



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

August 17, 2025

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost.

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

Why I sing

Augustus Williamson & Melissa Coppola

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** (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Holy One, through Christ, you have taught us to chase after love. May we not be discouraged by the obstacles we face like walls that barricade, unjust laws that harm, and unspoken barriers that threaten. Make us steadfast, O God, in our pursuit of all that is good - for our friends and neighbors, strangers and enemies. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

God Whose Purpose Is to Kindle

1. God, whose purpose is to kindle
Now ignite us with your fire.
While the earth awaits your burning,
With your passion us inspire.
Overcome our sinful calmness,
Stir us with your saving name.
Baptize with your fiery Spirit,
Crown our lives with tongues of flame.

2. God, who still a sword delivers
Rather than a placid peace,
With your sharpened Word disturb us,
From complacency release!
Save us now from satisfaction,
When we privately are free,
Yet are undisturbed in spirit
By our neighbor's misery.

3. God, who in your holy gospel
Wills that all should truly live,
Make us sense our share of failure,
Our tranquility forgive.
Teach us courage as we struggle
In all liberating strife.
Lift the smallness of our vision
By your own abundant life.

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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

Blessed Assurance

Augustus Williamson
& Melissa Coppola

ACTS OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Melissa Coppola



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

ANTHEM

Here I Am, Lord" by Dan Schutte, arr. Ovid Young

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE**

Luke 12:49-56

"I've come to light a fire on the earth. How I wish the blaze were ignited already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!

"Do you think I'm here to bring peace on earth? I tell you, the opposite is true: I've come to bring division. From now on a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three, father against son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Jesus said again to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say that rain is coming—and so it does. When the wind blows from the south, you say it's going to be hot—and so it is. You hypocrites! If you can interpret the portents of earth and sky, why can't you interpret the present time?

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Jesus in Real Life - Jesus on Fire

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

Wounded World That Cries for Healing

TFWS #2177

1. Wounded world that cries for healing here we hold each other's pain,
wounded systems, bruised and bleeding bear the load, the scars of strain;
dollars ration out compassion, hard decisions rule the day,
Jesus of the healing Spirit, free us to another way!
2. Through our nation's spent frustration, through the corridors of stress
may there move a kindlier wisdom all may feel, and all may bless;
tax and tithe are for a purpose shared to shield the poor and weak;
past the symptoms of our sickness let the voice of justice speak
3. Honor those whose loving spirit nurses hope, restores and heals,
towel and basin used in service like the Christ who comes and kneels;
in the tending, in the mending may we see the right and fair,
in our common quest for wholeness heal each other by our care.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray; MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson; © 1996 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION

Blessing for Peace by John O'Donohue

POSTLUDE

Melissa Coppola

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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

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)