



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

September 21, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

What Then Are We to Do?

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 WELCOME

WELCOME

***OPENING PRAYER** (adapted from "Beatitudes Remix" by Rev. Anna Blaedel, *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

blessed are you who are raging.

blessed are you who are mourning.

blessed are you who feel numb.

blessed are you who feel sick. and tired. and sick and tired.

blessed are you who refuse to turn away.

blessed are you who need to turn away.

blessed are you who keep breathing deep.

blessed are you who are tending to your own needs.
blessed are you who are tending to the needs of another.
blessed are you who have been calling.
blessed are you who have been organizing.
blessed are you who have been testifying.
blessed are you who have been hearing.
blessed are you who have been resisting.
blessed are we when we stay fierce.
blessed are we when we dare to imagine repair, and transformation.
blessed are we when we labor together to make it so.

***OPENING HYMN**

How Can I Keep From Singing (Guthrie & Seeger)

My life flows on an endless song
Above Earth's lamentation
I hear the real though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation

Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear that music ringing
It sounds an echo in my soul
How can I keep from singing?

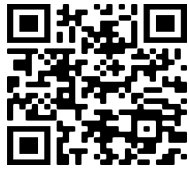
What though the tempest 'round me roars
I know the truth, it liveth
What though the darkness 'round me close
Songs in the night it giveth

No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging
Since love is Lord of Heaven and Earth
How can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear
And hear their death knells ringing
When friends rejoice, both far and near
How can I keep from singing?

In prison cell and dungeon, vile
Our thoughts to them are winging
When friends by shame are undefiled
How can I keep from singing?

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

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace

text by John Newton
arr. by John Coates Jr.



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

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

My Lord Knows

arr. Patsy Ford Blevins

*SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are those who work for peace: they will be called children of God.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

What Now Are We to Do? - Wage Peace Rev. Paul Perez

WHAT THEN ARE WE TO DO? (See insert)



*CLOSING HYMN

Now There is War

Now there is war and children die,
but theirs is not the battle cry.
This is their time to live and grow —
to think of things the young should know.

This is their time to open doors —
to read new books, to do their chores,
to make new friends, to share their bread.
The world gives pain and death instead.

This is their time for soccer teams,
for watching clouds, for dreaming dreams.
They long for peace; they're told to, "Wait!"
They long for love; they're taught to hate.

O God, your reign belongs to these
who make up songs and skin their knees.
May we seek peace and daily strive
to build a world where they may thrive.

Tune: Traditional melody O WYLY WYLY 8.8.8.8, ("Though I May Speak") (MIDI)
Text: Copyright © 2023 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.; New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/
This hymn laments the deaths of children in the current Middle Eastern war; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

**Central United Methodist Church
23 East Adams
Detroit, Michigan 48226,
313.965.5422**

cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org / www.centralumchurchdetroit.org

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)