



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

September 10, 2023

15th 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: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing; W&S = Worship & Song

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (enfleshed)

ONE: Faithful people, let us pause and take notice

ALL: **The pace of these days distracts and overwhelms**

ONE: In the company of one another, we ground ourselves in a different rhythm

ALL: **We make space for Holy Wisdom; we make room to consider**

ONE: Taking stock of our lives, collective and personal

ALL: **Let us open our hearts to the truths that bring life**

***OPENING HYMN**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

UMH #89

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold the flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife, joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

2. All they works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect they rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

WORDS: Henry Van Dyke, 1907; st. 4 alt. 1989; MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. by Edward Hodges, 1864; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

A PRAYER FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION (Used with permission.)

Written by The Rev. Mary Elizabeth Hanchey

ANTHEM

Promised Land by Natalie Sleeth

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit* by William Dawson Roderick Reese, Solo

***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 (adapted from enfleshed)

Since the beginning of our time, God, you have companioned people through unimaginable circumstances. Nurturing courage. Creating shelter. Creatively and subversively outwitting evil's plans. Bless these offerings to the service of future generations. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*CENTERING HYMN

Seek Ye First

UMH# 405

1. **Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you, Allelu, alleluia!**
2. **Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

WORDS: Karen Lafferty, 1972; MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972; © 1972 Maranatha! Music; CCLI 2815228

*SCRIPTURE (Please Stand)

Psalm 119: 33-40

Inclusive Bible

Educate me, God in the way of your statutes, and I'll keep them to the end.
Give me discernment, that I may observe your Law and obey it with all my heart.
Lead me in the path of your commands—that is where I'll find joy.
Draw my heart to your decrees and not toward selfish gain.
Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things; make me alive in your way.
Fulfill for your faithful your promise to those who fear you.
Take away the reproach which I dread, for your ordinances are good.
See how I long for your precepts! In your justice give me life.
ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

MESSAGE

Lifelong Learners

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

TFWS# 2223

1. **We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored: (Refrain)**
 2. **We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)**
 3. **We will work with each other, we will work side by side, we will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)**
- (Refrain) **And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

WORDS: Peter Scholtes; MUSIC: Peter Scholtes; © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.; CCLI 2815228

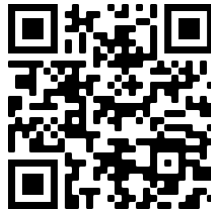
BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed)

Sometimes in the chaos of our lives, we can forget that we are powerful. we can forget that we are capable. we can begin to believe that our only hope is hiding from what scares us. But God is here, reminding us of all the brave and collective and joyous possibilities aching to unfold among and within and between us. May we go and live boldly in faith.

POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson



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. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

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

Margaret Reese, Music Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent & Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadows, & Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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)