



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

September 28, 2025

Sixteenth 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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: God of the new day, we enter this space carrying our hopes and our hurts.

ALL: Some of us come weary, some uncertain, some longing for peace.

ONE: You meet us as we are, with tenderness and compassion.

ALL: Gather us into Your healing presence.

ONE: Restore what feels broken, calm what feels restless,

ALL: and awaken in us the deep assurance

ONE: that we are held, loved, and renewed by You.

AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN**

Morning Has Broken

UMH #145

- 1. Morning has broken like the first morning,
black-bird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**
- 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**
- 3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931; MUSIC: Trad. Gaelic melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988;
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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

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Healing does not come from our strength alone. It flows from the love of God—a love that mends, restores, and makes all things new. When we share our gifts, we join in that work of healing—bringing hope to neighbors, care to strangers, and wholeness to the world. Let us share our gifts with gratitude and trust.

OFFERTORY

Song for the Nations, Chris Christensen arr. by Tom Brooks



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

God of compassion, bless these gifts and bless our lives. Use what we give to bring healing where there is hurt, hope where there is despair, and new life where there is weariness. Shape us into people who embody Your love, so that in all we do, your wholeness may be known. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit,

arr. by William Dawson, Andrew Miller, bass

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 5: 12 - 16

In one town Jesus was in, there was a person with leprosy. Seeing Jesus, the sufferer fell to the ground and implored him, "Teacher, if you are willing, you can heal me."

Jesus stretched out his hand, touched the person and said, "I am willing: be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy disappeared.

Jesus then gave this stern warning: "Tell no one, but go and show yourself to the priest and make the offering for your healing that Moses prescribed, as a testimony to them."

The reputation of Jesus continued to grow. Large crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

But Jesus often withdrew to some place where he could be alone and pray.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Physician, Heal Thyself

Rev. Alex Plum

***CLOSING HYMN**

There is a Balm in Gilead, v. 1 & 2

UMH #375

(Refrain) **There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.**

**1. Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again. *(Refrain)***

**2. Don't ever feel discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend,
And if you look for knowledge
He'll ne'er refuse to lend. *(Refrain)***

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986;
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BENEDICTION

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Rev. Alex Plum

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)