

**September  
2023**

# Still Speaking

*Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena*

## Board of Directors

Deborah Butler,  
Chairperson  
Sandy Jarmuzewski,  
Vice-Chairperson  
Nancy Wedge,  
Treasurer  
Beverly Bodem  
Bill Dempsey  
Ann Diamond  
Joe Garant  
Boris Gerber  
Jim McNeil

## Dates to Remember

### **September 1**

Deadline for In-House  
Comstock applications

### **September 3**

Worship Service  
Communion  
Meet and Greet

### **September 7**

Worship Committee  
5:30 pm

### **September 8**

Ladies luncheon

### **September 10**

Worship Service

### **September 11**

Board Meeting  
5:30 pm

### **September 14**

Choir rehearsal  
5:30 pm

### **September 17**

Worship Service

### **September 24**

Worship Service

## **What is an Intentional Interim Minister?**

**Deborah Butler**

**Defined by the United Church of Christ there are three forms of ministry during the interim time:**

### ***Transition (Intentional Interim) Minister:***

Provides for the worship life of the congregation, basic pastoral care and leadership and helps to guide a church through unique complexities, challenges and opportunities inherent during an interim time, by working to create an atmosphere that brings about and/or sustains congregational health while allowing time for the search and call process to unfold in a non-anxious and intentional manner. A successful transition ministry during an interim time requires mutual expectation, purpose, and direction, between the congregation, the conference/association staff and the transition minister. The Transitional Ministry is a specialized ministry designed to bring specific skills and experience to help a congregation deal with instances such as conflict, breach of ethics, and unusually long pastorate, when a previously called minister remains part of the congregation and/or remains part of the congregation and community after retirement. The transition minister sees this ministry as a vocation and has specialized training and experience.

### ***Sustaining:***

A sustaining (interim) minister, like a transitional minister, provides for the worship life of the congregation and works with the committees and board. By providing full ministerial service, a sustaining minister frees up the lay leadership to focus on the congregational profile and other search related activities. A sustaining minister may or may not see this form of specialized ministry as a vocation. While the sustaining minister may or may not have benefitted from specialized training they often make excellent use of life experiences, inherent skills and abilities, used to keep a congregation focused on unique opportunities and challenges during this time of transition.

### ***Interim Supply Minister.***

This minister differs from a pulpit supply minister, it fulfills a vital role which provides some, but not all, of the essentials of pastoral and worship life during the time of transition.

**\*\*According to the document titled Interim Ministry taken from the United Church of Christ guidelines, adopted at 17th General Synod, 1989 and United Church of Christ Committee on Ministry, Publishes 2005 Parish Life and Leadership.**

During our three year interim period we have experienced two different types of ministers; Pulpit Supply Ministers, part-time Interim Supply Ministers (which we call Transitional Minister and now we will begin with a new Transition (Intentional Interim) Minister.

## Board of Directors Highlights

Board of Directors

### August 2023 Board Meeting

Present: Beverly Bodem, Deborah Butler, Bill Dempsey, Joe Garant, Jim McNeil, Nancy Wedge Sandy Jarmuzewski, Ann Diamond . Staff Present: Denise Fusina, Nancy Ross Guest: Janet Artley

Congregational Comments and Correspondence:

- Thank you note was read from the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

Financial Reports:

- Revised/Reconciled June Balance and Treasurer and July Balance and Treasurer Reports were reviewed and accepted.
- Approved off-site safe deposit box.
- WiFi revisited.
- Plans finalized for Reverend Hotchkin and his wife Toni to arrive at the end of August.
- Approved the Comstock Fund Disbursement Plan.
- Elevator roof heating to be completed before winter.
- The State of Michigan has mandated a new elevator code effective January 2028.

## Comstock Funds

Comstock Committee

All area non-profit agencies and organizations are invited to apply for Comstock Fund grants. Interested applicants should contact the church at 989-356-1795 or officeuccalp@gmail.com for more information, and to request applications and guideline forms. The in-house deadline for grant applications for the 2024 Comstock Fund requests are due September 1, 2023. The deadline for outside agencies and organizations to apply is October 1, 2023.



## Ladies Summer Luncheon

Peg DiNegro

Food, Fellowship and Kabitzing — The First Congregational Church Ladies Luncheons are back! The gatherings are scheduled the second Friday of each month for the remaining summer months at Chee Peng Restaurant, US 23 N in Alpena. We gather at 11:45am. All are welcome. Reservations are not necessary, but feel free to call Peg DiNegro at 352-281-2283 with any questions.

So, mark your calendars for September 8th. Hope to see you there!

## Worship Committee

Deborah Butler

- Reverend Richard Hotchkin will begin his ministry September 1, 2023
- Thank you to Reverends Bacon, Hoffman and Gibson for leading us in Worship in July and August.
- Thank you to Kaitlyn Borke and Mary Ann Hubbard for providing special music in July and August.
- Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, September 14 at 5:30 pm.
- Birthday and Anniversary cards are enjoyed by our recipient members. Please remember to sign.
- Apple Fest is scheduled for October 15 after worship. We need at least 2 volunteers to help lift the press off the truck and assist when needed.
- November 10, Reverend Lillian Daniel, Conference Minister, UCC will lead us in Worship.
- December 3, First Sunday in Advent, December 24, Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve.

## Dates to Celebrate

### Birthdays

Nancy Wedge 9/6	Laura Caplis 9/21
Bill Clegg 9/7	Cheryl Mack 9/20
Penny Anderson 9/8	Claire Caplis 9/28
Matthew Bailey 9/0	Nicole Petty 9/28
Blair Diamond 9/14	
Connor Caplis 9/15	
Lois Gibbs 9/20	Dennis & Beverly Bodem 9/21

### Anniversary



## Welcome Reverend Hotchkin

Deborah Butler, Board Chairman

Reverend Hotchkin graduated from Westminster College, Fulton, MO in 1969 with a BA in Anthropology and Sociology, magna cum laude. In 1971, he graduated from the University of Michigan Law School Juris Doctor cum laude and in 1991 Pastor Dick graduated from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

He and his wife Toni have been married for 53 years.

Reverend Hotchkin served this church for 34 months as an Interim Minister before Reverend Paul Lance became our resident full-time pastor. Over the years, he has served 5 churches as Intentional Interim pastor. This will be his sixth pastorate as Intentional Interim. He is specially trained and highly experienced in the Ministry of Reconciliation.

As Reverend Hotchkin ministers and assists us to prepare as a congregation to restart our search process, we will be called to join with him to minister to one another, and support his effort's to promote church growth and unity.

Pastor Dick identifies himself as a 'bearer of hope'. He and his wife Toni will arrive in Alpena at the end of August. He will lead us in Word and Sacrament on September 3rd. Following the Worship service, there will be a 'meet and greet' in the Fellowship Hall. Please welcome them to our church family.

*As a congregation we pray, as a people of hope, for a settled pastor, a vital congregation and church ministry.  
Keep these ongoing efforts in your prayers.*

*First Congregational United Church of Christ*  
*201 South Second Avenue*  
*Alpena, Michigan 49707*

Phone: 989-356-1795  
Web Site: <http://uccalpena.org>  
Email: [officeuccalp@gmail.com](mailto:officeuccalp@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Monday – Thursday

## **Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.** **In Person and Online**

**Interim Minister: Reverend Richard Hotchkin**  
**Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Dr. H. Robert Case**  
**Organist/Choir Director: Kat Tomaszewski**  
**Treasurer: Denise Fusina**  
**Office Administrator: Nancy Ross**  
**Custodian: Mike LaMarre**

## *Still Speaking*

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### **Food Needed**

Bill Haase

#### FEED A FAMILY FOOD LIST

Flavored rice/noodles (box, bag)  
Suddenly Salad (any flavor)  
Cereal (kids) box, bag  
Hamburger Helper – all varieties  
Tuna Helper – all varieties  
Canned soup – any kind

4 packs of Jello or pudding  
Any kind of crackers and cheese  
and/or crackers and peanut  
butter  
Small packs of cookies  
Spaghettios/Ravioli/Beefaroni  
canned.  
Box Macaroni and cheese.



# Happy Fall

Let us not become weary in  
doing good, for at the proper  
time we will reap a harvest  
if we do not give up.  
GALATIANS 6:9

