



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822,
Sanctuary completed 1867

May 31, 2026

MUSIC SUNDAY

Asian American Pacific Islander Month

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

Clara Zundel & Laura Burger

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation. I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

ALL: How can I keep from singing?

ONE: No storm can shake my inmost calm, I hear the music ringing It sounds an echo in my soul.

ALL: How can I keep from singing?

ONE: What though the tempest 'round me roars. I know the truth, it liveth. What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.

ALL: How can I keep from singing?

ONE: No storm can shame my inmost calm, I hear the music ringing. Since love is lord of heav'n and earth.

ALL: How can I keep from singing?

***OPENING HYMN**

What Gift Can We Bring

UMH #87

- 1. What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?**

- 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.
Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.**

- 3. Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,
for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,
the Word is our promise always, forever;
we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.**

- 4. This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!**

WORDS: Jane Marshall, 1980; MUSIC: Jane Marshall, 1980; © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. 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

Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Susan Sutorka & Sylvia Oatley

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Peace on Earth, by Carl Strommen
Jim West, Bass, Dan Maslanka, Drums, Janae Swanson, Trumpet



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

ONE: O God, the Psalmist taught us to celebrate with timbrel, and harp, with dance, and song. As we offer our gifts of music and song and our financial gifts

ALL: We consecrate these gifts and our lives

ONE: To the great end that these gifts might further the creation of your community of shalom, of justice and peace among all earth's people's, and all earth's creatures

ALL: We consecrate these gifts and our lives.

ONE: As we tune our lives to the sustaining power of Your creation, that all people and all creatures may have enough, Loving God, we accept responsibility

ALL: To be the body of Christ, bringing healing and reconciliation to a hurting world, and to be good stewards of all of Your creation.

AMEN.

ANTHEMS

Why We Sing, words and music by Greg Gilpin

Bridge Over Troubled Water,
words and music by Paul Simon arr. by Kirby Shaw

Lift your Light, words and music by Mary McDonald

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

Exodus 15: 19-27

(The Inclusive Bible)

Once Pharaoh's horses, chariots and charioteers came into the seabed, YHWH let the water collapse back upon them. But the Israelites walked through the sea on dryland. Then Aaron's sister, the prophet Miriam, picked up a tambourine, and all the women, followed her, dancing, with tambourines, while Miriam sang: "Sing to YHWH who has triumphed gloriously, who has flung horse and rider into the sea!"

Moses led the Israelites from the Sea of Reeds into the desert of Shur. They traveled for three days in the desert without finding water. When they arrived at Marah they found the water bitter and undrinkable. This is the reason for the name Marah—"Bitterness." The people complained to Moses. "We need water to drink!"

Then Moses cried out to YHWH, who showed Moses a piece of wood. Moses threw the piece of wood into the water, and the water was sweetened.

It was there that YHWH made a law and a decree for them, and there they were tested. God said to the people, "If you listen carefully to my voice, and do what is right in my eyes, and if you will pay attention to my decrees and obey my commands, I will not bring upon you any of the sufferings I brought upon the Egyptians—I am YHWH. I am the One who heals you."

Next, they reached Elim, where they found twelve springs and seventy palm trees. They set up camp near the water.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*SCRIPTURE

Luke: 10: 38-42

(The Inclusive Bible)

As they traveled, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him to her home. She had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at Jesus' feet and listened to his words.

Martha, who was busy with all the details of hospitality, came to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, don't you care that my sister has left me all alone to do the household tasks? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha! You're anxious and upset about so many things, but only a few things are necessary—really only one. Mary has chosen the better part, and she won't be deprived of it."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: *Bitter Water, Sweet Refrain: Remembering and Re-imagining Inherited Songs*
Rebecca Wilson

***CLOSING HYMN**

Guide My Feet

TFWS #2208

**1. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!**

- 2. Hold my hand... 3. Stand by me...
4. I'm your child... 5. Search my heart...
6. Guide me feet...**

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual; harm. by Wendell Whalum; Harm. © Estate of Wendell Whalum; 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
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)