



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, July 5, 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
July 5, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Norb Bennin, Del Carter

Liturgist: Sherry Hutchins

Communion – Robin Myers, Marcia Jenkins Ball

PRELUDE “Repton” arr. Smith

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 45)

Leader: Come, beloved people of God. Listen closely, and turn your hearts toward the One who calls us.

People: We come to worship the Lord, who receives us with grace and welcomes us with joy.

Leader: God sees us not as strangers, but as people made beautiful by mercy, clothed in hope, and invited into gladness.

People: We come with praise, bringing our lives, our questions, our gratitude, and our need.

Leader: From one generation to the next, God’s faithfulness is remembered and proclaimed.

People: So today we lift our voices together.
We will praise the name of the Lord forever and ever.

Leader: Let us worship God with glad and thankful hearts.

People: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

UMH 158
SPANISH HYMN

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Gracious God, we come before You with glad hearts and lifted voices.
You have called us together, welcomed us with mercy,
and invited us to rejoice in Your goodness.

Open our ears to Your Word, our hearts to Your Spirit,
and our lives to the joy of following Christ.

May our worship today be full of gratitude, our praise sincere,
and our love renewed.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Have you ever noticed that some people are impossible to please?

Play music, and they won’t dance. Sing a sad song, and they won’t mourn. Offer them something joyful, and they call it shallow. Offer them something serious, and they call it too heavy.

In today’s reading, Jesus names that kind of restless criticism. The people complained about John the Baptist because he was too strict, and they complained about Jesus because he was too welcoming.

But then Jesus turns from frustration to invitation. He reminds us that God’s wisdom is often received by the humble, not the self-important. And then come some of the most gracious words in all of Scripture: “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

Let us listen now for the Word of the Lord from Matthew 11.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 11: 16-19,25-30

16 “But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, 17 and saying:

‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance;

We mourned to you, And you did not lament.’

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children.”

25 At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. 26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. 27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. 28 Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

*Special Music “Kingsfold”

English folk tune arr. N. Williams

Cathy Wilkinson -oboe, John Wilkinson -clarinet

SERMON

Impossible to Please

Big Idea: Jesus warns us about the spiritual danger of becoming people who can criticize everything but receive nothing.

COMMUNION:

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: Friends, this is the Lord's table.

Not the table of those who have everything figured out,
but the table of grace.

Not the table of the strong and self-sufficient,
but the table of the weary, the hungry, the hopeful,
and all who are learning how to receive.

Here, Christ meets us with gentleness.

Here, Christ feeds us with mercy.

Here, Christ invites us to lay down what we were never meant to
carry alone.

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 our hearts are not always open to You. We resist Your invitation. We cling to our burdens. We judge when we could listen. We complain when we could give thanks. We stand at a distance when You are calling us to come near.

Forgive us, Lord. Soften what has become guarded. Heal what has grown weary. Teach us to receive Your grace with humble and grateful hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Jesus says, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

The mercy of Christ is greater than our resistance. The grace of Christ is stronger than our sin. The welcome of Christ is offered even now.

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 formed us in love and breathed into us the gift of life.
You called Your people to walk in Your ways, to trust Your promises,
and to receive Your mercy.

When we wandered, You kept calling. When we resisted, You
remained faithful. When we grew weary, You offered strength.
When we could not find our way home, You made a way by Your
grace.

In the fullness of time, You sent Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior.
He came among us gentle and humble in heart. He welcomed sinners,
blessed the poor, healed the broken, lifted the burdened,
and revealed Your kingdom to those humble enough to receive it.

In Him, Your mercy drew near.
In Him, Your wisdom took flesh.
In Him, the weary were invited into rest.

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 did not come to crush the weak or shame the weary.
He came to seek and save the lost, to forgive sinners,
to welcome the burdened, and to give rest to our souls.

He taught us the way of humble trust.
He showed us the strength of mercy.
He carried the weight of our sin and sorrow through His suffering,

death, and resurrection, and opened for us the way to new and everlasting 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, open our hearts to receive what You give. Lay Your grace upon our weariness. Quiet the voices of pride, fear, and complaint. Teach us to come to Christ with trust, to take His yoke upon us, and to learn from the One who is gentle and humble in heart.

Feed us at this table, not only with bread and cup, but with mercy, courage, peace, and joy.

Then send us into the world as people shaped by Your welcome: quick to listen, slow to judge, ready to forgive, and willing to share the rest and grace we have received.

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, patience, and grace. You have fed us with the life of Christ and reminded us that we do not carry our burdens alone.

Open our hearts to receive Your love, and open our lives to share it. Send us out with gentleness, humility, and hope, that we may follow Jesus and offer His welcome to the world.
Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we bring our gifts today, we do so with gratitude, trusting that God can use what we offer to share Christ's mercy, welcome, and hope with the world.

OFFERTORY

“Recitative for Flute”

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

Gracious God, receive these gifts and receive our lives. Use what we offer to strengthen Your church, serve our neighbors, and share the welcome of Christ. Open our hearts to Your grace, and make us generous in love, mercy, and hope. In Jesus 'name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

UMH 402
I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Trusting in Jesus, who calls the weary to come near and receive His rest, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Gentle Savior, shape Your Church with humble and open hearts. Teach us to listen for Your voice, receive Your grace, and welcome others with the same mercy You have shown to us.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of wisdom and peace, draw near to the troubled places of this world. We pray especially for peace in Europe and in the Middle East; give courage to peacemakers, protection to the vulnerable, and wisdom to all who lead.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Nation

God of patience, truth, and mercy, as our nation marks 250 years of independence, we give thanks for the blessings of freedom, the sacrifices of those who have served the common good, and the hope that has guided generations before us. Heal the weariness and division in our common life. Help us confess where we have fallen short of our highest ideals, and give us courage to become a people who do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You, so that liberty may be more than a promise ****for all****, and peace may be shaped by righteousness.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, open our eyes to the beauty and goodness of the world You have made. Teach us to receive creation with gratitude, care for it with wisdom, and protect it for future generations.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Living Christ, strengthen this congregation and our wider community. Help us notice the tired, the lonely, the overlooked, and the uncertain. Make us a people who offer welcome, encouragement, and rest in Your name.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Compassionate Lord, draw near to all who are sick, grieving, anxious, burdened, or afraid. Bring healing to hurting bodies, peace to troubled minds, comfort to heavy hearts, and rest to weary souls.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Ourselves

Gracious God, meet us where we are. Forgive our resistance, quiet our complaints, loosen our burdens, and teach us to come to Christ with trust. Open our hearts to receive the grace You are already offering.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O Lord, we place all for whom we pray, trusting not in our strength, but in Your mercy, gentleness and love, 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 – July 5, 2026

**Thank you to everyone who came to help assemble *The Flame*.
Your time, dedication, and willingness to serve are greatly
appreciated. You are truly special people!**

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

The Soil Changes

Join us next week as we study Matthew 13: 1-9,18-23 and the Parable of the Sower and discover how God continues to cultivate our hearts, helping us grow in faith.

Saved this Date

Mon. July 6th – The CUMC office will be closed

Sun. July 19th – Camp Michigamme representative's
will be at CMUC to give a presentation/update,
further information to follow

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

July 6th – Kevin Larson

July 7th – Nancy Kirkpatrick

July 7th – Colleen Arbic

July 9th – Andrew Baker (12th)

July 11th – Grady Hartman

July 14th – Nancy & Doug Kirkpatrick (47th)

**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

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

UMH 348
THOMPSON

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Celebration”

Paxton