

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"To have Faith in Christ means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you." ~C.S. Lewis "Mere Christianity"

~~~~~  
(\* 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: #332 AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE VERSES 1 - 3**

*Call to Worship

Leader: God said, "let there be light."

All: And there was light.

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

All: And the light shone in the darkness.

Leader: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

All: And the light shall not be quenched. God of wisdom and righteousness, your standards and expectations of us have not changed. Fill us with the desire to know your truth and to follow your commandments. Amen.

*Opening Prayer

All: Creator - Restorer - Ruler: We are prone to point the finger at others and to pervert justice by exaggerated charges. We want the rich to feed the hungry, but not to share from our own provisions. We prefer charity in principle, but in practice evade our duty even to our own kin. Some of us live in half-empty houses while there are families crowded into rooms too small for them, if they have rooms at all. Forgive our failure to live up to the best we know and to let the oppressed go free even after you have freed us. Amen.

Pastor: Friends, hear the Good News! Christ nailed to the cross attests the cost of God's love and forgiveness.

All: Our faith is not built on human wisdom, but on the power of God.

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*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: PSALM 112:1-10

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 5:13-20

SERMON: LIVING SALT AND LIGHT

REV. JON GOUGEON

PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN: #8 PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD VERSES 1 & 4**

(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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***CLOSING HYMN: #573 LEAD ON ETERNAL SOVEREIGN VERSUS 1 - 3**

*Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

(Continued on back)

***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: Go, as a forgiven and holy people, to do the will of the one who loves us unconditionally. 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: **Nancy Wedge** and **Pat Labadie**

Communion Ministry: **Bobbi Zubi**

Altar Guild: **Ashley Wedge**

Greeter: **Bonnie Bartz**

Fellowship Hosts: **Bob & Diana Kelly**
and **Pat & Joe Garant**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	February 5	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Thursday	February 9	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements:

- ❖ On a table in the middle hallway are numerous items featuring the church's crest and insignia including shirts, coasters, etc. Please feel free to take what you would like, and leave a donation if possible.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters each week in the middle hall and to keep the recipients in your prayers.

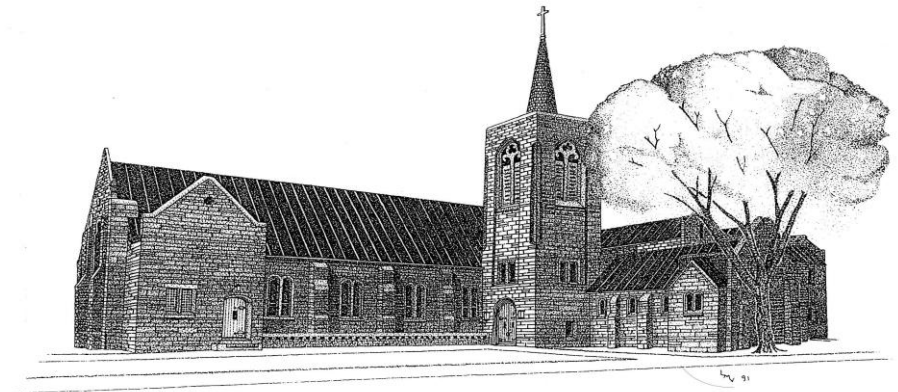
SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.

~~~~~  
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 5, 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