



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, September 8, 2024

With Pastor Marty Johnston

Mission Statement:

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

Central and Algonquin UMC's Worship Gathering
Pastor Marty Johnston
September 8, 2024
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Blessing of the Backpacks/Rally Day
CCLI License# 3999519

Greeters/Ushers:

Liturgist: Gwen Worley

PRELUDE

“Song of Trust”

Denton

CHORAL INTROIT ‘Children of the Heavenly Father’

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

Leader: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,

Congregation: Which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

Leader: As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

Congregation: So the Lord surrounds His people both now and forevermore.

Leader: The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the
righteous,

Congregation: For then the righteous might use their hands to do evil.

Leader: Lord, do good to those who are good,

Congregation: To those who are upright in heart.

Leader: But those who turn to crooked ways the Lord will banish with the
evildoers.

Congregation: Peace be on Israel.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord, our eternal protector and guide,

**Congregation: With hearts full of trust and joy, for He surrounds us with His
unfailing love!**

***OPENING HYMN**

“Jesus Shall Reign”

UMH 157
DUKE STREET

PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER *

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(Students are invited forward and all adults associated with Education are invited to stand)

Leader: Gracious and Loving God, as we gather today, we lift up our students who are about to begin a new school year. We ask Your blessing upon these backpacks, which represent their work, their learning, and their growth.

Congregation: May these backpacks be filled with the tools they need, and may the hearts of our students be filled with curiosity, determination, and the desire to do their best.

Leader: Lord, we pray for the safety of all students and schools. Protect them from harm and grant them a safe and nurturing environment where they can learn and grow.

Congregation: Surround our schools with Your protection, and let them be places of peace, love, and security for all who enter.

Leader: We also pray for the teachers and administrators who dedicate themselves to the education and well-being of our children.

Congregation: Grant them the strength to guide with wisdom, the creativity to inspire, and the compassion to nurture every student in their care.

Leader: We lift up the parents and guardians, asking that You bless them with patience and understanding as they support their children through the challenges and joys of the school year.

Congregation: May they find the strength to be steadfast pillars of love and guidance, always pointing their children toward truth and kindness.

Leader: Finally, Lord, we pray for all who serve in the educational field—bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers, counselors, and all those who work behind the scenes to make our schools safe and welcoming.

Congregation: Bless their efforts and grant them the satisfaction of knowing they are making a difference in the lives of the young people they serve.

Leader: May Your grace be upon every student, every teacher, every parent, and every worker this school year.

All Together: Fill our schools with peace, love, and the light of Your presence. We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and guide. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:1-10 warns against showing favoritism, especially to the rich, and reminds us that all people are equal in God's eyes. James teaches that treating people differently based on their wealth or appearance is wrong and goes against

the command to love your neighbor as yourself. If we show favoritism, we break God's law. James emphasizes that we should treat everyone with kindness and fairness, reflecting God's love for all, regardless of their status or appearance.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:1-10

Favoritism Forbidden

- 1 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.
- 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in.
- 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"
- 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?
- 5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?
- 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?
- 7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?
- 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.
- 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.
- 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

CHOIR ANTHEM

'Praise the Name of the Lord'

J. M. Martin

SERMON

No Favoritism Allowed

INVITATION TO OFFERING

In God's eyes, there is no rich or poor—only beloved children. As we give our offerings, may we do so with hearts that reflect God's impartial love, ensuring that our gifts support and uplift everyone, regardless of their circumstances.

OFFERTORY

“Offertoire in F”

Lemaigre

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 DEDICATION²

Heavenly Father, we bring these gifts before You, asking that You bless them and use them to create a community where all are valued and loved without favoritism. Help us to reflect Your impartial love in all we do, ensuring that these offerings bring justice, kindness, and care to everyone in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

“Wonderful Words of Life”

UMH 600

WORDS OF LIFE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

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 – September 8, 2024

The office is closed on Tuesday, September 10. Abby will be out of the office from September 10 – 17. Robin Myer will be filling in for her.

Central's Choir began **Fall rehearsals** on **Wednesday, August 28 @ 7 p.m.** We are always looking for new members. Rehearsals happen in the 2nd-floor choir room - use the Spruce St. door. **Join us for an enjoyable time.** For more information - contact Cathy Wilkinson @ 906-630-1777 **or wilkinsoncathy@ymail.com.**

Mark your calendars for the **return of Family Night** held on the **3rd Wednesday of the month** from **5:30 – 7 PM.** Dinner is served before the lesson. **Wednesday, September 18th** is the first meeting of the season. Please make plans to join us.

Hiring - Family Ministries Coordinator Position

Do you know someone who enjoys working with children and loves God? **CUMC** is **seeking** to hire a **Family Ministries Coordinator.** The position is **part-time** with **flexible hours** and has a **strong support team.** A job description is available in the church office. Anyone **interested** or with questions is encouraged to **contact Pastor Marty** at the church office or **Terri Bush** at **906-440-2850.**

Algonquin Birthdays

September 9 – John O'Connor

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Sept. 8 – Kay Miller Sept. 10 – Evelyn Bush

Sept. 12 – Ray & Diane Bell - 37th Anniv.

This Week

Tuesday – The church **office** will be **closed.**

Wednesday – **Choir rehearsal @ 7 PM** in the CUMC choir room.

Save the Date

Sun., 9/15 – CYC Meeting @ 11:45 a.m. in the CUMC Lounge

Wed., 9/18 – Family Night 5:30 PM – 7 PM at CUMC. Dinner is served before the lesson.

*CLOSING HYMN

“The Voice of God is Calling”

UMH 436
MEIRIONYDD

BENEDICTION

*God be with you till we meet again, by his council guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again...*

CHORAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE ‘Go Forth for God’

Financial gifts can be mailed to Algonquin UMC or Central UMC at:

111 E. Spruce St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Website: www.cumcssoo.org

Online Giving: <https://cumcssoo.org/give/>

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