

## Central reunion remembers past

Former residents, descendants of Keweenaw pioneers, history buffs and visitors will gather for the annual Central Mine Reunion at the Central Mine Methodist Church in Keweenaw County July 29.

With a worship service, time for wandering and the promise of beautiful summer weather, activities get underway at 9 a.m. with the first of two services in the historic church overlooking the valley in Central Mine. Showing its Cornish style proudly, the church is reached by following US-41 north from Calumet to Gratiot Lake Road in Keweenaw County. At Gratiot Lake Road a sign on the left marks the site of the Central Mine, one of the earliest in the Copper Country to be profitable. At one time the location boasted a large population and an impressive school as well as the buildings necessary for mining activities. Now it is occupied by summer residents who wander among the apple trees, lilac bushes and foundations left by the early Keweenaw pioneers.

Halfway up the hill, a paved road crosses and by turning left, the visitor can see the church.

Speakers for each year's service come from local pastors or are former residents who return to serve the church for one day.



**Central Church**

The reunion, an annual event since 1905, is an opportunity to step into the shoes of the pioneers who knew so well the importance of their faith in a loving God who was never far from them in a land that might, at times, seem hostile or forbidding.

Central Mine M.E. Church Archives  
Western U.P. Vacation Guide, July 1984, page 19

Choirs from area churches provide the anthems and an old organ combines with the glow of lamplight and warm summer breezes to take minds back in time. Back to a time when Biblical truths

were preached from the pulpit in Central Mine with a congregation of receptive hearts taking the message into the mines or the drudgery of everyday life with them.