



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, July 19, 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 19, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Barb Carlisle, Kris Donarski
Liturgist: Jackie Willey

PRELUDE “On That Morning...” Moore

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 25)

Leader: We come to worship trusting in the Lord, who receives us
with mercy and teaches us the way of life.

People: To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

Leader: When we are uncertain, God guides us. When we have
wandered, God calls us back. When we need forgiveness, God
meets us with steadfast love.

People: Teach us Your paths, O God. Lead us in Your truth.

Leader: The Lord is good and upright, patient with sinners, gentle
with the humble, and faithful to all who seek Him.

People: We come with open hearts, ready to listen, ready to follow,
ready to worship.

Leader: Let us worship God together.

*OPENING HYMN

“Seek Ye First”

UMH 405
SEEK YE

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Merciful God, we lift our hearts to You. Meet us with Your steadfast love, and teach us the way that leads to life. Where we are confused, guide us. Where we have wandered, call us back. Where we need forgiveness, remind us that Your mercy is older and deeper than our mistakes. Shape us with humility, lead us in truth, and open us to Your presence as we worship. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Have you ever wished you could start over? Not just fix one mistake or smooth over one awkward moment, but really begin again, with a clean page and a different spirit?

In this passage, Paul says that in Christ, God is doing something that deep. He is not simply improving us around the edges; He is making us new. And this new life is not just for our own peace of mind. God reconciles us to Himself, and then gives us the work of reconciliation: helping others know that grace is real, forgiveness is possible, and no one is beyond the reach of God’s love.

Listen now to these words from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

*Special Music "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" C.Converse/arr. N.Williams

Cathy Wilkinson -oboe, John Wilkinson -clarinet

SERMON

Put Down the Scorecard

Big Idea: *God does not hold our sins against us in Christ; therefore, we are invited to stop living as though the ledger still defines us and to receive reconciliation with God.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As people made new by God's grace, we offer our gifts as a sign of trust and as a way of sharing Christ's reconciling love with the world.

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

Gracious God, receive these gifts and use them to bless, heal, and restore. Shape our lives as generously as our offerings, so that through us others may glimpse Your love and peace. Amen.

HYMN

“Near to the Heart of God”

UMH 472
McAFEE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Trusting in Jesus, who makes us new and gives us the ministry of reconciliation, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Reconciling God, make Your Church a living sign of Your new creation. Heal what is divided in us, renew what has grown weary, and help us speak and live as ambassadors of Christ, with humility, courage, and love.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of mercy and peace, draw near to the wounded places of this world. We pray especially for peace in Europe and in the Middle East; protect the vulnerable, guide those who lead, and strengthen all who work for justice, mercy, and peace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Nation

God of truth and grace, reconcile us where distrust, anger, and fear have taken root. Teach us to see one another with compassion, to seek the common good, and to build a more just and merciful life together.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, You have entrusted this world to our care. Renew our wonder, correct our carelessness, and help us live in ways that honor the beauty and goodness of all You have made.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Living Christ, strengthen this congregation and our wider community. Make us people who carry grace into ordinary places, offering welcome, forgiveness, encouragement, and hope wherever relationships are strained or hearts are heavy.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Compassionate Lord, draw near to all who are sick, grieving, anxious, lonely, or afraid. Bring healing to hurting bodies, peace to troubled minds, comfort to heavy hearts, and hope to all who need a new beginning.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O Lord, we place all for whom we pray, trusting that in Christ the old has passed away, the new has come, and Your reconciling love is still at work, through 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 19, 2026

Saved this Date

Sat. Aug. 1st -The First United Presbyterian Church Women's Association is having a Rummage Sale; 9am to 1pm:
address 555 Bingham St. Sault Ste. Marie

Sun. Aug. 2nd – ***CMUC All Church Picnic at Serman Park*** -12pm; if you plan to attend, please return your RSVP to CUMC

Sun. Aug. 9th – ***Algonquin Summer Picnic at Algonquin Church*** - 5pm, if you plan to attend please RSVP Bev at 906-635-0150

Sat. Sept. 19th – This year's UMC Church Conference will be held in St. Ignace at the United Methodists Church at 10am

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

Faith that Shows

Faith is more than belief—it is God's gift at work within us. Join us as we study Matthew 5:13-20 and learn how responding to that gift allows His grace to shine through our everyday lives.

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 28th** – Ginger Bath**July 30th** – Susan Brown**July 14th** – Nancy & Doug Kirkpatrick (47th)**July 22nd** – Amy & Gar Artley (20th)**July 23rd** – Katelyn & Nick Bell (10th)

**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*“Here I Am, Lord”****UMH 593****HERE I AM, LORD****BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE****“Sing Forth”****Smith**