

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

“Test the Spirits – don’t believe every Spirit. Test the Spirits to see if they are from God because many false prophets have come into the world.” ~ *1John 4:1*
 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” ~ *Luke 6:46*

(*) indicates when those who are able will stand

Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JIM MCNEIL, LAY READER

***OPENING HYMN: #294 THERE'S A SPIRIT IN THE AIR VERSES 1, 3, 4 & 5**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries but the same Lord.

All: Christ is just like the human body – a body is a unit; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many parts.

Leader: We are all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free.

All: We were all given one Spirit to drink. Come, Holy Spirit!

***Opening Prayer**

Leader: Gracious God, make each of us an instrument of your grace. Weave us into a community showing forth your power and tenderness. Bless us and our differences and under gird our courage to stand together.

All: We call on you today to gather us in your love. Lead us to better know you on each step of the journey of our lives. In the name of Jesus, let us now seek the Spirit and breathe in the love of God. 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.

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 1:26-28, LUKE 22:24-27, 1 JOHN 4:7-11

ANTHEM: IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

CHOIR

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN: #325 CHILD OF BLESSING, CHILD OF PROMISE ALL VERSES**

SERMON: GET A GRIP ON IT

REV. ROBERT CASE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***CLOSING HYMN: #304 ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME** VERSES 1, 2 & 4

***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*

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Postlude

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

Lay Reader: **Jim McNeil**
Altar Guild: **Ashley Wedge**
Fellowship Host: **Bonnie Bartz**
and **Bob & Diana Kelly**

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**
and **Lynn Borke**
Communion Ministry: **Ashley Wedge**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	February 6	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday	February 8	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements:

- ❖ Please remember to sign the care letters on the table behind the sanctuary, and to keep Vernie Nethercut, Keith Titus, and Rev. Sam & Anna Wright in your thoughts and prayers.
- ❖ Rosemary Gibson (Pastor Rose) is the new minister at the Atlanta UCC church -- the former church home for Ginny and Keith Titus. She is inviting our friends and members to join her in a study group for all who want to strengthen their spiritual journey. The book Pastor Rose will use is We Make the Road By Walking by Brian McClaren. The book offers everything you need to explore what a difference a living, growing faith can make in our world today. The study begins February 14 and will be on-going so you may join at any time. You may join in person at Atlanta UCC on Mondays, 10:30-11:30am (face masks required) or via Zoom on Mondays 7:00-8:00pm. Please contact Dottie Haase for more information at dsbhaase@live.com.
- ❖ Rev. Bacon is leading an eight week class on Mysticism (see insert) beginning next Wednesday, February 16. Please call or email the office to register.

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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

February 6, 2022

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



Transitional Ministers: *Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case (Pastor Emeritus)*
and *Reverend Eugene Bacon*

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

Web page: www.uccalpena.org

201 South Second Avenue • Alpena, Michigan 49707

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Luke 22:24-27

²⁴A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For 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."

1 John 4:7-11

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: This table of Holy Communion belongs to no individual, church or denomination. It is the table where Christ invites us to come into one body made of many diverse parts yet one in his love.

Pastor: Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help.

People: Come, because you would like to love Jesus more.
Come, because Jesus loved you and gave himself for you.
Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his body.

Pastor: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the Highest.

Pastor: Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

The giving and receiving of the bread and cup.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

All: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus the Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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There's a Spirit in the Air

294

Brian Wren, 1969; rev. 1987

1. There's a spir-it in the air,
tell-ing Chris-tians ev-ery-where:
"Praise the love that Christ re-vealed,
liv-ing, work-ing in our world."
2. Lose your shy-ness, find your tongue;
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live to-mor-row's life to-day.
3. When be-liev-ers break the bread,
when a hun-gry child is fed:
Praise the love that Christ re-vealed,
liv-ing, work-ing in our world.
4. Still the Spir-it gives us light,
see-ing wrong and set-ting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live to-mor-row's life to-day.
5. When a strang-er's not a-lone,
where the home-less find a home:
Praise the love that Christ re-vealed,
liv-ing, work-ing in our world.

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981

1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise,
bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
With this wa-ter God has sealed you
un-to love and grace di-vine.
2. Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion,
love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!
Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its,
in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
3. Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we hum-bly give you;
live as one who bears Christ's name.
4. Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship,
trust and love God more than all.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

304

St. 1–3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; alt.

St. 4, John Rippon, 1787; alt.

1. All hail the power of Je-sus' name!
Let an-gels pros-trate fall;
Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem,
and crown Christ ser-vant of all.
At-tend the Sav-ior's sov-ereign claim,
and crown Christ ser-vant of all.
2. A-dorn, O mar-tyred saints of old,
the cor-o-na-tion hall;
Ex-tol the wound-ed One fore-told,
and crown Christ bear-er of all.
Ex-tol the wound-ed One fore-told,
and crown Christ bear-er of all.
3. All heirs of Is-rael's chos-en race,
now ran-somed from the fall,
Pro-claim the won-ders of God's grace,
and crown Christ heal-er of all.
Pro-claim the won-ders of God's grace,
and crown Christ heal-er of all.
4. Be-fore the cross, with heav-en's throng,
we on our knees shall fall;
We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song,
and crown Christ sav-ior of all.
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and crown Christ sav-ior of all.

Rev. 19; 5:9; Phil. 2:9–11

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Mysticism Class

Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 1:15pm and continuing each Wednesday for seven more weeks, concluding with Wednesday, April 6, I will be leading a class on the western mystical tradition and Christian mystics. The class is a Great Courses class and will include two half hour DVD lectures with 15 minutes after each segment for discussion. Each class will be one and a half hours in length. The DVD presenter is Professor Luke Timothy Johnson, renowned for his insights into Christianity. He is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at the Emory University Candler School of Theology. A former Benedictine monk and teacher at Yale Divinity School, he is the author of many acclaimed books.

Some of the topics include: The Biblical Roots of Western Mysticism, Mystical Elements in the New Testament, The Spirituality of the Desert, The Mysticism of Western Monasticism, Medieval Female Mystics, Mysticism Among Protestant Reformers, etc.

Each class will be one and a half hours in length. I've never taught a course on this subject but was somehow drawn to it. I have quoted several well-known mystics over the years in my sermons and would like to go deeper into this subject with you.

I am hoping that Covid will be tapering off and that I will be able to teach this class in person. However, we will offer a Zoom option if necessary. Please notify the church office at 989-356-1795 or officeuccalp@gmail.com to register for the class and to let us know if you will be attending in person or via Zoom.

Blessings, Gene Bacon

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