



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 23, 2025

Twenty-Fourth After Pentecost

HUNGER AWARENESS SUNDAY

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

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Holy Provider, though your abundance was meant for the flourishing of all life, your resources are hoarded among the few. Your people are worked to the bone. Left without healthcare or food. Abandoned to suffering in isolation and without homes. Do not let us be deceived by crumbs doled out by death-dealing systems. Teach us of economies built upon redistribution, rest, and repair. Teach us how to care for each other in these days of struggle. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

O God, You Call for Justice

O God, you call for justice — for goodness, never greed!
You seek a world of fairness where all have what they need —
Where all have food and water and homes in which to thrive,
Where all have hope and laughter and joy to be alive!

You call us to walk humbly, for we are not our own;
We all are poor and needy; we need the grace you've shown.
May we respond to others reflecting what you give —
Compassion, kindness, justice — so all may gladly live.

O God, may our great nation seek justice, as we should,
and work with dedication to seek the common good.
We're blessed to be a blessing; may we within our law
Seek justice and compassion that reaches out to all.

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 ("The Church's One Foundation") (MIDI); Alternate tune: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur Henry Mann, 1888 ("O Jesus, I Have Promised") (MIDI); Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

OFFERING OF LETTERS INSTRUCTIONS

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

When we come together, we remember that we are not powerless. That we get to choose - over and over again - how we will live as community. We do not have to replicate systems of evil. God grants us the power, the creativity, the agency to live out our values. In faith, let us bring our resources together. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Give Thanks arr. by Tom Brooks,
words and music by Henry Smith



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 (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Surprising One, in times of difficulty you turn our attention back to community. You remind us of all that's possible when we look out for each other. May these offerings be delivered from barriers to caring freely for each other. Set-free from greed and excess. Set-free from ideas that turn us against the needs of others. That all your people may have food, safety, and belonging. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM *Home by Another Road* by Mark A. Miller Susan Sutorka, solo

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE *Matthew 14:13-21*

When Jesus heard about the beheading, he left Nazareth by boat and went to a deserted place to be alone. The crowds heard of this and followed him from their towns on foot. When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he healed their sick.

As evening drew on, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late. Dismiss the crowds so they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves."

Jesus said to them: "There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves."

We have nothing here," they replied, "but five loaves and a couple of fish."

"Bring them here," Jesus said. Then he ordered the crowds to sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, bless the food, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, who in turn gave it to the people.

All those present ate their fill. The fragments remaining, when gathered up, filled twelve baskets. About five thousand families were fed.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Hunger Awareness Sunday

Rev. Paul Perez

OFFERING OF LETTERS

*CLOSING HYMN

God, Your Blessings Overflow

God, your blessings overflow! What can we begin to say?

How can we begin to show, All our gratitude this day?

God, we join to worship you, Giving thanks for all you do.

Thank you for the life you give, for each friend and family,

For the land in which we live, For your love that sets us free.

Thank you, God, for daily bread, And for feasts of joy you spread.

So we join in thanks this day, So your gifts we freely share,

So we follow Christ the Way, Loving, serving everywhere.

Spirit, may our lives express, All our daily thankfulness.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1838, in chorale Treuer Heiland ("For the Beauty of the Earth") (MIDI)

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BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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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 Waawiyataanong ("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)