



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

OUR WELCOMING STATEMENT

Central United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation. Regardless of your race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, age, ability, belief, or background, whether you are single or partnered, you are God's beloved and you are welcome here.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We envision Central United Methodist Church as a vital, diverse, River of Life nurtured by the light of Christ, rooted deeply in and living the scriptures, a holy presence in the center of the City of Detroit, transforming individuals, institutions, and the world, advocating peace and justice in all we do.

* Indicates when to stand, if able in body or in spirit. **Please silence cell phones.

Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing; SOZ = Songs of Zion

PRELUDE

Daniel Dillingham

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: My body. One body. Our body. God's body. This is my home. These are my people.

ALL: We fully give our gifts to help strengthen the body. My body. One body. Our body. God's body.

ONE: Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Only as one being strengthened and motivating those around us can we reign victorious.

ALL: Holy Spirit, we implore your wisdom, guidance, and discipline. Make us whole. Strengthen our weakness.

ONE: Keep deception and division far from us. Fill us forever with the true Bread of Life, Jesus Christ.

ALL: May we not forget where our Eternal Life flows from. Unify us in you, God. Beyond race, culture, education, social and economic status.

ONE: Bind us to one another. Show us *you* in every face that looks back at us.

ALL: My body. One body. Our body. God's Body

***OPENING HYMN**

Together We Serve

TFWS #2175

- 1. Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.**
- 2. We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.**
- 3. We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**
- 4. Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.**

WORDS: Daniel Charles Damon; MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon; © 1998 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Deaconess Anne Hillman

MORNING PRAYER

Admitting My Gifts (Sacredise)

**I'm not really sure I want to admit it, God, but I am a person with gifts.
Oh, I'm not one of those super-talented, can-do-it-all, people,
but there are things I'm good at, things that might even be useful to You and others.**

**But, here's the problem – if I admit it, then I have to do something;
then there are no more excuses; no more comfortable inadequacies to hide behind.
If I acknowledge the abilities and strengths You have placed in me
I'm going to have actually use them;
I'm going to have to serve, and be accountable,
and maybe even make commitments...and stick to them.**

**But, if I pretend that I'm not gifted at all,
I lose something of myself,
I allow myself to be less than I really am, to experience less, to learn less,
to be less alive.**

**So, thank you, God, for making me a gifted person,
and thank you that my gifts can make a difference,
can, in some small way, help to make Your dream for my world a reality.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Holy One. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN

Many Gifts, One Spirit

UMH #114

- 1. God of change and glory, God of time and space, when we fear the future, give to us your grace. In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise. (Refrain)**
 - 2. God of many colors, God of many signs, you have made us different, blessing many kinds. As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear. (Refrain)**
 - 3. Freshness of the morning, newness of each night, you are still creating endless love and light. This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart. (Refrain)**
- (Refrain)* Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways. In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise one Giver, one God, one Spirit, one Word known in many ways, hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

WORDS: Al Carmines, 1973; MUSIC: Al Carmines, 1973; © 1974 Al Carmines; CCLI2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-16 The Inclusive Bible

Elle Sutorka

I plead with you, then, in the name of our Redeemer, to lead a life worthy of your call. Treat one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the peace that binds you together. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called into one hope when you were called. There is one Savior, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of all, who is over all, who works through all and is within all.

Each of us has received God's grace in the measure in which Christ has bestowed it. Thus you find scripture saying, "You ascended on high, leading captives in your train, and giving gifts to people." "You ascended" – what does this mean but that Christ first descended into the lower regions of the earth? The One who descended is the very One who ascended high above the heavens in order to fill the whole universe.

And to some, the gift they were given is that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers. These gifts were given to equip fully the holy ones for the work of service, and to build up the body of Christ – until we all attain unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Only Begotten of God, until we become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Let us then be children no longer, tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine, or by human trickery or crafty, deceitful schemes. Rather let us speak the truth in love, and grow to the full maturity of Christ, the head. Through Christ, the whole body grows. With the proper functioning of each member, firmly joined together by each supporting ligament, the body builds itself up in love.

ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

The Courage to Respond to Our Call

Deaconess Anne Hillman, PhD

VIDEO

Brave by Sara Bareilles

<https://youtu.be/QUQsqBqxoR4>

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Central United Methodist Church

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Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

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Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

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