

**June
2021**

Still Speaking

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Board of Directors:

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

Dates to Remember

June 6
In person & Virtual
Worship

June 13
In person & Virtual
Worship

June 13
Board Meeting at 5:30pm
Covid guidelines follow

June 20
In person & Virtual
Worship

June 20
Happy Father's Day!

June 27
In person & Virtual
Worship



REMINDER!! The Altar
flower sign up sheet is
back up! Please sign up
for your Sunday!



A Word From Our Minister:

Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case

A Message from the Transitional Minister

Rejoice Give Thanks and Sing

This newsletter article is a little different than I usually write. We all have heard the phrase: "We don't know what we don't know". I have an example of that regarding vaccinations. Our lives are impacted by millions of people we do not know, will not know, and most likely will never know.

Sometimes it may be helpful to give thanks and pray for people who we do not know in the slightest. They are all over the place locally including first responders, doctors, nurses, teachers etc.

Many people we do not know give our lives meaning and support. For example, Katalin Krikó and Drew Weissman both have affected our lives. A little over a year ago we would not have been talking about Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. Now I am asked: "Have you been vaccinated?" and after that the question Pfizer or Moderna? The answer is yes, fully and Moderna. Judy had Pfizer. I also hope you have been vaccinated. But, before there was a vaccine there was mRNA or messenger RNA which is the process that allowed the vaccines to be made so quickly. Don't ask me what mRNA is exactly. I treat it like my car; I do not know how to fix it when its broke, too many computer parts, but I enjoy driving it. The same goes with my computer.

Katalin Krikó, is a Hungarian immigrant who came to the United States with her parents to find freedom and safety. She had a hard time being funded or taken seriously but with great fortitude and the partnership with immunologist Drew Weissman, they made it possible for us to have the safety of our vaccinations. This is what I mean when I write about being thankful for people we will never know. Without a news report this morning I would never know their names let alone think about their contributions.

One of the great strengths of our nation is its great diversity in all fields from Einstein to Krikó. We are diverse in music, the arts, and even hometown cooking. We rely on a wide variety of people from remarkably diverse backgrounds. I give thanks to God for the great diversity of race, language and culture that enriches us all. As I often say: "UNITY WITHOUT UNIFORMITY". Yes, it is true that I do not know what I do not know, but there is a lot out there to be thankful for that I do not know. Stop and give God thanks for the great diversity of creation and how it may work together to bring health, depth of meaning and creative imagination to us all.

Rejoice Give Thanks and Sing

Windows

As we continue our look at the sanctuary windows we move to the last four on the left hand side facing the Communion Table. Once again I am using the words of Rev. Robert Barksdale who was the pastor here for 25 years and when our current building was constructed. (Once again I have updated the language to make it more inclusive. I have also shortened some of the descriptions to better fit the newsletter.)

CHURCH SPIRE AND CROSS. In the Church we are bound together by a common bond - our love for each other and our faith in Christ. To know Christ and His way for us we come to the Church - for in the Church we are all brothers and sisters. ... We enjoy being with one another for the advancement of Christ's Church here on earth.

THE COMMANDMENTS Fellowship is emphasized by the laws that bind us together. The very foundation of all human relationships is the Ten Commandments. ... These laws are spiritual, and moral and binding upon all alike. ... In obedience to God's laws we come to love all men and women as being children of God.

EQUALITY Our faith teaches us there are no favorites in God's family, that we are all equal in His sight. This is symbolized by the broken wall. ... "For he is our peace who made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility." Ephesians 2:14

BELIEVING ALL MEN AND WOMEN TO BE EQUAL IN GOD'S SIGHT. We believe all will respond to his love, revealed to us through Christ, when we really believe what we say we believe. If we love one another as He loved us, the Christian faith will triumph over all the world. No better symbol of this belief can be found than the cross and orb - symbol that Christ is the savior of all the world.

This completes the windows on the left side of the church facing the Communion Table. I hope you are not only enjoying the description of our stained glass windows, but also take time to contemplate them when you enter the sanctuary. Next month we will look at three windows on the right hand side of the sanctuary. They depict the structure of worship derived from Isaiah 6. You may want to read Isaiah 6 some Sunday and have a head start on next month's story.

Bob

Transitional Minister

May 10th Board Meeting Summarization:

* Financial reports look good as expenses are down and income is steady.

*The KIT (Keeping in touch) program seems to be working and serving its purpose!!! Thank you for everyone's support!

*With Covid still a high risk in Alpena County, but the infection rate down, the church still feels we need to keep outside groups on hold and reevaluate at the June meeting. Also, the congregation can remove their masks while in church worship, but put back on while singing.

* New Church laptop is in the works!

*No action will be taken at this time regarding the church windows plexiglass covering the stained windows. Which are still in great shape.

* The property committee evaluated the estimates for fixing the elevator. The problem only seems to take place during the winter months as the elevator does not "work". With the total cost of fixing the elevator (\$92,642), Tammy Veasy brought up the idea of grant options and will research them and bring them to the June Board Meeting. This issue will stay at a standstill until then.

* Boris reported the mission committee had a total of \$1500 for the Blanket Sunday! Next will be Strengthening the Church June.* Since the search for a new pastor is taking longer than expected, a staffing plan through December will be put into place with Rev. Case and Rev. Gene Bacon.

* Rev. Case reported that we have 4 new sanctuary hearing aids.



Strengthening the Church

Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church offering. The STC offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Please give by **June 13th!!** Envelope enclosed.



CWS Blankets

Comfort. Warmth. Compassion

Thank you! At our
Mother's Day Blanket
Sunday we raised \$1,575, that's 157-1/2
blankets, that the Church World service will be
providing to families in need.

Enjoy our blanket! Honor Banner
in the Sanctuary

Food Pantry needs:

Au Gratin & Scallop box potatoes

4 packs of Jell-O &/or Pudding Cups

Hamburger, Tuna, Chicken helper - box

Spaghetti Sauce – prefer canned

Suddenly Salad in a box or pouch

***Food will be delivered at the end of the month**



*First Congregational United Church of Christ
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Alpena, MI 49707*

Phone: 989-356-1795 Fax 989-356-8825
Web Site: <http://uccalpena.org>
Email: officeuccalp@gmail.com
Office Hours: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Monday – Thursday

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.–
In person and Virtual**

Transitional Minister: Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case
Choir Director/Organist:: Kat Tomaszewski
Treasurer: Denise Fusina
Secretary: Kristi Blackaby
Custodian: Mike LaMarre

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Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Birthdays and Anniversaries in June

Birthdays:

6/2 Caitlin Borke
6/2 Carol Lund
6/4 Ferrol Osgood
6/5 Judy Cook
6/5 Noah Modrzynski
6/7 Karen Bacon
6/8 Curtis Davis
6/11 Jim McNeil
6/11 Brandon Borke
6/15 Dolly Zeller
6/16 Carl Silver
6/17 Ann Diamond
6/19 Lynne Stewart
6/19 Sonny Chrzan
6/21 Jeff Gerow
6/22 Levi Straley
6/23 Emeline Hanna
6/23 Olivia Lindahl
6/24 Judith Case
6/25 Jared Plume
6/29 Gavin Barden



Anniversaries:

Clarence & Sharon Rickard 42 years
Joseph & Kathryn Beland 70 years
Herbert & Carol Knowlton 50 years
Steve & Jill Bailey 52 years
Roger & Janice Snell 66 years
Boris & Edith Gerber 45 years
Robert & Judith Case 52 years
Chris & Julie McCoy 51 years
James & Lynne Stewart 62 years

