

September
2020

Still Speaking

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Board of Directors:

- **Dennis Artley**, treasurer
- **Bill Dempsey**
- **Blair Diamond**
- **Boris Gerber**
- **Ann Gerow**, vice-chair
- **Nancy Wedge**
- **Vicky Lindsay**
- **Jim Mc Neil**, chair
- **Beth Petty**

Dates to Remember

6
Sunday virtual worship
also 10:00 a.m. out-
doors, *if it doesn't rain.*

7
Labor Day (closed)

8
New Office Hours
begin (10 am—2 pm)

13
Sunday virtual Worship
(& 10:00 am outdoors)

14
Board Meeting
in Fellowship Hall
5:30 pm
Everyone is welcome
(masks required to
enter; seated more
than 6-feet apart)

20
Sunday virtual Worship
(we may be open for
face-to-facemask
worship indoors, but if
not, keep going to
uccalpena.org)

27
Sunday Worship

A Word From Our Minister: My Last Month with You...

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance III

I have only one month remaining before my retirement on Oct. 1.

I have continued teaching five classes every week all summer, but they are winding down now. (See the schedules in this month's Newsletter.) Kat and I will be recording "virtual worship" for the website (uccalpena.org) as well as leading live "outdoor" services on Sunday mornings (so long as it does not rain!) on Sept. 6, 13, 20, and 27. I hope to see most of you there on one or another of those Sundays. We had 33 people in attendance on Aug. 23, our first outdoor service (See the photo on the outside page of this Newsletter.)

Most of my time in the last two weeks of September will be spent clearing out my files and giving away my books and movies. If you know someone in seminary who needs **a professional library** of church-related books — or anyone interested in books on theology, ethics, economics, philosophy, psychology, society, history, world religions, leadership, preaching, and other such specialties — tell them to come to our church and select whatever they like **for free!**

Patty and I will be getting our house ready to sell, which will mean a huge "Yard Sale" in October, in order to move back to Long Beach, California. Let's make the most of these next four weeks. May God bless you. — Rev. Lance



Scouting continues
this fall for the
Scout troops and
Cub packs
sponsored by
our church.

Do you know of any families with boys and girls who would be interested in the **hands-on fun** and **learning of life-long leadership skills** offered by scouting?

Our boy and girl **Troops** will be meeting on Monday evenings, either in our parking lot or in Fellowship Hall (if Covid-19 allows). The **Cub scout pack** meetings will be at the convenience of the den leader.

For more information, please call:

***Boy Troop 78** Scoutmaster Joe: (989) 766-3683

***Girl Troop 278** Scoutmaster Mary Ann: (989) 255-7717

***Pack 3078** Cubmaster Dave: (810) 887-7494

*Charter Organization Representative **Boris**: (860) 794- 7547

Thursday 1:00 p.m.

Old Testament Class Topics

Lectures on DVD by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine

Sept. 3 — Moses and Exodus
("Hebrew" laborers in Egypt and
the women who saved Moses)

Sept. 10 — The God of Israel
("Yahweh" revealed to Moses
and "El" the Canaanite sky-god)

We meet in the upstairs Conference Room or
you can participate over your computer using
Zoom. Just ask Rev. Lance to invite you.

(These are the last two classes he will host.)

Rev. Keith Titus wrote a book:

"This I Believe"

(I think), or "Thus Saith the Lord"
(if I heard correctly)

**We have a few copies at the church if
you'd like to read it.**

Keith and Ginny will be inviting us into
their home on Sunday afternoons in
late Sept. or October to share wine
and bread and *hors d'oeuvres* in order
to discuss the content. The starting
date for the group is not yet certain.

"Earth at the Crossroads:

Understanding the Ecology of a Changing Planet"

(17 DVD lectures by Prof. Eric Strauss, Boston College; also available via ZOOM)

Thursday Mornings 10:30 a.m. to Noon upstairs in the Conference Room

With so much concern and emotion being focused on **global climate change**, the spread of **disease** among human societies, and the **impact** that humans have on our planet, several of our church members (Rev. Gene Bacon, Dr. Avery Aten, Marcia Aten, Edith Gerber, Terry Bell, and I) have been learning about **how our "eco-system" is evolving & affecting our bodies**.

We live in a shared habitat on a dynamic planet. The science of **ecology** studies the structure of living communities and how they interact and evolve. Here are the topics, each session will have two 30-minute lectures:

Sept. 3 – The Co-Evolution of Human Diseases *(very relevant to the current pandemic!)*
and **Strategies for Reversing Ecosystem Decline** *(we will only begin this topic)*

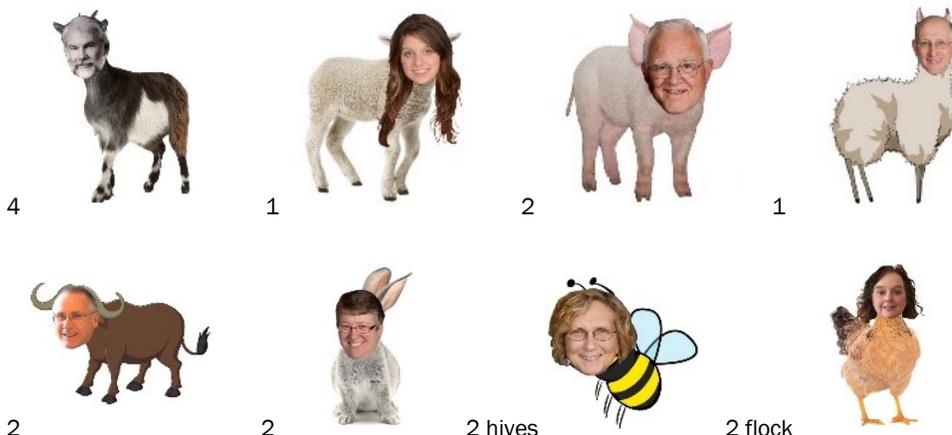
Sept. 10 – More Strategies for Reversing Ecosystem Decline *(continued from Sept. 3)*
and **Sustainable Urban Ecosystems**

Sept. 17 – Recovering Ecosystems – Hope for the Future *(last class in the series)*

We meet in the upstairs Conference Room or you can participate over your computer using Zoom.
Just ask Rev. Lance to invite you: rev.paul.lance@gmail.com

Thanks to all who helped with July Virtual Heifer Fair and to all who helped purchase animals!

In total, we have sent \$2,000 to Heifer International to help end poverty and hunger!



Here is a list of animals we are providing:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2 Hives of Bees (\$60) | 1/2 of School of Fish Fingerlings (\$50) | 2 Rabbits (\$40) |
| 2 Flocks of Chicks (\$40) | 4 Goats (\$480) | 1 Sheep (\$120) |
| 5 Flocks of Ducks and Geese (\$100) | 1/5 Heifer (\$100) | 2 Full sets of Tree Seedlings (\$120) |
| 1 Llama (\$150) | 2 Pigs (\$240) | 2 Water Buffalo (\$500) |

Tuesday Morning 10:00 a.m. Bible Study about “Prophets”

In the DVD lecture series: “Embracing the prophets in contemporary culture” with Old Testament Professor **Walter Brueggemann**, we are making connections between the prophets in Israel’s sociological, economic, and spiritual context and that of America today. What would the Old Testament prophets (and Jesus, too) be paying close attention to? How do we think we measure up as an economy and a society?

Sept. 1: Prophets provide Moral Coherence in a World of Power, Money, & Violence

Sept. 8: The Shrill Rhetoric of the Prophets that Breaks Denial

Sept 15: The Prophets’ Promissory Language that Breaks Despair (*last class*)

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Tuesday Afternoon 1:00 p.m. Study about “American Liberty”

As we head into a Presidential election this fall, I think we need to have a clear grasp of what “American Liberty” is all about. Politicians “spin” so many fake facts that we might lose our footing if we are not well grounded in our system of government. To that end, I have been hosting a ZOOM class on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm on the “**History of American Liberty**”

Sept. 1: Miracle at Philadelphia (Drafting the Constitution of the United States of America, 1787)

Sept. 8: What the Constitution Says

Sept. 15: The Bill of Rights (*end of series*)

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

Phone: 989-356-1795 Fax 989-356-8825
Web Site: <http://uccalpena.org>
Email: officeuccalp@gmail.com
New Office Hours: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Monday – Thursday

**Sunday Worship: still “virtual” and
10:00 am outdoors (if not raining!)**

Minister: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance III
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case
Choir Director/Organist: Kat Tomaszewski
Treasurer: Denise Fusina
Secretary: Kristi Blackaby
Custodian: Mike LaMarre

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Birthdays and Anniversaries in September

Let's Celebrate September Birthdays for:

September 6 Nancy Wedge
September 6 Thomas Grubaugh
September 7 Bill Clegg
September 14 Blair Diamond
September 15 Connor Caplis
September 20 Lois Gibbs
September 21 Laura Caplis
September 24 Ginny Titus
September 27 Cheryl Mack
September 28 Claire Caplis
September 28 Nicole Petty

Wedding Anniversaries in September

September 21 Dennis & Beverly Bodem **57 years**



Here's a photo of our first outdoor service held on Sunday, August 23, 2020.