



*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, September 15, 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 15, 2024  
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Blessing of the Backpacks/Rally Day  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

Greeters/Ushers: Tom Brown/Kelley Bunker/Tom Robinson

Liturgist: Jackie Willey

PRELUDE "Meditation" Moore

CHORAL INTROIT "I Will Call Upon the Lord" M. O'Shields

### WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

**Leader:** The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.

**Congregation:** Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

**Leader:** They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

**Congregation:** Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

**Leader:** The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

**Congregation:** The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

**Leader:** The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

**Congregation:** They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

**Leader:** May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

**Congregation:** Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN "How Great Thou Art" UMH 77  
HOW GREAT THOU ART

PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER \*

## INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

This morning's reading warns about the power of the tongue, emphasizing that although small, it can cause great harm if not controlled. James compares the tongue to a bit in a horse's mouth, a rudder on a ship, and a small spark that can ignite a forest fire. He stresses that while the tongue can praise God, it can also curse others, revealing the contradiction within us. The passage urges us to be mindful of our words, as they reflect our true nature and can build up or destroy.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING James 3:1-12

#### **Taming the Tongue**

- <sup>1</sup> Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.
- <sup>2</sup> We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.
- <sup>3</sup> When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.
- <sup>4</sup> Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.
- <sup>5</sup> Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.
- <sup>6</sup> The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.
- <sup>7</sup> All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
- <sup>9</sup> With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.
- <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.
- <sup>11</sup> Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?
- <sup>12</sup> My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

CHOIR ANTHEM                      ‘God Leads Us Along’                      Young/arr. Fettke

SERMON                                      Say What?!?!?

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*In gratitude and grace, let us offer our gifts to God.*

OFFERTORY                      “Blessed Quietness”                      Paxton

DOXOLOGY

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.

UMH 95  
OLD HUNDREDTH

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>2</sup>

Heavenly Father, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts, asking that You bless and multiply them for the work of Your kingdom. May they be used to bring hope, healing, and love to those in need, and may our lives reflect Your generosity and grace. Amen.

HYMN                                      “Near to the Heart of God”                      UMH 472  
McFEE

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 15, 2024

**The CYC Meeting begins @ 11:45 a.m.** in the CUMC Lounge

Abby will be out of the office from September 16 – 17; Robin Myers will fill in for her.

### **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**.

### Central Birthday/Anniversary

Sept. 15 – Marcia Jenkins-Ball    Sept. 16 - Hazel Taylor  
Sept. 20 – Fred Smith

### This Week

**Monday** – All Flame Newsletter submissions are **due to Barb Larson by noon today**.

- **Rebecca Circle Meeting** in the Fellowship Hall @ **1 PM**

**Wednesday - Family Night 5:30 PM – 7 PM @CUMC Fellowship Hall.**

Dinner is served before the lesson.

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

### Save the Date

**Sunday - 9/22**    **An Ice Cream Social fundraiser will be held on Sunday, September 22 after church service at Central to benefit Sue Mackie. If you would like to bake cookies to bring, that would be appreciated!**

Adult Bible Study, Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM led by Ray and Diane Bell - ALL are welcome.

\*CLOSING HYMN

“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord”

UMH 438  
DUKE STREET

### 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’    Peacy/C.W. Douglas

POSTLUDE                            “Festival Recessional”                            Nordman

Financial gifts can be mailed to Algonquin UMC or Central UMC at:  
111 E. Spruce St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Website: [www.cumcsoo.org](http://www.cumcsoo.org)                            Online Giving: <https://cumcsoo.org/give/>  
**Office Hours: Monday through Thursday – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Office Phone: 906-632-8672                            Pastor’s Cell Phone: 906-440-0288  
Office Email: [centralumc632@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc632@gmail.com)                            Pastor’s Email: [pastormartyj@yahoo.com](mailto:pastormartyj@yahoo.com)