

August
2020

Still Speaking

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Board of Directors:

- **Dennis Artley**, treasurer
- **Bill Dempsey**
- **Blair Diamond**
- **Boris Gerber**
- **Ann Gerow**, vice-chair
- **Nancy Wedge**
- **Vicky Lindsay**
- **Jim Mc Neil**, chair
- **Beth Petty**

Dates to Remember

2

Communion Sunday
(virtual worship)

9

Sunday virtual Worship

10

Board Meeting
in Fellowship Hall
5:30 pm

Everyone is welcome
to attend
(masks required to
enter; seated more
than 6-feet apart)

16

Sunday virtual Worship

23

Sunday Worship
(we may re-open,
stay tuned)

30

Sunday Worship
(we may be open for
face-to-facemask
worship, but if not,
keep going to
uccalpena.org)

A Word From Our Minister: Two Months Remaining...

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance III

At our Board of Directors meeting on Monday, Aug. 10, we will we make a decision about **when** to re-open public worship and under what changed conditions. Until then, please **tune in to our web-site (uccalpena.org)** to watch “virtual” worship with Kat, Lynn Borke, and me... at least through **August 16**.

I have only two months remaining before my retirement on Oct. 1. There are so many important topics I have not yet taken the time to address, that I have to “double down” to get them in under the wire! First, as we head into a Presidential election this fall, I think we need to have a clear grasp of what “American Liberty” is all about. Politicians “spin” so many fake facts that we might lose our footing if we are not well grounded in our system of government.

To that end, I will host a ZOOM class on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm
“History of American Liberty”

July 28: The Anglo-American Tradition of Liberty

Aug. 4: The Shot Heard 'Round the World

Aug. 11: The Tyranny of George III

Aug. 18: What the Declaration of Independence Says

Aug. 25: Natural Law & the Declaration

Sept. 1: Rebels with a Cause (Sam Adams, John Hancock)

Sept. 8: Taking Liberties (Patrick H., Ben F., George W.)

Sept. 15: Miracle at Philadelphia

Sept. 22: What the Constitution Says

Sept. 29: The Bill of Rights (*end of series*)

This is in addition to the Monday 10:00 am ZOOM Theology Class (described on the Newsletter insert), Tuesday 10:00 am Bible Study on Prophets (described on page 3), the Thursday 10:30 am class on “Ecology: Earth at the Crossroads” (described on our website), and the Thursday 1:00 pm afternoon class on the Old Testament using DVD lectures by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine (also described on the insert).

At the same time, I'll be recording virtual worship and clearing out my office. It will be a busy two months! May God bless us all.



During this period of uncertainty, suffering and anxiety with the Covid-19 virus, our UCC Church has been so blessed with no cases of Covid-19 amongst our members. We stand together to build a stronger union of church fellowship and caring community. Our Strengthen the Church (STC) offering helps fulfill those needs and support UCC commitment to create a just world for all, investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of our local communities.

Last year our UCC congregation increased our offering for a total of \$768.00 towards the STC campaign. That is a notable 8% increase from previous years.

Our UCC Michigan Conference raised \$19,558 for the STC campaign in our state. One-half of the donation goes to the UCC National Setting for strengthening UCC congregations, providing funds to assist in community revitalizations, and “new church” support. Several grants were provided for these efforts. This fund also provided information and programs to other Conferences and local UCC churches with the national activities.

The other one-half (approx. \$9,000) stays within our local Michigan Conference for expansion of ministries and growth of local congregations. Approximately 70% of the fund is used to support the STEM (Systematic Training for Effective Ministry) aimed at training laypersons for church leadership and ministry. Funds are also used in disaster areas where help is needed.

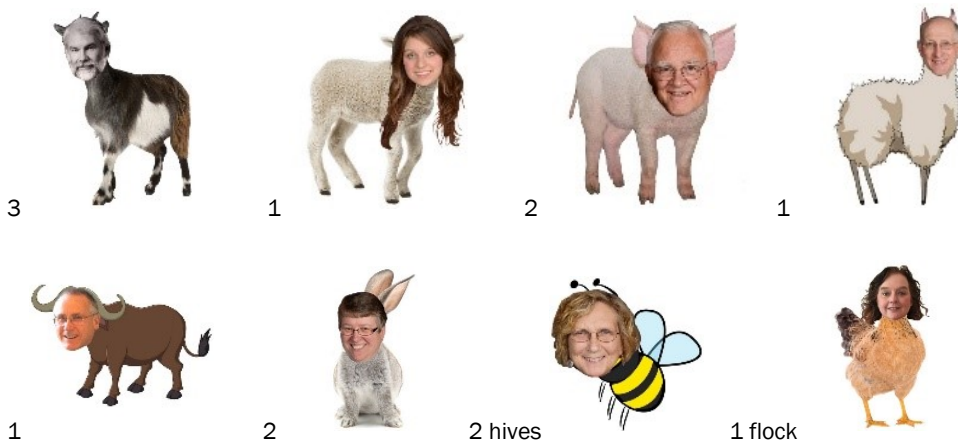
With your financial support of STC, more and more people will hear the good news that “God is still speaking,” and the vision and dreams of “a better world” is created in the heart of our UCC family.

Please use the Strengthen The Church offering envelope in this church newsletter and support the programs with your donation.

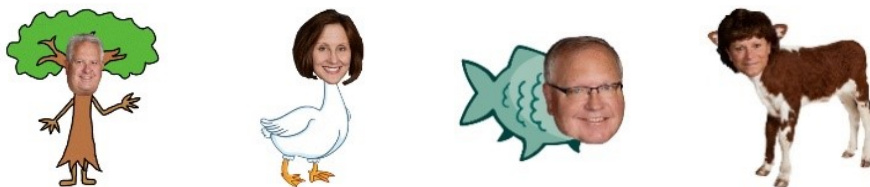
Thanks, Bill Haase for the Mission Committee: Marcia Aten, Beth Petty,
Patty Lance, Edith Gerber, and Boris Gerber, Chair

Keep those **Heifer International** donations coming in!

As of July 20 we are already able to purchase (thank you!):



We still need donations to help purchase:



Tuesday Morning 10:00 a.m. Bible Study about “Prophets”

Back in June, we began a DVD lecture series: “**Embracing the prophets in contemporary culture**” with Old Testament Professor **Walter Brueggemann**, and we discussed “Moses, Pharaoh, the Prophets, and Us”. However, in order to know more of the underlying Old Testament stories, we changed to a series of lectures by **Prof. Amy-Jill Levine**:

Aug. 4: Prophets during the Babylonian Exile (2nd Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel)

Aug. 11: Prophets during the Restoration and Theocracy (Ezra, Nehemiah, etc.)

Aug. 18: Wisdom Literature (Song of Songs, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Job)

Aug. 25: Life in the Diaspora (Esther, Daniel 1-6, and Genesis 30 & 37-50)

Sept. 1: We resume Walter Brueggemann: The Prophets as “Uncredentialed Purveyors of Covenant”

Sept 8: Moral Coherence in a World of Power, Money, & Violence

Sept 15: The Shrill Rhetoric that Breaks Denial

Sept 22: The Grief of Loss as Divine Judgment

Sept 29: The Promissory Language that Breaks Despair (last class)

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

Phone: 989-356-1795 Fax 989-356-8825
Web Site: <http://uccalpena.org>
Email: officeuccalp@gmail.com
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday – Thursday

Sunday Worship: still “virtual”

Minister: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance III
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case
Choir Director/Organist: Kat Tomaszewski
Treasurer: Denise Fusina
Secretary: (position available)
Custodian: Mike LaMarre

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Birthdays and **Anniversaries in August**

Let's Celebrate August Birthdays for:

August 1 Mary Davison
August 1 Jim Stewart
August 2 Keith Titus
August 4 Carmen Grubaugh
August 6 Ashley Wedge
August 12 Dave Zeller
August 14 Dixie Julian
August 19 Priscilla Homola
August 23 Heather Bodem

Wedding Anniversaries in August

August 2 Kristin and Nathan Barden 17 Years
August 14 Ron & Lynn Borke 27 Years
August 14 Dave & Lori Zeller 6 Years
August 15 Ben & Chelsey Wedge 5 Years
August 16 Gordon & Vernie Nethercut 67 Years
August 16 Mike & Cheryl Mack 24 Years
August 19 Bill & Dottie Haase 60 Years
August 27 Bob & Diana Kelly 60 Years
August 30 Dan Kibbe & Lois Gibbs 34 Years