



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 12, 2023

24th 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.

W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal;

TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

ONE: Gentleness, gentleness, gentleness—we beg!

ALL: As in what is required to rock a baby to sleep.

ONE: As in what is needed to wash the hair of an elder.

ALL: As in how we tip-toe to the window to look up at the moon.

ONE: Gentle God, you take our face between your palms,

ALL: kiss our forehead and witness our story.

ONE: You show us how to have reverence for the universe of another's life

ALL: and treat beloveds with tender care.

***OPENING HYMN**

The Summons

TFWS #2130

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

5. God, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus, I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

MUSIC: John Bell; MUSIC: Traditional Scottish, Words © 1987 WGRG
The Iona Community, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

Roll Down, Justice! by Mark A. Miller

Sylvia Oatley, Solo

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Intermezzo Op. 118 No.2 by Johannes Brahms

Elin Chambers, Piano



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. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

Holy Spirit may our collected seeds of solidarity float high enough to clear fences, walls, and even armed check-points, that resources may be used to heal the living and honor the dead. May we, together, bloom a world of gentleness and care. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*CENTERING HYMN

Seek Ye First

UMH #405

**1. Seek ye first the kin-dom of God
and her 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 to you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

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

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE (Please Stand)

Matthew 25:1-13

“Then again, the kingdom of heaven could be likened to ten attendants who took their lamps and went to meet the bridal party. Five of them were wise; five were foolish. When the foolish ones took their lamps, they didn’t take any oil with them, but the wise ones took enough oil to keep their lamps burning. The bridal party was delayed, so they all fell asleep.

“At midnight there was a cry: ‘Here comes the bridal party! Let’s go out to meet them!’ Then all the attendants rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there won’t be enough for us; run to the dealers and get some more for yourselves.’

“While the foolish ones went to buy more oil, the bridal party arrived; and those who were ready went to the marriage feast with them, and the door was shut. When the foolish attendants returned, they pleaded to be let in. The doorkeeper replied, ‘The truth is, I don’t know you.’ “So stay awake, for you don’t know the day or the hour.

MESSAGE

Downtown for Good: Stay Awake

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

TFWS# 2153

**1. I’m gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime! I’m
gonna live so God can uses me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**3. I’m gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime! I’m
gonna pray so God can uses me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**2. I’m gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime! I’m
gonna work so God can uses me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**4. I’m gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime! I’m
gonna sing so God can uses me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. by Wendell Whalum; Arr. © Estate of Wendell Whalum; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

May your grief be honored and your anger have a safe place to land, that gentleness, too, may reside in your heart. For the way of the Living God moves not like a missile, but like the sunrise glowing pink on the horizon, like a hand reaching for another hand. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Rule of Life* (18th cent. aphorsim, attr. to John Wesley)

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

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

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)