



*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.**

Central United Methodist
Pastor Marty Johnston
August 16, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Tom Brown, Don Montag
Liturgist: Terri Bush

PRELUDE “All My Heart I Give” Livingston

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 133)

Leader: How good it is when God’s people come together in peace.

People: We come from different places, carrying different joys and burdens.

Leader: Some come with strong faith, some with questions, and some simply hoping to find a little hope.

People: There is room for each of us here.

Leader: God meets us in our differences and draws us into one community.

People: Together, we will listen, pray, sing, and open ourselves to God’s grace.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who welcomes us and teaches us to live together in love.

People: We come as we are, ready to worship.

*OPENING HYMN “In Christ There is No East or West”

UMH 548
McKEE

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Gracious God, you gather us from different places and make us one in your love.

Break down the walls that divide us. Teach us to listen with patience, speak with kindness, and see one another through your eyes.

Meet us in our joys, burdens, and questions. Draw us closer to you and to one another, so that our worship may shape the way we live.

In Jesus ’name 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 had to keep asking after it seemed like the answer was no?

That is where we meet a desperate mother in today’s reading. She comes to Jesus asking for help for her daughter, but the conversation that follows is not easy or comfortable. At first, Jesus seems distant. Then his words sound surprisingly harsh.

But this woman refuses to disappear. She keeps speaking, keeps trusting, and keeps reaching for mercy.

As we listen, we are invited to wrestle with a difficult story—and to notice what persistent faith can uncover.

Hear now these words from Matthew 15:21–28.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 15: 21-28

21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”

23 But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.”

24 But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”

26 But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw *it* to the little dogs.”

27 And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

Special Music “Be Thou My Vision/Amazing Grace” arr. D. Kelley
Laura Reynolds -oboe, Cathy Wilkinson – English horn, John Wilkinson - clarinet

SERMON

Even the Crumbs

***Big Idea:** Faith is not a guarantee that prayer will bring the outcome we want. Sometimes faith is the courage to keep speaking honestly to God when God feels silent, distant, or unconcerned—and to trust that our pain is still seen.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we give today, we offer more than money—we help make God’s mercy, care, and presence visible in the lives of others.

OFFERTORY

“To A Wild Rose” E.MacDowell arr. Edlefsen/Girlando
Laura Reynolds – oboe, Cathy Wilkinson – piano

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 bring hope where there is pain, companionship where there is loneliness, and help where there is need. May our giving reflect the generous love you have shown us. Amen.

HYMN

“Be Still, My Soul”

UMH 534
 FINLANDIA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Gracious God, you hear us when our prayers are confident and when they are filled with questions. You meet us when you feel near and when you seem silent or far away. Hear the prayers we speak aloud and the prayers we carry quietly within us.

For the Church

Give your church the courage to listen, especially to voices that are too easily dismissed. Teach us to welcome those who feel like outsiders, to make room for honest questions, and to reflect the wide mercy of Jesus in all that we say and do.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

We pray for people living amid war, violence, hunger, displacement, and fear. We remember especially the people of the Middle East and Europe, where conflict continues to bring suffering and loss. Protect those who are vulnerable, comfort those who grieve, guide leaders toward peace, and strengthen all who work for justice, healing, and reconciliation.

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 compassion for those whose needs and voices are too often ignored.

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, and give strength to communities facing fire, flood, drought, storms, or other disasters.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Bless our families, neighbors, schools, workplaces, churches, and local leaders. Make us attentive to those who feel unseen or unheard, and help us become a patient, generous, 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. We remember those who have prayed earnestly and are still waiting, those whose hopes have been disappointed, and those for whom the worst has already happened. When answers do not come and you seem far away, give them courage to speak honestly, companions who will remain beside them, and the assurance that their pain is not unseen.

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.

Merciful God, we do not understand why some prayers are answered as we hope and others are not. Keep us from offering easy explanations, and teach us instead to remain faithful, compassionate, and present. When we cannot hold tightly to you, hold tightly to 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 16, 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!

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!

We are also looking for some to carry on the prayer chain, as Barb Larson is no longer able to take care of it. Please give her a call or contact the office for further directions.

A Different Way of Thinking

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

Following Christ means allowing God to reshape our hearts, our priorities, and the way we see what truly matters. Join us as we explore Romans 12:1-8 and what it means to live as Christ's followers.

Saved this Date

Mon. Sept. 7th – Labor Day office will be closed

Thurs. Sept. 17th thru Sun., 27st – Pastor Marty will be on vacation and out of the office. He will return to the office on Tuesday, Sept. 29th.

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. 22nd – Barbara Cook

Aug. 17th – *Happy 35th Anniversary to Kara & Dave LaLonde*
Aug. 22nd – *Happy 62nd Anniversary to Harriette & Tom Robinson*



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

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

UMH 480
ST. MARGARET

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Jubilation”

Denton