



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



July 5, 2026

Central United Methodist Church on Location On Belle Isle
Outdoor Worship: Communing With Nature

CALL TO WORSHIP:

ONE: This is the day

ALL: This is the day

ONE: That our God has made

ALL: That our God has made

ONE: Let us rejoice

ALL: Let us rejoice

ONE: and be glad in it

ALL: and be glad in it. This is the day that our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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.

REPORT FROM YOUTH MISSION TRIP

OFFERTORY



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code

Prayers of the People

(from Illustrated Ministry's *Fourth of July* Pastoral Care Package)

ONE: Gracious One

ALL: in your mercy, hear our prayer

***SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 1: 31 (The Inclusive Bible)

God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good, very good.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: *God is in all things*

Intro: Quote from Meister Eckhart (1260-c1329)

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—I would never have to prepare a sermon, so full of God is every creature.

(from Fox, Matthew.1983. *Meditations with Meister Eckhart*. Santa Fe, New Mexico: Bear and Co.)

Instructions: (based on an exercise learned from Michael J. Cohen, National Audubon Expedition Institute)

Let yourself be led to one living or non-living thing in nature. Let it find you.

Spend some time in silence with that entity that found you, drinking it in for several minutes, then.

Write a sentence at the bottom of this sheet about how you've experienced that entity, What is it saying to you? Give it a human emotion or quality and write why it embodies that quality for you.

For example, if an oak tree finds you, you might write: "Oaks are strong because their roots run deep."

SHARING OUR SENTENCES:

***CLOSING HYMN** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* UMH #147

(Refrain) **All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, our great God made them all.**

**1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors and made their tiny wings. (Refrain)**

**2. The purple headed mountains, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky. (Refrain)**

**3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. (Refrain)**

**4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God almighty, who has made all things well. (Refrain)**

WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848; MUSIC: 17th cent. English melody; arr. By Martin Shaw, 1915; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION: Symphony of Nature—a participatory sung & acted experience (learned in 1995 from Pat Bailey, naturalist at Wolf Neck Woods State Park, Freeport, Maine).

Sun: **Sunlight energy, Sunlight energy**

Plants: **Grow, grow, grow**

Consumers: **Crunch munch, Crunch munch**

Fungi & Bacteria: **Decompose, Decompose**