

**Welcome, All Worshipers**

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

“He has told you Human One, what is good and what the Lord requires of you to do  
justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.”  
~Micah 6:8, Common English Bible

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

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      **DOTTIE HAASE, LAY READER**

**\*OPENING HYMN: #73 ENTER, REJOICE, AND COME IN**    ALL VERSES

**\*Call to Worship** (Psalm 100 adapted):  
Leader: A psalm of thanksgiving -  
          Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
          Worship the Lord with gladness;  
          Come into his presence with singing.  
**All: Know that the Lord is God. It is God that made us, and we belong to the Holy One; we are the Creator’s people, and the sheep of God’s pasture.**  
Leader: Enter the Holy One’s gates with thanksgiving, and the Creator’s courts with praise. Give thanks to God and bless His name.  
**All: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness for all generations.**

**\*Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ as Doxology**  
#885 in The New Century Hymnal

**\*HYMN: #86 WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES**    VERSES 1 AND 4

**SCRIPTURE: ECCLESIASTES 3:1-6**    **REV. EUGENE BACON**

**SERMON: GOODBYE ... HELLO**    **REV. EUGENE BACON**

**\*HYMN: #448 TAKE MY LIFE, GOD, LET IT BE**    ALL VERSES

**SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 43:1-2, 4, 18-19, 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-2, LUKE 22:26-27**  
**REV. DR. H. ROBERT CASE**

**SERMON: WHO ARE WE?**    **REV. DR. H. ROBERT CASE**

**ANTHEM: FOR GOOD**    **CHOIR**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**  
**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**  
**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**  
**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND OF THE PEOPLE**

**GODSPEED SERVICE** (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

**\*CLOSING HYMN: #81 GOD BE WITH YOU**    ALL VERSES

**\*BENEDICTION**  
**All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.**  
Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. Amen.

**\*UNISON RESPONSE:** And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand. Amen.    Words and music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-739847.

Postlude

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

Lay Reader: **Dottie Haase**  
Altar Guild: **Joan Chrzan**  
Ushers: **Ron & Lynn Borke**  
Communion Ministry: **Nancy Wedge**  
Godspeed Ceremony - Moderator: **Max Lindsay**, WC Chair: **Deborah Butler**  
Fellowship Hosts: **Nancy Wedge, Ashley Wedge, Joan & Sonny Chrzan** and  
Worship Committee

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**  
and **Lynn Borke**  
Greeters: **Shari & Curt Davis**  
Counter: **Ashley Wedge**

### This Week's Calendar

|        |              |            |                            |
|--------|--------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday | September 11 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service            |
| Monday | September 12 | 5:30 p.m.  | Board of Directors Meeting |

### Announcements:

- ❖ Please join us for a very special Fellowship Hour following today's worship service to celebrate Reverend Case and Reverend Bacon and all they have done for our congregation.
- ❖ Hosting help is needed for Fellowship Hour for the months of October, November and December. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Please contact Bill Haase (989-340-2123) if you would like more information.

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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 11, 2022

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



Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*  
Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*  
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

## Godspeed Service

Moderator: This local church has asked Rev. Gene Bacon and Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case to serve as Transitional Ministers during our search process.

Gene and Bob: We thank First Congregational United Church of Christ and the support they have shown us. We ask forgiveness for the mistakes we have made, and we are grateful for the way our leadership has been accepted. As we leave, we carry with us all that we have learned here.

**Congregation: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave this ministry. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

Gene and Bob: We forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

### Vows of Release

Moderator: Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ release Bob and Gene from the duties of Transitional Minister?

**Congregation: We do, with the help of God.**

Moderator: Do you offer our encouragement for their discernment of new ways to serve Christ and Christ's church.

**Congregation: We do, with the help of God.**

Moderator: Do you Gene and Bob release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Gene and Bob: We do, with the help of God

Moderator: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Gene and Bob: We do, with the help of God.

Worship Committee: Let us pray: O Holy, Creating and Loving God, we give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Rev. Case and Rev. Bacon in worship, in learning, in service. We pray that they will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as they move to new forms of ministry and retirement. We pray this in the name of Jesus who is the Christ. Amen

## Scripture Readings 9-11-22

### Ecclesiastes 3:1-6

**3**For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: <sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; <sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

### Isaiah 43:1-2, 4, 18-19

**43**But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

**13**If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

### Luke 22:26-27

<sup>26</sup>But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. <sup>27</sup>For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.