



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822,
Sanctuary completed 1867

July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Building Beloved Community

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

ACTS OF PRAISE

PRELUDE

Zosette Guir

WELCOME

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

Spirit of compassion, be near to our hearts. We long to build community that is rich in love and endures through conflict and the slog of the ordinary. Guide us, O God, in learning to bear with one another and in practicing patience with ourselves. Through Christ, may it be so among us. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

God, Whose Love Is Always Stronger
**God, whose love is always stronger
Than our weakness, pride and fear,
In your world, we pray and wonder
How to be more faithful here.
Hate too often grows inside us;
Fear rules what the nations do.
So we pray, when wars divide us:
Give us love, God! Make us new!**

**Love is patient, kind and caring,
Never arrogant or rude,
Never boastful, all things bearing;
Love rejoices in the truth.
When we're caught up in believing
War will make the terror cease,
Show us Jesus' way of living;
May our strength be in your peace.**

**May our faith in you be nourished;
May your churches hear your call.
May our lives be filled with courage
As we speak your love for all.
Now emboldened by your Spirit
Who has given us new birth,
Give us love, that we may share it
Till your love renews the earth!**

Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White;
harmony © 2017 Christopher Gage ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Clara Zundel

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

If by Mark Patterson; words by Emily Dickinson

Laura Burger

*SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3: 8-9, 12, 14

Angela Bakeley

But now you must rid yourselves of them all: anger, rage, malice, slander and abusive language. Stop lying to one another.

Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Above all else, put on love which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Building Beloved Community

Rev. Paul Perez

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Brandon Reeves



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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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(adapted from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: The Holy One be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Open your hearts to the One who is Love

ALL: We open our hearts to you, O God

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together

ALL: To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give thanks and praise

ONE: God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.

Therefore, we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you,

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of justice and love
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder
Hosanna, among us**

ONE: Blessed are you and blessed is your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbors, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled.

And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death. On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

**ALL: “This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

ONE: After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

ALL: “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

ONE: In remembrance of all you have done to save us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**ALL: Christ was born among us.
Christ died among us.
Christ rises again among us.**

ONE: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection. Aliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated. In collective longing for a taste of your Kin-dom on earth, we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

**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 OF THE BREAD & CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

Zosette Guir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so.

***CLOSING HYMN**

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

TFWS #2155

- 1. Blest are they, the poor in spirt; 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

BENEDICTION (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

God's beloveds, holy and chosen, as we go, may we do so in the spirit of the One who does not make us choose: love or justice, compassion or truth, self or other. May we go from here, trusting we can grow in every direction. Be patient with yourselves, be tender to others, and seek passionately what is just. The peace of Christ goes with us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

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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 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)