



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

June 16, 2024

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

### Juneteenth & 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.  
W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal,  
TFWS = The Faith We Sing

#### PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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

#### ACTS OF PRAISE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: Enlivening Spirit, we hope to stay awake to the possibilities before us.

**ALL: Come and stir in us a wild creativity.**

ONE: A desire to experiment.

**ALL: A passion for out-of-the box thinking, acting, and dreaming.**

ONE: O God, yours are the ways that uproot and turn-around, bring low and lift high.

**ALL: Surprise and make new.**

ONE: Support us in playing our holy part in turning the world in the direction of flourishing.

**Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*This is a Day of New Beginnings, V. 1-4*

UMH #383

1. **This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.**
2. **For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.**
3. **Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guild, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.**
4. **Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.**

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987; MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984; Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.  
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.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT**

### **PASSING THE PEACE**

Augustus Williamson

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

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** (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

God of towering trees and tiny, sprouting leaves, as you animate life all around us, others act to extinguish it. Forces of greed and exploitation bring suffering to plants, animals, and people. This planet, your body, groans under extraction. We pray for wisdom and discernment in our own acts of consumption. Taking seriously the impacts of our purchases on our neighbors. May your blessing over these offerings guide us toward faithful stewardship of all the earth's resources. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

**\*SCRIPTURE**

*Ezekiel 17: 22-24*

“ This is what Sovereign God says: I myself will take a shoot from the top of a cedar and plant it. I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a lofty and high mountain. I will plant it on the mountain heights of Israel. It will grow branches, bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. All kinds of birds will nest in it. They will find shelter in the shade of its branches. All the trees of the countryside will know that I am God who stunt tall trees and make low trees grow. I dry up the green tree and I make the dry tree flourish. I, God have spoken, and I will do it.”

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

Rev. Paul Perez

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)*

UMH #583

- 1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night; you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark. You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear golden grain; You are a sting and a soft gentle touch, my witness, where-e'er you go. (Refrain)**
- 2. You are the flame that will lighten the dark, sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love; you are the shepherds to lead the whole world through valleys and pastures of peace. You are the friends that I chose for myself, the word that I want to proclaim. You are the new kin-dom built on a rock where justice and truth always reign. (Refrain)**
- 3. You are the life that will nurture the plant; you're the waves in a turbulent sea; yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield. There is no place for a city to hide, nor a mountain can cover its might; may your good deeds show a world in despair a path that will lead all to God. (Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all, messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love. Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose; "Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

WORDS: Cesareo Gabarain 1979; trans. by Raquael Gutierrez-Achon and Skinner Chavez-Melo; MUSIC: Cesareo Gabarain, 1979; harm. by Skinner Chavez-Melo, 1987; © 1979 Ediciones Paulinas; trans. © 1989 the United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1987 Skinner Chavez-Melo; CCLI 2815228

## BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

### **BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH** (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

God does not burden us with tasks beyond our reach God fills us with creative capacities to be makers of shared life, to be disrupters of destruction, to practice radical kinship with neighbors near and far. Alive to the power God has given us, may we be co-creators of all that brings forth life.

### POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves and Keith Livermore

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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, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

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*This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM 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)