



*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, May 3, 2026

With Pastor Marty Johnston

Mission Statement:

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

Leader: The tomb is empty, love has triumphed, and mercy still calls our name.

People: With glad hearts, we gather to worship the living God.

*OPENING HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” UMH 384
BEECHER

*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER *

Living God, thank You for gathering us again in this Easter season. Thank You for calling us out of darkness into Your marvelous light, and for making us Your people through the mercy of Jesus Christ.

As we worship today, draw us close to You. Give us hungry hearts for Your Word, steady us in Your grace, and build us together into a people who reflect Your love.

Shape us by Your truth. Renew us by Your Spirit. And let everything we do this morning bring honor to the risen Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

Have you ever had a moment when you needed to be reminded who you are?

We live in a world that is quick to label us, judge us, and make us question where we belong. And into that kind of world, Peter speaks a strong word to the church: **You belong to God.** You are being built into something holy. You are chosen, loved, and called out of darkness into marvelous light.

This reading from **1 Peter 2:2–10** is a reminder of our identity in Christ and of the mercy that has made us God's people.

Hear now this word of the Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

Therefore, to you who believe, *He is* precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Come To The Feast”

Beall, Harlan

SERMON

Called Out of Darkness

Big Idea: In Christ, God does not merely improve our lives—He brings us out of darkness and into a whole new identity and purpose.

Communion:

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor:

Friends, this is the Lord’s table. Not the table of the worthy, but the table of mercy. Not the table of those who have it all together, but the table of grace. And in this Easter season, we come with joy, because the risen Christ still calls us, welcomes us, and feeds us with His life.

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and who seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

(Brief silence.)

People:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived as Your holy people. Too often we have returned to old ways, forgotten who we are, and settled for what cannot give life.

Forgive us, renew us, and draw us again to Christ, the Living Stone, that we may grow in grace and reflect Your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people. Once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God.
Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in love and breathed life into us. When we wandered in sin and shadow, You did not abandon us. Again and again, You called a people to Yourself, showing mercy, giving promise, and making a way where there seemed to be none.

And in the fullness of time, You sent us Jesus Christ, the Living Stone, rejected by the world but chosen and precious in Your sight. By His life, death, and resurrection, You called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light, made us Your people, and gave us a living hope that will not fade away.

And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ. He came among us full of grace and truth. He fed the hungry, welcomed the outcast, lifted up the lowly, and proclaimed Your mercy. He became for us the cornerstone of a new life, and through

His cross and resurrection You began building us into a living, holy people.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By Your Spirit, nourish us with this holy meal. Help us crave what is good and true. Build us together as living stones upon Christ our cornerstone.

Call us again out of darkness into Your marvelous light, that we may proclaim Your goodness not only with our lips, but with our lives.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

(The elements are served)

Prayer After Communion (Unison)

Gracious God, we thank You for this holy meal in which You have fed us with mercy and grace. Root us more deeply in Christ, build us up as Your people, and send us out to proclaim Your goodness with joy, courage, and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As those who have received mercy and been called out of darkness into God's marvelous light, let us offer our gifts with gratitude and joy.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Bread of the World”

D.Eliot

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 and use them to make Your love known in the world. Build Your Church through them, and let our offering bear witness to the mercy we have received in Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

“One Bread, One Body”

UMH 620
ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Trusting in the risen Christ, the Living Stone, who calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Risen Lord, build Your Church into a living spiritual house—rooted in Christ, growing in grace, and ready to bear witness to Your mercy. Make us humble, faithful, and full of love.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of light, shine in the dark places of this world. We pray especially for peace in Europe and in the Middle East; bring wisdom to leaders, protection to the vulnerable, and courage to all who work for justice and peace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Nation

God of truth and mercy, heal what is fractured in our common life. Give us a deeper hunger for what is good, honest, and just, so that all people may be treated with dignity and care.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, in this season of new life, we thank You for the beauty and wonder of the earth. Teach us to receive it with gratitude, care for it with wisdom, and never lose our sense of wonder.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Living Christ, strengthen this congregation and our wider community. Build us together in peace, deepen our love for one another, and remind those who feel overlooked or unsure that they

are precious in Your sight.
Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Compassionate Savior, draw near to those who are sick, grieving, anxious, lonely, or weary. Bring healing where bodies are broken, comfort where hearts are heavy, and hope where the way forward feels uncertain.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Ourselves

Gracious God, help us remember who we are and whose we are. Nourish us by Your Word, steady us in Your mercy, and send us out as people who reflect the light of Christ.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O Lord, we place all for whom we pray, trusting not in our goodness but in Your great mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ, 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

Ready to Answer

Next week, we'll explore what it truly means to bear witness as followers of Christ. Christian witness is not about winning arguments or proving a point—it is about living in a way that reflects a visible, steady hope. It is found in the quiet strength of our daily lives and in our willingness to speak of Christ with gentleness, humility, and deep respect. Join us as we consider how our words and actions can faithfully point others toward Him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – May 3, 2026

Reminder to give update on Camp Michigamme

**** Today** the youth will be outside after the service to collect a
Mission Love Offering

**Thank you to all who helped with assembling the
May Flame. Your help was greatly appreciated.**

CUMC Rummage Sale: Mark your calendars for May 15th and 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—because one person's "*Why do I still have this?*" is another person's treasure! Donations are now being accepted (yes, even that item you've been moving from closet to closet for years).

We're also looking for volunteers to help with setup, working the sale, and cleanup—many hands make light work, and possibly first dibs on the good stuff!

*Got questions or ready to jump in? Contact Diane Morgan at
(906) 632-2356.*

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.

Join us on an Unforgettable Adventure!

Central & Algonquin United Methodist Churches, Faith Lutheran and United Presbyterian invite kids (ages 3 years to 11 years) to an exciting *Vacation Bible School* adventure, **Rainforest Falls; Exploring the Nature of God** Will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on June 29–July 2nd, 9AM–Noon (community welcome at no cost)

Save the Date

Thur. May 7th – National Day of Pray

Sun. May 10th – Mother’s Day

Fri. & Sat. May 15th & 16th – Rummage Sale in Fellowship Hall

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 May will be used for the cleaning of their Church Steeple



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

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

