

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, the scribe asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Mark 12:28

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(\* indicates when those who are able may stand.)  
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Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAY KETTLER, LAY READER

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

*OPENING HYMN: THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD (INSERT)

THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Call to Worship

Leader: Seek first God's kingdom.

All: And all other things will fall into place.

Leader: Lord, help us to believe this.

All: Almighty God, help us to make your kingdom the number one priority in our lives. AMEN

*Opening Prayer

All: Almighty God, we praise and glorify you. Grant that in the majesty of your creation we may realize your power; that in the life of Jesus Christ we may see your love; and that in the presence of the Holy Spirit we may experience newness of life. 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.

FIRST READING (LAY READER): PSALM 103:8-13

SECOND READING (PASTOR): MARK 12:28-34

SERMON: THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

REV. RICHARD HOTCHKIN

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

*HYMN: #70 GOD IS HERE!

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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: #18 GUIDE ME, O MY GREAT REDEEMER

THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

*BENEDICTION: Go in peace. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon you, and linger in your hearts and minds throughout the coming week, and forevermore. 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: **Jay Kettler** Altar Guild: **Joan Chrzan**
Greeter: **Pat Labadie and June Perry** Ushers: **Lynne Stewart & Pat Labadie**
Fellowship Hosts: **Nancy and Ashley Wedge, Sonny & Joan Chrzan**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday September 17 10:00 AM Worship Service

Announcements

- ❖ Our opening Hymn has a special significance to Joy Shoemaker.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ We are in need of Lay Readers for October.
- ❖ Next Worship Committee meeting is Monday, October 2 at 5:30 pm.
- ❖ The Church Lunch Brunch will be Friday, October 13, at 11:30 am at the Big Boy, 400 S. Ripley, Alpena. Note the time change. All women and friends are invited. Please contact Dottie @ 989-340-4104 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

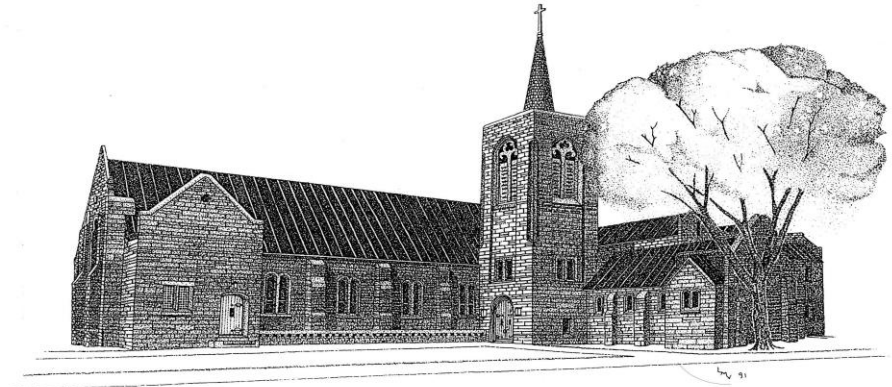
SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.

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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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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 17, 2023

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



Rev. Dr. Richard Hotchkin, Intentional Interim Pastor
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
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