

**May  
2024**

# 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  
Jim McNeil  
Beth Petty

## Dates to Remember

**May 5**  
Worship Service  
Communion

**May 12**  
Worship Service  
Mother's Day

**May 13**  
Board Meeting  
5:30 pm

**May 19**  
Worship Service

**May 26**  
Worship Service

**May 27**  
Memorial Day



## **From the Pastor's Desk**

**Pastor Dick Hotchkin**

I am often fascinated by various scientific discoveries. The expanding field of technology is absolutely mindboggling! But in the world of things, the extraordinary quickly becomes the commonplace. It is only the world of spirit that has the power to continue in mystery and fascination.

The kingdom of God can intersect, penetrate, invade, permeate everything that we see and hear and touch – and glorify it, if we will but let it. We can block the kingdom of God out of our consciousness. We can escape the kingdom of God altogether. God has given us the power to close the door or to let it swing wide open. We can remain blind and see no form. We can remain colorblind and see no color. We can live within the narrow walls of touch and measurement, or we can invite God to give us the gift of faith and have an incredibly rich world open to us.

We human beings were created for both the world of things and the world of spirit. We can love the lavish hues of a sunrise over Lake Huron. We can love the winds that sing in the treetops. We can love the soft touch of a child's hand. A beautiful world yields its riches to our eyes and ears and hands. Even the roar of a powerful rocket launching a satellite may cheer us with the awareness of what science has achieved. But there is another, a more fascinating world, a world beyond our eyes and our ears and our hands. There is a God we have never seen or touched or heard. God has established a kingdom in our midst, and, through Jesus, God has given us the right to enter that kingdom. We face this world of spirit with awe and wonder. Its mysteries stagger the imagination.

This world comes to us principally through the Bible. It tells of a God who in love created us, who in love redeemed us, who in love holds us fast, who in love will usher us at last into the eternal kingdom. In this sacred story, the Holy Spirit lures us into this altogether fascinating world. Celebrate the fact that we have the privilege of being citizens of both worlds.

**The 50 Year Membership Celebration will be June 23, 2024.**

## Feed A Family

Bill Haase

Food pantry needs are: Spaghetios, Raviolios, chicken noodle soup, pancake mix and syrup. Peanut butter, any kind of noodles or rice pouches (creamy parmesan, cheddar and broccoli, etc.)

## Treasurer's Report

Denise Fusina

### PLEDGE REPORT

	<u>March 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Pledge	\$ 9,250	\$27,750
Received	11,247	<u>24,307</u>
		<b>Short 3,443</b>

Income and Expense Report	<u>March 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$11,385	\$50,693
General Fund Expense	<u>19,717</u>	<u>64,122</u>
<b>Loss</b>	<b>8,332</b>	<b>13,429</b>

Membership Declaration Cards are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church.

## Homebound/Shut-in Ministry

Pastor Dick

If you are interested in having someone visit or bring you communion, please let either Pastor Dick or Gary Jarmuzewski know. With many older and homebound members, some may feel somewhat neglected and lost in the activities of our church. We would love to have you stay connected and feel a part of our church community.



**Save the Date!**  
**We will be honoring the choir on June 2, Gospel Sunday, with a potluck. Please check future Bulletins for more information.**

## Dates to Remember

### Birthdays

Sharon Rickard 5/4

John Briggs 5/5

Ann Gerow 5/5

Debra Dempsey 5/21

Steve Bailey 5/22

Jack Caplis 5/22

Justin Grumbaugh 5/27

James Standen 5/29

Peggy DiNegro 5/29

Rev. H. Robert Case 5/30

### Anniversaries

Eugene & Karen Bacon 5/11

**Donate**

*Please consider purchasing or donating to the purchase of Birthday and Anniversary cards. You may drop your donation off at the office during regular business hours. Thank you!*



## Laity Schedule for May

### Altar Guild:

Nancy Wedge

### Communion:

May 5 Ashley Wedge

### Counters

May 12 Dennis & Janet Artley

May 26 Boris Gerber

### Greeters:

May 5 Penny Anderson

May 12 Beth Petty

May 19 Trish McLaren

May 26 Bill & Debbie Dempsey

### Lay Readers:

May 5 Boris Gerber

May 12 Dottie Haase

May 19 Jim McNeil

May 26 Lori Mayer

### Ushers:

May 5: Max & Vicky Lindsey

May 12 Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski

May 19 Penny Anderson and Boris Gerber

May 26 Ashley and Nancy Wedge

### Fellowship Hosts:

Please refer to the roster in the middle hallway.

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

Phone: 989-356-1795

Web Site: <http://uccalpena.org>

Email: [officeuccal@gmail.com](mailto:officeuccal@gmail.com)

Office Hours: 9:00 AM– 1:00 PM Monday – Thursday

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM**  
**In Person and Online**

**Transition Minister:**

**Reverend Dr. Richard E. Hotchkin**

**Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Dr. H. Robert Case**

**Organist/Choir Director: Kat Tomaszewski**

**Treasurer: Denise Fusina**

**Office Administrator: Nancy Ross**

**Custodian: Mike LaMarre**

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But my God shall  
supply all your needs...

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Spring  
BLESSINGS

