

*Dear God,*

As we pause to remember those who have given their lives for the freedom we now enjoy, we look to You for strength and guidance. Please grant Your loving protection to those serving; bless them and their families. May Your mercy rest over our land.



*Amen*

*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, May 24, 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 24, 2026  
Liturgical Colors: Red  
Pentecost Sunday  
Memorial Day Weekend  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

Ushers/Greeters: Norb Bennin, Dell Carter  
Liturgist: Gwen Worley

PRELUDE “Materna” arr. Southbridge

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

**\*Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 104)

**Leader:** Another week has come and gone. Some of us arrive grateful.  
Some arrive weary. Some arrive carrying questions we cannot  
yet answer.

**People:** Yet here we are, gathered in the presence of God.

**Leader:** From sunrise to sunset, God has been at work in the world—  
giving breath, sustaining life, and holding creation together.

**People:** The earth is full of God’s goodness and mercy.

**Leader:** When we rushed through the week, God remained faithful.  
When we lost our way, God did not lose sight of us.

**People:** We come to worship the One who gives life to all.

**Leader:** The birds sing. The wind moves. The seas roar.  
Creation itself bears witness to its Creator.

**People:** So we join our voices with all creation in praise.

**Leader:** May our worship today be more than words. May it become gratitude, trust, wonder, and joy.

**People:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!

\*OPENING HYMN “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

UMH 64  
NICAEA

\*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER \*

Holy God, thank You for gathering us in Your presence today.

As we sing, pray, listen, and worship, open our hearts to You.  
Lift our burdens, quiet our distractions, and awaken in us wonder,  
gratitude, and joy.

Remind us that Your mercy is new every morning, Your faithfulness  
never fails, and Your love reaches farther than we can imagine.

Receive our worship now, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Today is Pentecost Sunday—the day the Church remembers the gift  
of the Holy Spirit.

For some, the Holy Spirit can feel mysterious. We may be comfortable  
talking about God the Father and Jesus, but wonder, “What exactly  
does the Spirit do? How does the Spirit work in us?”

Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit is not given only to “extra spiritual” people. The Spirit is not reserved for pastors, teachers, musicians, or those who seem to have everything figured out. The Spirit is God’s gift to the whole body of Christ.

And that matters, because the Church is made up of people with different personalities, backgrounds, abilities, and stories. But Paul reminds us that behind all those differences, there is one Spirit, one Lord, and one God working through us all.

So as we hear these words, listen for this good news: you are not here by accident, and you are not without a gift. God’s Spirit is at work in the Church—and God’s Spirit is at work in you.

Hear now these words from 1 Corinthians 12:3 –13.

#### SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 12: 3-13

**3** Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

**4** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. **6** And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. **7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: **8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through

the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

**11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

**12** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. **13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

HYMN

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” (V 1,4)

UMH 500  
MORECAMBE

SERMON

The Common Good

*Big Idea: The gifts of the Spirit are not given to make us impressive, but to make the Church more faithful, loving, and whole.*

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we offer our gifts today, we remember that everything God gives us is meant to become a blessing for the common good.

## OFFERTORY

“Gottschalk”

arr. Smith

## 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 and use them to strengthen Your Church, serve our neighbors, and share the love of Christ. Amen.

## HYMN

“Spirit Song”

UMH 347  
SPIRIT

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

**Leader:** Lord, in your Mercy  
**All:** Hear our prayer.

## **Pastor:**

Trusting in the Spirit who gathers us into one body, and in Christ who sends us to serve the common good, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

## **The Church**

God of Pentecost, pour out Your Spirit upon Your Church. Give us courage to witness, humility to serve, and love that makes room for every gift You have given.

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

## **The World**

God of peace, bring healing to the nations, especially where there is war, violence, and fear. Guide leaders in wisdom, protect the vulnerable, and strengthen all who work for justice and reconciliation.

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

## **Memorial Day**

God of remembrance, on this Memorial Day weekend, we give thanks for those who gave their lives in service to our country. Comfort those who grieve, and teach us to honor sacrifice by seeking peace.

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

## **Those in Need**

God of compassion, be near to all who are sick, injured, lonely, grieving, anxious, or weary. Bring strength for today, hope for tomorrow, and the steady presence of people who care.

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

## **Creation**

God of creation, renew the earth and awaken in us a deeper care for the world You have made. Help us live with gratitude, restraint, and responsibility.

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

## Our Congregation

God of the common good, bless this congregation with unity, generosity, and purpose. Help each of us offer our gifts in love, so that together we may become the body of Christ for our neighbors.

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

### **Pastor:**

Into Your hands, gracious God, we place our prayers, our lives, and all those we love, praying now 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.

#### **NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE**

### ***Sent Away***

*Join us next week as we reflect on the good news that Jesus does not wait for perfect faith before calling His people into His work. He meets us where we are, strengthens us in our weakness, and invites us to take part in His holy mission with courage and trust.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – May 24, 2026**

### **Save the Date**

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

**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)

**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 misc. items for the homeless bags being put together by the **Mission/Outreach** program. The basket is located upstairs and you may drop off your items inside the basket outside office door (list of items needed are in basket) 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 18<sup>th</sup>** – Marli Moran (6 yrs old)

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Art Smart

**May 27<sup>th</sup>** – Melissa & Tony McLain

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** – Linda & Jerry Bell (62<sup>nd</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

“We Are the Church”

UMH 558  
PORT JERVIS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“ Dix ”

arr. Rasley

**Memorial Day Observation**

**Pastor:** *“I invite you to be seated for a brief time of remembrance as we honor those who gave their lives in military service.”*

**Posting of the Colors**

**Pastor:** *“Today we remember. We give thanks. And we hold silence—in honor of those whose lives were given. We do this not to glorify war, but to grieve its cost, and to pray for peace and for the families of our fallen. (Moment of silence)”*

**Taps is played (live or recorded)**

**Moment of silence**

**Prayer/Dismissal**