



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, April 26, 2026

With Pastor Marty Johnston

Mission Statement:

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

Leader: The Lord prepares grace for us, even in the presence of all that would trouble us.

People: Our cup overflows with God's goodness.

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life.

People: And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*OPENING HYMN

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

UMH 127

CWM RHONDDA

*PASTOR'S OPENING PRAYER *

Good and gracious God, we gather today with thankful hearts, glad to be in Your house and glad to be together. Thank You for being our Shepherd—guiding us, providing for us, and staying with us through every season of life.

As we worship You this morning, lift our hearts, quiet our worries, and open us to Your presence. Renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and fill us with the joy and peace that come from walking with You.

We offer You this time in the name of Jesus, our Shepherd and our Savior. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

This morning's Scripture comes from **1 Peter 2:19–25**.

These are not easy words, especially at first hearing. Peter is writing to people who know what it is to suffer, to be treated unfairly, and to wonder how faith is meant to shape them in the middle of it all.

But this passage is not calling us to pretend that pain is good, or that injustice does not matter. Instead, it points us to Jesus—who suffered, who was wounded, and who entrusted Himself to God. And in doing so, it reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles, and we are not without an example when life is hard.

So as we hear these words today, listen for both the challenge and the comfort: the call to follow Christ, and the good news that by His wounds, we are healed.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 2: 19-25

19 For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. **20** For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. **21** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

22 “Who committed no sin,

Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges

righteously; **24** who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. **25** For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” arr.S.Eithun

SERMON When Life Isn't Fair

Big Idea: When life is unfair, Jesus does not abandon His people. He is the Shepherd who endured suffering, carried our wounds, and stays with us to lead us home.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As the Shepherd has cared for us with goodness and mercy, let us offer our gifts with gratitude and trust.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Power of the Cross” Getty/Townend/arr.M.Hayes

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**

Good Shepherd, thank You for providing for us in every season and for holding us with steadfast love. Receive these gifts and use them to bring comfort, hope, and care to others in the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

UMH 381
BRADBURY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Trusting in Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and Guardian, who walks with us through every valley, bears our wounds, and holds us when life is hard, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Good Shepherd, guide Your Church with wisdom, mercy, and courage. When life feels unfair, keep us from bitterness, deepen our trust in You, and help us reflect the gentleness and strength of Christ.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of justice and peace, we pray for a world marked by conflict, grief, and fear. Be near to all who live in the shadow of war, especially in Europe and the Middle East, and lead rulers and nations in the ways of wisdom, restraint, and peace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, thank You for the signs of new life all around us in this Easter season. Help us to cherish the earth, use its gifts wisely, and care for the places and creatures You have made.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those Who Are Sick or Recovering

Compassionate Christ, draw near to all who are in pain, recovering from injury, facing treatment, or living with chronic illness. Bring healing where there is hurt, strength where there is weakness, and patience where the road feels slow.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those Facing Unfairness or Hardship

Merciful Savior, we pray for those who feel overlooked, burdened, mistreated, or weary. Guard their hearts from despair, uphold them with Your presence, and remind them that they are not alone.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those Who Are Grieving or Discouraged

Lord Jesus, be near to those whose hearts are heavy. Comfort all who mourn, strengthen those who feel disappointed or exhausted, and meet them with Your steady love.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For This Community

Shepherd of our souls, bless this congregation, our families, our neighbors, and all who walk through our doors. Make this church a place of welcome, healing, and hope, where people are reminded that Your goodness and mercy still follow them.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Daily Walk

Faithful Lord, go with us into the week ahead. On the days that feel green and easy, and on the days that lead through shadowed valleys, help us to trust Your leading and follow where You go.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, resting in Your care, and leaning on Your faithful love; 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

Called Out of Darkness

Next week, we'll explore a powerful truth: in Christ, God doesn't simply make our lives a little better—He calls us out of darkness and into a completely new identity and purpose. Come and discover what it means to be made new in Him and to walk in the light of His transforming grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 26, 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

Thur. May 7th – National Day of Pray

Sun. May 10th – Mother's 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. 27th – Jim Atkins
Apr. 30th - Lillie Dost **Apr.30th** - Leo Shea

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Apr.22nd – Norb Bennin **Apr. 24th** – Dennis Hill



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	“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”	UMH 133 SHOWALTER
CHORAL BENEDICTION	“God Be With You Til We Meet Again”	Rankin/Tomer
POSTLUDE	“Cwm Rhondda”	arr. Smith