

April  
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

April 1  
Maundy Thursday-  
Virtual Only

April 2  
Good Friday-Virtual Only

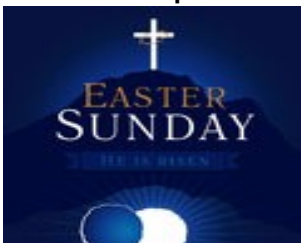
April 4  
Virtual & In Person  
Sunday Worship & Easter

April 11  
Virtual & In person  
Worship

April 12  
Board Meeting at 5:30pm  
Covid Guidelines to  
follow

April 18  
Virtual & In person  
Worship

April 25  
Virtual & In person



## A Word From Our Minister:

Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case

### *A Message from the Transitional Minister*

We now enter the most sacred time of the year for the Christian church where the heart of our faith is celebrated. It is said so simply; The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The last several years have been celebrated with our sister churches and last year we had to cancel services at the last minute. We are still under Covid protocols so that will not be possible again this year. Here what is planned this year for Holy Week.

*NOTE: Two of the services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, are virtual services only. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services will be both in-person and live streamed with the all the services being posted to YouTube.*

March 28<sup>th</sup> is Palm/Passion Sunday and we will celebrate the start of Holy Week with an **in-person and live streamed** service at ten o'clock. Sermon: The Two Parades Clash

Maundy Thursday is on the 1st of April and will be a Tenebrae a service. Tenebrae is a Latin term for shadows and is based around the gradual extinguishing of lights. (This will be a **virtual service only**, done with the Presbyterian Church.)

Good Friday has in the past been an ecumenical service from noon to three o'clock. We and the First Presbyterian Church will have an hour long joint service starting at noon that will be **virtual only**. The pre-recorded services can be used anytime of Good Friday. The church will be open from noon to three for quiet mediation.

Easter Sunday the Fourth of April will be a service of resurrection and renewal. Sermon: Who was the First Apostle and why does it matter?  
**It will be in-person and live streamed.**

It is my hope that this will help you with your spiritual journey through this sacred time of the year. There will be no Easter Sunrise service this year and hopefully next year with a new minister we can start fresh and joyfully return to more communal services.

The Lost is found!! Thanks to Nancy Wedge we have found a copy of the Windows booklet written by Rev. Robert Barksdale. For those of you who are new to the church Rev. Barksdale served the church for 25 years and was the minister when this church was built. It is my plan to include in every newsletter a description of some of the sanctuary windows.

As you enter the sanctuary, the windows on the left depict the basic teaching of the Congregational Church. The windows on the right side of the church depict the elements of worship. The next time you are in the church, before the service, read Isaiah 6 and then look at the windows on the right hand side.

However, I would first like to start with the beautiful windows in the front of the church. I will be quoting from the booklet.

*“THE CHANCEL WINDOW - The chancel window depicts Christ as the Good Shepherd. He stands high above us looking down upon us with a heart of love and care. This thought is depicted by the lamb in his arms; symbolic of the truth that He would gather all people into His love. ... On the left side of the central picture the prophets Isaiah and Amos are pictured. Isaiah looked for one who would care for his people and feed his flock like a shepherd. Amos was the first preacher of social justice and righteousness. On the right hand side of Christ is Jeremiah, the great prophet of divine fellowship and moral cleansing. Just beneath the figure of Jeremiah is Hosea, the first great preacher of God’s love and mercy – a love so deep and a mercy so great that sins can be forgiven and forgotten.”*

I hope you find this new newsletter column a help as you gather your thoughts and prepare for worship.

*Rev. Bob Case*

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As of 3/29/2021 from Covidactnow.org:

Alpena County

Risk Level: **Orange**

Daily new cases: 21.1 per 100K

Infection Rate: 1.21

Positive Test Rate: 8.7%

ICU capacity used: Unknown

Vaccinated: 35%

## Vaccine eligibility

Michigan is currently in **Phase 1B, Tier 4**. Eligibility varies throughout Michigan, so you may also want to check your county or city’s health department website.

### Phase 1B, Tier 4

- All other persons 50-64
- Persons 16+ with disabilities or pre-existing medical conditions as well as their caregivers

## Mission Committee Report

Boris Gerber

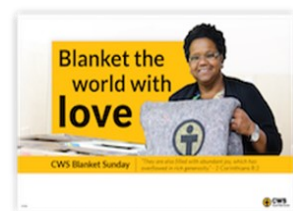


### Looking for Ideas for Spending Your Tax Refund or Economic Impact Payment?

A lot of local service agencies would love to have your help! Last month's newsletter listed many worthy agencies in our community. The United Way of Northeast Michigan also has a "Basic Human Needs" fund that helps families in need



**Animals Wanted!** This summer we'll be outdoors and able again to have our Heifer Animal Fair. Do you know of anyone who would be able to bring in a farm animal or two, for example a rabbit or a chicken or a . . .? Let Boris at 989-340-0338 know. The fair is a lot more fun for children (of all ages) if we have animals. Thanks.



**Special Offerings.** Thanks to all who contributed to our One Great Hour of Sharing collection in March (if you missed it, donations are still welcome). Did you know that last year our church received national recognition from the United Church of Christ as one of the top 100 per capita givers to OGHS (1 of only 2 UCC churches in Michigan to receive the honor). That's not

why we give, but it's nice to know we are a "giving" congregation! Our next special offering will be our Church World Service Blanket Appeal on Mother's Day.

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*Palm/Passion Sunday is March 28th at 10am– In person **and** Virtual*

*Maundy Thursday is April 1st– **Virtual Only** service with the Presbyterian Church.*

*Good Friday is April 2nd-**Virtual Only** –One hour service with First Presbyterian Church.*

*Easter is April 4th– In person **and** Virtual Service at 10am*



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

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Web Site: <http://uccalpena.org>  
Email: [officeuccalp@gmail.com](mailto: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**

## *Still Speaking*

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### **Birthdays and Anniversaries in April**

#### **Birthdays:**

4/1 Joan Chrzan  
4/11 Miranda Plume  
4/12 Janet Southwell  
4/12 Brian Hanna  
4/14 Bill Lewis  
4/15 Katie Mack  
4/19 Kristin Barden  
4/19 Dottie Haase  
4/20 Dennis Artley  
4/21 Lydia Hanna  
4/24 Debra Grubaugh  
4/24 Patty McNeil  
4/24 Jere Standen  
4/28 Bob Kelly  
4/28 Donna Marsh  
4/29 Patty Lance



#### **Anniversaries:**

**Max & Vicky Lindsay 43 years**  
**Curtis & Sharyl Davis 52 years**  
**Dan & Alison Bloom-Storey 22years**  
**Patrick Labadie &  
June Perry 48 years**

