



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

July 13, 2025

Fifth 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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal,

TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Brandon Reeves

The Prelude and the Postlude are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.

ACTS OF WELCOME

WELCOME

***OPENING PRAYER**

Storytelling Christ, you speak truth through parables and invite us not to admire them, but to embody them in real life.

When harm is ignored—help us acknowledge it.

When vulnerability feels like weakness— show us its power.

When we are tempted to pass by—interrupt us with compassion.

Draw us into your story today and make us courageous enough to love. Amen.

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.**

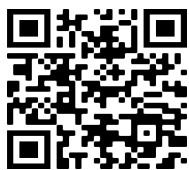
**2. We seek to become a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through,
until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**3. We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, and 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 who 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.; CCLI 2815228

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Clara Zundel

ANTHEM

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go arr. by Carson P. Cooman
Summer Pick Up Choir

***SCRIPTURE**

Luke 10: 25-37

An expert on the Law stood up to put Jesus to the test and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?"

Jesus answered, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

The expert on the Law replied:

"You must love the Most High God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your strength
and with all you mind,
and your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you'll live."

But the expert on the Law, seeking self-justification, pressed Jesus further: "And just who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "There was a traveler going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers. The traveler was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; the priest saw the traveler lying beside the road but passed by on the other side. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveler and passed by on the other side.

"But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveler and, filled with compassion, approached the travel and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request, 'Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I'll repay you on the way back.'

"Which of these three, in your opinion, was the neighbor to the traveler who fell in with the robbers?"

The answer came, "The one who showed compassion."

Jesus replied, "Then go and do the same.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Jesus In Real Life - Jesus as Storyteller

Rev. Paul Perez

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, Arr by Mark Hayes
Roderick Reese, Bass



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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Ordinary Time, enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

ONE: The Holy One be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Open your hearts to the One who is Love

ALL: We open our hearts to you, O God

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together

ALL: To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give thanks and praise

ONE: God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.

Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you,

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy One

God of justice and love

Heaven and earth are full of your wonder

Hosanna, among us

ONE: Blessed are you and blessed is your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbors, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled.

And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

**ALL: “This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

ONE: After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

ALL: “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

ONE: In remembrance of all you have done to save us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**ALL: Christ was birthed among us.
Christ was killed among us.
Christ rises again among us.**

ONE: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection. Aliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated.

In collective longing for a taste of your Kin-dom on earth,
we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

**ALL: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy Kin-dom 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 trespassed against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

Brandon Reeves

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Build A Longer Table

Build A Longer Table

1. Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2. Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3. Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4. When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,

feed - ing those who hung - er mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - comes our door - way to the reign of God.

Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.

Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will break the jail walls, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clu - ded; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, (c) 2017, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: French carol, 15th c.

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 NOËL NOUVELET

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

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Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries Guest

Margaret Reese, Director of Music

Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

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)