

**July  
2024**

# Still Speaking

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

## Board of Directors

Deborah Butler,  
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 members and lay leaders, I challenge you to build the congregation's future on four biblical concepts that successful churches are finding vitally important, even crucial. These concepts are based on Romans 12:4-5: "For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."

The first biblical concept is that every believer is a minister – not an Ordained Minister, but a minister. Among other things, being a Christian means trying to live a Christlike lifestyle. The Pastor of a highly faithful congregation says, "Every Christian is created for ministry, saved for ministry, called into ministry, gifted for ministry, authorized for ministry, commanded to minister, to be prepared for ministry, needed for ministry, accountable for ministry, and will be rewarded according to her or his ministry."

The second biblical concept is that every ministry is important. There are no second class members in the body of Christ, and there are no insignificant ministries. Every ministry is important.

The third biblical concept is that we human beings are dependent upon each other. Every ministry is intertwined with all of the others. Since no single ministry can accomplish all that a congregation is called to do, we must depend on and cooperate with each other. We are interdependent.

The fourth biblical concept is that each ministry is the expression of our spiritual gifts, our heart, our abilities, our personality, and our experience. Each of us is uniquely designed by God to do certain things. Only we can do what God has designed us to do.

Live in peace; trust Jesus to lead you into God's future.

## Dates to Remember

**July 4**  
Independence Day

**July 7**  
Worship Service  
Communion

**July 8**  
Board Meeting  
5:30 pm

**July 14**  
Worship Service

**July 21**  
Worship Service

**July 28**  
Worship Service



## Feed A Family

Bill Haase

Food pantry needs are: Spaghettios, Raviolios, spaghetti and meatballs, lots of kids cereal, Rice Krispies, Captain Crunch, Honey Nut O's, Fruity O's, or any other kind of cereal. Thank you.

## Treasurer's Report

Denise Fusina

<u>PLEDGE REPORT</u>	<u>May 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
◇ General Fund Pledge	\$ 9,250	\$46,250
◇ Received	5,991	58,573
<u>INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT</u>	<u>May 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
◇ General Fund Income	\$ 6,156	\$ 87,465
◇ General Fund Expense	20,435	105,057

## Laity Schedule for July

### Greeters:

July 7: Penny Anderson

July 14: Beth Petty

July 21: Tammy Veasy

July 28: Dan Kibbe

### Lay Readers:

July 7: Boris Gerber

July 14: Lori Mayer

July 21: Marilyn Kettler

July 28: Lori Mayer

### Ushers:

July 7: Gary & Sandy Jarmuzewski

July 14: Max & Vicky Lindsay

July 21: Penny Anderson and Boris Gerber

July 28: Penny Anderson and Pat Labadie

### Altar Guild:

Joan Chrzan

### Communion:

July 7: Joan Chrzan

### Counters:

July 14: Ashley Wedge

July 28: Dennis & Janet Artley

### Fellowship Hosts:

July 7:

July 14:

July 21:

July 28:

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED FOR JULY



## Recollections and memories throughout the years....

### Dixie Julian

Dixie Julian has officially been a member of First Congregational UCC Alpena for 74 years, since 1950, although she began attending years earlier, as a young child. Dixie holds the special distinction of being one of our longest members, sharing the honor with Jim Park and Joan Chrzan.

Dixie has many fond memories of her years in the church, especially Sunday School and Pilgrim Fellowship. She traveled to Pilgrim Haven twice as P.F. leader and teacher. Through the years, Dixie sang in the choir and enjoyed preparing meals and helping in the kitchen for dinners and church events. She also warmly remembers the old church building.

First Congregational UCC Alpena holds a lifetime of memories for Dixie including her marriage in 1955. As well, her 3 children were baptized, attended Sunday school, and participated in numerous activities here.

Dixie remembers good times with all the Pastors who served the church, but Rev. Case was special to her because of his support and kindness during the passing of her mother and her husband.

### Joan Chrzan

I was baptized in 1938 at St. Bernard's Church. In 1940 my father passed away and my mother raised us four children in her church, First Congregational Church.

I remember going to Birds Nest with Gertrude Bertram, attending Pilgrim Fellowship, and becoming a member in 1950.

When my mother passed away, I was impressed with the luncheon the ladies put on for her funeral. I joined one of the Funeral Committees in 1990 and continue to serve to the present. It is something I truly enjoy doing and happy that my husband works along with me.

I also serve on the Altar Committee, Fellowship Hour, and Pew Cleaning. We were married at St. Mary's Church in 1963 when Protestant ministers were not allowed to participate in the service. Thanks to Rev. Robert Case, last year for our 60th Anniversary, he gave us a blessing in the First Congregational Church.




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As a way to honor our 50 year members, the Worship Committee along with the assistance of Ann Gerow, Lois Gibbs, Bev Olsen, and Bobbi Zubi, have surveyed the 50 year members, asking about their memories and their relationship to this congregation. The information that has been gathered will be used to tell a little story about each participant, which will be included in this summer's Newsletters. Our hope is that you will enjoy hearing some history from our long term members.

## Recollections and memories throughout the years....continued.

### Nancy Wedge

Nancy Wedge has officially been a member of First Congregational UCC Alpena since 1970, for 54 years. She has been a lifetime member of the church attending our church as an infant and throughout the years with her grandmother, mother, aunt, and sister.

Nancy has fond memories of her participation in the youth group activities and outings. There were fun times and life lessons learned, especially on a mission trip as a teen to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, that was chaperoned by Peg Manier and Marge Barksdale. Nancy successfully navigated for the car she was traveling in, despite starting out with the map upside down; the adults asked her to also navigate for the trip home.

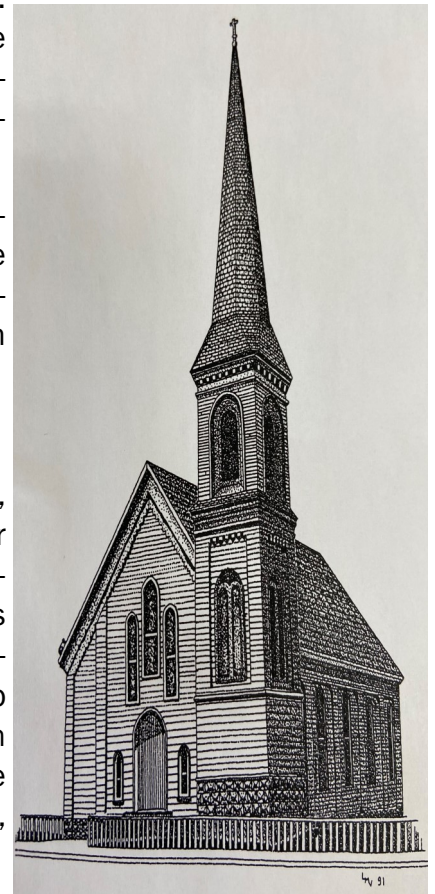
First Congregational UCC Alpena has been part of Nancy's family legacy. Her parents, John and Patricia Kreft, were the first couple married in the current church building in 1954. Nancy was baptized, confirmed, and married here. Also, her children were baptized, confirmed, and son, Ben, was married here. The traditions continues with Nancy's twin granddaughters also being baptized at First Congregational UCC Alpena.

Nancy has been an active member and continues to be a generous volunteer in many areas of the church including the Board of Directors, Finance Committee, and Special Funds Treasurer, to name a few. She fondly remembers Rev. and Mrs. Barksdale who were very active and engaged with the youth of the church during their time in Alpena.

### Herb Knowlton

Herb Knowlton is a 66-year member of First Congregational UCC Alpena, officially joining in 1958. Herb is an Alpena native and a lifetime member of the church. He began his church attendance as an infant with his parents and family, and he was baptized here. Through the years, Herb has been involved in the church by serving several times on the Board of Directors and the Board of Christian Ed., and he participated in the Men's Group activities and its annual Christmas dinner for the congregation, to mention a few. He acknowledges that he was fortunate to have met so many fine mentors in the church, such as Lucas Pfeiffenberger, Gordon Nethercut, Joe Beland, and more.

A favorite memory of Herb's church life was Pilgrim Fellowship and the youth group activities. He has enjoyed many years of church attendance, involvement, and events, but he is especially pleased that he was a member of the Search Committee that hired Rev. Dr. Bob Case in January 1985. Rev. Dr. Bob Case is beloved by the Knowlton family. Herb and Carol were pleased that Rev. Case was able to officiate the marriages of their three children, Shelly, Laura, and Mark, who also grew up attending First Congregational UCC Alpena.



## Dates to Remember

### Birthdays

Allison Modrzynski 7/9  
 Charlotte Wilson 7/12  
 John Caplis 7/13  
 Wendy Lewis 7/16  
 Sandra Jarmuzewski 7/18  
 Boris Gerber 7/20  
 Esther Donald-Briggs 7/25  
 Edith Gerber 7/26  
 Dennis Bodem 7/27

### Anniversaries

Dennis & Janet Artley 7/2  
 Jeffrey & Ann Gerow 7/3  
 Paul & Patty Lance 7/14  
 John & Esther Donald-Briggs 7/15  
 John & Laura Caplis 7/19  
 Terry & Jackie Bell 7/30



## Homebound/Shut-in Ministry

Pastor Dick

If you are interested in having someone visit or bring you communion, please let either Pastor Dick or Gary Jarmuzewski know. With many older and homebound members, some may feel somewhat neglected and lost in the activities of our church. We would love to have you stay connected and feel a part of our church community.

**Membership Declaration Cards are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church.**

## Board Highlights

- ◇ Meeting Minutes are currently posted in the middle hallway.
- ◇ Property & Security Committees are now combined.
- ◇ Board Appointed Committees will run concurrent with Elected Positions. (January thru December/Annual Meeting)
- ◇ The Board is looking into on-line giving options.
- ◇ 'Cultivating a Generous Congregation' is now in the early planning and implementation stage.
- ◇ Improvements, updates, and sustainability are currently being planned for the Columbarium Courtyard.
- ◇ Membership Declaration cards will be evaluated at the end of August.
- ◇ The newly formed Property/Security Committee will now be responsible for locking the church when the choir is not in session.

*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**

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