



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, June 21, 2026

With Pastor Marty Johnston

Mission Statement:

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

PRELUDE	“Meditation”	Moore
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WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 86)

Leader: Come, all who need God's mercy.

People: We come trusting in the One who hears us.

Leader: Come, all who carry burdens, questions, hopes, and needs.

People: We come to the Lord who is gracious and good.

Leader: God is patient with us, abounding in steadfast love,
ready to listen, ready to forgive, ready to help.

People: In the day of trouble, we call upon the Lord, for God answers us.

Leader: There is none like You, O Lord. No other power, no other promise, no other love compares with Yours.

People: All nations shall come and worship before You, for You alone are God.

Leader: So turn to us again, O God. Give strength to Your servants.
Show us signs of Your goodness.

People: We lift our hearts in worship, trusting the mercy, grace, and
love of God.

All: Let us worship the Lord.

*OPENING HYMN

“And Are We Yet Alive”

UMH 553

DENNIS

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Gracious and loving God, we come into this place with grateful
hearts.

You have brought us through another week, given us breath for
another morning, and gathered us again as Your people.

So wake us up to Your presence. Lift our spirits. Open our hearts.
Help us sing with joy, pray with honesty, listen with humility, and
worship with gladness.

Teach us again that You are gracious and good, slow to anger,
abounding in steadfast love, and ready to help all who call upon You.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Before we hear today's Gospel reading, it may help to know that Jesus is speaking to His disciples before sending them out.

And He does not sugarcoat it.

He tells them that following Him will not always make life easier. Sometimes faithfulness brings tension. Sometimes telling the truth creates conflict. Sometimes trying to live the way of Jesus will put us at odds with the world around us — and even, at times, with people close to us.

But Jesus also tells them not to be afraid.

He reminds them that God sees them, knows them, values them, and holds them. Even the sparrows are not forgotten by God — and neither are we.

So as we listen, we hear both the challenge and the comfort: discipleship is costly, but we do not walk this road alone.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 10: 24-39

24 “A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household! 26 Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

27 “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; 36 and ‘a man’s enemies *will be* those of his *own* household.’ 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

HYMN

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

UMH 121
WELLESLEY

SERMON

It’s Complicated

***Big Idea:** Following Jesus is not always simple. He brings peace, but not the kind that depends on pretending, avoiding, or keeping everyone comfortable. Sometimes faithfulness makes things complicated — but Jesus also tells us not to be afraid, because God sees us and holds us.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we bring our gifts today, we give not out of fear or obligation, but with grateful hearts, trusting the God who sees us, knows us, and provides for us.

OFFERTORY

“Elegy”

Ritter

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 share Your mercy, courage, and love in a complicated world. Bless both the gifts and the givers, that our lives may bear witness to Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

UMH 399
MESSIAH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Trusting in the mercy of God, who hears us in the day of trouble and holds us with steadfast love, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Gracious God, strengthen Your Church to follow Jesus with courage and humility. Help us speak truth with love, serve without fear, and bear witness to Your grace in a complicated world.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

Merciful God, we pray for the nations of the world, for leaders and communities, for places torn by violence, division, poverty, and fear. Guide us toward justice, peace, and the kind of mercy that reflects Your heart.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Fathers and Father-Figures

Loving God, on this Father's Day, we give thanks for fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, mentors, and all who have offered guidance, protection, encouragement, and love. We also pray tenderly for those for whom this day is difficult: those grieving a father, missing a child, longing to be a father, carrying wounds, or living with complicated family stories. Hold each one in Your compassion.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those Who Are Afraid or Weary

God of the sparrow and God of every human heart, we pray for those who are anxious, overwhelmed, discouraged, or afraid. Remind them that they are seen, known, valued, and never forgotten by You.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the Sick, Grieving, and Struggling

Healing God, we pray for those who are sick, recovering, lonely, grieving, or facing uncertain days. Surround them with Your presence, provide what they need, and make us faithful in love and care.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O God, we place our prayers, our fears, our hopes, and our lives, trusting 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

When Welcome Becomes Worship

Next week, we'll explore how receiving others with grace reflects the heart of God, who first welcomed us with love and mercy. Join us as we discover what it means to extend that same grace to those around us, as we study Matthew 10: 40-42

ANNOUNCEMENTS – June 21, 2026

Happy Father's Day!

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)

The Mission and Outreach Team, together with our children, are creating Blessing Bags for those experiencing homelessness. Each bag will also include a note of encouragement from our United Methodist Church family. The bags will be provided to the Salvation Army to distribute to individuals in need.

As you consider items to donate, put yourself in their shoes. What would bring comfort, encouragement, or meet a basic need? Being alone or living outside of a normal routine can be overwhelming, and some may not even realize where to turn for help. These Blessing Bags are a simple way to share hope, kindness, and God's love with those who need it most.

*****See List included in Bulletin*****

Save the Date

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

VBS - To be held at First Presbyterian Church -see above

Sun. July 19th – Camp Michigamme representative's will be here to give a presentation/update

Central Birthday/Anniversary

June 16th – Cathy Wilkinson **June 17th** – Tina Johnston

June 24th -Charlene DeWitt **June 25th** – Patti Kaunisto

June 26th – Bob Johnson **June 27th** – Emily Baker

June 20th – Sharon & Ben Jones (67th)

June 21st – Sue & Tom Brown (51st)

June 21st – Marge & Chan Huff (57th)

June 22nd – Hazel & Hollis Taylor (68th)

**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

“Go Forth for God”

UMH 670
GENEVA 124

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Hursley”

arr. Ritter