



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, September 13, 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
September 13, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Norb Nennin, Dell Carter
Liturgist: Jackie Willey

PRELUDE “Penetentia” arr. Warrirer

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 114)

Leader: When God’s people walked out of slavery, God went with them.

People: The sea opened, the river turned back, and a new way appeared.

Leader: Mountains trembled, rocks became pools of water, and creation responded to God’s presence.

People: The God who made a way for them is still making a way for us.

Leader: So come with your hopes, your fears, and whatever wilderness you are walking through.

All: We come to worship the living God, whose presence brings freedom, hope, and new life. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

UMH 127
CWM RHONDDA

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER

Guiding God, we do not always know where the road ahead will take us, but we trust that we do not travel it alone. You have met your people in the wilderness, made a way through deep waters, and provided strength for each day.

Meet us here this morning. Quiet the worries we carried through the door, open our hearts to your presence, and give us what we need for the journey ahead. Guide us through this time of worship and help us follow you with courage and hope. In Jesus ’name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS (Education Department)

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Have you ever forgiven someone—and then wondered, *How many times am I going to have to do this?* That is essentially the question Peter brings to Jesus. He wants to know when enough is enough. Jesus answers with a story about an enormous debt, an unexpected act of mercy, and what happens when the grace we receive stops with us. Listen now for the Word of God.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

28 “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

Special Music “Be Thou My Vision” M.E. Byrne / arr. S.W. Henry
Cathy Wilkinson – piano John Wilkinson – clarinet

SERMON The Grace That Carries Us

Big Idea: We are carried by grace we could never earn, and Jesus calls us to let that grace continue through us rather than stopping with us.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Having received more grace than we could ever earn, let us now offer our gifts so that God’s grace may continue through us.

OFFERTORY “St. Columba” arr. Parson

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 as signs of our gratitude for the mercy that has carried us this far. Use them—and use us—to share your grace, hope, and love with others. Amen.

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.

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, remind your church that we are a people carried by grace. Help us offer to others the mercy we have received, speak truth with love, and seek reconciliation without ignoring harm or abandoning necessary boundaries.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**For the World**

We pray for all who live amid war, violence, hunger, displacement, and fear. Free those held captive by oppression, comfort those who grieve, and strengthen all who work for justice, healing, and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**For Our Nation**

We pray for our nation and its leaders. Turn us away from vengeance, division, and the need always to win; teach us to listen with humility, act with compassion, and seek the good of all people.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

We thank you for the seas and rivers, mountains and forests, and all the beauty of your creation. Help us care faithfully for the earth, and be near to those affected by 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. Where relationships are strained, give us patience to listen, courage to speak honestly, wisdom to set healthy boundaries, and grace to begin again.

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 where it is possible, strength for each day, and caring companions for the journey.

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, thank you for the grace that has carried us this far. Keep that grace from stopping with us; let it shape our choices, bring healing to wounded relationships, and flow through our lives to others. We pray 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.

Today is Rally Day – Bring your team colors, and join us downstairs for some fun, fellowship and Hot Dogs!

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

Can You Be Glad for Them?

Join us as we explore Matthew 20:1-16 and see how God's grace changes our hearts—and teaches us to celebrate the blessings He gives to others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – September 13, 2026

****Today** - our youth will be at the entrances after the service to collect a *Mission Love Offering*. All proceeds will go toward helping elementary school children with their needs.

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!

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 Thursday 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 Registration card(which can be found on the table in foyer or ask Kathy in office) place it in the offering plate, or turn into the office.

JOIN THE CHOIR – as Fall is arriving soon, so is your opportunity to join our faithful choir. All voice ranges are needed. Rehearsals are Weds. @7pm in the choir room. Questions see Cathy Wilkinson, director.

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!

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!

Saved this Date

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

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Sept. 3rd – Debbie Smart **Sept. 4th** – Diana Morgan

Sept. 6th – Terry Myers **Sept. 8th** – Kay Miller

Sept. 10th – Evelyn Bush

Sept. 1st – *Happy 41st Anniversary to Brenda & Jamie Coullard*

Sept. 12th – *Happy 38th Anniversary to Diane & Ray Bell*



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**

“Freely, Freely”

**UMH 389
FREELY, FREELY**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Psalm of Glory”

Wells