



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822,
Sanctuary completed 1867.

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth 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

ACTS OF PRAISE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: When we are in danger

ALL: the Holy searches with us for safety.

ONE: When we are joyful

ALL: the Holy sings with us a song of praise.

ONE: When we are sick

ALL: the Holy lays Her cool hand upon our brows.

ONE: When we are accountable for harm we have caused

ALL: the Holy turns with us towards repair.

ONE: Come! The Holy is not far off—

ALL: She is woven into the fabric of our days!

- 1. Be thou my vision, O God of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, God;
thou and thou only first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- 3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys. O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all**

WORDS: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.; MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963; Alt. © 1989 the United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press.; CCLI 2815228

History of the Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" is based on an 8th century Irish poem which was translated by Mary Bryne (1880-1931) and set to music by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935). The imagery of the hymn is typical for medieval Irish poetry – depicting God "heroically" as a "chieftain" providing protection for their people or clan. (Learn more at: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-be-thou-my-vision>)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

PASSING THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Reeves

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

Here I Am, Lord; Words/Music by Dan Schutte;
Adapted by Carlton Young Roderick Reese, Solo

*SCRIPTURE

Psalms 124

"If it had not been God who was on our side"—
Let Israel now say—

"if it had not been God who was on our side,
when enemies attacked us,

They'd have swallowed us alive!
When their anger burned against us,
the flood would have swept us away,
the water would have drowned us,
the raging torrent would have engulfed us!"

Blessed by God,
who has not let us fall prey to their teeth!

We are free like a bird from the trap!
The snare has been broken and we are free!

Our help is in the Name of God,
who made heaven and earth.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

Stand by Me, v. 1, 2, & 5

UMH #512

**1. When the storms of life are raging, stand by me,
when the storms of life are raging, stand by me.**

**When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea, stand by me,
thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.**

**2. In the midst of tribulation, stand by me,
in the midst of tribulation, stand by me.**

**When the host of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail, stand by me,
thou who never lost a battle, stand by me.**

**5. When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me,
when I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me.**

**When my life becomes a burden, and I'm nearing chilly Jordan, stand by me,
O thou lily of the Valley, stand by me.**

WORDS: Charles Albert Tindley, ca. 1906, MUSIC: Charles Albert Tindley, ca. 1906;
arr. by William Farley Smith, 1989; arr. © 1989
The United Methodist Publishing House, CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTON (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

However, you are today,
the Holy meets you with Her love,
compassionately inviting you towards restoration.
Let us meet Her in the flow of grace
that, together, we might build relationships of care.

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

Margaret Reese, Director of Music

Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Building 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)