

**January  
2025**

# Still Speaking

*Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena*

## Board of Directors

Deborah Desimone,  
Chairperson  
Sandy Jarmuzewski,  
Vice-Chairperson  
Nancy Wedge,  
Treasurer  
Beverly Bodem  
Bill Dempsey  
Ann Diamond  
Joe Garant  
Jim McNeil  
Beth Petty

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

**Pastor Dick Hotchkin**

As Christians, our faces must be to the future. We dare not simply revel in the past, nor be engulfed by the present. We have responsibilities for the tomorrows. But looking at everything going on about us, it can be especially difficult to have bracing hope for the future. Problems of immense dimensions loom before us. It is all too easy for us human beings to lose both heart and courage.

It is part of the Church's ministry to put us on the path of the tomorrows with confidence and calm. It does this as it turns us around to view the faithfulness of God in the past. It says, "Remember the mercies and the loving-kindness of your Lord. He who has not failed you in the past, will he fail you in the future?"

Remember how God led the children of Israel out of Egypt. Remember how again and again God brought them out of exile. Remember, above all else, how God sent Jesus to die and rise again for the sins of the world. Remember how God caused a small frightened band of followers to become apostles and missionaries the world over - until hundreds of millions of people embraced the faith and changed the course of history.

Perhaps within the boundaries of your own life you can remember how God has spared you. You were terrified by the possibility of harm. Your heart was filled with fear and anxiety. You lost sleep. Your courage and hope were all but gone. But many of your fears were unfounded. You were given strength. God's mercy and kindness saw you through in strange and wonderful ways. You never quite knew how, but blessings that you never expected came your way.

As we close one year and enter a new one, let us look back and count our blessings. Let us rest back in those arms that have cradled and carried us through the years. Let us look forward with courage and confidence. Let us be people of Christian hope.

## Dates to Remember

**January 1**  
New Year's Day  
Office closed

**January 5**  
Worship Service  
Communion

**January 6**  
Worship  
Committee  
5:30 pm

**January 12**  
Worship Service

**January 13**  
Board Meeting  
5:30 pm

**January 19**  
Worship Service

**January 26**  
Worship Service  
Annual Meeting



## Treasurer's Report

*Denise Fusina*

<u>PLEDGE REPORT</u>	<u>November 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
◇ General Fund Pledge:	\$ 9,250	\$ 101,750
◇ Received:	18,589	116,760

<u>INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT</u>	<u>November 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
◇ General Fund Income	\$ 36,459	\$ 214,493
◇ General Fund Expense	21,754	217,816

## Feed A Family

*Bill Haase*

Food pantry needs are: Jello, pudding (any flavor), chicken or turkey packages, cans of gravy, Spaghetti, ravioli, pasta rings, kids cereal (Rice Krispies, Capt. Crunch, Fruit Loops), cranberry sauce. Feel free to utilize the donated shopping bags on the middle hallway table.

## Board Highlights

*Deborah Desimone*

- ◆ Thank you to the Diamonds for their generous gift of the Yamaha CVP 909GP in memory of their mother Barbara Diamond. It was only a matter of time before our beloved Chickering Grand Piano would not be repairable or tunable.
- ◆ Working towards more community presence and the future vision of our 'downtown church'.
- ◆ Simplifying the budget to be better understood by the members.
- ◆ Recognized Nancy and Ashley Wedge for their work in the Holiday Luncheon. Everyone enjoyed the Fellowship and Hospitality.
- ◆ Pastor Hotchkin noted that 'card declaring members' is down about 40 members.
- ◆ The Stewardship Campaign had generated significantly more than last year but is still short of the goal of \$150,000.



To all of you who help with our Christmas Holiday celebration, your time, talents, presence, and encouragement are very much appreciated!

**PLEASE HAVE ALL YOUR ANNUAL REPORTS IN BY JANUARY 6**

## Dates to Remember

### *Birthdays*

*Joe Garant 1/5*  
*Herbert Knowlton 1/10*  
*Max Lindsay 1/10*  
*Vicky Lindsay 1/12*  
*Kathy Thomas 1/12*  
*James Park 1/13*

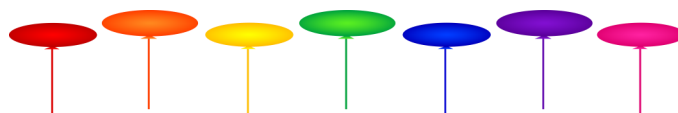
*Beverly Olsen 1/17*

*Vernie Nethercut 1/23*

*Kathy Moore 1/27*

### *Anniversary*

*Sonny and Joan Chrzan 1/26*



## Help Wanted

### Pew Arrangers

We are in need of a few people interested in arranging pews weekly. This would be making sure pencils are sharpened, Kleenex in place, notepads, envelopes, Bibles, and hymnals placed where they belong. Bulletins removed. This can be done Sunday after the service or later in the week. Contact Nancy Wedge, if you have any questions, at 989-356-4402 or [wedge.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:wedge.nancy@gmail.com).

## January Laity Schedule

### Lay Readers

January 5 Lori Mayer  
 January 12 Marilyn Kettler  
 January 19 Lynn Borke  
 January 26 Jim McNeil

### Ushers

January 5 Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski  
 January 12 Max & Vicky Lindsay  
 January 19 Nancy and Ashley Wedge  
 January 26 Penny Anderson

### Altar Guild

Nancy Wedge

### Communion

January 5

### Counters

January 12 Dennis & Janet Artley  
 January 26 Tammy Veasy

### Fellowship

January Jeff & Ann Gerow

### Greeters

January 5 Craig Waak and Bev Bodem  
 January 12 Joe & Pat Garant  
 January 19 Ron & Lynn Borke  
 January 26 Jim Straley and Penny Anderson

**Note: If you see openings where you can help, please feel free to step in.**

*whatever you do*  
*work at it with all your*  
*as working for the Lord,*  
**not for men.**



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

Phone: 989-356-1795

Web Site: <http://uccalpena.org>

Email: [officeuccalp@gmail.com](mailto:officeuccalp@gmail.com)

Office Hours: 9:00 AM– 1:00 PM Monday – Thursday

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM  
In Person and Online**

**Transition Minister:**

**Reverend Dr. Richard E. Hotchkin**

**Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Dr. H. Robert Case**

**Organist/Choir Director: Kat Tomaszewski**

**Treasurer: Denise Fusina**

**Office Administrator: Nancy Ross**

**Custodian: Mike LaMarre**

*Still Speaking*

*Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena*

HAPPY

*New Year*

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.

PHIL 4:4