

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"If you ask, 'Why is this happening?' no light may come, but if you ask, 'How am I to glorify God now?' there will always be an answer." ~J.I. Packer

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

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BILL DEMPSEY, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

***OPENING HYMN: BAPTIZED IN WATER (INSERT) VERSE 3 – SUNG TWICE**

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come, all who need help!

All: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Come, all who desire blessing!

All: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.

Leader: Come, all who long for salvation!

All: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

Amen.

*Opening Prayer

All: Lord, we are such stubborn people. We want to know all the answers. We find it hard to place our trust even in your Son. When Jesus proclaims that we can have a new life, we want to know how this is possible. How can we get rid of the old burdens and difficulties and start over again? Wouldn't it be just like climbing back into the womb to make a fresh start? How we have misunderstood what Jesus has said. New life is possible. We can place our trust in God's healing care. Forgive us, and help us, gracious Lord. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Pastor: New life is given to you. You can place your trust in God and follow God's way. God is with you. **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.*

FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-4A

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: JOHN 3:1-17

SERMON: MOVE OUT

REV. JON GOUGEON

PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN: #410 IF YOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU VERSES 1-3**

(PLEASE BE SEATED.)

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

MINISTER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.
WE SHARE FROM OUR ABUNDANCE WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH
PASSION FOR JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***CLOSING HYMN: #198 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS VERSES 1, 3, 5**

*Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

***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.**

*BENEDICTION

Minister: Lord, as we go from this place, walk with us. Give us renewed confidence in your will and transform our lives that we may serve you better. 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/music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream obtained from One License #A-739847.*

Postlude

*Please join us for Fellowship Time following the service.
We would love to get to know you better!*

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

Lay Reader: **Bill Dempsey**
Ushers: **Lynne Stewart and Pat Labadie**
Communion Ministry: **Pat Garant**

Altar Guild: **Pat Garant**
Greeter: **Blair Diamond**
Fellowship Hosts: **Ron & Linda Borke
and Beth & Megan Petty**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	March 5	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service & Fellowship Time
Monday	March 6	5:30 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday	March 8	5:00 p.m.	Simple Supper & Worship Service (at Grace Lutheran Church)
Thursday	March 9	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements

- ❖ Please note - The next two community Lenten observances are scheduled for:
 - March 15 - First Presbyterian Church - Simple Supper at 5:00 followed by Worship Service at 6:00.
 - March 22 - First Congregational Church - Simple Supper at 5:00 followed by Worship Service at 6:00.
- ❖ We will need 12-15 crockpots of soup for our March 22 Simple Supper. Please complete the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office if you can supply some soup.
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards each week in the middle hall.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.

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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

March 5, 2023

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



Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
Part-Time Interim Pastor: *Reverend Jon Gougeon*
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*
Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Live-stream Technician: *Brayden Broad*
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