



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

May 15, 2022

The Baptism Window



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; Worship & Song

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Like the soft whisper of a little child singing to herself before anyone else in the house is awake,

ALL: ever so gently, God's voice cradles us with songs of wonder and awe.

ONE: With the persistence of teenagers and young adults, heady with the newfound freedom of questioning everything,

ALL: God's voice rumbles like a river through our lives, sweeping away all the boundaries between us.

ONE: Like the grandpa who passes on the secret to his bread, like the nana who teaches her grandkids how to drive,

ALL: God's voice is always reminding us that we are precious, esteemed, beloved.

(c) Thom M. Shuman; CCLI2815228

***OPENING HYMN**

Gather Us In

TFWS #2236

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away, see in
this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this
day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather
us in the blind and the lame; call to us
now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise
at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of
hist'ry, called to be light to the whole
human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
gather us in the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your
daughters, call us anew to be salt for the
earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light-years away, but
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever, gather
us in and make us your own; gather us in
all peoples together, fire of love in our
flesh and our bone.

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO TAKE A “FIELD TRIP,” TO SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST, AND TO THE 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

We offer our gifts in recognition that we are baptized people, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, we will hold nothing back but will share our lives, our hearts, our energies, as well as our efforts, in ministry to the world around us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(c) Thom M. Shuman; CCLI2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

SHARING OF BLESSINGS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN

Down to the River to Pray

WS #3164

1. As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ole way and
who shall wear the starry crown good
Lord, show me the way.

O sisters, let's go down, let's go down,
come on down. Come on, sisters, let's
go down, down to the river to pray.
2. As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ole way and
who shall wear the robe and crown good
Lord, show me the way.

Repeat 1. As I went down to the river to
pray, studyin' about that good ole
way and who shall wear the
starry crown good Lord, show me
the way.

O sisters, let's go down, let's go
down, come on down.
Come on, sisters, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

O brothers let's go down, let's go down,
come on down.
Come on, brothers, let's go down, down
to the river to pray.

WORDS: Southern USA folk song; MUSIC: Southern USA Folk song;
transcribed by Jackson; Transcription © 2011 Jackson Henry; CCLI2815228

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:4-11

The Inclusive Bible

And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Baptism Window

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D.

*CLOSING HYMN

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

UMH #605

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless
as Christ blessed long ago. Weave them
garments bright and sparkling; compass
them with love and light. Fill, anoint
them; send your Spirit, holy dove and
heart's delight.
2. We who bring them long for nurture; by
your milk may we be fed. Let us join
your feast, partaking cup of blessing,
living bread. God, renew us, guide our
footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your
Spirit, children, heirs.

3. O how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways! To your
name be glory, honor! With our lives we
worship, praise! We your people stand
before you, water-washed and Spirit-
born. By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1987 MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White, 1844; harm. by
Ronald A. Nelson, 1978; Words © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing
House; harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; CCLI2815228

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D.

ONE: Baptized, we will go to share God's love with others.

ALL: We will welcome those the world rejects as our sisters and brothers.

ONE: Baptized, we will become the grace of our Lord Jesus.

ALL: We will share the waters of life with everyone we meet.

ONE: Baptized, we will become the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: We will be a community of justice, not judgment; we will be a household of hope,
not an exclusive club for just a few.** (c) Thom M. Shuman; CCLI2815228

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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus
Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries
Bobbi Thompson, Interim Music Director
Debra Cox, Office Administrator
Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent
Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

THE BAPTISM WINDOW

The 3-lancet traceried corner window to the right of the chancel depicts the first sacrament of the Church, baptism. Our Lord is shown standing in the Jordan River, symbolized by decorative water and fish, while John the Baptist, on the bank above Him clad in a “camel’s hair” garment (Matthew 3:4), is shown consummating the sacrament with water from an scallop shell long used as a symbol of baptism. Above Christ is “the Spirit of God descending like a dove . . . And lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16-17). A crowd of people looks on, among them a centurion as well as many of the Pharisees and Sadducees. In the center lancet head is a small medallion depicting the temptation of Christ, which followed shortly after the baptism. A small devil at the left offers Him a crown as He sits on a pinnacle of the Temple, while at right an angel of the Lord stands by to succor Him. The rose tracery above this window portrays one of the “I ams” of Christ,—“I am the living water.” The rivers of life are shown flowing from His hands and body, being drunk by the faithful indicated symbolically as a flock of sheep.

From “The Stained Glass Windows of Central Methodist Church: A Description,” written by Muriel C. Willet, Treasurer of the Willet Stained Glass Company, and published upon the dedication of our windows in 1955.

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)

Baptismal Covenant Congregational Responses

Do you, as Christ's body,
the church,
reaffirm both your rejection
of sin and your commitment
to Christ?

Will you nurture one another
in the Christian faith
and life and include
these persons now before you
in your care?

Members of the
household of God,
I commend *these persons*
to your love and care.
Do all in your power to
increase *their* faith,
confirm *their* hope,
and perfect *them* in love.

We do.

**With God's help we will
proclaim the good news
and live according to
the example of Christ.
We will surround
these persons
with a community of love
and forgiveness,
that *they* may grow in
their trust of God,
and be found faithful in
their service to others.
We will pray for *them*,
that *they* may be true disciples
who walk in the way
that leads to life.**

**We give thanks for all
that God has already
given you
and we welcome you
in Christian love.
As members together with you
in the body of Christ and
in this congregation of The
United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness.**