



REV. PAUL PEREZ
LEAD MINISTER

**DEACONESS ANNE
HILLMAN, PH.D.**
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH,
& FAMILY MINISTRIES

MARGARET REESE
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

BRANDON REEVES
COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

REV. EDWIN ROWE
PASTOR EMERITUS

DEBRA COX
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

ANGELA BAKELEY
RECEPTIONIST

DAVE WILSON
BUILDING MAINTENANCE MANAGER

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

23 EAST ADAMS, DETROIT, MI 48226

313.965.5422

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810 - Incorporated 1922 - Sanctuary Completed 1867

October 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost World Communion Sunday & Hispanic Heritage Month

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.

www.CentralUMChurchDetroit.org

CUMCdetroit1810@gmail.com

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.

WELCOME TO CENTRAL

Central United Methodist Church is proud to be in the heart of Detroit and excited to welcome you to worship this morning. Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or you've been coming here for years, welcome!

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children are celebrated here at Central and we have diverse options for them to experience worship and learn about God.

The **Grace Space** (located in the SW corner of the sanctuary) is always available for our littlest ones to play and wiggle during worship.

Worship Boxes are available (along the south wall of the sanctuary) for our elementary-aged children and youth. Inside, are materials to help understand and participate in worship. Children and youth may choose to sit as a group in their special pews or take a worship box back to sit with their adults.

On **First Sundays** our worship service is focused on being intergenerational and all children and youth stay in the sanctuary for the whole service.

Near the beginning of the worship service there is a **Children's Message** offered at the front of the sanctuary and all children are invited to come forward as they are comfortable and sit at the base of the steps.

After the Children's Message, on 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sunday's children in Kindergarten-5th grades are dismissed for **Sunday School** on the 3rd floor. Youth are dismissed for Sunday School on 2nd and 4th Sundays, also on the 3rd floor. Children in K-5th grade should be picked up from their classroom by their adults after the worship service.

The **Nursery** is always open for use by families on the 1st floor across the lobby from the sanctuary, but it is only staffed on 1st Sundays.

ACTS OF PRAISE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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

God of liberation, when we feel crushed, overwhelmed, or despairing over evil's grip on life, remind us that we are not helpless nor are we without hope. Assure us again that the Spirit of Christ, the power of resurrection, the force of Love Eternal is alive in us. Make us your gentle, angry people unwavering in faith. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN *Oh God, by Your Mercy, We Come to This Place* (insert)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS



Please help us know you were here in worship today by scanning the QR code with your phone. There is also a place for notes and prayer requests for the pastor.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

Holy Ground, arr. Paul Ferris

*Indicates when to stand in body or in spirit

**Please silence cell phones

Hymnal Guide: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH=United Methodist Hymnal,
TWFS=The Faith We Sing

***SCRIPTURE**

Philippians 3: 4b-14

If they think they have the right to put their trust in external evidence, I have even more right! I was circumcised on the eighth day, being of the stock of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrew origins; in legal observance I was a Pharisee, and so zealous that I persecuted the church. I was above reproach when it came to justice based on the Law.

But those things I used to consider gain, I now count as loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss in light of the surpassing knowledge of my Savior Jesus Christ, for whose sake I have forfeited everything. I count everything else as garbage, so that Christ may be my wealth—indeed, that I may be found in Christ, not having any justice of my own based on observance of the Law. The justice I possess is that which comes through faith in Christ. It has its origin in God and is based on faith. All I want is to know Christ, and the power of the resurrection, and how to share in Christ's sufferings by being formed into the pattern of Jesus'—death perhaps even to arrive at the resurrection from the dead.

It's not that I have reached it yet, or have already finished my course; but I'm running the race in order to grab hold of the prize, if possible, since Christ Jesus has grabbed hold of me. Sisters and brothers, I don't think of myself as having reached the finish line. I give no thought to what lies behind, but I push on to what is ahead. My entire attention is on the finish line as I run toward the prize—the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Living in the "IF"

Rev. Paul Perez

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY & PROCESSION OF BREAD & CUP

Communion Kum Ba Yah by Bret Rhodes and Steve Kupferschmid



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.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Friends, if we are honest with ourselves and with God,
we are all seeking something.
Some of us long for a place to belong.
Others seek permission to be who we are made to be.

Some of us are hungry for connection,
hungry for justice,
or hungry for a glimpse of the Divine.
No matter what it is your soul longs for,
there is good news to be found here.

Friends, this is Christ's table.
We are the guests.
He is the host.
There is a seat here with your name on it.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to our God.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

ONE: God of the lost and the found,
surely it is right for us to give our thanks and praise;
for day after day we look for you,
and day after day we find you:
in the laughter of children,
in the sun rising over the horizon,
in the flowers of spring.

Our seeking does not go unanswered,
and for that we are grateful.

So first and foremost, we come to you in prayer to say thank you,
for when we're seeking beauty,

you give us mountains and freckles, green eyes and brown eyes.

When we're looking for reason to hope,

you give us rainbows after the storm, and candles flickering in the window.

When we're seeking peace,

you give us three part harmony and the sound of the rain.

And when we're seeking justice,

your life reminds us that *everyone* is welcome at your Table, and none shall be
turned away.

For all these reminders we are deeply grateful.

And yet, gracious God, our seeking does not stop.

For even though your fingerprints are all over this world,
we are not yet at your promised day.

So in addition to our gratitude, we also pray today for conviction.

Do not let us get comfortable with half-hearted seeking.

Do not let us grow numb to the suffering of this world.

Make us relentless in our pursuit of justice—

relentless in our consoling of the grieving,

in our welcoming of the stranger,

and in the feeding of the hungry.

Like a dog with a scent,

may we walk toward your kingdom,

never giving up, never wandering off the path.

And as we see and as we seek, we pray together —

ALL: pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread and cup.

**May this meal be the nourishment we need to continue seeking you in
the world.**

ONE: Until your promised day, we will pray.

Until your promised day, we will seek, saying:

**ALL: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed
against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of manna and mustard seeds,
we came to this Table hungry
and we leave feeling full—
full of hope,
full of promise,
full of what could be.

For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table,
but we caught a glimpse of the way things could be:
in a meal where all are welcomed and all are fed.
Is there anything holier than that?
So thank you for nourishing our curiosity
alongside our spirit and our conviction.

May we always seek you the way you seek after us.
With grateful hearts we pray, amen

**1. Love, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly. (Refrain)**

(Refrain) **O Love, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

**2. You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor. (Refrain)**

**3. You need my hands, full of caring
through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving. (Refrain)**

**4. You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me. (Refrain)**

History of the Hymn:

"*Tú Has Venido a la Orilla* is a beloved Spanish language hymn that has been translated into over 80 languages. It was composed by Monseñor Cesáreo Gabaráin (1936-1991), one of the best-known composers of Spanish liturgical music following the reforms of the Roman Catholic Church's Second Vatican Council (1962-65). He was inspired by the feelings and actions of the humble people he met during his ministry."

WORDS: Cesareo Gabarain; trans. by Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood, and Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1987; MUSIC: Cesareo Gabarain; harm. by Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987; © 1979 Ediciones Paulinas; trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1987 Skinner Chávez-Melo; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Go forth inspired by the expansive imagination of the Creating One, nourished by the ordinary grace of the Sustaining One, and accompanied by the enduring solidarity of the Redeeming One

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

THIS SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED UNDER CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425

Your Greeters today are: Susan Francis & Susan Gallagher

Your Ushers today are: Susan Francis, Susan Gallagher & Roland Amarteifio

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INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

Central UMC is committed to using inclusive language for God and humanity. You will find that some words have been changed in hymns or familiar prayers in order to be more inclusive.

LIVESTREAM INFORMATION

This worship service is livestreamed on Facebook and posted to Youtube each week. Those leading worship up on the chancel and those sitting in the center pews and the first 3 pews of the South section will be recorded by the cameras. If you would rather not have your image shown on the livestream, please sit in the side pews and allow others to come to you for passing of the peace. The children's Grace Space will always be out of view from the cameras.

To submit a request to take down a video containing your image please use this form:



www.CentralUMChurchDetroit.org
CUMCdetroit1810@gmail.com



CENTRAL EVENTS CALENDAR

TODAY:

Sunday, October 4th,
First Sunday Fellowship
following Worship Service.

Wednesday, October 7th,
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 8th,
UWF Reading Book Club,
3rd floor, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 11th,
Going Deeper Sermon
Discussion following
Worship Service.

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September 27, 2026

Sunday School!

The K-5th grade Sunday School class meets on 2-5th Sundays and the Youth class will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Both classes take place during worship, after the Children's Message. Classrooms are on the 3rd floor, and parents should pick up their K-5th grade students after worship.

NURTURING & CIRCLE OF CARE

These persons are in assisted living, confined to their homes or institution, are ill, or in need of special prayers.

Ruth Biersdorf
Sue Wabeke

Faith Carpenter
Nadine Feinberg

Dia Pearce

Naomi Mason

Charles & Josefina Ford

UWF Reading Group
Currently Reading: *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray
Next Meeting: Thursday, October 8
6-7:30pm

THIRD THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP

TRIVIA NIGHT

ON OCT 15TH 7-9PM

SNACKS & DRINKS PROVIDED

4TH FLOOR FELLOWSHIP HALL

INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH WORSHIP FLOWERS OR COMMUNION?

Contact Janet Moody or Amy Brown.

Help is needed with setup on Sunday mornings, choosing arrangements, or picking up large orders from Eastern Market.



Faith Book Club

Currently Reading: *A Fortune of Sand* by Ruta Sepetys



Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 28
Noon-2pm

October Birthdays		
4th Ruth Biersdorf	10th Zahatia Sorho	19th Rev Paul Perez
5th Karai Jackson	11th Charles Ford	23rd Annabella Adams
6th Abraham Ellison	12th Arthur Park	23rd Elin Chambers
7th Sylvia Oatley	16th John McDougall	25th June Railkar
8th Dylan Adams		

A Message from Maggie Reese, Director of Music

Want to sing, contribute to the service in a meaningful way and have a ton of fun? Join the choir! Every year we've added new members, and we welcome anyone who enjoys singing and would like to explore being a part of this amazing group. You don't have to read music. I rehearse carefully and thoroughly so that even inexperienced singers will feel successful. Please let me know if you might want to explore new adventure!

Maggie, margaret@centralumchurchdetroit.org

OCT 18

WORSHIP LOCATION CHANGE

DUE TO THE DETROIT FREE PRESS MARATHON, WORSHIP WILL BE AT AN OFF-SITE LOCATION. EXACT LOCATION IS STILL TO BE DETERMINED.

SIGN UP FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS AROUND SANCTUARY RENNOVATIONS:



Oct 25 – after worship in sanctuary
Oct 29 – 1pm in sanctuary
Nov 1 – after worship in sanctuary
Nov 2 – 6:30pm on Zoom