



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867.

November 10, 2024

Twenty-Fifth 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

Charles Willis, Guest Musician

The Prelude and the Postlude are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Ecumenical Prayer Service for Election Eve/Day,
Christian and Interfaith Ministry of the Disciples of Christ)

ONE: If this election season has left you feeling hopeless and heart sick

ALL: Come, hear God's word of peace, hope and unity.

ONE: If you feel like your voice is lost in the public square

ALL: Come, and rest in the promise of God's presence.

ONE: If political views and rhetoric have damaged your relationships

ALL: Come, to the table where all are forgiven and welcomed.

ONE: If the brokenness of the world, the nation, and the city seem beyond repair

ALL: Come, to pray and act for God's compassion, peace, and justice

***OPENING HYMN**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH #519

- 1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

**Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

- 2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?**

**We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

- 3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.**

**Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee'
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921; MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921; © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co.' renewed; 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 THE PEACE

Charles Willis, Guest Musician

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Clara Zundel

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Order My Steps by Glenn Burleigh



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. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Freedom by Beyoncé Knowles, arr. by Bryan Sharpe
Imani Forbes, soloist

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 56:1-8

Thus says God: “Do what is right! Work for justice! For my liberation is about to come, and my justice is about to be revealed.”

Happy is the person who does this, and happy is the person who hold to it— who observes the Sabbath and does not profane it and keeps one’s hands from evil deeds.

Foreigners who would follow God should not say, “God will surely exclude me from this people.” Nor should the eunuch say, “And I am a dried-up tree.”

For thus says God: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbath, who choose that which pleases me and hold fast to my Covenant—

To them I will create within my Temple and its walls a memorial, and a name better than that of daughters and sons. I will give them an everlasting name that will not be excised.

And the foreigners who join themselves to me, ministering to me, loving the name of God and worshiping me— all who observe the Sabbath and do not profane it, and cling to my Covenant—

These I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Sovereign God, who gathers the diaspora of Israel: “There are others I will gather besides those already gathered:

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

ONE: The Holy One be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, in whose image we are made.

ALL: To the Creator of all, we give thanks and praise.

ONE: Divine Protector, Defender of Life, your love for this world is everlasting. As oceans burn and species go extinct, our children are made vulnerable at school and our neighbors are denied at our borders, there is so much reason to despair. But you, O God, refuse to abandon us to destruction. Christ takes on flesh. In the midst of struggle, you are glimpses of hope, encounters of freedom, tastes of what satisfies when so much leaves empty. In these incarnate moments, we sense the closeness of your Kin-dom.

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of justice and love
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder
Hosanna, among us**

ONE: You, O God, reorder the world into right-relationship.

You lift high those made low.

You humble the arrogant.

You hear the earth groaning under capitalism and consumption
and your fire burns in the hearts of your prophets.

With this hope and assurance, we turn to the witness of Jesus whose teachings reveal the way to liberation. We seek his wisdom. We practice his courage. We remember his radical commitment to love.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

**ALL: "This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."**

ONE: After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

ALL: "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant."

ONE: In remembrance of the love that saves us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**ALL: Christ was birthed among us.
Christ was executed among us.
Christ rises again among us.**

ONE: May the Spirit come and settle upon these gifts. Making this bread and this cup be for us a Holy Encounter. Reminding us that Christ is with us. That Resurrection is a promise granted to us. That the always closer than we can imagine.

May we be nourished, that we might nourish others.

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Beloved One, if we grow weary in love, may this meal live on as a reminder of what sustains us. In seeking the flourishing, you intend for us, our neighbors, and this planet, keep our hearts tender, our spirits alive, and our senses attuned to the beauty that surrounds. With gratitude for your abiding presence, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

We Shall Overcome v.1, 2 & 4

UMH # 533

**1. We shall overcome,
we shall overcome,
we shall overcome someday.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
we shall overcome someday!**

2. We'll walk hand in hand.

4. We shall live in peace.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1986; Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (adapted from Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*)

Go with anger, not as enemy but as guardian. A sacred protector in a world of so much hatred, reminding us we deserve to be protected. We breathe, we feel. And we befriend our anger as if the liberation of the world depends on it. May it be so. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

Margaret Reese, Director of Music

Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow & Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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)