

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"If we are in unity with the Spirit, we are in unity with each other, and so we are all one." - Plotinus

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand.)  
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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: JESUS LOVES ME (INSERT)**

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***Call to Worship**

Leader: What joy we feel when we are called to celebrate God's love.

All: God's love flows through our lives!

Leader: This is what it means to be the body of Christ!

All: This is what it means to be faithful witnesses to God.

Leader: Let us rejoice on this day!

All: Lord, we thank you for the blessings you pour on us. AMEN

***Opening Prayer**

All: Lord, be with us today as we come to you from all life's circumstances. Give us courage and strength. Fill us with your love and grace that we may serve you effectively and fully. 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.

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: (UNISON)**

ALL: ALMIGHTY GOD, BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, ILLUMINE THE SACRED PAGE. WE PRAY THAT OUR MINDS MAY BE OPEN TO RECEIVE YOUR WORD, OUR HEARTS TAUGHT TO LOVE IT, AND OUR WILLS STRENGTHENED TO OBEY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN

FIRST READING (LAY READER): ISAIAH 56:1, 6-8, PSALM 67

SECOND READING (PASTOR): MATTHEW 15: (10-20), 21-28

SERMON: WHAT DID HE SAY?

REV. ROSEMARY GIBSON

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

***HYMN: #419 NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD (VERSES 1-2)**

CREDITS (WORDS: MARTIN RINKART; TRANSL.CATHERINE WINKWORTH, 1858. MUSIC: JOHANN CRUGER, 1647); PUBLIC DOMAIN

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: #27 FROM ALL THAT DWELL BELOW THE SKIES (VERSES 1-2))**

Credits (Words: Isaac Watts, 1719. Music: Geistliche Kirchengesandg ,Cologne, 1623.); Public Domain

***BENEDICTION**

May God's mercy and peace go with you as you re-enter God's world to serve those in need. Go in peace. AMEN

***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: **Jim McNeil**
Fellowship Hosts: **Lynn Stewart**
Ushers: **Max & Vicky Lindsey**

Altar Guild: **Sandy Jarmuzewski**
Greeter: **Penny Anderson**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 20, 2023

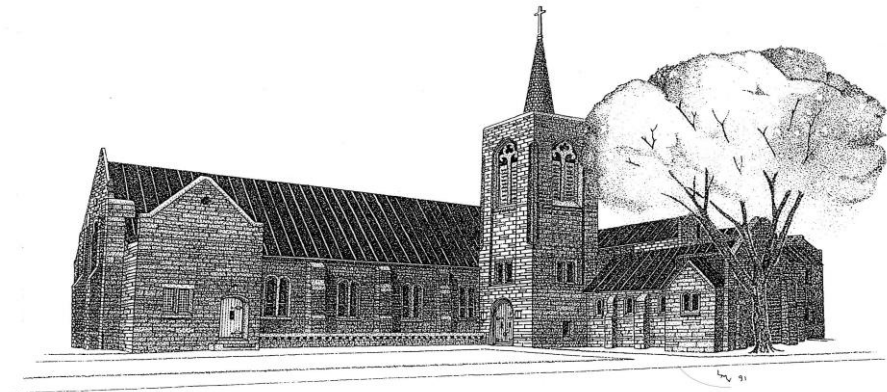
*We welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*

This Week's Calendar

Sunday August 20 10:00 AM Worship Service
Fellowship Time

Announcements

- ❖ We are pleased to welcome Reverend Rosemary Gibson to lead our worship service today.
- ❖ Ladies luncheon is September 8, 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.
- ❖ Feed A Family Needs - Kathy from the Salvation Army is indicating that their biggest need at this time is: canned Spaghettios, Beefaroni and Ravioli along with boxed Macaroni and Cheese. She is also indicating, "Anything they can provide would be very helpful". In the meantime, they still need individual cracker & cheese packets, cracker & peanut butter packets, cookie packets and Jello as well as pudding 4 packs. Thank you.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.
- ❖ Deadline for In-House Comstock applications is September 1, 2023.



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 -- Web page: www.uccalpena.org

201 South Second Avenue • Alpena, Michigan 49707

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.

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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  
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