



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

October 8, 2023

19th Sunday After Pentecost

A Peculiar People: “Heart Strangely Warmed”

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. W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from enfolded: liturgy that matters)

ONE: Faithful people, let us pause and take notice.

ALL: The pace of these days distracts and overwhelms

ONE: In the company of one another, we ground ourselves in a different rhythm

ALL: We make space for Holy Wisdom; we make room to consider

ONE: Taking stock of our lives, collective and personal

ALL: Let us open our hearts to the strangely warmed love that bring life.

***OPENING HYMN**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

UMH #454

1. **Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.**

(Refrain) **Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see. Open
my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

2. **Open my ears, that I may hear voices
of truth thou sendest clear; and while
the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.**

(Refrain) **Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see. Open
my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

3. **Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children to share.**

(Refrain) **Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see. Open
my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

WORDS: Clara H. Scott, 1895; MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895;
CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

African Psalm words and music by Patrick M. Liebergen
Caen Thomason-Redus, flute

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Song for the Nations words and music by Chris Christensen



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code.

***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

Since the beginning of our time, God, you have companioned people through unimaginable circumstances. Nurturing courage. Creating shelter. Creatively and subversively outwitting evil's plans. We pray just as you harbored faithful ancestors, you will harbor us on paths of truth. Bless our offerings, Holy One, for future generations. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CENTERING HYMN** *Change My Heart, O God* TFWS #2512

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

WORDS: Eddie Espinosa; MUSIC: Eddie Espinosa; © 1982 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** (Please Stand) *Ezekiel 36: 26*

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh.

Luke 24:30-32,

After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight.

They said to one another, "Weren't our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?"

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *A Peculiar People: Heart Strangely Warmed*

Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN**

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

TFWS #2237

1. **As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care, we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.**
2. **We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way. We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay. By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light. In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.**
3. **As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed, so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued. As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone, may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.**

WORDS: Ruth Duck; MUSIC: From The Sacred Harp, 1844; © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Sometimes in the chaos of our lives, we can forget that we are powerful. We can forget that we are capable. We can begin to believe that our only hope is hiding from what scares us. But God is here, reminding us of all the brave and collective and joyous possibilities aching to unfold among and within and between us. May we be wholehearted people. May we go and live boldly in faith.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson



Please help us know you were here in worship today by scanning the QR code above with your phone. There is also a place for notes and prayer requests for the pastor.

Central United Methodist Church
23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422

www.centralumchurchdetroit.org

cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org

Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries Margaret
Reese, Music Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist

Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Central United Methodist Church acknowledges that the building in which we carry out our collective life together occupies and is built upon land that is part of what was first known as Waawiyaataanong (“At the curved shores.”), the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy, but which is now referred to as Detroit. In 1807 the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations granted use of these sovereign lands to the US government through the Treaty of Detroit. Central United Methodist Church affirms the continued Indigenous sovereignty over these lands and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. We commit ourselves to working together with our native brothers and sisters to advance equity in all dimensions of life and to promote a better future for the earth and all its peoples. (Adopted by the Ministry Team -April 22, 2021)