



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

September 3, 2023

Labor Day

14th 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: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing; W&S = Worship & Song

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (enfleshed)

ONE: From the midst of our lives, vibrant and troubled

ALL: God longs to connect with us

ONE: They meet us with compassion and call us to courage

ALL: God entices us all toward deeper relations

ONE: With land and creature, neighbors and strangers

ALL: We find our lives entangled and entwined

ONE: For the sake of all life, God summons our attention

***OPENING HYMN**

I Shall Not Be Moved

SOZ #35

1. I shall not, I shall not be moved. I shall not, (Refrain)

2. Jesus is my captain, I shall not be moved. Jesus is my captain, (Refrain)

(Refrain) **I shall not be moved, just like a tree that's planted by the water I shall not be moved.**

3. On my way to glory, I shall not be moved. On my way to glory. (Refrain)

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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Psalm 23 by Samuel Adler

Laura Burger

***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. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (adapted from enflashed)

Disruptive One, your story is not one of solo actors who save the day. It is one of community. Of lineages and ancestors. Of movements and relationships, deep and broad. Ours is a faith that depends on all of us stepping into the power you have given us. In the spirit of this tradition, we bring our resources together. May the be blessed to the labors of your love and liberation. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CENTERING HYMN**

The Servant Song

TFWS # 2222

1. **Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**
2. **We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on this road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**
3. **I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**
4. **I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**
5. **When we sing to God in heave, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**
6. **Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

WORDS: Richard Gillard; MUSIC: Richard Gillard; © 1977 Scripture in Song (a div. of Integrity Music, Inc.) CCLI 2815228

***SCRIPTURE**

Exodus 3: 1-15 Inclusive Bible

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock deep into the wilderness, Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

The messenger of YHWH appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a thornbush. Moses saw—"The bush is ablaze with fire, and yet it isn't consumed!" Moses said, "Let me go over and look at this remarkable sight—and see why the bush doesn't burn up!"

When YHWH saw Moses coming to look more closely, God called out to him from the midst of the bush: "Moses! Moses!"

Moses answered, "I am here."

God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground!"

"I am the God of your ancestors," the voice continued, "the God of Sara and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob!"

Moses hid his face, afraid to look at the Holy One.

The YHWH said, "I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt; I have felt their sufferings. Now I have come down to rescue them from the hand of Egypt, out of their place of suffering, and bring them to a place that is wide and fertile, a land flowing with milk and honey—the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the children of Israel has reached me, and I have watched how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now, go! I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

God answered, "I will be with you, and this is the sign by which you will know that it is I who have sent you: after you bring my people out of Egypt, you will all worship at this very mountain."

"But," Moses said, "when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is this god's name?' what am I to tell them?"

God replied, 'I AM AS I AM. This is what you will tell the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

God spoke further to Moses: "Tell the children of Israel: 'YHWH, the 'I AM,' the God of your ancestors, the God of Sarah and Abraham, of Rebecca and Isaac, of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my Name forever; this is the name you are to remember for all generations.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

MESSAGE

Laboring for Justice

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

Let There Be Peace on Earth

UMH #431

Let there be peace⁴ on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987; © 1955. Assigned to Jan-Lee Music, © renewed 1983; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed)

In a world where evil is woven into the ordinary, may we linger with the unthinkable, unbelievable, and impossible. May we find our worlds turned upside down with wisdoms strange and bewildering. May we recognize the voice of God in disruptions of daily life, calling us toward something different, something brave, something determined to fight for life - ours and everyone's.



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.

Central United Methodist Church

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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, Music Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist

Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadows, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

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)