



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

November 16, 2025

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Native American Heritage 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

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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** (Rev. Delana Taylor, Local Pastor from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of The United Methodist Church)

ONE: Creator God, as you have gathered us in generations past, lead and guide us this day

ALL: As we seek your wisdom and your vision for our people.

ONE: Give us eyes to see one another as you see us, People of one God,

ALL: Connected to one another and to you

ONE: Give us ears to hear the wisdom of our elders

ALL: And the laughter of our children.

ONE: Give us words of blessing and healing for a hurting world.

ALL: Open our hearts and lead us on the path of peace.

ONE: We stand together on sacred ground with grateful hearts,

ALL: Knowing that the One who promises is faithful and true.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

38. We Walk in Love

updated 2/13/23

Words by Deanna Witkowski and Lemuel Colon

Music by Deanna Witkowski

New York, NY | 2017

Gospel 3 feel (♩ = 104)

C7sus F Gm/F F Gm7

1. We walk in love u - nit - ed in pur - pose. We
2. We cry for peace and rights for all peo - ple. We
3. We dream a world of jus - tice and kind - ness. We

A7 Dm7 G7sus G7 C7sus

join our hands and lift up one voice. We
wel - come friends from far - and near. We
build a bridge cre - at - ing new paths. We

Bm7(b5) Bbm6 F/C F

speak the truth with strength and com - pas - sion re -
fight for those whose voic - es are si - lenced, re -
march with joy as all walk to - geth - er. Em -

Gm F/A Gm/Bb F/C C7sus C7 F

sound - ing with hope, with cour - age and joy.
sist - ing in faith un - til all are free.
brac - ing each one, we bold - ly stand.

Performance Suggestion:

- Step on beat 1, Clap beats 2 & 3.

Deanna writes: "After writing the tune, I looked at 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' as a starting point in creating a list of positive key words to include in the lyrics."

Editor's note: Optional piano part available at deannawitkowski.com.

Always include songwriter's name when posting recordings. Link to PDF: <https://songs.justicechoir.org/WeWalk>

creative commons



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JUSTICECHOIR.ORG

Justice Choir Songbook, Volume 1

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 & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Huron Drum & Flute Circle



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

SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHING LITANY

(Adapted from Earth Teach Me, a Ute prayer and Seven Weeks for Seven Sacred Teachings, The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Circle for Reconciliation and Justice (<https://elcic.ca>))

Earth teach me bravery... to face life with courage, make positive choices and defend what is right for ourselves, our families, and our communities.

Earth teach me honesty... living together with integrity and acceptance of all who share this land.

Earth teach me humility... which teaches us to live selflessly and know we are a sacred part of creation.

Earth teach me love...to know that when we can love ourselves truly we are at peace with ourselves, the balance of life, and also with the creator.

Earth teach me respect...to honor all creation and to treat all creation as we would like to be treated.

Earth teach me truth...asking for help in showing honor and sincerity to all who walk with us on this earth.

Earth teach me wisdom... to cherish knowledge and use our gifts wisely, recognizing our differences in kind and respectful ways.

The Seven Grandfather teachings are a set of Anishinaabe guiding principles passed down from generation to generation to guide the Anishinaabe in living a good life in peace and without conflict. (<https://www.7generations.org/seven-grandfather-teachings>)

ANTHEM

Huron Drum & Flute Circle

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 1:1-17

First Nations Version

Here is the record of the ancestry of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) the Chosen One, a descendant of Much Loved One (David) and of Father of Many Nations (Abraham). From Father of Many Nations (Abraham) to Much Loved One (David), his ancestors were:

Father of Many Nations (Abraham), He Made Us Laugh (Isaac), Heel Grabber (Jacob), Give Him Praise (Judah), and his brothers, He Breaks Through (Perez) and his brother First Light (Zerah) whose mother was **Fruit of Palm Tree (Tamar)** ... *[several more ancestors]* ... Moves with Strength (Boaz), whose mother was **Boastful Woman (Rahab)**, He Works Hard (Obed), whose mother was **Beautiful Friend (Ruth)**, Original Man (Jesse), who was father of the great chief Much Loved One (David).

From Much Loved One (David) to the removal of to Village of Confusion (Babylon), the ancestors of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) were: Much Loved One (David), Stands in Peace (Solomon), whose mother, **Daughter of Seven (Bathsheeba)**, was the wife of Fire from Creator (Uriah) ... *[several more ancestors]* ...

From the removal to Village of Confusion (Babylon) to the birth of Creator Sets Free (Jesus), his ancestors were:

Chosen by Creator (Jeconiah), Ask Creator (Shealtiel), Born in Village of Confusion (Zerubbabel) ... *[several more ancestors]* ... Heel Grabber (Jacob), and He Gives Sons (Joseph), who was the husband of **Bitter Tears (Mary)**, who gave birth to Creator Sets Free (Jesus), who is the Chosen One.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Seven Generations

Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

God of Generations

God of generations, we are all your children;
To your church we bring our gifts, our worship and our song.
Young and old we follow, hand in hand together:
In your great love, together we are strong.

Christ, you welcomed children, called us to be like them,
And received a boy's small gift to feed a hungry crowd.
In our church's children, may we see you working:
More than "our future"! They are faithful now.

Spirit, freely moving, giving youth a vision,
By your grace young Jeremiah heard your loving call;
Mary was a young one when she learned her mission:
Through faithful youth, you offer truth to all.

Abraham and Sarah trusted in your promise:
Age was no condition when you gave them work to do.
Old and young we follow, hand in hand together;
At every age, Lord, we belong to you.

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Included in Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship (Geneva Press, 2000); CCLI2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH *(Cherokee Prayer Blessing)*

May the Warm Winds of Heaven
Blow softly upon your house.
May the Great Spirit
Bless all who enter there.
May your Moccasins
Make happy tracks
in many snows,
and may the Rainbow
Always touch your shoulder.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Prayer for Peace by David Haas,
based on a Navaho Indian prayer

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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 Maintenance 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)