

## Welcome, All Worshipers

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

*Jacob wrestled with God for blessing. He wrestled with Esau for blessing. He wrestled with Isaac for blessing and with Laban for blessing. In each case he eventually prevailed. He wrestled because he recognized that the blessings were worth the struggle. He knew that you only get to keep what you refuse to let go of. – Jonathan Safran Foer*

~~~~~  
(\* 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: #66 O DAY OF RADIANT GLADNESS (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 sunshine. 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.*

**FIRST READING: GENESIS 25: 19-34**

**SECOND READING: PSALM 119:105-112**

**SERMON: "OH, BROTHER!"**

**REV. LAURA HOFFMAN**

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

**\*HYMN: #283 SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD**

#### **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: #318 ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST (VERSES 1-4)**

#### \*BENEDICTION

Minister: Let us go from this time of Word and worship to Word and witness. May the moments, movement, and ministry of our lives reveal the God we know and love, to a world we know and love. May our voices echo the rhythm and message of the Good News, to a world in need of encouragement, community and hope. And may this continues in our homes and with our families. Go in peace...go as peace fortified and nurtured by the Word.

#### \*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: **Bill Dempsey**  
Fellowship Hosts: **Bob & Diane Kelly**  
Greeter: **Ron Borke**

Altar Guild: **Deb Butler**  
Ushers: **Max & Vicky Lindsey**

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 16, 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

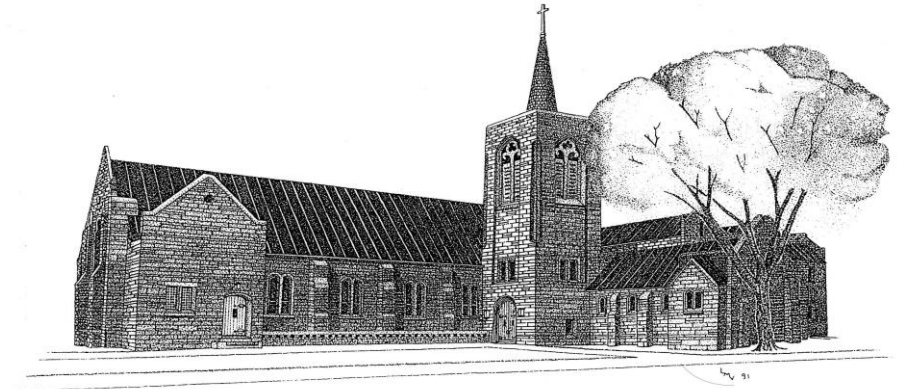
Sunday July 16 10:00 AM Worship Service and Fellowship Time

## 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 Hunan Chinese Restaurant on M-32 in Alpena. 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 Sunday, August 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

*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*  
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*  
Office Administrator: *Nancy Ross*  
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*  
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Office hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Thursday  
Phone: (989) 356-1795

Email: [officeuccalp@gmail.com](mailto:officeuccalp@gmail.com) -- Web page: [www.uccalpena.org](http://www.uccalpena.org)  
201 South Second Avenue • Alpena, Michigan 49707