



Central United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation
 Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822
 Sanctuary completed 1867



April 19, 2026

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE 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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal, TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson and Brandon Reeves

WELCOME

ACTS OF WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ruth Biersdorf

ONE: God has created a world of beauty, diversity, and such enoughness; a world designed to perpetuate beauty and to recycle wastes endlessly as essential ingredients for new life.

ALL: We come to praise God for that great gift

ONE: We come knowing that it is not enough to provide for ourselves but that we need to act wisely so that all life and all ecosystems are sustained so that our posterity can be sustained and live abundantly.

ALL: We come to learn and then go forth to walk in the ways of sustainability

ONE: Through the prophets and through Jesus, God has made clear the mandate for justice for all peoples and for all of creation.

ALL: We come to renew our commitment to work for justice for all peoples and for all of creation

ONE: Our God has created this day!

ALL: Let us celebrate what God has done

***OPENING HYMN**

I sing the Almighty Power of God

UMH #152

- 1. I sing the almighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies,
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey**
- 2. I sing the goodness of our God who filled the earth with food,
who formed the creatures through the Word and then pronounced them good?
God, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.**
- 3. There's not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
while all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;
and everywhere that we can be, Thou, God art present there.**

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1715; MUSIC: Trad. English melody; arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

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 OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Dr. James Bull & Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Reeves



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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 24

Byron Washington

The earth is God's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for God founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

*NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 4:32-35

Byron Washington

Inclusive New Testament & Psalms

The community of believers was of one mind and one heart. None of them claimed anything of their own: rather, everything was held in common. The apostles continued to testify with great power to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and they were all given great respect; nor was anyone needy among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them and give the money to the apostles. It was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Earth Teach Me, music by Robert Lang.

Text from the Ute Nation

TEXT

Earth teach me stillness
as the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth teach me suffering
as old stones suffer with memory.
Earth teach me humility
as blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth teach me caring
as the mother who secures her young.
Earth teach me courage
as the tree which stands alone.
Earth teach me limitation
as the ant which crawls on the ground.
Earth teach me freedom
as the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth teach me resignation
as the leaves which die in the fall.
Earth teach regeneration
as the seeds which rise in the spring.
Earth teach me to forget myself
as the melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach me to remember kindness
as the dry fields weep with rain.
Earth teach me.

— *Ute Nation*

MESSAGE:

Spring is Our Season for Repair Conan Smith
President and CEO of the Michigan Environmental Council

***CLOSING HYMN**

God, You Made Your Good Creation

Sung to the tune of UMH #581

1. **God, you made your good creation and you hold it in your care
from each starry constellation to each forest under-layer.
Tiny creatures, mountain splendor, rivers, lakes and ocean floors
you are loving, kind and tender in your care for what is yours.**

2. **Yet, O God, the earth is crying, times are changing, storms are strong.
Now the coral reefs are dying, floods are raging, droughts are long.
Though the circumstances differ, when the earth is in distress,
see! The poor are first to suffer from our greed and selfishness.**

3. **God, you love this world we live in, so you sent your only Son.
"Here on earth as in your heaven," God, we pray, "Your will be done."
By your Spirit, may we listen to the earth and to the poor;
may we care for all you've given till creation is restored.**

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillett, CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION

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

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)