



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

August 20, 2023

128th 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: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing; W&S = Worship & Song

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson & August Williamson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (enfleshed)

ONE: Listen for the voice of the Beloved One: Whispering soft words of comfort.

ALL: Shouting in defiance of silences that suppress.

ONE: Singing songs of justice.

ALL: Declaring truths that transform from within.

ONE: The Holy has not abandoned us.

ALL: Divine Wisdom surrounds us.

ONE: God will bless the fruit of the faithful and bring hope to all who yearn for freedom.

ALL: Let every weary and tattered heart be encouraged,

ONE: and the joy of the despairing be renewed.

*OPENING HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

UMH #57

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the praise, the glories of my God and Kin, the triumphs of God's grace!

7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven; anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven,

3. Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

MUSIC: Charles Wesley, 1739; MUSIC: Carl G. Glaser, arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jim Bull

ANTHEM

Panis Angelicus by Cesar Franck

Arthur Park

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go
words by George Matheson and Music by Albert L. Peace

Arthur Park

***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 from enflashed)

Divine Companion, we long for a faith that is deep and rich and humble enough to hold the struggles of our time. Bless our resources to the creative and bold labors of unlearning rigid ideas of who you are. Of who you call us to be. Of what's possible in the world and what is good and just. We are open to being surprised. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*CENTERING HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

UMH #560

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.
4. God, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; God, free us, make us one!

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** (Please Stand) *Matthew 15: 10-28*

Jesus called the crowd together and said to them, “Hear this and understand: it’s not what enters your mouth that defiles you—it’s what comes out of your mouth that defiles you.”

Then the disciples approached him and said, “Do you realize that the Pharisees were offended by what you said?”

Jesus replied, “Every plant that my Abba God in heaven has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Ignore them—they are blind people leading other blind people. And when the blind lead the blind, they all will fall into a ditch.”

Then Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.”

Jesus replied, “Do you still not understand? Don’t you realize that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and eventually find its way into the sewer and is gone? But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart. This is what makes a person ‘unclean’. For from the heart comes all sorts of evil intentions—murder, sexual infidelity, promiscuity, stealing, lying, even foul language.

These things make a person unclean—not eating with unwashed hands!”

Jesus left there and departed for the district of Tyre and Sidon. It happened that a Canaanite woman living in that area came and cried out to Jesus, “Heir to the House of David, have pity on me! My daughter is horribly demon-possessed.”

Jesus gave her no word of response. The disciples came up and repeatedly said to him, “Please get rid of her! She keeps calling after us.”

Finally Jesus turned to the woman and said, “My mission is only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.”

She then prostrated herself before him with the plea “Help me, Rabbi!”

He answered, “But it isn’t right to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

“True, Rabbi,” she replied, “but even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.”

Jesus then said in reply, “Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass.” At that very moment her daughter was healed.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Struggling for a Win/Win

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

This is the Day of New Beginnings

UMH #383

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.

4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

3. Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987; MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984; Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (enfleshed)

Rev. Paul Perez

Faithful ones, the grace of God goes with us into the messiness of life, extending to us peace in the midst of what is unfinished, untidy, unclear, or unresolved. With steadfast patience, let us go from here encouraged in the labors of love, pressing on through complexities, and staying present to the troubles that call for our attention - within us, between us, and around us. Blessed be our journeys of healing and transformation. Amen

POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson



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

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent & Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadows, 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)