



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822,
Sanctuary completed 1867

June 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Pride 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

ACTS OF PRAISE

PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

WELCOME

We begin our service by observing Juneteenth. Juneteenth is the oldest known African American celebration. It commemorates June 19, 1865, when slaves in Galveston, Texas, received word of their emancipation; two months after the Civil War had ended, and two and half years after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863. (adapted from "Worship Resources for Juneteenth Day Celebration," *The Africana Worship Book for Year C*)

***OPENING PRAYER** (adapted from Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*)

May the same God who spoke to Harriet make the sound of liberation clear as night to us. May God hold us in the same holy darkness that protected our ancestors on the journey. And as we remember, may God shield us from despair, knowing that our story is more than pain. Ours is the story of dignity. Let us reclaim it. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH #519

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee'
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921; MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921; © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co.' renewed; CCLI 2815228

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 OF THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Mollika Biernat, Amy Brown
Alexander Oatley

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Reeves



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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Laura Burger & Clara Zundel

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:43-45

"A good tree doesn't produce bad fruit any more than a bad tree produces good fruit. Each tree is known by its yield. Figs are not taken from thorn bushes, or grapes picked from briars. Good people produce goodness from the good they've stored up in their hearts; evil people produce evil from the evil stored up in their hearts. People speak from the fullness of their hearts.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CENTRAL SPEAKS!

Daniel Kelley & Adam Sikes

REFLECTION

Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

UMH #133

**1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)**

**(Refrain) Leaning, leaning, leaning safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)**

**3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my God so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)**

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; MUSIC: Anthony JH. Showalter, 1887; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

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)