



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

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost Kick Off 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.

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 worshipping 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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026)

ONE: In times of busyness and stress when we feel surrounded by challenges on all sides

ALL: We gather to learn that when we journey together, God's grace provides more than enough.

ONE: In times of joy and rest when we feel the goodness of God's blessing and abundance deep in our bones...

ALL: We gather to learn that when we journey together, God's grace provides more than enough.

ONE: In times of conflict and distress when we feel just how hard it is to live in unity together...

ALL: We gather to learn that when we journey together, God's grace provides more than enough.

ONE: Come, let us thank God who empowers us to step into uncharted territory...

ALL: As we gather to learn that when we journey together, God's grace provides more than enough.

*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

***OPENING HYMN**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

TFWS #2238

**1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wondering in their separate ways? (Refrain)**

(Refrain) **God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and
evermore.**

**2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? (Refrain)**

**3. As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams. (Refrain)**

**5. Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
may our blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again, (Refrain)**

WORDS: Julian B. Rush; MUSIC: Julian B. Rush; © 1994 Julian B. Rush; CCLI 2815228

*History of the Hymn: The hymn "In the Midst of New Dimensions" was composed by Rev. Julian Rush,
one of the first openly gay clergy people in the United Methodist Church.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS



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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

BLESSING FOR STUDENTS & EDUCATORS

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Spirituals Medley, arr. Jacqueline Hairston

Rod Reese, solo



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

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

Roll Down Justice; Mark A. Miller

Megan Mueller, solo

*SCRIPTURE

Exodus 16:2-15

Anton Hofmann

They began to complain against Moses and Aaron there in the wilderness. The people of Israel said to them, “If only we had died by GOD’s hand in Egypt, when we sat next to pots of meat and ate our bread till we were filled! But now you have brought the whole community out into this wilderness to die of hunger!”

Then GOD said to Moses, “Look, I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people will go out and gather a day’s portion every day, so that I can test them to see if they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they brought in, it will be twice as much as the daily gathering.”

So Moses and Aaron said to the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was GOD who brought you up out of Egypt, and in the morning you will witness the glory of God, the one to whom you directed your complaints - for who are we, that you should complain to us?”

Moses continued, “It is GOD who will give you meat in the evening for your meal, and all the bread you want in the morning, because GOD has heard your complaints. For it is not to us that you are complaining - who are we? - but to GOD.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the whole Israelite community, ‘Present yourselves before GOD, who has heard your complaints.’”

As Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of GOD appearing in the form of a cloud. Then GOD spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the people of Israel. Say this to them: ‘In the evening you will eat meat, and in the morning, you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I, GOD, am your God.’”

So it came about that in the evening quail flew in and all around the camp. And in the morning, there was a layer of dew all around the camp; when the layer of dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were flakes of something: delicate, powdery, fine as frost.

When the people saw this, the people of Israel said to each other, “What is it?” - not knowing what it was. But Moses told them, “This is the bread GOD has given you to eat.”
ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Uncharted Territory

Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN** *All of Life is Filled with Wonder* sung to the tune of UMH# 400

All of life is filled with wonder, so we thank you, God of love —
For the crash of evening thunder, clearing clouds, then stars above;
For the night that turns to glowing as we feel the morning mist,
God, we praise and thank you, knowing every day we're truly blessed.

For the joy of daily waking, for the gift of each new day,
For the smell of fresh bread baking, for the sound of children's play,
For the ways we seek to serve you as we work and volunteer,
God we humbly praise and thank you for your presence with us here.

For your love in times of trouble, for your peace when things are tough,
For your help when hardships double, for your grace that is enough,
For a stranger's gentle kindness, for a doctor's healing skill —
God, we thank you that you bless us, and you bless your world as well.

For your presence in our neighbors, for your love that claims and frees.
For our talents and our labors, for our faith communities.
For your daily great surprises — poor ones lifted, lost ones found —
God, we thank you! Hope still rises, as your gifts of grace abound.

WORDS: Robert Robinson; MUSIC: *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

History of the Hymn: "All of Life is Filled with Wonder" (interfaith version) is a Thanksgiving hymn for people of many religious faiths.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTON

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

THIS SERVICE IS LIVE-STREAMED UNDER CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425

Your Greeters today are: Helen Monroe Elin Chambers

Your Ushers today are: Helen Monroe Elin Chambers Mary Park

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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:



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CENTRAL EVENTS CALENDAR

TODAY: Charge Conference on Zoom, 3:00 p.m.

Kick Off Sunday Party on the 2nd floor following Worship Service

Youth Group will be meeting today at 4:00 p.m.

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

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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 Peach

Naomi Mason

Charles & Josefina Ford

Faith Book Club

Currently Reading: *Kin* by Tayari Jones

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 30
Noon-2pm

UWF Reading Group

Currently Reading: *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 8
6-7:30pm

For Sunday, October 4th

Sign up to bring sandwich supplies

On Sunday, October 4th our First Sunday Fellowship activity will be making sandwiches for Noah at Central. Please sign up to bring sandwich supplies and then stick around after worship to assemble sandwiches.

Contact Deaconess Anne with any questions:



anneh@centralumchurchdetroit.org

Zoom Church Conference link, Sun. Sept. 20th @ 3pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://michiganumc.zoom.us/j/81750875081?pwd=Sppro1LIAEAiqf26JRcpcWINLiL4LY.1>

Meeting ID: 817 5087 5081

Passcode: 761179

September Birthdays		
3rd Hannah L. Kang	18th Mittie Lawrence	21st Roland Amarteifio
7th Karen Tyler Ruiz	18th Josefina Ford	23rd Roderick Reese
10th Susan Tyler Davis	19th Byron Washington	24th Kirk Bennett
11th Ava Biernat	19th Andrew Kelley	24th Mattalyn Wiley
11th Aisha Ruiz	19th Rebecca Martin	29th Brandon Gleaton
12th Erin Rhoads	20th Rebecca Wilson	
12th Jeffrey Ellison	20th Inez Torbert	

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