



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822,
Sanctuary completed 1867

July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Building Beloved Community — Protecting the Right to Vote

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

ACTS OF PRAISE

PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

WELCOME

***OPENING PRAYER** (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: We gather in the presence of the Beloved One,

ALL: Insistent that we are a community of equals.

ONE: To all that stands in the way of right-relationship,

ALL: The spirit of Christ says "no more!"

ONE: God leads us in a better way:

ALL: No spirits of domination will last.

ONE: No barriers to welcome will stand.

ALL: God has already claimed us:

ONE: We are children of the Divine.

ALL: Each of us, no more, no less.

ONE: Praise God, who frees us to love one another.

***OPENING HYMN** *In Times of Great Decision*

**In times of great decision, be with us, God, we pray!
Give each of us a vision of Jesus' loving way.
When louder words seem endless and other voices sure,
Remind us of your promise: your love and truth endure.**

**O God, you bridged the distance; you opened wide your door.
You call us by our presence to reach to serve the poor.
You teach us: Welcome strangers! Seek justice on the earth!
May those we choose as leaders see every person's worth.**

**You call on every nation to put aside all greed,
To care for your creation and for your ones in need,
To care for those in prison, for children, for the ill.
In times of great decision, may we choose leaders well.**

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 ("The Church's One Foundation") (MIDI);

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Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Hymn Note for "In Times of Great Decision"

This hymn was inspired by the National Council of Churches' "Christian Principles in an Election Year",
available online with a study guide.; CCLI 2815228

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

PASSING THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Reeves

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

With Grateful Heart, arr. by Mark Schweizer

Summer Choir

*SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:27

Humankind was created as God's reflection:
in the divine image God created them;
female and male, God made them.

Galatians 3:28

In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or citizen, male or female.
All are one in Christ Jesus.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *Building Beloved Community - Protecting the Right to Vote* Rev. Paul Perez

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Reeves



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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

*CLOSING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine, Fannie Lou Hamer version

**This little light of mine,
I'm goin' a let it shine,
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, let it shine.**

Everywhere I go ..

I've got the light of freedom ...

CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Let us go from here assured of the power of Christ in us: The power to rid ourselves of all that destroys. The power to celebrate the gifts of difference among us. The power to cease discrimination in our communities. God does not leave us to this work alone, but goes beside us, within us, and before us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 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)