say that we need more than bread for our lives; we must feed on every word of God. Go, feast on the words of the Most High, Creator God. Be overwhelmed by God's goodness and let your life be your praise, until we meet again. 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

*Please join us for Fellowship Time following the service.
We would love to get to know you better!*

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

Lay Reader: **Bonnie Bartz**
Ushers: **Lynne Stewart and Nancy Wedge**
Counter: **Nancy Wedge**

Altar Guild: **Ashley Wedge**
Greeter: **Ann Diamond**
Fellowship Hosts: **Bob & Diana Kelly**
and **Pat & Joe Garant**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	February 26	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service & Fellowship Time
Wednesday	March 1	5:00 p.m.	Simple Supper & Worship Service (at First United Methodist Church)
Thursday	March 2	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements

- ❖ Please note - The next two community Lenten observances are scheduled for:
 - March 8 – Grace Lutheran Church -- Simple Supper at 5:00 followed by Worship Service at 6:00.
 - March 15 - First Presbyterian Church - Simple Supper at 5:00 followed by Worship Service at 6:00.
- ❖ We will need 12-15 crockpots of soup for our March 22 Soup Supper. Please complete the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office if you can supply some soup.
- ❖ 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

February 26, 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
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