



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

October 5, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost.

World Communion Sunday

Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

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

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from a World Communion Sunday Liturgy from Canada, by Richard Blott)

ONE: The whole world is in God's hands.

ALL: Everything that lives and breathes. Everything that simply is. Everything.

ONE: From the farthest spaces to the inmost places!

ALL: God is with us, and we are with God. Alleluia!

ONE: With our siblings around the world, those profess faith in Christ, and those who live other paths, we celebrate Life and Love!

ALL: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

***OPENING HYMN**
(alt. lyrics)

Toda La Tierra (All Earth is Hopeful), v. 1, 3 & 4 UMH #210

All earth is hopeful,
the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open
for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people
who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice
set ev'rybody free.

Mountains and valleys
will have to be prepared;
new highways opened,
new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing,
in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway,
in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus
a baby in a crib.
This same One Jesus
today has come to live
in our world; he is present,
in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us,
and ever sets us free.

WORDS: Catalanian text by Alberto Taulé, 1972; English trans., by Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987;
MUSIC: Alberto Taulé, 1972; harm. by Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988; © 1972 Alberto Taulé trans.
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ACTS OF GATHERING

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

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 15: 11-32

He added, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to their father, 'Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.' So the father divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here he squandered all his money on loose living.

"After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. Coming to his senses at last, he said, 'How many hired hands at my father's house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I'll quit and go back home and say, 'I've sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.' With that, the younger son set off for home.

"While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'I've sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.' But his father said to one of the workers, "Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Take the calf we've been fattening and butcher it. Let's eat and celebrate! This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found!' And the celebration began.

"Meanwhile the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the workers and asked what was happening. The worker answered, 'Your brother is home, and the fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.'

"The son got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. The older son replied, "Look! For years now I've done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. But then this son of yours comes home after going through your money with prostitutes and you kill the fatted calf for him!"

"But my child', the father said, "You're with me always, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found.'"

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Fiesta y Siesta

Rev. Paul Perez

ANTHEM

Roll Down Justice by Mark A. Miller

Megan Mueller

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Communion Kum Ba Yah
arr. by Bret Rhoades and Steve Kuppferschmid

Central Choir



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code

DOXOLOGY:

**Gloria y honor al señor tributad
Ninos y ancianos proclamad
Que todos canten su lo or
Grandes es el nombre del Señor.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

(adapted from a World Communion Sunday Liturgy from Canada, by Richard Blott)

ONE: God is with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift our hearts to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ONE: We do give you thanks, and we do praise you, God of all creation. From before there was a beginning, until after there is an end, you were and are and always will be. All creation is animate – alive –in you, and with you, and beside you. For everything that is, came into being through you. In praise and thanksgiving, with leaves that whisper, brooks that babble, coyotes that yip, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, the squirmers and the squiggles – even the stars above, we join in this unending hymn of praise ...

ALL: Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.

ONE: For we, who follow the Way of Jesus, this is a day we remember all who gather to eat the bread and drink from the cup. We come together to re-member, that we are Christ's people, all around the world. On the night before he was taken to his death, Jesus gathered with his followers, he took bread, gave thanks to you, God of all creation, and offered it to those gathered at the table,

ALL: Take this and eat.

This is my life, given for you.

Each time you eat it, remember me.

ONE: After the meal was over,
he took a cup of wine, and gave thanks to you,
God of all love.

He offered it to those gathered at the table,

ALL: Take this and drink.

**This is my promise, this is my love,
poured out for you.**

Each time you drink it, remember me.

ONE: So we eat, we drink, and we remember.
We eat, we drink, and we remember.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

**We celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present, in these gifts, and in us,
that they – and we – can be Christ's gifts to the world. Amen**

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

ONE: Jesus Christ, the bread of life!

ALL: Amen!

ONE: Jesus Christ, the cup of love.

ALL: Amen!

ONE: The gifts of God, for all God's people!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

For the bread we have eaten,
for the drink we have tasted,
for the Spirit in which we live,
we thank you, God of all love!
May this burst of flavor,
be on our lips and in our hearts,
so we can share your love,
with your world.

Alleluia! Amen!

***CLOSING HYMN**

Siyahamba (We Are Marching)

TFWS #2235-b

**We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are
marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are
marching in the light of God.**

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BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

CHORAL 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

Margaret Reese, Director of Music & Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator & Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Building 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)