



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, August 2, 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
August 2, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Kelly Bunker, James Bankson
Liturgist: Jerry Bell
Communion – Diane Bell, Jackie Wiley

PRELUDE

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 17)

Leader: Hear us, O God, as we gather before you.

People: We come with honest hearts, trusting in your steadfast love.

Leader: When the way is difficult, God is our refuge.

People: When we feel unseen, God draws near.

Leader: We come longing to see God's face.

People: We come ready to be shaped by God's grace.

Leader: Let us worship the God who hears our prayers,

People: the God who loves us, holds us, and makes us new.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

UMH 277

*PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER *

Gracious God, you hear us when we pray, you meet us when we gather, and you welcome us with steadfast love.

Open our hearts to your presence. Open our minds to your truth. Open our lives to the story of Jesus, so that what we hear and sing today may shape the way we live.

Fill us with joy, strengthen us with grace, and lead us in worship.

Amen.

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

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus has just received the painful news that John the Baptist has been killed, and he tries to withdraw to a quiet place. But the crowds follow him. Instead of turning them away, Jesus sees their need and responds with compassion.

As evening comes, the disciples begin to worry about something very practical: How are all these people going to eat? What follows is one of the best-known stories in the Gospels—a reminder that Jesus does not ignore either spiritual hunger or physical need.

Listen now for God's word in Matthew 14:13–21.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 14: 13-21

13 When Jesus heard *it*, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. 14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. 15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.”

16 But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

17 And they said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.”

18 He said, “Bring them here to Me.” 19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. 20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. 21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Start With What You Have

Big Idea Jesus does not ask the church to meet every need in the community, but he does ask us to notice what is before us, offer what we have, and trust him to use it.

COMMUNION:

Invitation to the Table

Christ invites us to this table not because we have everything figured out, and not because we have more than enough on our own.

We come because we are hungry for grace, because Christ welcomes us, and because even the little we bring can be blessed in his hands.

This is Christ's table, and all who seek to follow him are welcome.

Confession and Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we often focus on what we lack.
We see needs around us and assume we have too little to offer.
We hold back our gifts, our time, and our compassion
because we are afraid they will not be enough.

Forgive us. Help us trust your grace, offer what we have,
and follow where you lead.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Gracious God, you created us in love, called us into community, and have never stopped seeking us.

When we were hungry for hope, you sent Jesus Christ, who welcomed the forgotten, fed the crowds, healed the broken, and showed us the abundance of your grace.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus 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.”*

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—ready to notice, ready to share, and ready to offer what we have in love.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final
victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy
Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The elements are served

Prayer After Communion (all in Unison)

Gracious God, thank you for meeting us at this table
and feeding us with your grace.

Send us into the world with open eyes, willing hands,
and hearts ready to serve.

Take what we have, bless it, and use it to bring hope, welcome, and
nourishment to others.

In the name of Christ, we pray.

Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Let us offer what we have, trusting God to bless it and use it for the
good of our neighbors.

OFFERTORY

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 the lives they represent. Use them to feed hope, strengthen community, and share the love of Christ. Amen.

HYMN

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

UMH 496
SWEET HOUR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious God, you see the needs of the world and the gifts we bring. Hear the prayers we speak aloud and the prayers we carry quietly within us.

For the Church

Give your church open eyes, compassionate hearts, and willing hands. Help us notice the needs around us, offer what we have, and trust you to use even small acts of faithfulness.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

We pray for places marked by war, injustice, hunger, and fear. Protect those who are vulnerable, guide leaders toward peace, and strengthen all who work to bring food, shelter, healing, and hope.

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 deeper concern for those whose needs are too easily overlooked.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Teach us to receive the abundance of your creation with gratitude rather than waste. Help us care faithfully for the land, water, air, and every living thing 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 people are hungry for food, friendship, belonging, or hope, and help us discover how the gifts already among us might serve them.

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 for the journey, and the assurance that they are seen, loved, and not alone.

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 meeting us with more grace than we can measure. Take our prayers, our gifts, and our lives, and use them to bring hope and healing to your world. 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***Against the Wind***

Join us next week as we study Matthew 14: 22-33 and discover the hope that even in life's storms, Jesus comes to us. Faith doesn't always calm the wind, but it reminds us that we are never facing it alone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – August 2, 2026

Help Keep *The Flame* Burning!

Our editors; Sharon Jones & Barb Larson, are retiring, and we're looking for someone to help carry the torch!

After many years of faithful service, the editors of **The Flame** are stepping into retirement. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and the countless hours they have devoted to keeping our church family informed and connected.

Now we're looking for a volunteer (or a team of volunteers) to continue this important ministry.

As editor of **The Flame**, you would help gather information, organize articles, and prepare our monthly church newsletter. No professional publishing experience is necessary—we're happy to provide guidance and support.

If you enjoy writing, organizing, or working with a computer, this could be a wonderful way to serve our church and help strengthen our community.

If you are interested or would like to learn more about what is involved, please contact the church office.

Help us keep *The Flame* shining brightly for years to come!

Saved this Date

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

Aug. 4th – Betty MacDonald

Aug. 2nd – Megan & Nate Moran (12th)

Aug. 4th – Gayle & Bob Johnson (64th)

Aug. 8th – Colleen & Bernie Arbic (61st)

**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**

“Now Let Us from This Table Rise”

UMH 634
DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE