



Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

Sunday, October 18, 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
October 18, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Norb Bennin, Dell Carter
Liturgist: Terri Bush

PRELUDE “Meditation” Callender

CHOIR INTROIT “Give Thanks” H. Smith

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 99)

Leader: The Lord is great, and God’s presence is among us.

People: We come to worship the One who is holy.

Leader: God loves what is right and calls us to walk in justice.

People: We come ready to listen, to learn, and to follow.

Leader: Through every generation, God has heard the cries of God’s people.

People: God is faithful, merciful, and near.

Leader: So come with gratitude. Come with wonder. Come just as you are.

People: We come to worship the Lord our God.

Leader: Holy is the Lord!

People: Let us worship God together.

*OPENING HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

UMH 64
NICEA

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we are glad to be here.

Wake us up to your presence, open our hearts to your grace, and fill this time with joy. Quiet whatever distracts us, strengthen whatever is weary within us, and help us to hear your voice.

As we worship, remind us that you are holy, you are faithful, and you are near.

In Jesus ’name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT -Jackie Willey

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Have you ever had someone ask you a question when you knew perfectly well they weren’t really looking for an answer?

They were setting a trap.

That is exactly what happens in today’s Gospel reading. Some of Jesus ’opponents come to him with what sounds like a sincere question about taxes. But there is no safe answer. If Jesus says one thing, he risks angering the crowd. If he says the other, he risks getting himself in trouble with Rome.

They think they have him cornered.

But Jesus sees through the question, and instead of simply choosing one side or the other, he turns the whole conversation in a deeper direction.

Listen now for the Word of God in Matthew 22:15–22.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in *His* talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, *you* hypocrites? Show Me the tax money.”

So they brought Him a denarius.

And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription *is* this?”

They said to Him, “Caesar’s.”

And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they had heard *these words*, they marveled and left Him and went their way.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

P. Scholtes / arr. H. Livingston, Jr.

SERMON

Whose Image Is This?

***Big Idea:** We live among many things that make claims on us, but because we bear God's image, our deepest identity and ultimate allegiance belong to God.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As people who bear God's image, we give not out of obligation, but in gratitude for all that God has entrusted to us.

OFFERTORY

"Greenwell"

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

Gracious God, receive these gifts and use them to bring hope, healing, and love into the world. Take what we offer today, and shape our lives as well, so that all we have and all we are may serve you. Amen.

HYMN

"His Name Is Wonderful" (2x)

UMH 174
HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy
All: Hear our prayer.

As we come to prayer, we bring our gratitude and our concerns, our faith and our questions. Trusting in God's faithful love, let us pray for our world, our neighbors, and the needs we carry in our hearts.

For the Church

Gracious God, help your church reflect your image in the world. Give us humility, wisdom, and courage, and teach us to live with a deeper loyalty to your love and your ways.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

We pray for people living amid war, violence, hunger, oppression, and fear. Protect those in danger, sustain those who have fled their homes, and guide divided peoples toward peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Nation

We pray for our nation and all who hold public responsibility. Give our leaders wisdom, compassion, and integrity, and help all of us remember that no political loyalty is greater than our call to love our neighbors and seek what is right.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of this changing season and for the earth entrusted to our care. Help us use its gifts wisely, protect what is vulnerable, and stand with those affected by disaster.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Bless our families, neighbors, schools, workplaces, and all who serve our community. Help us notice those who are overlooked, use what we have generously, and be faithful stewards of the lives and resources you have placed in our care.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

We pray for those who are ill, grieving, lonely, anxious, or simply worn down. Be near to those carrying burdens others cannot see, and give them comfort, strength, and people who will walk beside 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 and for claiming us as your own. Shape our hearts, guide our choices, and help us live in ways that reflect your grace, generosity, and love.

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.

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

The Question Behind the Question

Join us as we explore Matthew 22: 34-36 and find how following Jesus transforms the way we see God, love others, and live out our faith each day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – October 18, 2026

All Saints Sunday is November 1st, on ***All Saints Sunday***, we will remember and honor loved ones who have passed away during the past year. If you would like a loved one remembered during the service, please contact the church office by **October 26** with their ***name and date of passing***. *We will lovingly honor their memory during the service.*

CUMC is currently seeking a Family Ministries Coordinator.

This part-time role (10–15 hours/week at \$20/hour) focuses on supporting families with children from birth through 8th grade. Key responsibilities include strengthening existing programs and developing new ministries to nurture the faith of young Christians. The coordinator will actively engage parents and children, build connections to church life through personal outreach and social media, and work closely with the education team and volunteers. Additional duties include creating curriculum for Sunday morning Christian education and promoting faith-based learning in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Join us on Thursdays-1pm & 6pm – *Bible study with Pastor Marty –*
Explore the book of Romans Through Time

Family Night at CUMC—next one will be on Oct. 21st -5:30–7:pm Come enjoy a tasty dinner, fun activities and a meaningful lesson for all ages. Bring the whole family—everyone is welcome!

**Join us for Bible Study, led by Ray Bell,
 every Sunday at 9:30 AM in the CUMC lounge
*We are presently studying “The Walk” by Adam Hamilton***

Saved this Date

Wed. Oct. 21st – *Family Night 5:30-7pm at CUMC Fellowship Hall.*
 Dinner is served before the lesson. All are Welcome

Sat. Nov. 14th – *Join us for Central’s WOF Annual Bazaar,*(9:30am to 2:30pm)
 This year’s theme ***“Star of Wonder”***
Morning Coffee/Tea (9:30 to 10:30 am) *Luncheon* (11am to 2pm) \$9.00 donation

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Oct. 18th – Gary Horner

Oct. 19th – Ben Jones

Oct. 19th – Sarah Shadnaw

Oct. 20th – Mark LaRoue

Oct. 23rd – Matthew Shadnaw

Oct 20th – *Happy Anniversary to Debbie & Art Smart*



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**

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

UMM 581
BEACH SPRING

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

words by J. Fawcett

POSTLUDE

“Hursley”

Smith