

June
2016

Still Speaking

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Board of Directors

- Dennis Artley, treasurer
- Brandon Borke
- Ann Diamond, chair
- Kathy Dempsey
- Ann Gerow
- Dottie Haase
- Mike Mack
- Jim McNeil, vice chair

June 2016

Dates to Remember

- 12**
Graduation and "50"
year membership
Celebration
- 13**
Board of Directors
- 13**
Friendship Room
- 15**
Stamm Tish
- 15**
No Frills Book Club
- 16**
Film @ 6:30 p.m.
Kramer vs Kramer
- 19**
Father's Day
- 25**
Choral Summit
- 30**
Lecture:
"The Impact of Divorce
on Kids"



Honoring Our Senior Members

Beverly Aikens

Lloyd Aikens

Dennis Artley

Janet Artley

Lillian Banas

Madge Barksdale

Joseph Beland

Kathryn Beland

Richard Bloom

Alison Bloom-Storey

Jeannine Boyce

Joan Chrzan

Mary Davison

Barbara Diamond

Blair Diamond

Jean Gilliland

Jacque Granum

Dixie Julian

Herbert Knowlton

Patricia Kreft

Doris Lance

Phyllis Manitz

Chris McCoy

Joyce McLain

Mary Minnick

Margaret Naylor

Gordon Nethercut

Vernie Nethercut

James Park

Douglas Quinn

Carol Quinn

Ann Saretsky

Mary Lou Shuler

Carl Silver

Celebrating

"50" years (or more)

of Membership at

First Congregational

United Church of Christ

Thank you.

Robert Silver

Janet Southwell

Jere Standen

Bonnie Watkins

Thomas Watkins

Dick Wilson

Dolly Zeller

**Please join us at
the reception in
Fellowship Hall
following our
10:00 am Service
on June 12th
to honor our "50"
Year members
and graduates.**

Celebrating the Birthday's of June

June 2 Caitlin Borke	June 19 Lynne Stewart
June 2 Carol Lund	June 19 Sonny Chrzan
June 4 Betty Miles	June 21 Jeff Gerow
June 4 Lisa Granum	June 21 Peter Gerow
June 5 Judy Cook	June 23 Emeline Hanna
June 8 Curtis Davis	June 24 Ann Saretsky
June 11 Brandon Borke	June 24 Judy Case
June 11 James McNeil	June 25 Jared Plume
June 15 Dolly Zeller	June 28 Gordon Nethercut
June 16 Carl Silver	June 29 Gavin Barden
June 17 Ann Diamond	



Celebrating the Anniversaries of June



Clarence and Sharon Rickard	June 2	Roger & Jan Snell	June 18
Joe and Kay Beland	June 4	Rev. Bob & Judy Case	June 21
Herb and Carol Knowlton	June 12	Chris & Julie McCoy	June 21
Greg and Betsy Adamus	June 18	James & Lynne Stewart	June 27

Summer Singers begin on June 26

Betsy Adamus

The choir takes a break from mid-June until September. But that doesn't mean that Sunday morning worship music ends!! Any and all people who like to sing are invited to be part of our **"Summer Singers"**. Come to Barksdale Chapel at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday and practice for worship that day and also learn the next week's song. No robes! Sit in your favorite pew during the worship service.

Ladies Luncheon

Jan Snell and Dolly Zeller

The Ladies Luncheon was held on Friday, May 13th at the Fresh Palate. The June luncheon will be held at the **Alpena City Golf Course** on **Friday, June 10th at 11:30**. Please come join us. There is a sign-up sheet on the podium.

Jan & Dolly

Building Bridges

We will be meeting Thursdays in June to discuss the book, Religion Gone Astray: What We found at the Heart of Interfaith, by Mackenzie, Falcon and Rahman (Interfaith Amigos). We will begin on June 2nd, and meet at First Congregational UCC upstairs in the conference room.

Property Committee

Janet Artley

A special "Thank You" goes out to Dottie & Bill Haase and Anne & Don Cline for the clean-up and organization of the Fellowship Closet in the church. It is very easy to find things and if we all work together it will be easy to maintain. As a reminder, please do not put any food in this closet. Sugar and cream packets are okay. We don't want to invite any unwanted insects or pests to our church .

Graduates for 2016



High School Graduates:

Lydia Hanna
Alexandra Langerfeld
Jack Mac Donald

College Graduates:

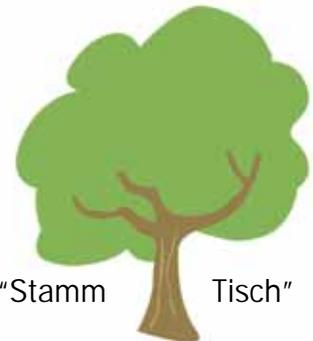
Sydney M. Allen Associate of Science @ ACC
Taylor (Allen) Turske Bachelor of Science NMU
 (Radiology)
Logan Turske Bachelor of Science NMU
 (Computer Science)
Andrew Sullivan: Univ. of Chicago Law School
 Grandson of Bill & Kathy Dempsey
 Will be a Public Defender in Memphis, TN

"Stamm Tisch"

Rev. Paul Lance

Come to John A. Lau Restaurant at **5:30 p.m. every Wednesday** this summer starting on **June 15** — and enjoy random conversation over a beer (or other beverage) with appetizers or meal, if desired (**everyone pays their own way**) around a common table.

Rev. Lance will be there for discussion of questions in general about life situations, topics in the news, or just for friendship and fun. No RSVP needed. Stop by (at the top of the stairs or in the Antler room) and get ready to talk with other adults from our church. Remember: it starts on **June 15**.



"Stamm Tisch"



It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to **Steve and Delilah Tretinik**. They have been very active members of the congregation for the past twenty four years. We wish them well as they begin the next adventure in their life.

Their new address is:

Steve & Delilah Tretinik

2915 Grand Marais

Howell, MI 48843

P.S. Rev Lance and Patty stopped by their new home on May 18th for a nice visit.

A Word from our Minister

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance

With the bold and beautiful Caravaggio painting “Martha and Mary Magdalene” on the Washington Ave.-facing side of our building, it only makes sense that I highlight some of the women among Jesus’ followers this month.

Martha and her sister Mary of Bethany, who provided hospitality to Jesus in their own home, along with their brother Lazarus, will be one of several stories we will consider in June.

Mary Magdalene, the second figure in Caravaggio’s classic painting, has quite a colorful history of her own, as we will see on another Sunday.

But there are others, such as the wife of King Herod’s chief steward, Cuza, whose stories are little known, but could be dramatically important. Just imagine... The chief steward of Herod may well have been the man who was instructed to bring John the Baptist’s head on a platter and present it to Salome, the beautiful dancing-girl daughter of Herodias. For his wife to be a follower and public supporter of Jesus would be a bit like “being married to the mob”! Which kind of kingdom-values would win out in a family like that? I’m rooting for the kingdom of God, not the kingdom of Herod.

There are many un-named women in the Gospels who were instrumental in helping Jesus articulate and demonstrate the kinds of values and behaviors which he was trying to teach. There was the widow, for example, who gave her last two coins to the Temple treasury. There was the Samaritan woman at the well who engaged Jesus in profound theological dialog about true worship. There was a Syro-Phoenician (today, we’d say Lebanese or Syrian) woman, who challenged Jesus to extend his ministry beyond the confines of Israel and the Jews to include her and her daughter, and others like them. There was even Simon Peter’s mother-in-law, who was the first person to get up and serve Jesus and his disciples recorded in the Gospels.

Since most of the year is spent either talking about Jesus or his mostly-male disciples, including the prophets of the Old Testament and the Apostles of the New, it will be refreshing to consider the important role women played in the early church. They have been our “un-sung heroes” for much too long! Let’s give them their due.

I’ll see you in church! Rev. Paul Lance



Monday Mid Day Movie Series: “Growing Old with Grace”

Everyone is welcome at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall for the free movies. Bring your lunch, if you like, and enjoy these great films. (No movies on May 30th or June 6)

June 13th: “The Straight Story” (1999) Richard Farnsworth & Sissy Spacek

June 20th: “Waking Ned Devine” (1999-Irish) James Nesbitt & Susan Lynch

June 27th: “Tuesday’s with Morrie” (1999) Jack Lemmon & Hank Azaria

Vacation Bible School



The Alpena Community Ecumenical Vacation Bible School committee (ACE-VBS) has been hard at work since early January planning something extra special for this summer! ACE-VBS (an ecumenical community group which includes the following churches: First Congregational UCC, First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, Grace Lutheran, St. Paul Lutheran, and Trinity Episcopal) will be hosting a week-long **DAY CAMP, July 25-29, from 9 AM to 3 PM**. This year's host site will be First United Methodist Church. This event is free, open to the public and for children ages 5 – 12. Lunch and snacks will be provided. This year's theme is "**Fearless Faith: Courage in Community**" More information will be included in the July newsletter. Registration forms, daily schedule, and additional information will also be available on our church web-site. Please plan on inviting your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends to attend this wonderful, fun week! And, as always, volunteers are needed.... If you are interested in lending a hand, please call Betsy, 356-1795.

Board of Directors May 2016 Meeting Highlights

Gerrie La Cross, Secretary

- ◆ Thank you to Caitlyn Borke and the Barbershop singers for the Sunday worship service on Mothers Day.
- ◆ Financial Reports show that financially we are in a good place. There is good cash flow.
- ◆ Property Report: New drain basket for dishwasher has been installed, still need new soap lines. Discussion on new boiler. Motion was made to contact Weinkauf Plumbing and get on their work schedule for installation before fall. Janet Artley is still researching for new folding chairs for the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ Mission Committee will be having more photo opportunities as they deliver the rest of the Comstock Checks to the Community
- ◆ Worship Committee: Upcoming dates. June 12 : "50" year members and Graduate Celebration, June 25: Choral Summit; June 26: New Members; July 17: Mission Committee hosting "Christmas in July" with animals on site and Heifer International gift cards, Presbyterians will be invited, too.
- ◆ Personnel Committee: Presented a new job description for a part time custodian. Adopted by the Board, Committee will be conducting interviews. Rev. Lance will be conducting staff reviews.
- ◆ Fellowship Committee: Still looking for a chairperson for this new committee
- ◆ There are 25 people signed up for the Prof. Kirk seminar. Gerrie & Michael La Cross will cater.
- ◆ Discussion on names for the board appointed committee positions for 2016-2017. Names will be proposed next month.
- ◆ Rev. Lance and Gerrie attended a mobile device social media workshop May 12th at ACC. Rev Lance will be attending a DDA meeting in Howell on "Main Street" Programming. The UCC annual meeting will be in Flint this October with the topic "White privilege, looking for racial reconciliation" . The new web design has been approved and should be ready soon. Janet Artley has accepted to replace Delilah as the church attendance taker. Kim & Mike Nunneley will be filming the Prof. Kirk seminar. Personnel committee will begin searching for replacements for Betsy's positions as their home is for sale and they will be relocating when they sell.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC'S
"CHURCH RETREAT" @ CAMP CHICKAGAMI
THURS., AUG 11 -- SAT., AUG 13



We have booked **Cabin Esau** (two bedrooms -- a double bed in one and a single twin with a bunk in the other) which has a kitchen with a stove -- as our "main cabin". **Grand Lake Cabin** (double bed plus fold-out double couch), **Lighthouse Cabin** (a double bed and two single beds), and **Bell Bay Cabin** (single bed where Rev. Lance will sleep). Those are for adults or families.

The bulk of our lodging will be in **Cabins "Adam" & "Eve"** (each sleeping 12 in bunk beds, with separate bathroom/ shower building), and the long **Bunkhouse** with four rooms that each house 8 people (32 campers total there).



Top: Cabin "Eve",

Bottom: Interior of Cabin "Adam"

Arts and Crafts, Group Fire pit, Basketball court, and an outdoor Labyrinth. Lots of fun and exciting things to do. Plan to spend some quality time with your family and church friends. Save the date!! Please **RSVP to Rev. Lance!**

See the Church Bulletin board for full brochure

Monday Morning Bible Study begins “GENESIS”

Here’s your chance to start something *new!* Our 10:00 a.m. Bible Study group is embarking on a journey through the oldest stories in our Old Testament, starting in “Genesis.” Now, *that may not seem very “new” to you*, since the literature is over 3,000 years old! But you may have never looked at it quite in this light before...

I love the Book of Genesis because it is full of human beings in relationship with one another — fully alive, embodied, explorers into the unknown of their day... They meet and mate, they fight and they fear, they reproduce themselves, and behave erratically! In this first book of the Bible-library, the rules have not yet been laid down. It’s a bit rough and tumble, like the old Wild West. God’s good Creation itself is still rough about the edges in Genesis.



I can relate to this give and take, this back and forth, this sometimes walking in faith and other times coming up with one’s own “fix” that only makes matters worse! I appreciate the way the four layers of oral tradition (namely, the Northern Kingdom *Israel*, the Southern Kingdom *Judah*, “El” and “Yahweh”, plus the Deuteronomist law-giver and the Exile priests who edited the whole shebang) have been woven into a telling in which different strands are often at odds with each other. We will listen for major and minor voices.

What we will be looking for are the movements forward *and the set-backs* among families — Adam & Eve, Cain’s offspring, Noah, Abram & Sarai and their sons Ishmael & Isaac, the twins Jacob & Esau, and culminating with Jacob’s twelve sons — who try to be as faithful as they can be without fully understanding what they’re doing.

These Matriarchs and Patriarchs of the Bible deserve our respect, without a doubt; but we will not put them on a pedestal. We will look at them as “case studies” of what is good, and what is unhelpful, in how they behave and the decisions they make.

We read the Good News Bible (Today’s English Version) one verse at a time, pausing for discussion of what strikes us as the story unfolds. Join us Mondays at 10 a.m. in the Lounge. (We end in time for you to enjoy the 11:30 a.m. Monday Mid-day Movie, too.)

Two Church Outings coming this summer (Brochures are available in the Church Hallway)

The first will be **July 31 –August 2** (three days, two nights) in Dearborn visiting Greenfield Village, the Ford Factory, the Islamic Center of America & Detroit’s Eastern Market. Return drive will stop at Birch Run Outlet Mall, Frankenmuth, & Dow Gardens in Midland. We will meet 24 guests from Germany at the Detroit Airport and mingle on this downstate outing. Each church member going on this outing will receive a \$100 discount off the published price, through a Comstock Grant subsidy.

The second outing (**Mon. Aug. 8 – Wed. Aug.10**) will take us north, beginning at Colonial Fort Michlimackinac, Mackinaw City, & the Ojibwa Cultural Center in St. Ignace & up to Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie. Two nights lodging in the LSSU dormitories with meals in the cafeteria, tour of the campus, Soo Locks, & a day’s hike between the Upper & Lower Tahquamenon falls. This one will have a \$66 per member discount. For details speak to Brandon Borke or Rev. Lance. **Register soon**

First Congregational United Church of Christ
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Alpena, MI 49707

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Web Site: <http://uccalpena.org>
Email: officeuccalp@frontier.com
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday – Thursday

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Underground Church 5:00 p.m.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance III
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case
Assoc. for Music & Education: Betsy Adamus
Treasurer: Denise Fusina
Secretary: Gerrie La Cross

Still Speaking

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Happy Father's Day, Sunday June 19th



A father is neither an
anchor to hold us back,
nor a sail to take us there,
but a guiding light whose
love shows us the way.

The Baptism of:

Lillie Deon Barden

will take place during
Fathers Day 10:00 am
Worship Service.

Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, the
child's grandfather, Pastor
Emeritus of our congregation
will assist Rev Lance in the
sacrament