



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, January 11, 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
January 11, 2026
Liturgical Colors: White
Baptism of the Lord
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Tom Brown, Don Montag
Liturgist: Ray Bell

PRELUDE “The Greatest of These” arr. Livingston

CHOIR INTROIT “Make Way, Make Way” Graham Kendrick

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 29)

Leader: Today we remember the baptism of Jesus—the moment He stepped into the waters and stood with us.

People: We come to meet You here, Lord.

Leader: Psalm 29 says, *The voice of the Lord is over the waters.*”
God’s voice is not far away—it moves in close.

People: We are listening for Your voice.

Leader: When life feels stormy—outside or inside—God still speaks with power and majesty.

People: Speak, Lord. We want to hear.

Leader: At the Jordan River, God called Jesus Beloved. And in Christ, that love reaches us too—not because we earned it, but because God gives it.

People: We receive Your grace. We receive Your love.

Leader: So come—let us give the Lord the glory due His name, and worship the Lord in holy splendor.

People: We will worship the Lord.

Leader: The Lord gives strength to His people and blesses His people with peace.

People: Thanks be to God—strength and peace for today. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

UMH 89

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Gracious God, we adore You—the Father who speaks love, the Son who steps into our waters, and the Spirit who descends with peace. As we worship today, quiet every competing voice, and let Your Word be heard in our hearts.

Strengthen us where we are weak, cleanse what is weighed down, and claim us again as Your beloved children.

Fill this place with Your glory, and bless Your people with Your peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Most of us know what it's like to step into a moment that feels...
loaded.

A first day. A hard conversation. A doctor's appointment. A funeral home. A new beginning.

You show up—and it's more than just the moment. It's what the moment *means.*

That's what Matthew 3 feels like. Jesus doesn't arrive with a spotlight and a marching band. He walks up to a river. He gets in line with ordinary people. And John the Baptist—who has been calling everyone to repent—looks at Jesus and says, “No, not you. You should be baptizing me.”

But Jesus insists.

And in that simple act—stepping into the water—something enormous happens:

the heavens open, the Spirit descends, and a voice speaks:
“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

So today, as we hear Matthew 3:13–17, listen for two things:
the humility of Jesus, who moves in close to us—
and the heart of the Father, who speaks identity and love over Him...
and, in Christ, over us too.

Let's listen for God's Word.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3: 13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

¹⁴ And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

- 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.
- 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.
- 17 And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Wade in the Water”

African/American spiritual,
Arr. C. Haywood, alt.

SERMON

Marked by the Sprit

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As Jesus stepped into the waters to stand with us and was named God’s Beloved, let us give our gifts today in gratitude, trusting the Father who provides and the Spirit who empowers.

OFFERTORY

“Cantilene in F”

Macklin

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 as our thankful response to Your love spoken over us in Christ. Send Your Spirit upon this offering and upon us, that what we give and how we live would reflect Your Beloved Son to the world. Amen.

HYMN

“Sprit Song”

UMH 247
SPRIT SONG

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

With confidence in the God who opens the heavens, sends the Spirit, and names us Beloved in Christ, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Father, You spoke over Jesus, “My beloved Son,” and You still speak love over Your people. Make Your Church humble in repentance, eager in service, and bold in grace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of the nations, where voices thunder with anger and fear, speak Your stronger word of peace. Guide leaders toward justice and mercy, restrain cruelty and corruption, and help us seek the common good as neighbors.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, Your voice is over the waters, and Your care reaches every shoreline, forest, and field. In this season of snow and wind, help us honor Your world, and protect all who work, travel, and live in harsh conditions.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Spirit of God, who descended like a dove, settle among us. Make this church a place of welcome and renewal—where the weary find rest, the lonely find family, and the overlooked are reminded they are loved.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Compassionate Christ, You stepped into the waters with us. Draw near to the sick, the grieving, the anxious, and the overwhelmed; bring healing, hope, and practical help where it's needed most.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Ourselves

Holy Spirit, mark us again—not with fear, but with the assurance that we belong to God. Teach us to live this week as beloved children: quick to forgive, slow to judge, faithful in prayer, and ready to do the next right thing.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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 – January 11, 2026

Rebecca Circle will be meeting on January 19th at 1:30pm ; it will be hosted by *Colleen Arbic and Diana Morgan*

On Jan 24th at 3pm - *Hockey Night at Big Bear Arena*

Hockey Night At Big Bear Arena

Come support Grady Hartman



Soo High School vs. Chippewa Hills High School

January 24th at 3pm

We will meet in the lobby at 2:45 and go in together

Fundraiser for Soo High following the game, details will be posted on Facebook closer to the date!

Expenses covered for those who attend with the church

Missions: is collecting shelf stable foods for elementary schools and also personal hygiene items. The kind of items needed are; small bottles of combined shampoo and conditioners, bar soap, small deodorant, as well as food items; such as oatmeal packets, pop tarts, granola bars, cracker packs, Chef Boyardee, canned soup and vegetables, easy Mac and cheese, and ramen noodles. There is a tub outside the elevator upstairs and in the fellowship hall that food can be left in. *They would also like to Thank the members who have drop off items.*

Join us for Bible Study

Sunday at 9:30 AM in the CUMC lounge led by Raymond Bell.

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Jan. 11th – Pete Bush **Jan. 18th** – Carl Bell

Jan 19th – Jim Aikens

Jan., 8th – Barb & Jon Carlisle (49th)

Jan.,10th - Diana & Ron Morgan (66th)



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

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

UMH 189

FAIREST LORD JESUS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“ Sent Out In Jesus Name”

arr. C. Pena

POSTLUDE

“ Jubilation”

Denton