



*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, February 15, 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 15, 2026  
Liturgical Colors: White  
Transfiguration Sunday  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

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

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT            “Honor and Praise”            T. Paris

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

**\*Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 2)

**Leader:** The world can feel loud with voices competing for our loyalty—voices promising security, power, or control.

**People:** We come today seeking a steadier voice.

**Leader:** The psalmist asks, *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?*” Why all the striving? Why all the fear?

**People:** We bring our questions, our worries, and our restless hearts to God.

**Leader:** God is not shaken by the noise of the world nor intimidated by the powers that rise and fall.

**People:** We place our trust not in force or fear, but in the One whose reign is rooted in justice and love.

**Leader:** “Blessed are all who take refuge in the Lord.”

**People:** We come to take refuge—to be shaped, grounded, and renewed.

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the God whose authority is mercy, whose power is love, and whose promise is life.

**People:** Let us worship God.

\*OPENING HYMN      “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”      UMH 154  
ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS NAME

**\*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER \***

Faithful God, in a world full of competing voices, we come to worship You. We lift our hearts to Jesus Christ—not a ruler of fear, but a Lord whose power is love and mercy. Quiet our anxious thoughts. Center us in Your kingdom. Shape us by Your Spirit. Receive our worship and send us out under Christ’s gracious reign. In His name we pray.  
Amen.

**TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS**

**INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:**

We all long for moments when faith feels clear—when God feels close and everything makes sense.

In today’s reading, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain, away from the noise, and for a brief moment they see Him as He truly is—not only teacher, but radiant with God’s glory.

It’s a moment they want to hold onto. But it won’t last.

This story is not just about the mountaintop, but about listening to Jesus and following Him back down into everyday life.

Listen now for the word of God from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 17, verses 1 through 9.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 17:1-9

1. Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;
2. and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.
3. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.
4. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
5. While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”
6. And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.
7. But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.”
8. When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.
9. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God**

CHIOR ANTHEM      “ Be Thou My Vision”      arr. L. Shackley

SERMON                      The Gift of the Mountain

*Big Idea:*

*God gives us moments of clarity and light—not to spare us from the valley, but to strengthen us for faithful living when the light fades.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Having been given the gift of God’s grace, we now return a portion of what we’ve received, trusting God to use it for love, mercy, and healing in the world.

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 our trust and gratitude. Use them—and us—to reflect the light of Christ in places where the way feels uncertain or dark.  
Amen.

HYMN

“ My Hope is Built ”

UMH 368  
MY HOPE IS BUILT

## 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, respond with courage, and live the gospel 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 in mountains and valleys, in fields and along the shore. Teach us to care for the earth You love, protect what is fragile, and live as grateful stewards of Your 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 is change or uncertainty, give us unity and trust, and shape us for shared mission.

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

### **For Those in Need**

Compassionate Christ, You call us by name and walk with us through hardship. Be near to the sick, the grieving, the lonely, and all who find themselves in a dark night of the soul; bring comfort, healing, 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 15, 2026**

Everyone is invited to join us downstairs for coffee hour following the service today as we celebrate **Phyllis Cousino's 91st birthday**, which falls on February 17th.

**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 for 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. You can also 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.

*Watch for Our New Website* - [www.soomethodists.org](http://www.soomethodists.org)

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

### **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:



**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. 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., 17<sup>th</sup>** – Phyllis Cousino (91<sup>st</sup>)      **Feb., 17<sup>th</sup>** Tom Harris

**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

“Go, Make of All Disciples”

UMH 571

GO, MAKE OF ALL DISCIPLES

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“ Shine, Jesus, Shine ”

arr. J. Schrader

POSTLUDE