



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

September 4, 2022

Labor Sunday

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: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing;
SOZ = Songs of Zion; WS=Worship & Song

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: All you overworked and underpaid

ALL: All you tied to a paycheck for survival

ONE: All you over the hustle, the grind, the doing more with less

ALL: All you fighting for rights and safety

ONE: All you scrambling for affordable housing

ALL: All you figuring out how to pay the grocery bill

ONE: All you weary in mind, body and spirit

ALL: All you tired of being tired.

ONE: Come! The Liberating God renounces systems of exploitation

ALL: And longs for Their people to be free!

***OPENING HYMN**

Take Up Your Cross

Adapted from UMH #415

1. "Take up your cross," the Savior said,
"if you would my disciples be; Take up
your cross with willing heart and
humbly follow after me."
2. Take up your cross; let not its weight fill
your weak spirit with alarm; Christ's
strength will bear your spirit up and
brace your heart, support your arm.
3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still: For
Christ did not refuse to die upon a cross
on Calvary's hill.
4. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down. For
only those who bear the cross may hope
to wear the glorious crown.

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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

UNISON PRAYER

Holy Spirit, work with us to subvert systems of harm in which we are complicit. Pour your strength over those striking, organizing, and demanding dignity for all beings and land. Undo within us the lie that our worth has to do with our productivity and instead remind us of our non-negotiable belovedness. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We yearn for structures rooted in solidarity. We long for relationships of mutuality. So let us follow the example of Jesus and his friends, sharing what we have among our community. We bring forth our resources and our skills as offerings to each other's flourishing. I invite you to the offering.

OFFERTORY

*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

Imaginative minds and expansive hearts – this is our prayer, oh God, that we may be bold enough to use our collected resources to co-create a Kin-dom of compassion. May our labor be shared equitably among us and may its motivation be the thriving of all beings. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

*CENTERING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

UMH #585

1. **This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
2. **Everywhere I go...**
3. **All through the night....**

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1987; Adapt. © 1989
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ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:25-33

(Inclusive Bible)

Large crowds followed Jesus. He turned to them and said, "If any of you come to me without turning your back on your mother and your father, your loved ones, your sisters and brothers, indeed your very self, you can't be my follower. Anyone who doesn't take up the cross and follow me can't be my disciple.

"If one of you were going to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the outlay to see if you have enough money to complete the project? You'd do that for fear of laying the foundation and then not being able to complete the work – because anyone who saw it would jeer at you and say, 'You started a building and couldn't finish it.' Or if the leaders of one country were going to declare war on another country, wouldn't they first sit down and consider whether, with an army of ten thousand, they could win against an enemy coming against them with twenty thousand? If they couldn't, they'd send a delegation while the enemy is still at a distance, asking for terms of peace.

"So count the cost. You can't be my disciple if you don't say goodbye to all of your possessions."

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

Labor Day

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ONE: Creator of the harvest – We lift our voices in praise!

ALL: **Creator of the table – In you we find our peace.**

ONE: In gratitude we gather to share this meal.

ALL: **With thanksgiving, we gather to share our love for neighbor.**

ONE: As the sun sets earlier, the days become cooler, and the crops near harvest, we celebrate the plentitude of fruits available to us. We acknowledge the ways that we can use our gifts to care for our siblings in need. We extend this table through the work of our hands and the missions of this church.

As we celebrate this sacrament, may we remember the laborers in the fields:
The harvesters of the wheat and grapes. The transporters of their yields. Those who transform wheat into bread and grapes into juice.

Bless their hands and feet as they labor at farms and gardens, in trucks and warehouses. We give thanks for the ones who prepare the table here today. May their gifts of preparation and hospitality inspire us to extend hospitality to the strangers among us.

After laboring on the streets of Jerusalem – doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God-Jesus clutched bread in his hands. He blessed the food, gave thanks and heartfully expressed to his friends that this was the bread of life. “As you eat this bread, remember me.”

After supper, Jesus grasped the cup filled with the gifts of the vine. In his blessing, he reminded them “Whenever you drink of this cup, remember me.” Let us pray:

ALL: Spirit of wisdom and of wonder, wind around these elements today. May they stir us from stagnation into actively loving God, our neighbors, and ourselves. May our participation at this table transform us into the people God is calling us to be. With gratitude, we gather at this table. As we take a piece of bread, let us experience the love of God as seen in Jesus the Christ. As we drink the cup, let us remember the grace that pours from God. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Would I have Answered When you Called

TFWS #2137

- 1. Would I have answered when you called, “Come, follow, follow me!”? Would I at once have left behind both work and family? Or would the old, familiar round have held me its claim and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?**
- 2. Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee, on roads unknown by ways untried, beyond security? Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew, where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?**

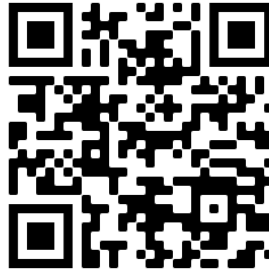
- 3. Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried, “Crucify!” when on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky? Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone, a dying man with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?**
- 4. O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways, nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise. I only pray that when you call, “Come, follow, follow me!” You’ll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.**

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

Go forth with the assurance that new ways of being are possible. Systems of exploitation have crumbled before and can crumble again. Solidarity blooms all around us, let us labor towards liberation and joy. Amen.



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.

**Central United Methodist Church
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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Bobbi Thompson, Interim Music Director

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)