



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

August 3, 2025

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost — Environmental Sabbath



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 WELCOME

WELCOME

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.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: In the beginning the earth was formless and void...then, a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

ALL: Thanks be to God for cleansing, life-giving waters

ONE: We give thanks for the Detroit River, the “DAY-TWA” in French, a strait that flows by this very spot connecting two great bodies of water, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie

ALL: And connecting us to our past, to the hinterlands which its tributaries traveled through, and the watershed that connects water to land, and connects us inexorably to each other.

ONE: We thank you for the countless people of every color and station who have worked tirelessly together to clean up these sacred waters so that they might again team with life. It is truly a resurrection story in our midst.

ALL: We praise You for humans and herons, dragonflies and frogs, salamanders and eagles, cattails and walleye, muskrats and beaver, Osprey and Kingfishers and swallows which now thrive in and around these waters, and for the hundreds of thousands of ducks that make this river their winter home each year.

ONE: As we praise your beautiful creation, let us also commit ourselves to continuing the work to make this strait and the rest of creation clean and abounding with diversity.

ALL: We commit ourselves to be co-creators with you in resurrecting creation to the full glory you intended. Like water that nurtures our bodies, we are anxious to become quenched with Your Spirit.

ONE: Let us worship our Creator God.

***OPENING HYMN**

All creatures of our God and kin,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,

(Refrain) O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear,
Make music for thy God to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
O brother fire who lights the night,
Providing warmth, enhancing sight *(Refrain)*

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in Thee grow,
Let them God's glory also show! *(Refrain)*

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE**

Amos 5:24

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. Paul Perez

ACTS OF SHARING

RITUAL OF CONNECTION TO WATERS AND TO EACH OTHER:

Water, giver and sustainer of life (pour water into a large bowl)

Water, symbol of our thirst for God and for right relationship with all of life (pour more water into a large bowl)

Water, reminder that we are not separate from God, from the earth, or from each other.
(pour more water into a large bowl)

Think of your own connection to water and the significance of water in your life. How do you relate to water?

When you come forward for communion, as you are moved anoint yourself with water from the bowl as a way of connecting to water and as a sign of your commitment to reflect upon the gift of water and to care for it so that the gift of clean water will be available for all people and all God's creatures forevermore.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(adapted by Jim Bull and Janet Moody from the Communion liturgy we used for our Earth Day service May 5, 2002, partly written by Jim Bull and Rev. Edwin Rowe for that service).

ONE: God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them up to God

ONE: Let us give thanks to our Creator God

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise

ONE: We give You thanks for the mighty sweep of Your love, in which You created all that is, created systems and cycles that sustain all life, and such an enoughness for all your creatures to live and live abundantly. We thank You that You sent Jesus the Christ to reveal Your all-encompassing love, and to empower us as co-creators that all peoples and all creation might be sustained forever more.

PRAYER OVER THE BREAD AND WINE

(officiant breaks the bread and raises the cup)

ONE: As this bread is broken and this wine is poured out, we remember that seeds lying dormant in the soil, caressed by the sun's light, and bathed by the miracle of water, sprang to life as wheat plants and grape vines that then flowered and produced abundantly. We remember the human hands that nurtured the garden and harvested the fruits, ground the flour, squeezed the juice, and baked the bread. May the brokenness of the bread and pouring out of the wine remind of us of the brokenness of creation, which you made and intend to be whole. We recall that Christ's body was broken that the hungry might be nourished, the oppressed set free, replenished with the bread of new hope, and the wine of new life.

ALL: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ abides with us always.

ONE: O Bread of Life, just as the bread was once scattered seed sown in the earth to lie dormant and then raised to new life, so gather all peoples together in the one humanity of Your coming new age. Restore the broken life of Your creation using us as you will. Grant to all creation a share in Your bliss, that all may be welcomed into Your circle of life through Your inexhaustible grace and guided by Your spirit.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

(Please come forward to share in the bread and cup, engage in a water blessing, and leave your offering on the plate)

COMMUNION MUSIC

Augustus Williamson

AFTER COMMUNION

ALL: Eternal God, we give thanks for the holy mystery in which you gave Yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of Your Spirit, to give ourselves in service to other people and to all of creation. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got love like the rain
I've got love like the rain
I've got love like the rain in my soul

I've got love like the rain
I've got love like the rain
I've got love like the rain in my soul

I've got joy like a wave
I've got joy like a wave
I've got joy like a wave in my soul

I've got joy like a wave
I've got joy like a wave
I've got joy like a wave in my soul

CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION

May you always be haunted by and delighted by waters and the rivers that carry them. Let us be thankful for rivers, celebrate them, and care for them, especially the Detroit River flowing by us today. May we understand our connectedness to rivers, and through them our connectedness with each other, and work to make them and our communities the life-giving waters they were meant to be. And the God who created the waters, and who is the great underground stream that sustains us, will lead us on our way. Amen.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION:

(Navajo Blessing - Sung and Danced in a circle)

I walk in beauty before me;
I walk in beauty behind me;
I walk in beauty above me;
I walk in beauty below me;
I walk in beauty all around me;
Your world is so beautiful, O God!

**Central United Methodist Church 23 East Adams,
Detroit, Michigan 48226,
313.965.5422**

cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org

www.centralumchurchdetroit.org

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

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)