



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, January 18, 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 18, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Second Sunday After the Epiphany
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Barb Carlisle, Kris Donarski
Liturgist: Kathy Bankson

PRELUDE

“ Morning Reverie”

Koury

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 40:1-11)

Leader: I waited for the Lord—and God heard my cry and lifted me
up.

People: God set our feet on solid ground and gave us firm footing.

Leader: God has put a new song in our mouths.

People: A song of praise to our faithful God.

Leader: Blessed are those who trust the Lord and turn from empty
hopes.

People: Our hope is in You, O God—Your wonders are beyond
counting.

Leader: You seek more than words or rituals; You desire hearts that
listen.

People: Here we are, Lord. We come to do Your will.

Leader: Come—let us worship the God whose love and faithfulness never fail.

People: With trust and gratitude, let us worship the Lord.

*OPENING HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” UMH 127
GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

***PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER ***

Gracious God, You have heard our cries and lifted us up. You have set our feet on solid ground and placed a new song in our hearts.

As we worship today, guide us by Your Spirit. Open our ears to listen, our hearts to trust, and our lives to follow where You lead.

Surround us with Your mercy and faithfulness and shape us into a people who delight in Your will.

We offer You our praise, our gratitude and ourselves—in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Before we hear this reading, it helps to remember where we are in the story.

John the Baptist has already drawn a crowd. People are listening. Questions are swirling. Expectations are high. Everyone wants to know: *Is this the one?*

And John is very clear—it s not him.

Then Jesus walks into the scene, quietly, without spectacle. No announcement. No fanfare. Just presence.

What follows isn't a miracle or a sermon. It's a moment of recognition... an invitation... and a simple question that still echoes today:

What are you looking for?"

As we listen, pay attention to how faith begins here—not with certainty, but with curiosity. Not with all the answers, but with a willingness to follow and see.

Let us hear the Word of the Lord from the Gospel according to John, chapter 1, verses 29 through 42.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING JOHN 1: 29-42

29. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

30. This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'

31. I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

32. And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.

33. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

34. And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

35. Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples.

36. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!”

37. The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi”, “where are You staying?”

39. He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

40. One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

41. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah”.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which translated is a Stone).

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Behold, Come and See

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Grateful for the God who hears us, lifts us up, and invites us to follow, let us offer our gifts with joyful trust.

OFFERTORY

“Pastorale on Dennis”

Van Denman Thompson

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**

Faithful God, receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust in You. Use them—and us—to point others to Christ and to share Your love with the world.

HYMN

“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

UMH 351
PASS ME NOT, O GENTLE SAVIOR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy
All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

With confidence in the God who calls us by name, invites us to follow, and sends us into the world in love, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Faithful God, You point us again to Jesus, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Shape Your Church to listen before speaking, to follow before leading, and to witness with humility and joy.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of all peoples, in places marked by conflict, fear, and division, ask again Your searching question: *“What are you looking for?”* Turn hearts toward justice, guide leaders in wisdom, and open pathways of peace where none seem possible.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, all that You have made bears Your mark and receives Your care. Teach us to honor the earth, protect its beauty, and live as grateful stewards of the world You love.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Spirit of God, who calls ordinary people into deeper faith, make this church a place of welcome and invitation. May those who enter find space to ask questions, room to grow, and companions for the journey.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Compassionate Christ, You see us before we know how to speak our need. Draw near to the sick, the grieving, the lonely, and the overwhelmed; bring healing, comfort, and hope through Your presence and through caring hands.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Ourselves

Holy Spirit, teach us to behold Christ clearly, name our true longings honestly, and follow faithfully day by day. Shape our lives to reflect the grace we have received.

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 18, 2026

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

Jan 24th at 3pm - **Hockey Night at Big Bear Arena**; refer to insert

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

They are studying the “Chosen - Season 5”

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

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Jan. 18th – Carl Ball	Jan 19th – Jim Aikens
Jan 27th – Jim Bankson	Jan., 27th - Joan Shadnaw
Jan., 28th – Doug Kirpatrick	Jan., 29th - Linda Bell



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**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

UMH 156

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Marche Jubilant”

Thygerson