



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822,
Sanctuary completed 1867.

August 16, 2026

Twelfth 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: 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*)

Come, Spirit of Christ, and uproot from within us anything that deadens from within. Wherever fear rules our choices, transform our minds and make us brave in spirit. Where we have grown cold to the needs of our neighbors, soften our hearts and fill us with generosity. Where pain threatens our capacities for connection, surround us with community to help us shoulder the load. Keep us on the path of liberation and let nothing lead us astray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Sing a New World Into Being

- 1. Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream;
dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!**
- 2. Sing a new world into being where each gender class and race
brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace;
where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being; risk transforming heart and mind!**
- 3. Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a home,
where no children ever hunger but are filled with God's shalom'
where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being; raise the harmonies of peace.**
- 4. Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophets' cry
for a time of health and plenty when all tears have been wiped dry;
when compassion flows like waters, purging balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being; live the promise you believe!**

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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

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

ANTHEM

Simple Gifts, arr. Mark Schweizer

Clara Zundel, Solo
& Summer Choir

*SCRIPTURE

Psalm 133

Angela Bakeley

See how good, how pleasant it is for God's people to live together as one!

It is like precious oil on Aaron's head running down on his beard, running down to the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Mount Hermon, falling on the hills of Zion., For that is where God bestows the blessing—life that never ends.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

We Are Building a New World

We are building up a new world (3x)

Builders must be strong!

Courage, sisters, don't get weary
Courage, brothers, don't get weary
Courage, people, don't get weary
Though the way be long.

Everyday our hope grows deeper (3x)
People must find hope.

We seek justice for all people
We seek justice for all creatures
We seek justice for all beings
Even through the trials.

Rise, shine & give God glory (3x)
Children of the Light.

Tune: Jacob's Ladder; New Lyrics: v.1,2,5 & 6 by
Vincent Harding. v.3 & 4 by Luke Rackers

Rise Up Singing (<https://www.riseupsinging.org/songs/we-are-building-up-new-world>)

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BENEDICTION

BENEDICTON (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Faithful ones, the grace of God goes with us into the messiness of life, extending to us peace in the midst of what is unfinished, untidy, unclear, or unresolved. With steadfast patience, let us go from here encouraged in the labors of love, pressing on through complexities, and staying present to the troubles that call for our attention -within us, between us, and around us. Blessed be our journeys of healing and transformation.

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)