



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

September 22, 2024

## **Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

***The Big Questions: Why do bad things happen to good people?***

### **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** (from *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems and Meditations for Staying Human* by Cole Arthur Riley)

ONE: There is space for my anger.

**ALL: My pain won't be dismissed.**

ONE: I will not grow numb.

**ALL: There is beauty in anger.**

ONE: My truth-telling is a gift.

**ALL: I am free to say so.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*My Life Flows On (How Can I keep from Singing), V. 1, 2 & 3*  
TFWS #2212

- 1. My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far off hymn  
that hails a new creation. (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* **No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is God of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

- 2. Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? (Refrain)**

- 3. When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,  
and hear their death-knell ringing,  
when friends rejoice both far and near,  
how can I keep from singing? (Refrain)**

- 4. In prison cell and dungeon vile,  
our thoughts to them go winging;  
when friends by shame are undefiled,  
how can I keep from singing? (Refrain)**

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

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY

*Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen*, arr. by H.T. Burleigh  
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. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## ANTHEM

*Amani Utupe (Grant Us Peace, Give Us Courage)*  
by Patsy Ford Simms

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

## \*SCRIPTURE

*John 9:1-7*

As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, was it this individual’s sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents?”

“Neither,” answered Jesus,  
“It wasn’t because of anyone’s sin—  
Not this person’s nor the parents’.  
Rather, it was to let God’s works shine forth  
In this person.  
We must do the deeds of the One who sent me  
While it is still day—  
For night is coming,  
When no one can work.  
While I am in the world,  
I am the light of the world.”

With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and smeared the blind one’s eyes with the mud. Then Jesus said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”—“Siloam” means “sent.” So the person went off to wash, and came back able to see.

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

## MESSAGE

*The Big Questions: Why do bad things happen to good people?*

Rev. Paul Perez

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*Healer of Every Ill*

TFWS #2213

*(Refrain)* **Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,**

**give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**1. You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *(Refrain)***

**2. In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love. *(Refrain)***

**3. Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *(Refrain)***

**4. You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing; Spirit of  
compassion, fill each heart. *(Refrain)***

WORDS: Marty Haugen; Marty Haugen; © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

## BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

**BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH** (from *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems and Meditations for Staying Human* by Cole Arthur Riley)

May you practice a sacred reclamation of all this world was made for – dignity, love, belonging, delight. May you nurture your own imagination for repair in all its forms, and expand with self-compassion, in the knowledge that no healing is linear, and no reparation final. Amen.

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

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**Central United Methodist Church**  
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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

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow & Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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*This service is live-streamed under CCLISTREAM PLUS 21469425*

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## **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)