



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822,
Sanctuary completed 1867.

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Building Beloved Community — Protecting the Right to Migrate

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

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

WELCOME

***OPENING PRAYER** (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Loving One, when we don't know what to make of the world, how to live what we believe, or where to turn for answers that satisfy, you join us in the struggle. You welcome our questions. You companion our grief. You encourage our righteous pursuit of a better world, even when it's not clear how to get there. May we stay open and present to you, as you abide with us. Amen.

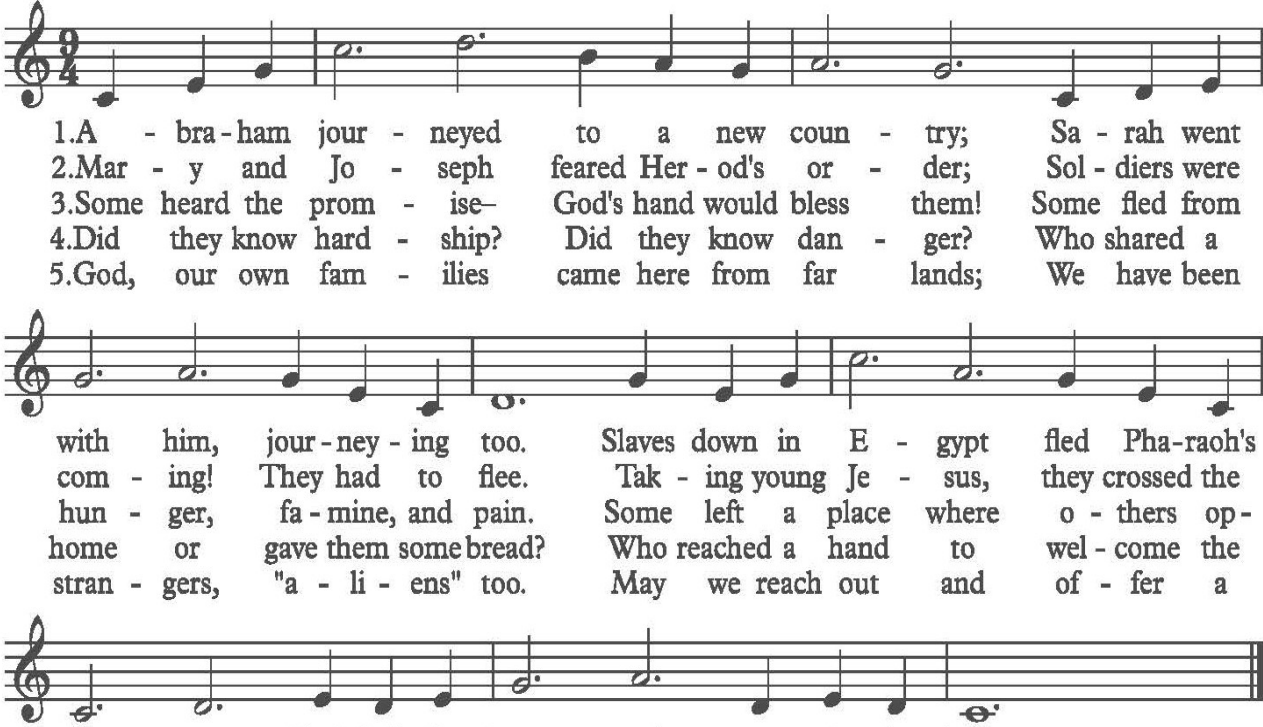
***OPENING HYMN**

Abraham Journeyed to a New Country

Abraham Journeyed to a New Country

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2010

BUNESSAN, Gaelic Melody



1. A - bra - ham jour - neyed to a new coun - try; Sa - rah went
2. Mar - y and Jo - seph feared Her - od's or - der; Sol - diers were
3. Some heard the prom - ise - God's hand would bless them! Some fled from
4. Did they know hard - ship? Did they know dan - ger? Who shared a
5. God, our own fam - ilies came here from far lands; We have been
with him, jour - ney - ing too. Slaves down in E - gypt fled Pha - raoh's
com - ing! They had to flee. Tak - ing young Je - sus, they crossed the
hun - ger, fa - mine, and pain. Some left a place where o - thers op -
home or gave them some bread? Who reached a hand to wel - come the
stran - gers, "a - li - ens" too. May we reach out and of - fer a
ar - my; Ruth left the home and peo - ple she knew.
bor - der; So was our Lord a young ref - u - gee.
pressed them; All trust - ed God and start - ed a - gain.
stran - ger? Who saw their fear and gave hope in - stead?
wel - come As we have all been wel - come by you.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

PASSING THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Reeves

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

Revolution - The Beatles

Joseph Stevenson

***SCRIPTURE**

Leviticus 19:33-34

Do not mistreat the foreigners who reside in your land. The foreigner who lives among you must be treated like one of your own., Love them as you love yourself, for you too were a foreigner in the land of Egypt. I am God.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***SCRIPTURE**

Matthew:2:13-15

After the astrologers had left, the angel of God suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command, "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him." Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they left that night for Egypt. They stayed there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what God had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I have called my Own."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

A Place Called Home

A PLACE CALLED HOME

FINLANDIA

Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957

Words and Arr. Michael Joncas



1. A place called home with com-fort for the wea-ry;
2. A place called home where ten-der-ness can flour-ish;
3. A place called home, a prom-ise for to-mor-row;
4. A place called home for ev-'ry hu-man be-ing;



a place called home of nour-ish-ment and rest;
a place called home, a ha-ven from all harm;
a place called home, a vi-sion hand-ed down;
a place called home where arms are o-pened wide;



a place called home that wel-comes in the stran-ger,
a place called home where chil-dren sleep in safe-ty,
a place called home for all God's sons and daugh-ters,
a place called home where all ex-tend the wel-come,



where one un-known be-comes a wel-come guest,
where hurts are healed, a shel-ter from the storm,
where love pre- vails and peace is ev-er found,
where none are lost, a-lone or cast a-side,



where love can find a hu-man hab-i-ta-tion;
where peace can find a hu-man hab-i-ta-tion;
where hope can find a hu-man hab-i-ta-tion;
but mem-bers of a sin-gle hu-man fam-'ly;



God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
God grant us grace to build a place called home.

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BENEDICTION

BENEDICTON (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Though the world is complicated, we do not lose heart. We hold on to each other. We stay open to Wisdom. We keep moving in the direction of Love. May the Spirit keep us alive to all the life that is still possible. God is with us. Go with courage and go in peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

I Believe by Eric Levi

Arthur Park

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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

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

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)



Central United Methodist Church
Detroit Michigan