



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

October 29, 2023

22nd 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. W&S=Worship & Song Hymnal Guide: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE & INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: As we gather to worship today, turn to a neighbor and say to each other, "Welcome! I am glad you are here!"

ALL: Welcome! I am glad you are here!

ONE: Now, turn to another neighbor and say to each other, "You are loved by God and by me!"

ALL: You are loved by God and by me!

ONE: Beloved children of God, how can we love each other today?

ALL: By meeting and listening and caring for one another face-to-face.

ONE: Beloved children of God, how can we love God today?

ALL: By practicing our love for one another and God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

ONE: Let us worship God together today!

ALL: We come to worship God by living our love for God and neighbor face-to-face.

Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2023.)

***OPENING HYMN**

A Place at the Table

W&S #3149

1. For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.
(Refrain)

3. For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.
(Refrain)

(Refrain) **And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace, yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!**

5. For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.
(Refrain)

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray; MUSIC: Lori True; Words © 1998 Hope Publishing Company; music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

Deep River, Arr. by H.T. Burleigh

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Take my Life and Let it be Laura Burger
Consecrated. Music by Mark Hayes and Words by Frances R. Havergal



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. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of unimaginable love, you have given us so much and asked so little. In the words of Jesus, we have been commanded to love you with our whole being, love our neighbors, and love ourselves. For that simple price, you have given us everything and promised to love us and not desert us. It is a covenant more generous than anyone could imagine, and yet how often we fail to keep the bargain. We love you when it is convenient and will not embarrass us before others. We pick and choose which neighbors we love. As we pick and choose when we will love ourselves. As we dedicate our gifts this morning to bringing acts of love, may we also resolve to better keep our side of your covenant of love. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CENTERING HYMN** *What Does the Lord [Our God] Require of You* TFWS #2174

Part 1: What does our God require of you? What does our God require of you?

Part 3: To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.

Part 2: Justice, Kindness, walk humbly with your God.

WORDS: Jim Strathdee; MUSIC: Jim Strathdee; © 1986 Desert Flower Music; CCLI 2815228

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE** (Please Stand)

Matthew 22:34-46

Inclusive Bible

“When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: ‘Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?’

Jesus answered: ‘You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

‘That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law is based – and the Prophets as well.’

While the Pharisees were gathered around him, Jesus asked them this question: ‘What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is the Messiah?’

They said, ‘David’s.’

Then Jesus asked, ‘Then how is it that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls the Messiah ‘Sovereign’? For he says, ‘The Most High said to my Sovereign, ‘Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your foot.’ If David calls the Messiah ‘Sovereign’, how can the Messiah be a descendant of David?’

No one could reply, and from that day on no one dared ask him any more questions.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *What Does Love Really Look Like?*

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D.

***CLOSING HYMN**

The Gift of Love

UMH #408

**1. Though I may speak with bravest
fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are
vain, as sounding brass, and
hopeless gain.**

**3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts
control, our spirits long to be made
whole. Let inward love guide every
deed; by this we worship and are
freed.**

**2. Though I may give all I possess, and
striving so my love profess, but not
be given by love within, the profit
soon turns strangely thin.**

WORDS: Hal Hopson, 1972; MUSIC: Trad. English melody;
adapt. by Hal Hopson, 1972; © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.; CCLI
2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION

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
23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226 ~ 313.965.5422

www.centralumchurchdetroit.org / cumcdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org

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

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow & Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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)