



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, August 23, 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 23, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Barb Carlisle, Kris Donarski
Liturgist: Ray Bell

PRELUDE “Morning Blessing” Smith

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 124)

Leader: We have all known moments when life felt like more than we
could handle.

People: Yet God has been with us.

Leader: When the waters rose, when the way seemed uncertain,
when we wondered how we would make it through—

People: God did not abandon us.

Leader: We look back and recognize a grace that held us, carried us,
and made a way.

People: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and
earth.

Leader: So let us come with gratitude, with trust, and with hope.

All: Let us worship the God who has brought us this far.

*OPENING HYMN

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

UMH 117

ST. ANNE

PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Gracious God, we come to you today carrying many different things—gratitude and worry, hope and weariness, questions and quiet joys.

Through it all, you have been with us. You have held us when life felt uncertain, strengthened us when we were tired, and reminded us again and again that we do not walk this road alone.

As we worship, quiet the noise around us and within us. Open our hearts to your presence, our minds to your truth, and our lives to the ways you are calling us to love and serve.

May the songs we sing, the prayers we offer, and the words we hear draw us closer to you and to one another.

We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

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

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

What if faith is meant to be more than something we do for an hour on Sunday morning?

That is where Paul takes us in today’s reading.

After spending much of Romans talking about God’s grace and mercy, Paul turns to a very practical question: If this is true, how should it shape the way we live?

His answer reaches far beyond church. It touches our choices, our priorities, the way we see ourselves, and the way we treat one another.

Paul also reminds us that none of us has to do everything. We each bring different gifts, and together those gifts matter.

So whether faith feels familiar to you or you are still figuring out what you believe, listen for an invitation here—a picture of what a life shaped by grace might look like.

Hear now these words from Romans 12:1–8.

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12:1–8.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in

teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

HYMN

“Where Charity and Love Prevail (1-3)

UMH 549

ST.PETER

SERMON

A Different Way of Thinking

Big Idea: Following Christ means allowing God to reshape the way we think about ourselves, other people, success, usefulness, and what really matters.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we give today, we offer not only our gifts, but a part of ourselves for God’s work in the world.

OFFERTORY

“Face to Face”

arr. Ritter

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 in ways that bring hope, healing, and grace to others. Shape us as well, that our lives may reflect your love in all we do. Amen.

HYMN

“Have Thine Own Way”

UMH 382

ADELAIDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

As we come to prayer, let us bring before God the needs of our world, our community, those we love, and the concerns we carry quietly within us.

For the Church

Gracious God, renew your church. Help us resist the things that divide us, recognize the gifts of one another, and reflect the love and mercy of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

We pray for people living amid war, violence, hunger, displacement, and fear. Protect those who are vulnerable, comfort those who grieve, and guide leaders toward peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Nation

We pray for our nation and its leaders. Give us wisdom beyond slogans and divisions, humility enough to listen, and compassion for those whose voices are easily overlooked.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

We give thanks for the beauty of your creation. Help us care faithfully for the earth and be near to communities facing fire, flood, drought, storms, and other disasters.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Bless our families, neighbors, schools, workplaces, churches, and local leaders. Help us recognize the gifts within one another and use our own gifts to serve with generosity and love.

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. Bring strength where it is needed, hope where it is hard to see, and caring companions for those who feel 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.

Merciful God, renew our minds and reshape our lives. Help us see ourselves and others with humility and grace, and use the gifts you have given us for the good of 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – August 23, 2026

Saved this Date

Sun. Aug. 30th – Blessing of the Backpacks: Bring your backpacks for a special prayer during worship service.

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.

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

A Different Way of Living

When God changes our hearts and minds, our lives change too—shaping how we love, handle conflict, and take responsibility. Join us as we explore Romans 12:9-21 and see how that transformation shapes the way we love.

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Aug. 22nd – Barbara Cook

Aug. 30th - Kelley Bunker

Aug. 22nd – *Happy 62nd Anniversary to Harriette & Tom Robinson*

Aug. 23rd – *Happy 68th Anniversary to Marge & Earl Tomlinson*

Aug. 27th – *Happy Anniversary to Sherry & Ron Hutchins*



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 “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

UMH 569
MESSAGE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Procession”

Blake