



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, November 17, 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
November 17, 2024
Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Ray Bell / Jim Bankson
Liturgist: Jerry Bell

PRELUDE

“In The Fields”

Williams

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

Leader: Come, let us find our refuge in the Lord, who watches over us and keeps us safe.

People: We come with hearts open, trusting in God's guidance and strength.

Leader: The Lord is our portion and our cup, giving us every good thing.

People: We are grateful for God's presence, which brings joy and peace to our lives.

Leader: In God's presence, there is fullness of joy; at His right hand, eternal pleasures await.

People: We come to worship with gladness, celebrating the One who shows us the path of life.

All Together: Let us praise the Lord, who is our hope, our delight, and our strength forever!

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

UMH 127
CWM RHONDDA

***PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER**

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

In today's reading, there's a woman named Hannah who desperately wants a child but hasn't been able to have one. Every year, she goes to the temple to pray, pouring her heart out to God and promising that if she has a son, she'll dedicate him to God's service. While she's praying, the priest Eli sees her and thinks she's acting strangely, but she explains her deep sadness. Moved, Eli blesses her, and soon after, she becomes pregnant with her son, Samuel.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING I Samuel 1:4-20

- ⁴ Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters.
- ⁵ But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb.
- ⁶ Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.
- ⁷ This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.
- ⁸ Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"
- ⁹ Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house.
- ¹⁰ In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly.
- ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."
- ¹² As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth.
- ¹³ Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk

¹⁴ and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.”

¹⁵ “Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord.

¹⁶ Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”

¹⁷ Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”

¹⁸ She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

¹⁹ Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her.

²⁰ So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel,^[a] saying, “Because I asked the Lord for him.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

CHOIRUS ANTHEM

“Open Our Eyes”

TFWS 2086
OPEN OUR EYES

SERMON

Praying Through Pain

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Hannah dedicated her greatest blessing to God, knowing all she had came from Him. Today, let us give joyfully, dedicating a portion of our blessings to God’s work in the world.

OFFERTORY

"Gentle Child Jesus"

J.S. Bach

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 DEDICATION²

Loving God, we dedicate these offerings to You, just as Hannah dedicated her son. May they become a blessing to others, a testament to Your goodness, and a source of hope for all who are in need. Amen.

HYMN

“Near to the Heart of God”

UMH 472
MCAFEE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

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 – November 17, 2024

Sun., Nov 17th - There will be a mission meeting in the parlor after the church service. Missions is still collecting clothing donations and accepting Meijer and Walmart gift cards to purchase needed items. Additionally, the schools have requested head lice treatment kits, and any brand is appreciated.

Sun., Nov 24th – Join us for Central’s "Hanging of the Greens" after morning services! We’ll be decorating the sanctuary for the Advent season, with tasks like trimming the tree, hanging boughs, assembling the creche, and putting up lights. No experience is required—just come ready to help and share in the holiday spirit!

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Nov 18 – Bob Arfstrom Nov 21 – Bob Vincent Nov 22 - Pat Deatricks

Nov 21 – Pastor Marthy & Tina Johnston 12th Anniv.

This Week

Wed., Nov. 20 – Family Night at CUMC Fellowship Hall

5:30 PM – 7 PM. Dinner is served before the lesson

Sun., Nov 24th – Central’s “Hanging of the Greens”

Save the Date

**Sun., Dec 8th -Holiday Brass Concert @ 3 p.m.- 5 p.m. by the
SteelTown Silver Band** Directed by
Dr. John Wilkinson -Admission by donation

*CLOSING HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

UMH 593
HERE I AM, LORD

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.*

POSTLUDE

“Hanover”

Birchwood

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

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

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

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