



*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, May 17, 2026*

*With Pastor Marty Johnston*

Mission Statement:

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



**People:** The Lord is majestic in power and tender in mercy.

**Leader:** Awesome is God in His sanctuary. He gives strength and power to His people.

**People:** Blessed be God, who carries us, strengthens us, and calls us to worship. Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN “All Creatures of Our God and King” (V 1,2,3,7) UMH 62  
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER \*

Loving and mighty God, You fill creation with Your praise and surround Your people with mercy.

As we worship today, lift our hearts, strengthen our faith, and tune our lives to the song of Your goodness.

May our prayers be honest, our praise be joyful, and our hearts be open to Your Spirit.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Before we hear today’s Gospel, let me ask you:

Have you ever overheard someone praying for you?

There is something powerful about hearing your name carried into God’s presence. It reminds you that you are loved, remembered, and not alone.

In John 17, we are allowed to overhear Jesus pray. He is nearing the cross. His time with the disciples is growing short. And before He

faces betrayal and suffering, He prays—not only for Himself, but for them.

So as we hear John 17:1–11, listen for the heart of Jesus: His love, His concern, and His desire that His people be kept close to God.

## SCRIPTURE READING John 17: 1-11

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I

have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

HYMN                    “Sprit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” (v1,4)                    UMH 500  
MORECAMBE

SERMON                    Prayed For

*Big Idea: We can face trouble with courage because Jesus prays for us, the Spirit intercedes within us, and the Father keeps us in His care.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As those who are held, strengthened, and prayed for by Christ, let us offer our gifts in gratitude and trust.

OFFERTORY                    “Trentham”                    arr. Paxton

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**

Generous God, receive these gifts as signs of our love and trust in You. Use them to strengthen Your church, bless Your people, and carry Your hope into the world.

HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

UMH 369  
ASSURANCE

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,**

**Leader:** Lord, in your Mercy

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**Pastor:**

Trusting in Christ, who prays for His people, and in the Spirit, who helps us in our weakness when we do not know how to pray, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

#### **For the Church**

Lord Jesus, strengthen Your Church to live faithfully in the world. Keep us close to the Father, unite us in love, and make our witness gentle, courageous, and true.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

#### **For the World**

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

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

#### **For Our Nation and Communities**

God of truth, heal the divisions in our nation and communities. Give us humility in disagreement, patience in conversation, courage to seek what is good, and grace to answer the world with love.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For Creation**

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.**

### **For Those Who Are Hurting**

Compassionate Savior, draw near to those who are sick, grieving, anxious, lonely, or weary. When our words fall short and our strength grows thin, let Your Spirit pray within us, and speak again Your promise: "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For This Congregation and Community**

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 the strength of our prayers, but in the mercy of Christ who prays for us, the Spirit who prays within us, and the Father who holds us in love. And now, with the confidence of children of God, we pray as Jesus taught us:

### **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.**

<b>NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE</b>
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## ***The Common Good***

*Join us next week as we explore how the gifts of the Spirit are not meant to make us impressive, but to help the Church grow more faithful, loving, and united. Discover how God works through each person to strengthen the body of Christ and bless others in meaningful ways. We would love to have you with us!*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – May 17, 2026**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY is May 24, 2026.** In remembrance of the tongues of fire upon the Apostles, all are encouraged to **WEAR red, yellow, or orange** to church.

### **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](mailto: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**

**Mon., May 18<sup>th</sup>** - Rebecca Circle Lunch Outing

**Sun., May 24<sup>th</sup>** - Pentecost Sunday – please wear red, orange or yellow

**Wed. May 20<sup>th</sup>** - ***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!

**Mon., May 25<sup>th</sup>** - Memorial Day – The CUMC office will be closed.

**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 15<sup>th</sup>** – Teri Bush                      **16<sup>th</sup>** - Kris Donarski  
**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – Marli Moran (6 yrs old)      **May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Art Smart

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Charlene & Marv DeWitt ( 55<sup>th</sup> )



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

“My Hope Is Built”

UMH 368  
THE SOLID ROCK

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“ A Song of Rejoicing”

Rasley