



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, April 19, 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
April 19, 2026
Liturgical Colors: White
Third Sunday of Easter
CCLI License# 3999519

Ushers/Greeters: Norb Bennin, Josh Greenburg
Liturgist: Jerry Bell

PRELUDE “The Ash Grove” arr. Cassler

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

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

***Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 116)

Leader: I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice.

People: He has heard our cries, our prayers, and the quiet groanings
of our hearts.

Leader: When we felt overwhelmed, God did not turn away.

People: When we were in trouble, the Lord drew near with mercy and
grace.

Leader: What shall we offer to the Lord for all His goodness to us?

People: We will lift up our praise and call on the name of the Lord.

Leader: We come with thanksgiving for prayers answered, strength
renewed, and hope restored.

People: We come to worship the One who is faithful, compassionate,
and true.

Leader: In the presence of God’s people, we will fulfill our vows with joy.

People: In the house of the Lord, we will give thanks and praise His holy name.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord.

People: With grateful hearts, we come to praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN

“To God Be the Glory”

UMH 98
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Gracious God, we come today with grateful hearts because You have been so good to us. You have heard our prayers, steadied us in difficult moments, and carried us farther than we could have gone on our own.

So receive our praise this morning. Lift our eyes to Your goodness, calm our distracted minds, and fill this place with joy, hope, and expectancy. Help us worship You with sincerity, gladness, and love.

We ask it in the name of Jesus, who is our help, our hope, and our song. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

This morning’s Gospel lesson takes us to a road just outside Jerusalem, where two disciples are walking away from the city carrying disappointment, confusion, and grief. They had hoped Jesus was the one who would change everything—but now the cross has

happened, the tomb is empty, and they do not know what to make of any of it.

As they walk, the risen Christ comes near—but they do not recognize Him at first. And that’s part of the mystery and beauty of this story: sometimes Jesus is closer than we realize, even when we are too burdened or too distracted to see Him clearly.

Listen now for the good news of the Gospel, and for the Christ who still meets people on the road.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24: 13-35

¹³ Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

¹⁷ And He said to them, “What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”

¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ And He said to them, “What things?”

So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. ²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain

of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

²⁸ Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. ²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them.

³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

³² And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” ³³ So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

He Was There All Along

Big Idea: *Even when we cannot recognize Him, Jesus is present, active, and guiding us.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As the risen Christ met His disciples on the road and was made known in the breaking of bread, let us offer our gifts with grateful hearts, trusting that He still meets people through the ministry of His Church.

OFFERTORY

“Amazing Grace”

arr. Jones

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

Risen Lord, receive these gifts and use them to walk beside those who are weary, open the eyes of those who are searching, and bring hope to those who have nearly given up. Bless what we offer today, that through the ministry of this church others may come to know Your presence and love. Amen.

HYMN

“In the Garden”

UMH 314
GARDEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

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

Pastor:

Trusting in the risen Christ, who walks beside us in our sorrow, opens the Scriptures to us, and is made known in the breaking of the bread, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Risen Lord, draw near to Your Church again. When we are distracted, discouraged, or slow to recognize Your presence, open our eyes and set our hearts on fire with fresh faith, deeper love, and renewed joy.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of all hope, we pray for a world still marked by violence, fear, and sorrow. Walk beside those living in the shadow of war, especially in Europe and the Middle East, and guide leaders in the ways of justice, wisdom, and peace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, we thank You for the beauty and renewal of the earth in this Easter season. Teach us to cherish what You have made, to be wise stewards of Your gifts, and to work for the healing of places that have been harmed or neglected.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those Who Are Sick or Hurting

Compassionate Christ, we pray for all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. Bring comfort to those in pain, strength to those who are weary, healing to those recovering, and peace to all who wait and watch through long days and restless nights.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those Who Are Weary or Disappointed

Merciful Savior, we pray for those whose hearts are heavy and whose hopes have been shaken. Be near to all who are grieving, burdened, confused, or discouraged, and meet them on the road with Your comfort and grace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those Seeking Understanding

Patient Teacher, we thank You that You did not give up on those slow to understand, but opened the Scriptures and stayed with them in their questions. Be near to all who are searching, doubting, wondering, or longing for clarity, and gently lead them into truth.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For This Community

Lord Jesus, bless this congregation, our families, our neighbors, and all who gather in this place. Make this church a place where the lonely are welcomed, the weary are strengthened, and the presence of Christ is known in word, fellowship, and love.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Daily Walk

Risen Christ, walk with us beyond this hour of worship. On the ordinary roads of this week, help us to recognize You, listen for Your voice, and reflect Your hope to others in all we say and do.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that You are nearer than we know and more faithful than we can see; 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.

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE

When Life Isn't Fair

When life feels unfair, remember that Jesus never abandons His people. He is our Shepherd—one who understands suffering, carries our burdens, and gently leads us home. Join us next week as we continue to reflect on this message of hope and comfort.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 19, 2026**ATTENTION, FAMILIES OF GRADUATES**

If you have a high school or a higher education graduate in your family, please submit information about your graduate so we can recognize them in an upcoming issue of the “Flame.” Also, be sure to include a photo of your high school graduate. For more information and to submit the information, contact Barb Larson at 906-632-7958, or email her at blarson1517@charter.net.

Save the Date

Sun. Apr. 19th – There will be a ***Mission meeting*** after services

Mon. Apr. 20th – ***Rebecca Circle*** meeting at 1:30pm, hosted by Jackie Willey

Thur. May 7th – **National Day of Pray**

Sun. May 10th – **Mothers Day**

Wed. May 20th - ***Family Night*** at CUMC Fellowship Hall @ 5:30 PM – 7 PM.

Come enjoy a tasty dinner, fun activities, and a meaningful lesson for all ages. Bring the whole family—everyone is welcome!



Algonquins Change Jar Offering for April will be used for the cleaning of their Church Steeple



Central's Missions : is still collecting shelf stable foods plus other items for elementary schools and personal hygiene items for the **Mission/Outreach** program. The lists are located upstairs and you may drop off your items in their appointed boxes or if you wish to purchase a gift card, please pass that to either Kathy (in office), or Diane Bell....thank you.

Algonquin Birthday/Anniversary

Apr. 16th – Todd Vollick **Apr. 27th** – Jim Atkins
Apr. 30th - Lillie Dost **Apr.30th** - Leo Shea

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Apr. 16th – Sherry Hutchins **Apr. 17th** – Brenda Coullard
Apr.22nd – Norb Bennin **Apr. 24th** – Dennis Hill

April 16th – Cathy & John Wilkinson (21st)



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 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” UMH 664
THE ASH GROVE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “ Postlude in C ” Otis