



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

September 7, 2025

Thirteenth 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**

God of action and stillness,

you know our rage, you hold our tears,

you nurture us into love.

Help us breathe through our anger until it becomes compassion.

Catch our grief and shape it into courage.

Lead us, again and again,

into the holy work of love.

***OPENING HYMN**

Love Astounding

Jeannette M. Lindholm

HOLY MANNA
William Moore, Columbian Harmony 1825



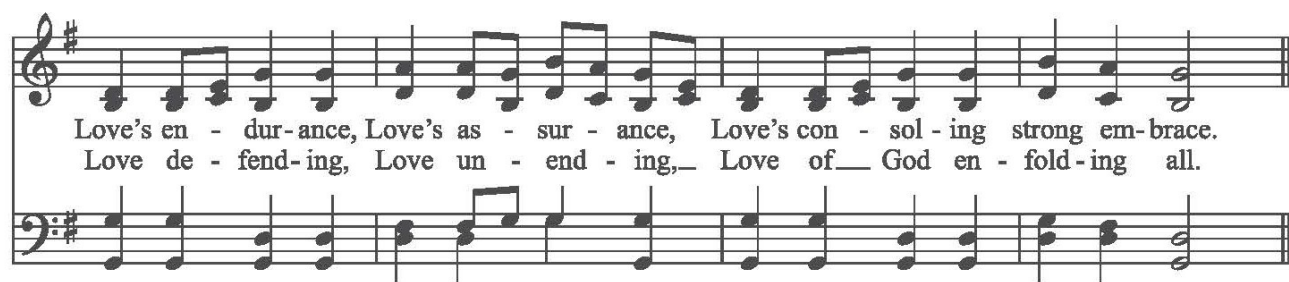
1. Love a - stound-ing, Love con - found-ing lim - its fear - ful minds im - pose.
2. Love re - ceiv - ing Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,



Love re - new-ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - ery heart un - til it knows
faith re - gain-ing, hope pro - claim - ing; Love has taught us, we be - long



Love's trans-form - ing, heal - ing good-ness, Love's a - bid - ing gen - tle grace,
safe with - in Love's ten - der keep - ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent cal.



Love's en - dur-ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing strong em-brace.
Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en - fold-ing all.

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

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

Angus Dei

Central Choir

*SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:8

God has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does God require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?:
ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

What then are we to do? - Act with Love

Rev. Paul Perez

ACTS OF SHARING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

HOLY COMMUNION

(Communion - God Does Not Abandon Us, enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

ONE: The Holy One be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, in whose image we are made.

ALL: To the Creator of all, we give thanks and praise.

ONE: Divine Protector, Defender of Life, your love for this world is everlasting. As oceans burn and species go extinct, our children are made vulnerable at school and our neighbors are denied at our borders, there is so much reason to despair. But you, O God, refuse to abandon us to destruction. Christ takes on flesh. In the midst of struggle, you are glimpses of hope, encounters of freedom, tastes of what satisfies when so much leaves empty. In these incarnate moments, we sense the closeness of your Kin-dom.

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of justice and love
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder
Hosanna, among us**

ONE: You, O God, reorder the world into right-relationship.

You lift high those made low.

You humble the arrogant.

You hear the earth groaning under capitalism and consumption
and your fire burns in the hearts of your prophets.

With this hope and assurance, we turn to the witness of Jesus whose teachings reveal the way to liberation. We seek his wisdom. We practice his courage. We remember his radical commitment to love.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

**ALL: “This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

ONE: After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

ALL: “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

ONE: In remembrance of the love that saves us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**ALL: Christ was birthed among us.
Christ was executed among us.
Christ rises again among us.**

ONE: May the Spirit come and settle upon these gifts. Making this bread and this cup be for us a Holy Encounter. Reminding us that Christ is with us. That Resurrection is a promise granted to us. That the Kin-dom is always closer than we can imagine.

May we be nourished, that we might nourish others.

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP *At the Table of the Lord*

Central Choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Beloved One, if we grow weary in love, may this meal live on as a reminder of what sustains us. In seeking the flourishing, you intend for us, our neighbors, and this planet, keep our hearts tender, our spirits alive, and our senses attuned to the beauty that surrounds. With gratitude for your abiding presence, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

The Gift of Love

UMH #408

- 1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**
- 2. Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by the love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**
- 3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION

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 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)