



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

July 27, 2025

### **Seventh 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

#### **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**

#### **WELCOME**

#### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Jesus, you taught us to pray not with empty words,  
but with bold hope and a dream for the world.  
You dared to ask for daily bread—for everyone.**

**You named forgiveness, justice, and deliverance  
as if they were possible.**

**So, teach us to pray and act like that—with courage, with vision, with open hands.  
Let your prayer live in us until all have enough and none are left out.**

**Amen.**

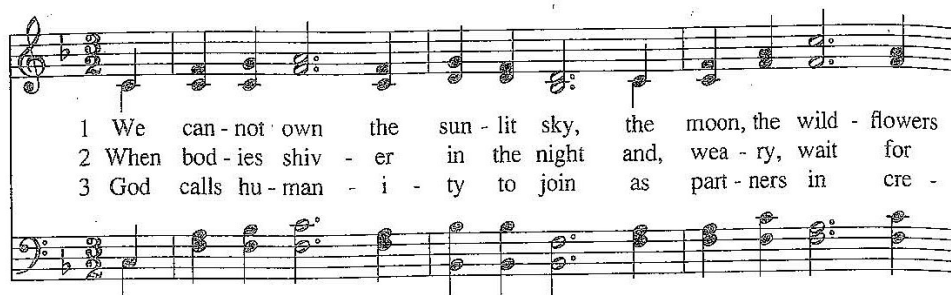
**\*OPENING HYMN**    *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*    The New Century Hymnal #563

563

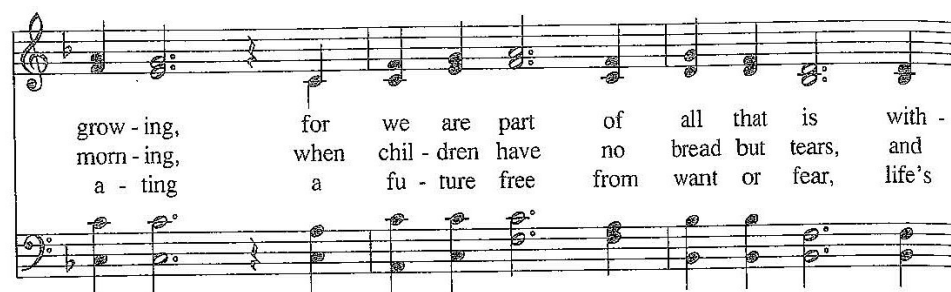
*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

John 10:10

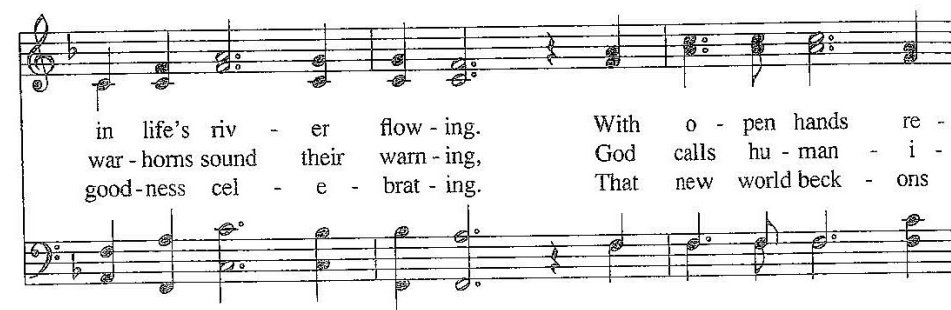
Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989



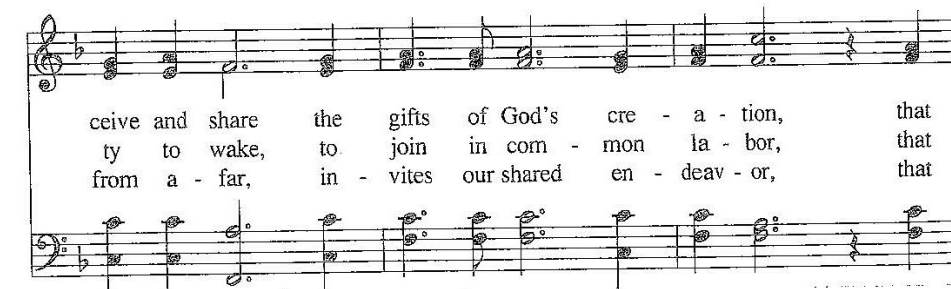
1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers  
2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for  
3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -



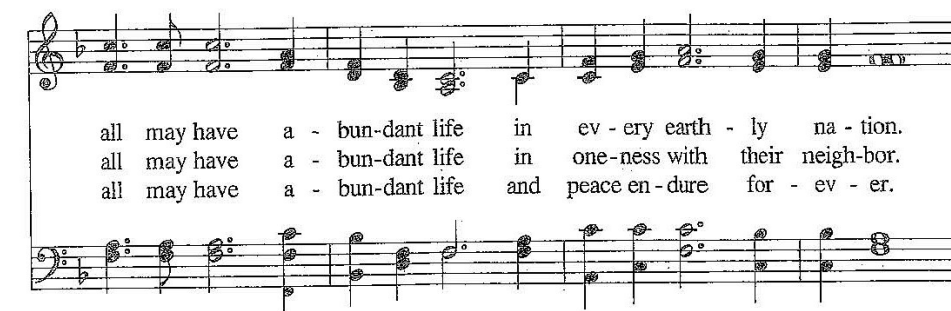
grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -  
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and  
a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's



in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -  
war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -  
good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons



ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that  
ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that  
from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that



all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.  
all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.  
all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

## **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

## **ACTS OF SHARING**

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Byron Washington

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

Laura Burger



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**

### **ANTHEM**

*Open My Eyes* by Jesse Manibusan

Laura Burger

## **ACTS OF PROCLAMATION**

### **\*SCRIPTURE**

*Luke 11:1-13*

One day Jesus was praying, and when he had finished, one of the disciples asked, "Rabbi, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say,  
'Abba God,

hallowed be your Name!  
May your reign come.  
Give us today  
Tomorrow's bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
for we too forgive everyone who sins against us;  
and don't let us be subjected to the Test."

Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, a neighbor, and you go to your neighbor at midnight and say, 'Lend me three loaves of bread, because friends of mine on a journey have come to me, and I have nothing to set before them.'

"Then your neighbor says, 'Leave me alone. The door is already locked, and the children and I are in bed. I can't get up to look after your needs.' I tell you, though your neighbor will not get up to give you the bread out of friendship, your persistence will make your neighbor get up and give you as much as you need.

"That's why I tell you, keep asking and you'll receive; keep looking and you'll find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted. What parents among you will give a snake to their child when the child asks for a fish, or a scorpion when the child asks for an egg?

If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will our heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

*Jesus in Real Life: Jesus as Radical*

Rev. Paul Perez

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Seek Ye First*

UMH #405

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

## **BENEDICTION**

### **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 Guest

Margaret Reese, Director of Music

Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

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This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425

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### **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)