



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 19, 2023

25th 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.

W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal;

TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

INTROIT

Augustus Williamson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

ONE: We will not stop loving each other.

ALL: We will not become hard-hearted.

ONE: We will not stop lighting candles, telling stories, writing poems, singing songs.

ALL: We will not stop marching, disobeying, boycotting, resisting.

ONE: We will not stop telling the stories of the dead.

ALL: We will not stop fighting for the living.

ONE: No matter the sinister untruths to sway us otherwise,

ALL: we will find our way back to one another.

ONE: We will not stop loving each other.

ALL: We are here to stay! We are here for good!

***OPENING HYMN**

Gather Us In

TFWS #2236

1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away, see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face, we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away, but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kin-dom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WORDS: Marty Haugen; MUSIC: Marty Haugen; © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

Give Thanks by Henry Smith

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

All Things Are Connected by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Jonathan Oatley, Drum

The drum that Jonathan Oatley is playing today belongs to Jo-Ann Snyder. It was given to her by longtime Central members, Jim and Ruth Persons, to honor Jo-Ann's Native American heritage. Jim sang in the choir and Ruth sewed choir robes

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 (adapted enflashed: liturgy that matters)

Holy One, bless our offerings to work of compassion, that the Ways of Life might unfurl. May it be so. Amen.

ACTS OF COMMUNITY

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CENTERING HYMN**

Together We Serve

TFWS #2175

1. Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.

4. Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

3. We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

WORDS: Daniel Charles Damon; MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon;
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ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** (Please Stand)

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

But as to specific times and eras, sisters and brothers, you don't need me to tell you anything—you know very well that the Day of God is coming like a thief in the night. Just when people are saying, "At last we have peace and security," then destruction will fall on them with the suddenness of labor pains, and there will be no escape.

But you, sisters and brothers, are not in the dark. The Day of God will not catch you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to the darkness or the night. So let's not be asleep as others are —let's be awake and sober! Those who sleep do so at night, and those who get drunk do so at night. But we belong to the day, so let us be sober. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation,

God has destined us not to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Savior Jesus Christ, who died for us so that, whether awake or sleep, we might live together with Christ. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you're already doing.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Downtown for Good

Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN**

Lead Me, Guide Me

TFWS #2214

**Lead me, guide me along the way.
for if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.**

WORDS: Doris Akers; MUSIC: Doris Akers; © 1953 Doris Akers, renewed, admin. by Unichappell Music, Inc.; CCLI

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BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

Go forth, awake to the work at hand, which is to love one another—Fiercely. Tenderly. Joyfully. Reverently. The Holy delights in our solidarity. Go in the Wake of Their Love.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Rule of Life

(18th cent. aphorsim, attr. to John Wesley)

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as every you can.



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
Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager
Yvette Meadow, 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)