



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, August 30, 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 30, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Ray Bell, James Bankson
Liturgist: Sherry Hutchins

PRELUDE “Prelude on Psalm 8” Callender

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

Leader: Come, give thanks to the Lord, and tell the stories of God's goodness.

People: We come to sing, to remember, and to rejoice.

Leader: Remember what God has done—the promises kept, the people guided, the unexpected ways grace has appeared.

People: We remember that God has been faithful from generation to generation.

Leader: Even when the road has been uncertain, God has been at work—calling, leading, preparing the way.

People: So we come with grateful hearts, ready to seek God's presence again.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord. Praise God's holy name!

People: Thanks be to God! Let us worship.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

UMH 103
ST. DENIO

PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Gracious God, we come this morning grateful for another day, another chance to gather, and another opportunity to remember your goodness.

You have been with your people through every generation, and you are with us still—guiding us, surprising us, and working in ways we do not always recognize at first.

So open our hearts today. Lift our spirits. Help us set aside the distractions we carried through the door and turn our attention toward you.

Fill our worship with joy, our singing with gratitude, and our listening with expectation. Remind us again that we are your people, held by your grace and called to share your love.

We are glad to be here, Lord. Meet us in this time together.

Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS - Blessing of the Backpacks

Opening Remarks - Pastor

Good morning!

Every year, we take a few minutes to bless our backpacks and the people who carry them.

Now, there's nothing magical about a backpack. It may carry books, pencils, lunches, homework—and probably a few things that should have been cleaned out sometime last spring.

But that backpack goes with you into a big part of your life. It goes to classrooms and hallways, onto buses and playgrounds, to practices and activities. It goes with you on the really good days and the days that are a little harder.

So today we bless these backpacks as a way of reminding you of something important: **wherever you go, God goes with you.** And your church family goes with you too—in our love, our encouragement, and our prayers.

Blessing

Pastor: For new classrooms, new teachers, new friends, and new opportunities—

Congregation: God, bless our young people as they learn and grow.

Pastor: For days when learning comes easily and everything seems to fall into place—

Congregation: God, help them to be grateful and joyful.

Pastor: For days when the work is hard, friendships are difficult, or they wonder if they are good enough—

Congregation: God, give them courage, patience, and people who will encourage them.

Pastor: For teachers, aides, administrators, bus drivers, coaches, cafeteria workers, and everyone who helps make our schools places of learning and care—

Congregation: God, bless them with wisdom, strength, and compassion.

Pastor: And for these backpacks and all they will carry throughout the year—

Congregation: May they remind our young people that they never travel alone.

Pastor: Church family, will you pray for these young people, encourage them, celebrate with them when things go well, and remind them of God's love when life is difficult?

Congregation: We will, with God's help.

Pastor: Then, gracious God, bless these backpacks and, even more, bless the people who carry them.

Give them curious minds, kind hearts, good friends, and the courage to be themselves. Help them remember that they are more than their grades, their accomplishments, or their mistakes. They are your beloved children.

May they learn much, laugh often, show kindness freely, and know that wherever this school year takes them, you are already there.

And may this congregation continue to surround them with love and prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

All: Amen.

Young People: Thank you!

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to **talk** about love—and how much harder it is to actually love somebody who gets on your nerves?

That's where Paul takes us in Romans 12.

His words are wonderfully practical: love genuinely, be patient, pray, welcome others, bless those who trouble you, and—as far as it depends on you—live at peace with everyone.

Simple to understand.

Not always so simple to live.

Listen now for the Word of God.

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12:9-21

9 *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

”Leader: The Word of God for the People of God
All: Thanks be to God

HYMN

“We Are The Church”

UMH 558
PORT JERVIS

SERMON

A Different Way of Living

Big Idea: When God changes the way we think, it changes the way we live—especially in how we love, respond to conflict, and take responsibility for the part that belongs to us.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we offer our gifts today, may they be one more way we put God’s love into action.

OFFERTORY

“Andante”

arr. Williams

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, bless these gifts and use them to bring hope, help, and healing where they are needed. Bless us as well, that our lives may reflect the generosity and love of Christ.

HYMN “Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee” (v1-4) UMH 562
SAVANNAH

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, teach your church to love genuinely, serve faithfully, and make room for one another with humility and grace.

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, patience, and the courage to seek understanding rather than deepen division.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

We give thanks for the beauty of your creation. Help us care for the earth faithfully and be near to those 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 rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, and live peaceably wherever we can.

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 healing, strength, comfort, and caring companions.

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, help us live the faith we profess. Give us grace to do the part that belongs to us—to love sincerely, seek peace, resist bitterness, and overcome evil with good. 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 30, 2026

🍦 Ice Cream for a Good Cause! 🍦

Join us downstairs today for an **Ice Cream Social!** Enjoy a sweet treat while helping us raise money to **fix the walls between the windows in the Fellowship Hall. Eat ice cream. Fix walls. Everybody wins!**

Get ready for Family Night at CUMC—Starting Sept. 16th and every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30–7:00 PM! Come enjoy a tasty dinner, fun activities, and a meaningful lesson for all ages. Bring the whole family—everyone is welcome!

School Is Back!

Missions is now collecting shelf-stable foods for our local elementary school. Needed items include oatmeal packets, Pop-Tarts, granola bars, crackers, canned soup and vegetables, Chef Boyardee, Easy Mac & Cheese, and ramen noodles. *Please nothing in glass containers.* Please place donations in the tub outside the upstairs elevator. Thank you to everyone who has already donated!

****Beginning the first Sunday in September,** the youth will be outside after the service to collect a Mission Love Offering. All proceeds will go toward helping elementary school children with their needs.

Central's Missions: is still collecting misc. items for the homeless bags being put together by the **Mission/Outreach** program. 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.

Explore Romans Through Time-*Starting the first Sunday in October,* Pastor Marty will be leading an 8-week Bible study on the book of Romans at CUMC in the library. There will be 2 classes (*on the same day*); 1pm and 6pm. If you are interested in joining us, please complete the insert and place it in the offering plate.

Fall Choir & Bell Rehearsals are Back! Do you love to sing or ring? Now's the perfect time to join us!

Adult Choir will begin Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 PM – All voices, male and female, are welcome! No experience needed—just a love for music and fellowship.

Bell Choir begins Wednesday, September 9 at 6:00 PM – Come be part of this beautiful and unique music ministry! Bring your voice, your joy, and your spirit—let's make a joyful noise together!

Saved this Date

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

Sun. Sept. 13th – Rally Day – Don't miss the fun, fellowship and Hot Dogs!

Wed. Sept. 16th – Family Night Begins - 5:30-7pm in Fellowship Hall

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

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

A Dangerous Passage

Join us as we study Matthew 18:15-20 and explore how Jesus teaches us to approach conflict, authority, and prayer with humility—and how living in His name means reflecting His love and grace.

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**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” (2x)

UMH 431
WORLD PEACE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Sing Aloud to God”

Hughes