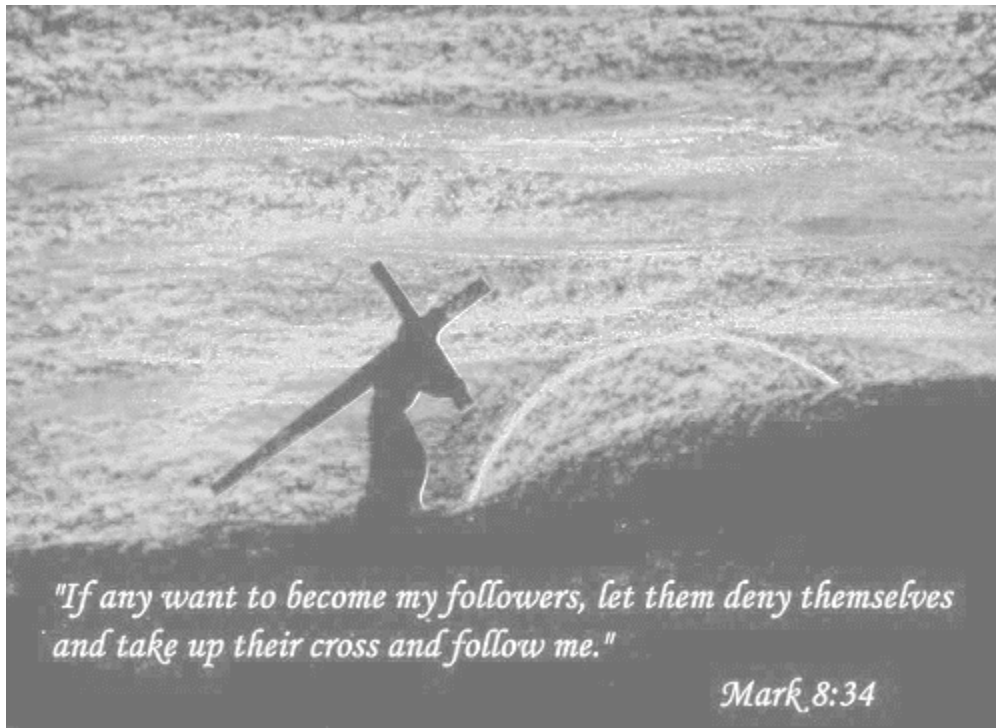


Sunday, September 12, 2021



*"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross and follow me."*

*Mark 8:34*

**Mission Statement:  
Connecting all people to God  
by building bridges of caring, outreach, and acceptance.**

Central UMC's Worship Gathering  
September 12, 2021, at 10:30 am

*Welcome to our worship celebration!*

*Offering boxes are at the back on both sides of the sanctuary by the doors.  
We will not be passing the plates.*

*CCLI License# 3999519*

\*Indicates please stand on your feet or in your heart.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Prelude**

*Power of the Cross*

Clarinet and piano; John and Cathy Wilkinson

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

One: The Wisdom of God is non-reactionary, does not punish us when we are not able to heal.

**All: The Wisdom of God is ancient, rooted, creative, and unfolding.**

One: The Wisdom of God meets us with compassion.

The Living Christ does not ask us to suffer for suffering's sake.

**All: The Living Christ desires our needs to be met and our hearts to be consoled.**

One: The Living Christ loves our flourishing.

**All: Come, let us gather in the Wisdom of God and the Spirit of the Living Christ.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

UMH 103 vv. 1, 3, 4  
ST. DENIO

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 8:27-38

**Sermon**

"Can We Truly Comprehend?"

**Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 886

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;  
and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us,  
who died and rose again;  
and in the Holy Spirit,  
present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

**We believe;**

**God, help our unbelief.**

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:

in the upholding of human dignity and community;  
in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;  
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;  
in the abundance of God's gifts  
entrusted to us that all may have enough;  
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**Glory be to God on high;  
And on earth, peace.**

We confess our sin, individual and collective,  
by silence or action:  
through the violation of human dignity  
based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;  
through the exploitation of people  
because of greed and indifference;  
through the misuse of power  
in personal, communal, national, and international life;  
through the search for security  
by those military and economic forces  
that threaten human existence;  
through the abuse of technology  
which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

**Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

We commit ourselves individually and as a community  
to the way of Christ:  
to take up the cross;  
to seek abundant life for all humanity;  
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;  
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,  
praying that God's kingdom may come.

**Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

**Hymn of Response**

*Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*

UMH 349  
LEMMEL

**Prayers of the People  
The Lord's Prayer**

**Announcements**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*There's a Spirit in the Air*

UMH 192 vv. 1, 2, 5, 6  
ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Footnotes:

1. Call to Worship from "Liturgy that Matters" editor Casey Overton. ©2021 enflshed.

Organist: Pat Deatrck

Liturgist: John Lutz

Family Ministry Coordinator: Kay Miller

Admn. Assist: Sherry Ingham

Video Camera: Dan Robinson

Ushers: Tom Brown, Norb Bennin

Special Music: John & Cathy Wilkinson

Pastor: Rev. Vickie Hadaway

*Financial gifts can be mailed to Algonquin UMC or Central UMC at:  
111 E. Spruce St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.*

**Office Hours:**

**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**

**Please call before coming to the church office.**

*Office phone: (906) 632-8672*

*Pastor cell phone: (708) 494-1877*

*Office email: centralumc632@gmail.com*

*Email: Vickie.31.hadaway@gmail.com*

## **Announcements – September 12, 2021**

**All are welcome to join a new Bible Study class on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** We will be studying *The Book of John, Finding, Identity and Purpose, an in-depth study of John*. The class meets in the library. Led by Norb Bennin and Bob Arfstrom.

**Crafters gather** on Wednesday mornings at 9:00-12:00 noon. All are welcome!

**Adult Choir Rehearsals** begin Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. New members Welcome!

**Bell Choir Rehearsals** begin Wednesday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m.

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

**Back to Church Sunday, September 19, 2021**

**Family Night, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021**

Reclaiming Wednesdays for Christian Gathering and Growth  
Meal at 5:30 p.m.; small groups begin at 6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Church Retreat at Camp Michigamme – October 8-10.**

Fun, Reconnecting, & Relaxing for all ages!

*Leaning into Leadership: We Are Led Before We Lead.*

Led by Rev. Dr. Martha Burnell.

**Fall Coat Give Away – October 21-22 at God's Country Cooperative Parish  
in Newberry, MI.**