



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

August 10, 2025

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost.

Swords into Plowshares 40th Anniversary & 80th Anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

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

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**

(A Prayer for Palestine & Israel” by the Mennonite Central Committee)

ONE: O God of life and love and peace,
We witness the violence and injustice in your Holy Land
And our hearts break.

ONE: Our hearts break for the people of Israel—

ALL: For the victims of violent attacks by Hamas

ONE: For those who live with fear and insecurity

ALL: For those who suffer from the inter-generational trauma of violence.

ONE: Our hearts break for Palestinians—

ALL: For the victims of violent attacks by the Israeli military

ONE: For those being denied food, water, electricity and medical care

ALL: For those who are refugees, long displaced from their homes.

ONE: We especially pray—

ALL: That weapons of war be laid down

ONE: That walls of separation be dismantled

ALL: That prisoners be released

ONE: That demonizing of “the other” cease

ALL: That political leaders seek the good of all people in Palestine and Israel.

ONE: O God, whose heart breaks for the world,

**ALL: May your justice dwell in the land, may your righteousness
abide in fruitful fields.**

ONE: May the effect of righteousness be quietness and trust forever, may the effect of
justice be peace—enduring peace.

Amen

***OPENING HYMN**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

UMH #431

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987.
1955. Assigned to Jan-Lee Music, © renewed 1983; CCLI 2815228

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

Turn Turn Turn Music by Pete Seeger

Julie Beutel

ACTS OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

What's Going On by Marvin Gaye

Julie Beutel



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 FOR THE 80th ANNIVERSARY OF HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI

(United Methodist Discipleship Ministries)

ONE: God, the keeper of the atoms and stars:

You made us collaborators in creation,
but we have pilfered the secrets of ordered existence
and justified their immoral use in the name of "security" and "peace."
We could say then that we didn't know the consequences.
Now we do know, but we are complacent and silent.

ALL: God, have mercy.

ONE: We have abused the glue of the universe.

We have made and stockpiled weapons of mass destruction
instead of saying "No" to their use for evil.
Fear and presumption have driven us
to be ready to annihilate untold lives and
make areas of the earth uninhabitable.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

ONE: Open our eyes to see how small and fragile the planet is and

how the destruction of any human being diminishes all.

Heal the wounds opened with the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mend the fabric of the human family.

Will in us never to repeat this evil.

ALL: God, have mercy.

ACTIONS FOR THE 80th ANNIVERSARY OF HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI

(See Inserts)

ANTHEM

A Friend You Never Have Met by Sam Stark

Julie Beutel

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:4

God will judge between the nations and render decisions for many countries. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never again will they train for war.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *Celebrating 40 Years of Swords Into Plowshares*
Panel of Swords Into Plowshares Leaders

***CLOSING HYMN**


Sing the World God Imagines

Carol Meier

$\text{♩} = 132$ **8** **VERSES**




1. Can you im - ag - ine a world filled with peace, where
2. Can we en - vi - sion a plan - et that thrives, where
3. Can we em - bod - y God's love on this earth, by




bro - ken are mend - ed and cap - tives re - leased, where jus - tice re - plac - es op -
all of cre - a - tion is ful - ly a - live, where crea - ture and cli - mate are
serv - ing our neigh - bor, up - hold - ing their worth, by find - ing God's im - age in

REFRAIN



- pres - sion and greed and all have what they need?
tend - ed with care, and ac - tion grows from prayer? Let us sing the world
each one re - vealed? With love, this world is healed.



— God im - ag - ines, lift this dream as bea - con and call. May we, by



Love im - pas - sioned, fash - ion this world for all. (all.)



a world of love for all.

BENEDICTION

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Blessing for Peace by John O'Donohue

As the fever of day calms towards twilight
May all that is strained in us come to ease.
We pray for all who suffered violence today,
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.
For those who risk their lives each day for peace,
May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.
That those who make riches from violence and war
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.
That we might see through our fear of each other
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.
That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.
That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
That our swords be beaten into ploughshares
And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain.

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 Guest

Margaret Reese, Director of Music & Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator & Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, 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)