

**November
2024**

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

Knowledge is vitally important. The world has seen a veritable explosion of knowledge in all areas. But it is not knowledge that provides life with ultimate meaning. It is faith. We human beings need something – or someone – to believe in. Knowledge is made up of a vast assortment of pieces, much like a jigsaw puzzle. It is faith that can assemble the pieces into a picture of the whole. Until the picture emerges, everything is a jumble.

Knowledge has made the world incredibly rich – but with glaring limitations. Knowledge has nothing to say about the nature of values. Knowledge gives us power never dreamed of – power to travel faster than the speed of sound, but with no clear destination. Knowledge has given us skills – skills to lengthen life, but no word about why one should live to be 115. Knowledge has given us insights – insights into the social and political structures of nations, but no word of duty beyond the need to survive; insights into the biology of the body, but no clue to the hidden glories of the soul; insights into the billions of galaxies, but silence about a God beyond the stars.

God has offered us a picture, to be received by faith and not by knowledge. It is a staggering pattern. The Bible's 66 books contain it. Beginning with the bracing lines, "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth," and moving toward the climactic promise of a new heaven and a new earth, the picture has breathtaking dimensions.

In this sacred drama, God and human beings are the central figures, with the universe itself the stage, with nations and civilizations as props, with time the prompter. What happens between God and human beings is the eternal plot. This is the picture, received by faith, which can pull together the fragments of knowledge, and make of the jumble a design of profound meaning and astounding beauty.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

[Hebrews 11:1]

Dates to Remember

November 3

Worship Service
Communion
All Saints Sunday
Daylight Savings Time
ends

November 4

Worship Committee
5:30 pm

November 5

Election Day

November 10

Worship Service
Thanksgiving Potluck

November 11

Veterans Day
Board Meeting
5:30 pm

November 17

Worship Service

November 24

Worship Service

November 28

Thanksgiving
(Office closed)



Heifer International

Boris Gerber

Thanks to all who helped purchase farm animals at our special collection for Heifer International!

In total we have sent **\$2,103** to Heifer International to help end poverty and hunger!

Here's a total list of animals we are providing:

- ◆ 3 Hives of Honey Bees (\$90)
- ◆ 4 Flocks of Chicks (\$80)
- ◆ 1 Flock of Ducks and Geese (\$23)
- ◆ 2 Rabbits (\$40)
- ◆ 2 Goats (\$240)
- ◆ 1 Heifer (\$500)
- ◆ 1 Alpaca (\$150)
- ◆ 2 pigs (\$240)
- ◆ 2 Sheep (\$240)
- ◆ 2 Water Buffalo (\$500)



Thank you to all the Veterans...

Newsletter

Please know that Newsletters are now being sent electronically in order to be better financial stewards of our gifts. You may be receiving this via 'snail mail' because we either do not have a current email on file or you have not indicated your preference for either email or USPS. This may be your last Newsletter via USPS unless we hear from you. The Newsletter is also posted on the First United Congregational Church Website for your convenience.

We are currently updating our email accounts and would very much appreciate your giving us a call @ 989-356-1795 so that we can continue to keep you up to date on all the latest events, important matters, and issues involving your church family.

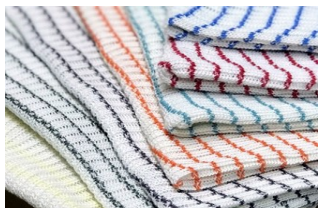
Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

May you be abundantly blessed by our great God and Savior!

Gift Opportunities

Nancy Wedge

DISH CLOTHS



A new order of dish clothes has been ordered and received. These cloths make great stocking stuffers or secret Santa gifts. Cost is \$2.50 each with colors of red, blue, yellow and green available. Contact Nancy Wedge if you would like to purchase (wedge.nancy@gmail.com or 989.356.4402)

BROOMS

Brooms have arrived. These brooms were sold during the SERRV Bazaar years ago. They are a light weight, corn broom. Cost is \$20. Contact Nancy if you wish to purchase one, two or more (wedge.nancy@gmail.com or 989.356.4402)



We are inviting the community to an Open House on Friday, December 20 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. There will be light refreshments, and music provided by Patty McNeil. Please plan to stop by with your friends and family to enjoy a pleasant evening of fellowship, music, food and good cheer!

SAVE THE DATES!

Thanksgiving Potluck

November 10

Holiday Luncheon

December 8

Christmas Open House

December 20

A Christmas Tradition

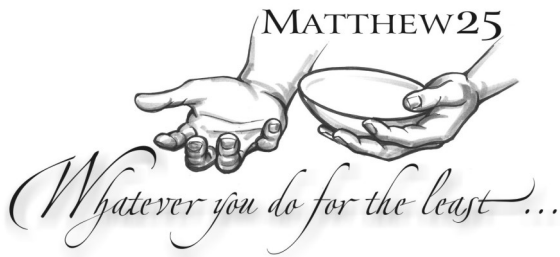
Nancy Wedge

The legend of Pepita and the Flowers of the holy Night tells the story of a young girl who gave a bouquet of weeds to the Baby Jesus at Christmas. The weeds transformed into red flowers, and the tradition of giving poinsettias at Christmas began. With your help our altar will be massed with these beautiful plants for Christmas Eve Service. They may be designated in honor of someone, an anniversary, a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one.

The cost of each poinsettia is to be determined. More information to follow in mid-November.

Feed A Family

Bill Haase



Food pantry needs are:: boxed or bagged potatoes; mashed, au gratin, scalloped, cheesy, etc. Hamburger, chicken, or tuna helper; cereal, crackers, kid snacks, soups. Feel free to utilize the donated shopping bags on the middle hallway table.

Treasurer's Report

Denise Fusina

PLEDGE REPORT

September 2024

Year to Date

◇ General Fund Pledge:	\$ 9,250	\$ 83,250
◇ Received:	8,625	86,237

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

September 2024

Year to Date

◇ General Fund Income	\$ 8,872	\$ 165,914
◇ General Fund Expense	19,647	179,850

Board Highlights

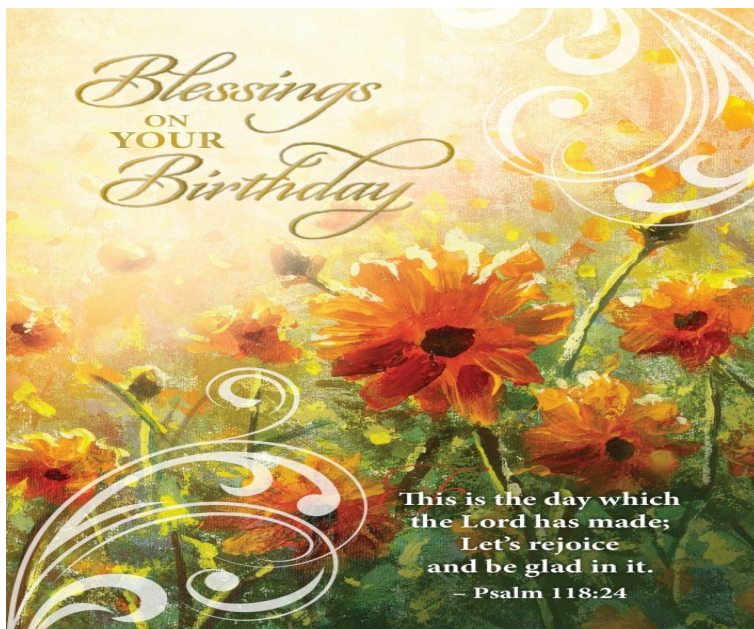
Deborah Butler

- ◆ The Stewardship Campaign kicked off on October 27 with a goal of \$150,000.
- ◆ The Xerox copier/printer lease is up in November. The Board voted to lease another printer/copier similar to the current Xerox with less 'bells and whistles' for a lower cost.
- ◆ They also voted to 'outsource' the larger printing projects thus saving money.
- ◆ The state of Michigan has mandated the Elevator needs upgrades before January 2028 due to a change in the Elevator State Code. The cost is approximately \$22,000.
- ◆ The Memorial Garden requires more care and maintenance (trimming the trees, bushes, mulch etc.). They would like to get the bulk of it done before winter. The outside doors will also continue to be refurbished as time and weather permits.
- ◆ The Board voted to donate the Boy Scout Trailer to the D-Bar-D Scout Ranch to enable current Boy Scouts to utilize, after not being used for several years.
- ◆ Looking to update the Website and Social Media presence.
- ◆ Thanks to our members who continually show up when help is needed.

Dates to Remember

Birthdays

Dan Kibbe 11/1
 Dianna Kelly 11/3
 Chris McCoy 11/6
 Marilyn Kettler 11/8
 Andy Lindahl 11/8
 Bill Haase 11/10
 Gary Jarmuzewski 11/12
 Sherry Allen 11/15
 Kay Beland 11/16
 Dan Storey 11/30



Laity Schedule for October

Altar Guild:

Cindy Straley

Communion:

November 3 Nancy Wedge

Counters :

November 10 Tammy Veasy

November 24 Nancy Wedge

Greeters:

November 3 Joe Garant and Penny Anderson

November 10 Joe & Pat Garant

November 17 Ron Borke and Trish McLaren

November 24 Bill & Debbie Dempsey

Lay Readers:

November 3 Jim McNeil

November 10 Lynn Borke

November 17 Lori Mayer

November 24 Lynn Borke

Ushers:

November 3 Boris Gerber and Penny Anderson

November 10 Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski

November 17 Nancy and Ashley Wedge

November 24 Gary Jarmuzewski and Pat Labadie

Fellowship Hosts:

Jay & Marilyn Kettler



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

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

HE CHANGES

THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS;

HE REMOVES

KINGS AND RAISES UP KINGS;

HE GIVES

WISDOM TO THE WISE
AND KNOWLEDGE TO THOSE
WHO HAVE UNDERSTANDING.

DANIEL 2:21