



*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, February 22, 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 22, 2026  
Liturgical Colors: Purple  
First Sunday of Lent  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

Ushers/Greeters: Barb Carlisle, Kris Donarski

Liturgist: Marcie Gleason

PRELUDE      “ My Shepard Will Supply My Need”      M. Hayes, Arr. R. Starr

CHORAL INTROIT      “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”      S.Dunstan/French Carol

## WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

**\*Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 32)

**Leader:** Blessed are those whose failures are forgiven, whose mistakes are not the end of the story.

**People:** We come carrying truth—some of it heavy, some of it hopeful.

**Leader:** When we stop hiding, when we stop pretending, God meets us with mercy.

**People:** We come to lay down what weighs us down.

**Leader:** God does not count our sins against us but invites us into freedom and joy.

**People:** So we come—honest, imperfect, and open.

**Leader:** Rejoice in the Lord, and be glad.

**People:** We worship the God who forgives and restores.

\*OPENING HYMN “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (v 1-4) UMH 57  
O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

**\*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER \***

Gracious God, we come as we are—honest, hopeful, and in need of grace. You know what we carry, and You have already carried more than we can imagine.

Meet us here. Lift what weighs us down, open us to Your mercy, and remind us that Your love is bigger than our failures.

Receive our worship, and shape us by Your grace.  
Amen.

**TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS**

**INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:**

Before we hear this morning’s Scripture, a quick word of context. The letter we’re about to hear comes from Paul—one of the earliest followers of Jesus—writing to a young church trying to understand what Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection really changed.

In this passage, Paul isn’t talking about individual mistakes or private guilt.

He’s stepping back to look at the whole human story—where brokenness came from, and what God did about it.

He goes all the way back to the beginning, to name a shared condition we didn't choose.

And then he places Jesus right in the middle of that story—not as a patch, but as a turning point.

This passage isn't about how bad people are. It's about how big grace might be.

Listen now for the wideness of what's being claimed—and for the hope that refuses to stay small.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Romans 5: 12-19

**12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

**13** (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

**14** Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

**15** But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

**16** And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification.

**17** For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

CHIOR ANTHEM

"Lamb of God"

T. Paris

SERMON

A Cross Bigger Than Adam

***Big Idea:***

*What happened on the cross was not a private solution for individual guilt—it was a decisive, cosmic act that entered the human story at its deepest point and did something **greater** than the damage caused by sin.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Because God has given more than we could ever earn, we offer back a portion—not out of obligation, but gratitude.

OFFERTORY

"Amazing Grace! How Sweet The Sound"

arr. M.Hayes & E.O.Excell

## 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

Generous God, receive these gifts and the lives behind them.  
Use them to reflect Your grace and widen Your love in the world.  
Amen.

HYMN      “O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done”      UMH 287  
O LOVE DIVINE, WHAT HAST THOU DONE

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

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

### **Pastor:**

Trusting the God whose grace is stronger than sin, whose love meets us in our brokenness, and whose cross changed the course of the human story, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

### **For the Church**

Faithful God, You have entrusted Your Church with good news meant for the whole world. Keep us from fear and smallness of heart. Help us proclaim Your grace with humility, confidence, and hope.  
**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

## **For the World**

God of all people, in a world marked by division, violence, and despair, remind us that sin does not have the final word. Guide leaders toward wisdom and restraint, and move nations toward justice, peace, and compassion.

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

## **For Creation**

Creator God, through Christ You seek not only to redeem humanity, but all that You have made. Teach us to honor the earth, protect what is vulnerable, and live as grateful stewards of Your creation.

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

## **For Our Community and Congregation**

Holy Spirit, shape us into a people formed by grace rather than fear. Where there is weariness, give renewal; where there is uncertainty, give trust; and where there is division, give unity rooted in Your love.

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

## **For Those in Need**

Compassionate Christ, You entered fully into the human condition. Be near to the sick, the grieving, the lonely, and all who feel weighed down by life. Bring healing, comfort, and hope that does not disappoint.

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

## For Ourselves

Gracious God, help us live as people shaped by what Christ has done, not by what we fear. Free us from shame, strengthen us in hope, and teach us to trust the wideness of Your mercy.

**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 22, 2026**

Today is the Family sledding event!

This will be taking place at Soo Seal Recreation center from 2pm-4pm.

We hope to see you there!

### ***Soo Theater 2026***

*Northern Accent Chamber Orchestra and Friends*

*Presents*

***Sacred Music Concert on Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 4pm  
at St. Mary's Catholic Church***

***Soloists: Cathy Wilkinson – Sarah Morrison - Karen Beacon***

Admission by Donation (all donations received will benefit the Scholarship Fund)



**Easter Flower Orders are being taken.** An **order form** is located inside the bulletin. The order form and payment may be placed in the offering plate or may be returned to the church office Mon.-Thurs. 9am-2pm. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 15.

**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: (please buy travel or small sizes ) 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 Kathy (in office), or Diane Bell....thank you.

*We already have toothbrushes and toothpaste graciously donated*

*There will be a white basket for the items donated located upstairs outside the office, under the Church bulletin board.*

**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.

**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., 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. 24<sup>th</sup>** - Kim Harris



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      “And Can It Be that I Should Gain”      UMH 363  
AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION      “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”      American folk hymn

POSTLUDE      “Land of Rest”      setting by J. McCarthy