



*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, January 25, 2026*

*With Pastor Marty Johnston*

Mission Statement:

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



**Leader:** So come—just as you are—with hope, with questions, with trust.

**People:** We come seeking God's face, confident that we are already seen and loved.

\*OPENING HYMN      "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

UMH 361  
ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

\*PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER \*

You are our rock and our refuge, a steady presence when the ground beneath us feels unsure.

We come this morning not because we have it all together, but because we need Your light, Your mercy, and Your peace.

Quiet the noise within us. Turn our hearts toward what matters most. Help us to dwell in Your presence and trust that You are already holding us fast.

Meet us here, shape us by Your Spirit, and draw us closer to You and to one another—through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

You don't notice salt when it's doing its job—only when it's missing.

Jesus says, *You are the salt of the earth.*  
Not *you should be.*

Not *try harder*.  
*You are*.

And then He says, *You are the light of the world.*”

Light matters most when things get dark. It doesn't have to be flashy—just present.

Jesus isn't calling us to draw attention to ourselves, but to live in a way that makes a difference. A faith that shows up—quietly, faithfully, and fully.

So what does that kind of faith look like? Let's listen to Jesus' words together.

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5: 13-20

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

**18** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

**19** Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

**20** For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God**

**BELL CHOIR ANTHEM**      “ This Little Light of Mine”    arr. A.R. Petker

**SERMON**              Faith That Shows

Big Idea:

*Faith is God’s gift at work within us—and as we respond to that gift, our lives begin to reflect God’s grace in visible and meaningful ways.*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Because God’s grace has been shared with us so freely, we offer these gifts as a faithful response to what God is already doing in and through us.

CHORAL OFFERTORY      “The Summons”      J. Bell, arr. S.Tucker

## 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 signs of grateful hearts and lives being shaped by Your grace. Use them—and us—to reflect Your love, light, and mercy in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## HYMN

“Pass It On”

UMH 572  
PASS IT ON

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

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

### **Pastor:**

With confidence in the God who calls us salt and light, fulfills the law in love, and forms faith that shows, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

### **For the Church**

Gracious God, You call Your people to reflect Your light and live with integrity. Shape Your Church to be faithful in word and action—rooted in grace, rich in mercy, and eager to serve.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**For the World**

God of justice and peace, where the world feels flat, divided, or worn thin, use Your people as signs of hope. Guide leaders toward wisdom and humility, and help nations seek what leads to peace and the common good.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**For Creation**

Creator God, You declared the world good and entrusted it to our care. Teach us to honor what You have made, to live gently upon the earth, and to protect all who are vulnerable to harsh weather, changing seasons, and environmental harm.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**For Our Community and Congregation**

Holy Spirit, dwell among us and form us together. Make this church a place where faith is lived, grace is practiced, and love is made visible—in our worship, our service, and our daily lives.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**For Those in Need**

Compassionate Christ, You walk with those who struggle. Draw near to the sick, the grieving, the lonely, and the overwhelmed; bring healing where there is pain, comfort where there is loss, and strength for each new day.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**For Ourselves**

Faithful God, help us receive Your grace and respond with lives that reflect Your love. Send us into the week ahead as salt and light—faithful in small things, generous in spirit, and ready to live what we believe.

**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 25, 2026**

**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 27<sup>th</sup>** – Jim Bankson      **Jan., 27<sup>th</sup>** - Joan Shadnaw

**Jan., 28<sup>th</sup>** – Doug Kirpatrick      **Jan., 29<sup>th</sup>** - Linda Bell

**Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>** – Jerry 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

“Go Forth for God”

UMH 670  
GO FORTH FOR GOD

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“As We Go” J. Johnson arr. D. Shipps

POSTLUDE

“Voice of Praise”

James