



Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

Sunday, August 9, 2026

With Pastor Marty Johnston

Mission Statement:

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

PRELUDE “Invitation” Walker

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 remember what God has done.

People: We come to tell the stories of God's goodness and grace.

Leader: God was present in seasons of abundance and in times of struggle.

People: God remained faithful, even when the way forward was hard to see.

Leader: The God who guided Joseph through hardship is still at work among us.

People: God can bring hope from sorrow, purpose from struggle, and new life from unexpected places.

Leader: Seek the Lord and remember that we belong to a faithful God.

People: Let us worship with grateful hearts. Praise the Lord!

***OPENING HYMN**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

UMH 110
EIN FESTE BURG

***PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER ***

Faithful God, we come before you with grateful hearts, glad to be together and ready to worship.

Thank you for being our strength when life feels uncertain, our shelter when we are weary, and our steady companion through every season. Help us remember the ways you have carried us, guided us, and surprised us with grace.

Open our hearts this morning. Fill us with joy, renew our hope, and help us listen for your voice. May everything we sing, say, and do bring honor to you.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Have you ever been doing your best to move forward, only to feel as though the wind is pushing against you from every direction? That is where the disciples find themselves in today’s reading. They are out on the water in the middle of the night, struggling against the waves, tired and frightened—and Jesus seems far away. Then, in the middle of the storm, they see someone walking toward them on the water.

What happens next is a story about fear, faith, doubt, and the courage to take one more step. It reminds us that faith does not

always mean the storm disappears. Sometimes it means discovering that Jesus is closer than we imagined, even when the wind is still blowing.

Listen now for the Word of God.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 14: 22-33

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. 24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” 28 And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” 29 So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying,
“Truly You are the Son of God.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

HYMN “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (v 1-4) UMH 57
AZMON

SERMON Against the Wind

***Big Idea** Faith does not guarantee calm waters, but it assures us that Jesus comes to us even when the wind is still blowing.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Trusting that Christ meets us even when the wind is against us, let us offer our gifts as a sign of faith, gratitude, and hope.

OFFERTORY “Close To Thee” arr. 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**

Faithful God, receive these gifts and use them to bring courage, help, and hope to others. May what we offer today become part of your work in the world, especially wherever people are struggling against the wind. Amen.

HYMN

“Stand By Me”

UMH 512
STAND BY ME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Gracious God, you meet us when the way is calm and when the wind is against us. Hear the prayers we speak aloud and the prayers we carry quietly within us.

For the Church

Give your church courage to follow where Christ leads, even when the way is uncertain. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and help us reach out with compassion to those who feel overwhelmed or afraid.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

We pray for places where people are caught in the storms of war, violence, hunger, and injustice. Protect those who are vulnerable, guide leaders toward peace, and strengthen all who work for 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 when disagreements are strong, humility when we are certain we are right, and courage to seek the good of all people.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

We give thanks for the beauty and abundance of your creation. Help us care faithfully for the land, water, air, and every living thing, especially where creation has been damaged or threatened.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Bless our families, neighbors, schools, workplaces, churches, and local leaders. Show us where people are struggling against unseen winds, and help us become a steady and caring presence in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

We pray for those who are ill, grieving, lonely, anxious, exhausted, or facing difficult decisions. When fear rises and strength begins to fail, remind them that Christ is near, ready to reach out and hold them.

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.

Faithful God, thank you for hearing us in every season and meeting us in every storm. Give us courage for today, hope for tomorrow, and trust in the One who comes to us even when the wind is against 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – August 9, 2026

A Friendly Reminder About Donations

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our church ministries. We kindly ask that you **do not donate any food items at this time**, unless they have been specifically requested for an upcoming outreach project.

Keeping food products out of these areas helps prevent attracting insects or animals and allows us to maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us care for our church home!

Even the Crumbs

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

Faith isn't always about getting the answer we want. Sometimes it's trusting God, even in the silence. Join us next week as we study Matthew 15: 21-28 and explore a faith that endures.

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,
See you later for an evening of Fun and Fellowship

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 is located on table in foyer*) 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

Aug. 12th - Julie Hill

Aug. 13th – John Wilkinson

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

Aug. 17th – Kara & Dave LaLonde (35th)



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**

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

UMH 474
PRECIOUS LORD

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Chorus of Praise”

Peery