



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 3, 2024

All Saints Sunday

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

Brandon Reeves & Augustus Williamson

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

ACTS OF PRAISE

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Seasons of the Spirit: WoodLake Publishing)

ONE: In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,

ALL: we come to be your people, O God.

ONE: Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

ALL: we come to be your people, O God.

ONE: Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,

ALL: we come to be your people, O God.

ONE: Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and

ALL: we come to be your people, O God.

ONE: May we truly become your people today. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

For All the Saints, v. 1, 4 & 6

UMH #711

**1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. (Refrain)**

(Refrain) Alleluia, Alleluia!

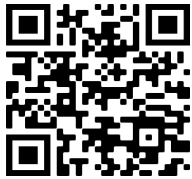
**4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine (Refrain),**

**6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams the countless host,
singing to God, our Christ, and Holy Ghost: (Refrain)**

WORDS: William W. How, 1864; MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; 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

Augustus Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Part of All Saints Day is recognizing that we are not building God's kin-dom alone. We continue the work that our ancestors started, and the generations after us will continue to build on what we are doing right now in this place. So it is with generous hearts that we bring our offerings before God, trusting that though we did not begin this work and will not see it finished, God will bring it to completion.

OFFERTORY

In Remembrance, music by Elenor Daley, words by Claire Harner



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 (Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS (Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

When we remember the saints, we do so with rose-colored glasses. We watch the highlight reels of their lives in our minds, leaving their missteps and mistakes on the cutting room floor. We want to hold on to the very best of them, but in doing so, we forget the complexities that made them human—that make us human. God wants every part of us, not just the highlight reel. So let us come before God with honesty and authenticity. Let us pray:

Holy God, we want to make you proud. We want to hide away our faults so no one can see. We want to be considered worthy of sainthood. But you know our faults anyway. You know every detail of our lives. **Forgive us for trying to pretend we're perfect.**

Holy God, we confess that we dance along the line between self-improvement and vanity. We read self-help books, listen to sages who tell us how we can achieve perfection, and try to eliminate all the mess from our lives so we can feel in control. **Forgive us for striving to be godlike when all you've ever asked of us is to be human.**

Holy God, we forget that even the saints are human. Even the saints are messy and complicated. Our heroes are flawed, our loved ones make mistakes, and our idols aren't really made of solid gold. We confess that we are quick to judge the faults of others we have placed on a pedestal, as though they aren't human too.

Forgive us for expecting too much of one another. Forgive us, we pray. Give us grace to trade the illusion of perfection for the real life you have gifted us, and hold us secure in the promise of future glory. Amen. Family of faith, hear the good news: you do not have to be perfect to be a saint. You just have to be the person God created you to be. God's grace is abundant, and it is for you. There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

ANTHEM *We Are Not Alone* by Pepper Chopin Roderick Reese, Bass

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** *John 11:17-36 (CEB)*

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you."

Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world."

After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, "The teacher is here and he's calling for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. He hadn't entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb.

When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.”

When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, “Where have you laid him?”

They replied, “Lord, come and see.”

Jesus began to cry. The Jews said, “See how much he loved him!”

Matthew 5:3-10 (CEB)

“Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

“Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.

“Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

“Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.

“Happy are people who show mercy because they will receive mercy.

“Happy are people who have pure hearts because they will see God.

“Happy are people who make peace because they will be called God’s children.

“Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Good Grief

Rev. Sari Brown

ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE

(Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
Adapted by Rev. Paul Perez)

On All Saints Day, we take time to remember and honor those who were connected to this community and have gone before us this past year. While they were with us, we saw them face to face. Their voice, their touch, their smile. And now, beyond the veil that separates life and death, this world and the next, we lift up their names ...

Mary Jane Blessett	Arthur Troy Davis
Amy Boyette	Frances Jackson
Cameron K. Davis	Maurice Gonzalez
Frank Ross	Wilbur Thomas
Florence Sampson	Mildred Thomas
Bobbi Thompson	Edgar Douglass Wiley, Jr.
Jackie Napoleon Wilson	Denise Dotson
Stella Harden	Anthony Lee Bakeley
Ruth Long	

Though we don't see them face to face any longer, these saints are not gone. Their memory lives on in us as their soul lives on in their Creator. They are now part of the great cloud of witnesses, the sacred circle of ancestors that surround and hold us. Through the unbreakable bonds of God's love, we remain connected one to another. Thanks be to God.

I invite you now to name in the sacred silence of your heart, the saints, the ancestors in your own life

Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we entrust these souls to you. As you formed them from the earth, we have returned their bodies to the earth. And as you breathed your breath of life into them, their souls have returned to you, Source of All. Hold them close, and hold us close, too. Give us your peace as we await the day we return to you in glory. In life, in death, and in life after death, we trust in you, our Creator, Christ and Holy One. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Blest Are They, v.1. 2, & 4

TFWS #2155

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kin-dom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain) Rejoice and be glad!

Blessed are you, holy are you.

Rejoice and be glad!

Yours is the kin-dom of God!

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. *(Refrain)*

4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.

Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. *(Refrain)*

WORDS: David Haas; MUSIC: David Haas; © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Children of God, as you leave this place, know that you are not alone.

You are surrounded by the company of the saints,

held by the God who made you,

and led by the Spirit who binds us all together.

Now go forth to love and serve the risen Christ. Go in peace. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bring "Them" Home (Adapted from *Les Misérables*)

Art Park

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)