



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, February 1, 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
February 1, 2026
Liturgical Colors: Green
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Kelley Bunker, John Proulx
Liturgist: Sherry Hutchins
Communion: Mary Beth Aikens, Diane Bell

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT “ Rejoice in Gods Saints “ W. Croft/F.P. Green

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 15)

Leader:

Who is welcome in God’s presence? Who may dwell with the Lord?

People:

Those who walk with integrity, who seek what is right, and who
speak truth from the heart.

Leader:

Not perfect people—but honest ones. Not those who impress—but
those who live with care.

People:

Those who do no harm, who keep their word even when it costs, who choose faithfulness over convenience.

Leader:

This is not a checklist to earn God's love—it is a picture of the life God shapes in us.

People:

So we come as we are—seeking truth, practicing grace, longing to walk more closely with God.

Leader:

Come and draw near to the Lord.

People:

We come to worship the God who welcomes us, forms us, and calls us to live with integrity.

*OPENING HYMN “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

UMH 158
COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING

***PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER ***

Gracious God, we come with songs still on our lips and gratitude in our hearts. Meet us here—shape our lives with truth, steady our steps in integrity, and teach us to walk in Your ways. As we worship, draw us closer to You and send us out ready to live the faith we proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Before Jesus says anything in this passage, Matthew tells us something important: *Jesus sits down*.

In His world, that meant, *Pay attention—this matters.*”

Jesus looks out at the crowd—not the powerful or polished, but ordinary people. Tired people. People carrying grief, hunger, questions, and regret.

What He says next is surprising. Jesus doesn't begin with rules or warnings. He doesn't list failures. He starts with blessing.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit...

Blessed are those who mourn...

Blessed are the meek...”

These words turn our instincts upside down. We tend to think blessing follows strength or success. Jesus names people who feel empty or overlooked—and calls them blessed already.

So listen today not for what you *should* be, but for where you recognize yourself. In the Beatitudes, Jesus isn't offering a résumé for perfect Christians—He's naming the people He draws close and the life that begins when God meets us where we are.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5: 1-12

- 1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when he was seated His disciples came to Him.
- 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3 “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed *are* those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

- 5 Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be filled.
- 7 Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
- 10 Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all
kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
- 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven,
for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

CHIOR ANTHEM “As This Broken Bread” Wayne L. Wold

SERMON Where Blessings Begin

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Friends, this is not a table for the perfect or for those who have everything figured out. This is Christ's table.

Here, the hungry are fed. The weary are strengthened. Those who come with open hands and honest hearts are welcomed with grace.

Christ invites all who trust in Him and all who know their need of mercy to come and receive.

Confession and Assurance

Let us pray together.

Gracious God, we confess that we often chase blessing where it cannot be found. We rely on our strength, hide our weakness, and forget how deeply we need You. Forgive us, restore us, and meet us again with Your mercy.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

Christ meets us not with condemnation, but with grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving (Conversational)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Gracious God, it is right and good to give You thanks—for You created us in love, claimed us as Your own, and never stopped drawing near. When we were hungry, You fed us. When we were lost, You sought us out. When we were weary, You gave us rest. And so, with all who have trusted You through the ages, we praise Your name and join their unending song:

All:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

On the night He gave Himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, and gave it to His disciples, saying: “Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, and gave it to His disciples, saying: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Prayer of the Spirit

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ—redeemed, restored, and sent.

By Your Spirit, help us live from the blessing You give, walking in humility, mercy, and peace, until we share the feast at Your heavenly table.

Amen.

Invitation to Receive

Friends, blessing begins here—not because we are worthy, but because Christ is generous.

Come, for all is ready.

(Communion is served)

Prayer After Communion

All:

Gracious God, we thank You for meeting us at this table—for feeding our hunger, strengthening our faith, and reminding us that Your blessing has already begun. Now send us out, nourished by Your grace, to live with humility, mercy, and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we've been blessed by God's generosity, we now offer our gifts—freely, gratefully, and with trust.

OFFERTORY

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 thankful hearts and willing lives. Use them to bless others and to further Your work of mercy, justice, and hope in the world.

HYMN

“Freely, Freely”

UMH 389
FREELY, FREELY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

With confidence in the God who meets us in our need, names us blessed, and draws us into the life of the kingdom, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Blessing God, You call Your Church not by its strength but by its trust in You. Shape us to live with humility, mercy, and faithfulness, reflecting the grace we have received.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of justice and peace, in a world marked by violence, division, and fear, bless the meek, lift the lowly, and satisfy those who hunger for what is right. Guide leaders with wisdom and turn hearts toward peace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, You bless all that You have made and call it good. Teach us to care for the earth with gentleness and gratitude, honoring the gift entrusted to us.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Spirit of God, make this church a place where the weary find rest, the grieving find comfort, and the seeking find welcome. Help us walk together with patience and compassion as we grow in faith.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Compassionate Christ, You draw near to those who mourn and carry heavy burdens. Surround the sick, the lonely, the anxious, and the hurting with Your healing presence and faithful care.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Ourselves

Holy Spirit, teach us to trust Your promises, receive the blessing You offer, and live as peacemakers each day. Shape us by grace into people who reflect Your kingdom.

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 – February 1, 2026

**Thank you to all who helped with assembling the
February Flame.**

Your help was greatly appreciated.

Our New Website will soon be up and running soon,
keep a watch out for updates coming.

www.soomethodists.org

**** Today** the youth will be outside after the service to collect a Mission Love Offering and new this year, we now have a *Misson's Change Jar* (located on the table at the top of the stairs). All proceeds will go toward helping elementary school children with their needs

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.*

A Denomination-Wide Survey

United Methodists Church is asking for your opinion in a denomination-wide survey authorized by the Council of Bishops and designed to listen to United Methodists across our connection about the present and future of The United Methodist Church.

The insights gathered will directly inform the 2026 Leadership Gathering as we seek to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in this Kairos season.

The survey will be open from January 15 to February 15, 2026,
and accessible with QR code

Survey QR code:



On February 18th Family Night, we will enjoy a tasty dinner, after dinner we will have a discussion on the occasion and then go upstairs for **Ash Wednesday services**. Bring the whole family, Everyone is welcome!

Hannah Circle will be meeting for dinner **Thursday February 5th**, dinner will be served at 6:00pm in the church social hall. We are celebrating **“That’s Amore”** in memory of Pastor George & Carolyn Luciani with an Italian themed Valentines party.

Never know there could be singing?

**Join us for Bible Study, led by Raymond Bell,
every Sunday at 9:30 AM in the CUMC lounge
We are presently studying “The Chosen - season 5”**

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Feb. 1st – Jerry Bell **Feb. 12th** – Robin Myers

Feb. 13th – Carrissa Bell Vecente

Feb. 10th – Diana & Ron Morgan (67th)



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 “Where Charity and Love Prevail” (all verses) UMH 549
WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION “ Sent Out in Jesus Name” arr. Carmen Pena

POSTLUDE