



*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, February 8, 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 8, 2026  
Liturgical Colors: Green  
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT                      “Gather Us In”                      M. Haugen

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

**\*Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 112)

**Leader:** Blessed are those who delight in the ways of the Lord—not because life is easy, but because their hearts are rooted.

**People:** We come to delight in God and to be shaped by God’s way.

**Leader:** They are not fearless because nothing goes wrong, but because they trust the Lord.

**People:** When the news is troubling and the future feels uncertain, we choose trust over fear.

**Leader:** The righteous live with generosity and compassion, open-handed with what they have been given.

**People:** Teach us to live with open hearts and open hands.

**Leader:** Come—stand in the light of God’s faithfulness.

**People:** We come to worship the Lord with steady hearts and hopeful lives.

\*OPENING HYMN      “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”      UMH 139  
PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

**\*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER \***

Gracious God, we’re grateful to be here.

We bring You our whole selves—our joys, our worries, and the week we’ve just lived—and we place them in Your care.

Steady our hearts, clear our minds, and draw us together as one.

As we lift our voices in praise, meet us with Your grace and remind us that we are never alone.

We pray in the name of Christ, Amen.

**Reception of New Members:**

**RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
RECEPTION INTO A LOCAL CONGREGATION.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

I present the following candidates for Membership: *pastor presents new members*

## **RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

**I will.**

*The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:*

**Pastor:** Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, [who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, [the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.]**

## **RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

As members of Christ's universal Church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

**I will.**

## **RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION**

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?

**I will.**

## **COMMENDATION AND WELCOME**

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

*The congregation responds:*

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

*The pastor addresses those received, using an appropriate gesture of blessing:*

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

## INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

We often assume God works best when life is settled and predictable.

But Matthew tells us Jesus begins His ministry when things are falling apart. John the Baptist has been arrested.

The future feels uncertain.

Jesus steps into disruption—not into comfort or control.

He goes to Galilee, to ordinary people doing ordinary work, people who have been faithful a long time.

Then Jesus says something unexpected: “Follow me.”

Not because they were starting over, but because they already had a life—a rhythm, a history.

That’s the tension here: Jesus still calls people who are already busy, already tired, already carrying years of faith.

Let's listen for what Jesus says to those who thought they already knew their place.

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 4: 12-23

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.

<sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,

<sup>14</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

<sup>15</sup> “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, *By* the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:

<sup>16</sup> The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Four Fishermen Called as Disciples

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

<sup>19</sup> Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

<sup>20</sup> They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,

<sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. Jesus Heals a Great Multitude

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

## CHOR ANTHEM

All Creatures of Our God and King/ Shout to the Lord"

Draper/ V. Williams/ Zschech

## SERMON

Faith After Disruption

### *Big Idea:*

God often does His most meaningful work not before disruption, but after it—calling people to follow Jesus when life no longer feels predictable or secure.

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

In response to God's steady faithfulness—even after disruption—we give with grateful and trusting hearts.

## OFFERTORY

## 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 HUNDRETH

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Faithful God, receive these gifts as signs of our trust and gratitude. Use them to bring hope, healing, and good news through Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

“I Sought the Lord”

UMH 341  
I SOUGHT THE LORD

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

**Leader:** Lord, in your Mercy

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**Pastor:**

Trusting the God who meets us after disruption, calls us to follow, and brings light into uncertain places, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

### **For the Church**

Faithful God, You call Your Church to follow Jesus even when the way forward is unclear. Strengthen Your people to listen for Your voice, to respond with courage, and to live out the good news with humility and hope.

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

### **For the World**

God of all nations, in places marked by conflict, fear, and change, speak Your word of peace. Guide leaders toward wisdom and restraint, and help communities seek justice, healing, and the common good.

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

### **For Creation**

Creator God, You meet us on shorelines, in fields, and in everyday places. Teach us to care for the earth You love, to protect what is fragile, and to live as grateful stewards of Your good creation.

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

### **For Our Community and Congregation**

Holy Spirit, form us into a people who follow faithfully—together. Where there has been change or uncertainty, give us unity and trust. Make this church a place of welcome, purpose, and shared mission.

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

### **For Those in Need**

Compassionate Christ, You call people by name and walk with them through hardship. Be near to the sick, the grieving, the lonely, and the overwhelmed. Bring healing, comfort, and renewed strength.

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

### **For Ourselves**

Steady God, help us follow You in this season of our lives. When we are tired, give us courage; when we are unsure, give us trust; and when You call, help us respond with faithful hearts.

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

### **Pastor:**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we place 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 8, 2026**

### **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 until February 15, 2026, please use the following QR code to access the survey

Survey QR code:



***Watch for Our New Website*** - We're currently redesigning and updating our website to provide a better experience for our visitors. Our current site has experienced some technical issues and navigation challenges, but our new website will be safer, easier to use, and more user-friendly. We can't wait to share it with you soon! **[www.soomethodists.org](http://www.soomethodists.org)**

*It will soon be available, so keep a watch out for updates.*

The Mission/Outreach in coordination with our children will be making **Blessing Bags** for homeless. We will also include a note of encouragement from United Methodist Church. The Salvation Army will be keeping them to offer anyone who may need them.

*Here are some ideas of items we wish to include.*

**Examples: deodorant, ChapStick, shaving cream and razors, band aids, instant oatmeal, trail mix, wool socks, hat, scarf, travel mug. If you wish to donate a gift card, we can purchase the items needed. Please pass that to either Sophie, or Diane....thank you.**

*We already have toothbrushes and toothpaste graciously donated*

*There will be a white basket for the items donated, just not sure where it will be located. Or you can ask at the office.*

**Rebecca Circle** will be meeting on *February 16<sup>th</sup>* at 1:30pm ; it will be hosted by *Lori Horner and Debra Smart*

*On February 18<sup>th</sup> Family Night*, we will enjoy a tasty dinner, then after dinner we will have a discussion on the occasion and then go upstairs for **Ash Wednesday services at 6:30pm.** Bring the whole family, Everyone is welcome!

**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.

**Hannah Circle** will be meeting for dinner **Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup>**, 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?*

**Come and Join us for Bible Study, led by Raymond Bell,  
every Sunday Morning at 9:30 AM in the CUMC lounge**

*We are presently studying*

***“The Chosen - season 5”***

## Central Birthday/Anniversary

**Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Robin Myers

**Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>** – Carissa Bell Vicente

**Feb., 14<sup>th</sup>** – Kathy Larson

**Feb., 14<sup>th</sup>** – Barb Larson

**Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>** – Diana & Ron Morgan ( 67<sup>th</sup> )



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

“Trust and Obey”

UMH 467  
TRUST AND OBEY

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“As We Go”

arr. D. Shipp

POSTLUDE