



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, June 7, 2026

With Pastor Marty Johnston

Mission Statement:

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

Leader: So let us worship with glad hearts, trusting the One whose love never fails.

People: We come to worship the Lord, our Creator, our Helper, and our Hope. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

UMH 61
ITALIAN HYMN

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Gracious God, We come before You with glad hearts, grateful for the gift of this day and the promise of Your steadfast love. Open our eyes to Your goodness, tune our hearts to Your praise, and help us worship You with joy, trust, and hope. As we sing, pray, listen, and respond, draw us closer to You and shape us more fully into the people You call us to be. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Have you ever walked into a room and wondered, *Do I really belong here?*”

Maybe it was a dinner, a meeting, a church service, or a place where you felt more like a problem than a person.

That question sits near the heart of today’s reading.

In Matthew 9, Jesus calls a tax collector, shares a table with people others judged, and then steps into scenes of desperation, sickness, and grief.

In every scene, Jesus moves toward the people others might avoid. He does not avoid the messy places. He enters them with mercy, healing, and even new life.

So as we listen, pay attention to who Jesus welcomes, who He notices, and where He chooses to stand.

Our Gospel reading comes from **Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26**.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.

¹⁰ Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

¹² When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what *this* means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

¹⁸ While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.” ¹⁹ So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His disciples.

²⁰ And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. ²¹ For she said

to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.” ²² But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that hour.

²³ When Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, ²⁴ He said to them, “Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him. ²⁵ But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. ²⁶ And the report of this went out into all that land.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

HYMN

“Where He Leads Me”

UMH 338

NORRIS

SERMON

Mercy in the Mess

Big Idea: Jesus does not avoid the messy places; He enters them with mercy, healing, and new life — and as His followers, we are called to move toward others with compassion instead of judgment.

Communion:

Pastor:

Friends, this is the Lord’s table.

Not the table of the perfect, but the table of mercy.

Not the table of those who have life all cleaned up, but the table of grace.

Here, Christ meets us in the mess.

Here, Christ welcomes sinners, restores the wounded, strengthens the weary, and feeds us with His life.

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and who seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

(Brief silence)

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always followed Jesus into the places where mercy is needed. We have judged when we could have shown compassion. We have avoided pain when we could have offered presence. We have turned away from people whose lives seemed too messy, forgetting how patiently You have loved us in our own.

Forgive us, renew us, and teach us to walk in the way of Christ, who comes to us with mercy, healing, and new life. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.” He came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

So hear and believe the mercy of Christ: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God.
Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You spoke, and the heavens were made. You breathed, and life began.
The earth is full of Your steadfast love.

When we wandered from You, You did not turn away.
When Your people were broken, afraid, stubborn, or lost,
You kept calling, forgiving, healing, and making a way.

Again and again, You showed us mercy.
Again and again, You moved toward us in love.

And in the fullness of time, You sent Jesus Christ,
who did not avoid the messy places of this world.
He called Matthew from the tax booth.
He ate with sinners.
He noticed the suffering woman.
He listened to the desperate father.
He entered the house of grief and brought the promise of new life.

In Him, Your mercy took on flesh.
In Him, Your healing drew near.
In Him, Your kingdom came among us.

And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we
praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor:

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ.

He came among us with mercy instead of condemnation. He welcomed the outcast, touched the unclean, forgave sinners, healed the sick, and brought hope where others saw only despair.

He showed us what Your love looks like: not distant, not harsh, not afraid of the mess, but near, compassionate, and full of grace.

By His suffering, death, and resurrection, You delivered us from sin and death and opened the way to new life.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Pastor:

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By Your Spirit, meet us at this table with mercy. Heal what is wounded. Forgive what is sinful. Strengthen what is weary. Raise up what has grown discouraged.

Then send us out to follow Jesus into the places where mercy is needed most.

Make us people who move toward others with compassion instead of judgment, with presence instead of avoidance, with hope instead of despair.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

(The elements are served)

Prayer After Communion (Unison)

Gracious God, thank You for meeting us at this table with mercy, healing, and grace. As You have welcomed us, help us welcome others. As You have shown compassion to us, teach us to show compassion in the world. Send us out to follow Jesus into the messy places with courage, kindness, and hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Having received Christ's mercy at the table, we now offer our gifts as a grateful response to the One who sends us out to share mercy in the world.

OFFERTORY

“Scheffler”

arr. Landen

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 bring mercy, healing, and hope wherever life is messy and people are hurting. Shape us into generous followers of Jesus, ready to move toward others with compassion instead of judgment. Amen.

HYMN

“I Surrender All” (v1,3,5)

UMH 354
SURRENDER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Trusting in Jesus, who enters the messy places with mercy, healing, and new life, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Merciful Lord, shape Your Church to look more like Jesus. Teach us to move toward others with compassion instead of judgment, and make our witness humble, faithful, and full of grace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of mercy, draw near to the wounded places of this world. We pray especially for peace in Europe and in the Middle East; give wisdom to leaders, protection to the vulnerable, and courage to all who work for justice and peace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Nation

God of truth and compassion, heal what is divided in our common life. Help us see one another not as enemies or problems, but as people made in Your image and loved by You.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, the earth is full of Your steadfast love. Teach us to receive the beauty of creation with gratitude, care for it with wisdom, and protect it for those who come after us.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Living Christ, strengthen this congregation and our wider community. Help us notice those who feel overlooked, welcome those who wonder if they belong, and stand with those who need mercy and hope.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Compassionate Savior, draw near to those who are sick, grieving, anxious, lonely, or weary. Bring healing where bodies are hurting, comfort where hearts are heavy, and hope where the way forward feels uncertain.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Ourselves

Gracious God, meet us in the messy places of our own lives. Forgive us, restore us, and send us out to follow Jesus with courage, kindness, and love.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O Lord, we place all for whom we pray, trusting not in our 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – June 7, 2026

Thank you to everyone who came in on Friday of Memorial Day weekend to help assemble The Flame. Your time, dedication, and willingness to serve are greatly appreciated. You are truly special people!

The Women of the Presbyterian Church have once again invited the women of our church to their "**Celebrate Summer**" luncheon on **Tues., Jun. 16th, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM** at the First Presbyterian Church. The speakers will be from Community Action. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Margaret Eagle at 906-399-1743 or email to: eaglemp71@gmail.com or contact the church office at 906-633-7771. We hope you can join us for this special time of fellowship and celebration.

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)

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

Peace Before Proof

We do not earn peace with God by proving ourselves; we receive it through Jesus Christ. Join us next week as we discover how Christ's peace frees us from striving and gives us confidence to live each day in God's grace.

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.

Save the Date

Sun., Jun 14th – Flag Day

Sun., Jun 14th – Father's Day

Tues., Jun 16th – Celebrate Summer Luncheon from Noon to 2:00 PM @ First Presbyterian Church.

Mon., Jun 29th through **Thurs., July 2nd** -9:00 AM until Noon.

Vacation Bible School – To be held at First United Presbyterian Church (see above)

Central Birthday/Anniversary

June 2nd – *Bob Noble (101st)*

June 7th – Marv Dewitt

June 11th – Hollis Taylor

June 14th – Sharon Jones

June 16th – Cathy Wilkinson

June 17th – Tina Johnston

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



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**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

**UMH 664
THE ASH GROVE**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“ Rock of My Salvation”

Wethe