



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, May 10, 2026

With Pastor Marty Johnston

Mission Statement:

**Connecting all people to God by building bridges
of caring, outreach, and acceptance.**

Central United Methodist
Pastor Marty Johnston
May 10, 2026
Liturgical Colors: White
Sixth Sunday of Easter
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Barb Carlisle, Ray Bell, Del Carter
Liturgist: Jackie Willey

PRELUDE "Cantilene" Smith

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

Connecting all people to God by building bridges of
caring, outreach, and acceptance

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 115)

Leader: Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name be the glory.

People: Your love is steadfast, and Your faithfulness endures.

Leader: The world may ask, "Where is your God?"

People: But we trust in the Lord, who is present, faithful, and strong.

Leader: Idols made by human hands cannot speak, see, hear, or save.

People: But the Lord is our help and our shield.

Leader: People of God, trust in the Lord.

People: The Lord is our help and our shield.

Leader: House of Israel, trust in the Lord.

People: The Lord is our help and our shield.

Leader: All who honor the Lord, trust in the Lord.

People: The Lord is our help and our shield.

Leader: So let us bless the Lord—not only today, but forevermore.

People: Praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN

“Christ Is Alive”

UMH 318
TRURO

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Living Christ, we gather in Your name with grateful hearts. Not to us, O Lord, but to Your name be the glory. You are our help and our shield, our hope in every season, and our song in this Easter joy.

Wake our hearts to Your presence. Strengthen our trust. Fill this time with praise, courage, and gladness, so that we may worship You in spirit and in truth.

Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

There s an old saying: **No good deed goes unpunished.**”

We smile because we ve felt it. You try to do the right thing, and it gets misunderstood. You act with kindness, and someone questions your motives. You take the higher road, and life does not necessarily get easier.

Peter is writing to Christians who knew that tension. They were trying to follow Jesus in a world that did not always understand or welcome them. His message is not, Do good and everything will go

smoothly.” His message is deeper: do good with courage, speak with gentleness and respect, and trust Christ even when faithfulness costs something.

Because Christ has passed through suffering into victory, we can live with hope instead of fear.

Let us hear now from **1 Peter 3:13–22**.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, *you are* blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. ¹⁷ For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved

through water. ²¹ There is also an antitype which now saves us— baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Ready to Answer

Big Idea: Christian witness is not about winning arguments; it is about living with visible hope and speaking of Christ with gentleness and respect.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Because Christ is alive and our hope is secure in Him, let us offer our gifts with glad and grateful hearts.

OFFERTORY

“Olivet”

arr. Mason

DOXOLOGY

UMH 95
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, receive these gifts and use them to strengthen the witness of Your Church. May our generosity point beyond ourselves to the hope, goodness, and grace we have found in Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

“Near to the Heart of God”

UMH 472

McAFEE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Trusting in the risen Christ, who is our hope and our shield, and who teaches us to answer the world with gentleness, courage, and faith, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

Risen Lord, strengthen Your Church to do good even when it is difficult. Make our hope visible, our witness gentle, and our love steady and sincere.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of all nations, bring peace where there is war, especially in Europe and the Middle East. Protect the vulnerable, guide leaders in wisdom, and strengthen all who labor for justice, mercy, and peace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of truth, heal the divisions in our nation and communities. Give us patience to listen, courage to speak what is good, and humility to seek the common good.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creator God, we thank You for the beauty of this season: for greening trees, returning birds, warming days, and signs of new life all around us. Teach us to receive creation with wonder and care for it with grateful hearts.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, on this Mother's Day we give thanks for women who have nurtured, guided, taught, protected, and loved us. Bless mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, foster mothers, spiritual mothers, and all women whose strength and compassion reflect Your grace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Compassionate Savior, draw near to those who are sick, grieving, anxious, lonely, or weary. Bring healing to the hurting, comfort to the sorrowful, and hope to all who feel uncertain about the way ahead.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Living Christ, bless this congregation and our wider community. Help us encourage one another, serve with gladness, and become people whose lives point clearly to the hope we have in You.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O Lord, we place all for whom we pray, trusting not in our own goodness but in Your great mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

Prayed For

Next week, join us as we discover the confidence and peace we can have in Christ. No matter what troubles we face, we are never alone—Jesus prays for us, the Holy Spirit intercedes within us, and our Heavenly Father faithfully holds us in His care. Come and be encouraged by the hope and strength God provides for every season of life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – May 10, 2026

CUMC Rummage Sale: Mark your calendars for May 15th and 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—because one person’s “*Why do I still have this?*” is another person’s treasure! Donations are now being accepted (yes, even that item you’ve been moving from closet to closet for years).

We’re also looking for volunteers to help with setup, working the sale, and cleanup—many hands make light work, and possibly first dibs on the good stuff!

*Got questions or ready to jump in? Contact Diane Morgan at
(906) 632-2356.*

ATTENTION, FAMILIES OF GRADUATES

If you have a high school or a higher education graduate in your family, please submit information about your graduate so we can recognize them in an upcoming issue of the “Flame.” Also, be sure to include a photo of your high school graduate. For more information and to submit the information, contact Barb Larson at 906-632-7958, or email her at blarson1517@charter.net.

Join us on an Unforgettable Adventure!

Central & Algonquin United Methodist Churches, Faith Lutheran and United Presbyterian invite kids (ages 3 years to 11 years) to an exciting *Vacation Bible School adventure,*

Rainforest Falls; Exploring the Nature of God

Will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on June 29–July 2nd, 9AM–Noon (community welcome at no cost)

Save the Date

Fri. & Sat. May 15th & 16th – Rummage Sale in Fellowship Hall

Wed. May 20th - *Family Night* at CUMC Fellowship Hall @ 5:30 PM – 7 PM.

Come enjoy a tasty dinner, fun activities, and a meaningful lesson for all ages.

Bring the whole family—everyone is welcome!

**Join us for Bible Study, led by Raymond Bell,
every Sunday at 9:30 AM in the CUMC lounge**

Central's Missions : is still collecting shelf stable foods plus other items for elementary schools and personal hygiene items for the **Mission/Outreach** program. The lists are located upstairs and you may drop off your items in their appointed boxes or if you wish to purchase a gift card, please pass that to either Kathy (in office), or Diane Bell....thank you.

Central Birthday/Anniversary

May 11th – Shelby Mackie **May 15th** – Teri Bush
May 16th - Kris Donarski **May 18th** – Marli Moran (6 yrs old)

May 10th – Larry & Janet Rogers (51st)



Nursery is available for infants through age 3 during worship with Mallory Baier. The nursery is located downstairs, and ushers will be happy to assist you.

*CLOSING HYMN

“Forth in thy Name, O Lord”

UMH 438
DUKE STREET

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“ Postlude in C ”

Johnston