

## Welcome, All Worshipers

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

*A touch is enough to let us know we're not alone in the universe, even in sleep."  
Adrienne Rich - 20<sup>th</sup> Century poet, essayist and feminist.*

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

### Prelude

#### **WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**DOTTIE HAASE, LAY READER**

**\*OPENING HYMN: #349 COME WITH JOY (VERSES 1-4)**

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: We have gathered here this morning to worship God.

**All: We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community and insight.**

Leader: We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**All: We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, and to ask God's help in our learning, and in our growing.**

#### \*Opening Prayer

**All: Creator, Redeemer and Spirit of all holiness, be in our midst with your baptism of power and your communion of love. We wait upon you in stillness and patience because you turn strength into weakness and weakness into strength. In moments of victory and joy you do lift us up on wings of flight. In the days of routine and duty you enable us to run a sure course without weariness or collapse. In the hours of pain and fear, in times of trial, in our spiritual wrestling with grief and thoughts of death, you help us walk so that we do not faint. You are our God and we are your people. 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: MATTHEW 14: 13-21**

**SECOND READING: GENESIS 32: 22-31**

**SERMON: SPIRITUAL WRESTLING**

**REV. EUGENE BACON**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**\*HYMN: #307 GLORIOUS THINGS OF YOU ARE SPOKEN (VERSES 1-2)**

#### **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.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

**\*CLOSING HYMN: #347 LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY (VERSES 1-3)**

#### \*BENEDICTION

Minister: May the lonely paths of self-interest and despair lead to the broad highway of wholeness and understanding between people. Let us become builders along the access ways to God's peace.

#### \*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: Dottie Haase  
Fellowship Hosts: Ron & Lynn Borke  
Usher: Boris Gerber

Altar Guild: Sandy Jarmuzewski  
Communion: Joan Chrzan  
Greeter: Deborah Butler

### This Week's Calendar

Sunday August 6 10:00 AM Worship Service and Communion  
Fellowship Time.

### Announcements

- ❖ We are pleased to welcome Reverend Eugene Bacon to lead our worship service today.
- ❖ Worship committee meeting Monday, August 7 at 5:30 pm.
- ❖ Ladies luncheon is August 11, Friday at 11:45 am at Chee Peng Restaurant, 1237 US 23 N, in Alpena. Please note we have changed the place that we usually meet. Reservations are not necessary. Call Peg at 352-281-2283 or Dottie at 989-916-4101 with questions. Friends and guests are always welcome.
- ❖ Board Meeting August 14 at 5:30 pm.
- ❖ Heifer International Sunday is August 13.
- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.
- ❖ Your 6 month Giving Statements can be found in the Alpha Pouches outside the Pastor's Office. Thank you for your support.
- ❖ Deadline for In-House Comstock applications is September 1, 2023.

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

August 6, 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  
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