



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, July 26, 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 26, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Ray Bell, James Bankson
Liturgist: Kathy Bankson

PRELUDE “China” arr. Paxton

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 105)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God’s name.

People: We will remember what God has done and tell the stories of
God’s faithfulness.

Leader: Sing to the Lord. Rejoice in all that God has made possible.

People: We come seeking God’s presence and trusting in God’s
strength.

Leader: Remember the promises God has kept through every
generation.

People: God has been faithful before, and God will be faithful again.

Leader: So let us worship with grateful hearts.

All: Praise the Lord!

***OPENING HYMN** “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” UMH 160
MARION

*PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER *

Faithful God, we praise you for your goodness and for the ways you have guided your people through every generation.

As we worship, open our hearts, quiet our distractions, and fill us with joy. Speak to us through prayer, song, Scripture, and one another,
so that we leave ready to live as your people.

In Jesus 'name, Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS –Children's Worship has been
suspended until this fall, see you then

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

There are some questions we only ask when life gets hard.

When everything is going well, we may not spend much time wondering whether God still loves us. But let the diagnosis come. Let the relationship fracture. Let the prayer go unanswered. Let grief settle into the room. Suddenly the question rises:

“God, are you still here?”

And beneath that question is another one:

“Am I still loved?”

Paul knew that suffering could make people question what they had once believed. So in Romans 8, he does not offer shallow reassurance. He does not say, “Everything will be fine.” He names hardship, distress, danger, loss, life, death, the present, and the future.

Then he asks one of the boldest questions in all of Scripture:

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ?”

Paul’s answer is not that nothing painful will ever happen to us. His answer is that nothing painful has the power to remove us from the love of God.

Whatever has happened, whatever is happening, and whatever may come, this remains true:

In Jesus Christ, we are still loved.

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 8: 35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. **38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

*Special Music

“It Is Well With My Soul”

Spafford/Bliss/arr. S. Henry

Cathy Wilkinson -Piano, John Wilkinson -Clarinet

SERMON

Still Loved

Big Idea: Whatever has happened, whatever is happening, and whatever may come, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. We are still loved.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Because nothing can separate us from the love of God, let us respond with grateful and generous hearts.

OFFERTORY

“Trusting Thee”

Broughton

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

Loving God, receive these gifts as signs of our trust and gratitude. Use them to share your grace, strengthen your church, and remind others that they, too, are still loved. Amen.

HYMN

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

UMH 526

CONVERSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,**Leader:** Lord, in your Mercy**All:** Hear our prayer.**Pastor:**

Gracious God, we come before you with gratitude for your presence among us. Hear the prayers we speak aloud and the prayers we carry quietly within us.

For the Church

Give your church courage, compassion, and joy. Help us speak grace, practice kindness, and make room for all who are searching for hope.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

We pray for places marked by violence, injustice, hunger, and fear. Guide leaders toward wisdom, restrain those who would cause harm, and strengthen all who work for peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Nation

We pray for our nation and all who serve in positions of leadership. Give us wisdom in our disagreements, humility in our convictions, and a shared concern for justice, peace, and the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Teach us to receive the beauty of your creation with gratitude and to care faithfully for the earth you have entrusted to us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Bless our families, neighbors, schools, workplaces, and local leaders. Show us where we can offer encouragement, practical help, and a welcoming presence.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

We pray for those who are ill, grieving, lonely, anxious, or facing difficult decisions. Give them strength for today, caring companions, and peace when answers are slow in coming.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

We now lift before you the prayers that have been shared among us, along with those known only to you.

Silence may be kept.

Gracious God, thank you for hearing us and walking with us. We pray this in Jesus 'name, sharing together in the prayer he taught us, saying:

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

Start With What You Have

Join us next week as we study Matthew 14:13-21 and learn how Jesus calls us to notice needs, offer what we have, and trust him to do more than we could imagine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – July 26, 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 put your RSVP form in boxes provided in foyers, *forms are available*

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

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

Aug. 1st -Seth Baker

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**

“To God Be the Glory”

UMH 98
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

arr. Sewell