



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

June 23, 2024

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost - Pride Month

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

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

The introit are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

ONE: Compassionate God, quiet our inner voices of judgment

ALL: so we might hear your ever-present tune of our belovedness.

ONE: Help us set aside, if even for a moment, our could-of, should-of, would-of's.

ALL: Breathe into this sacred space of togetherness.

ONE: Thank you, Creative God, for in your fluidity

ALL: you meet us where we are.

***OPENING HYMN**

Love Astounding

Love Astounding

Jeannette M. Lindholm

HOLY MANNA
Wiliam Moorc, Columbian Harmony 1825

1. Love a - stound - ing, Love con - found - ing lim - its fear - ful minds im - pose.
2. Love re - ceiv - ing Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,

Love re - new - ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - ery heart un - til it knows
faith re - gain - ing, hope pro - claim - ing; Love has taught us, we be - long

Love's trans - form - ing, heal - ing good - ness, Love's a - bid - ing gen - tle grace,
safe with - in Love's ten - der keep - ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent cal.

Love's en - dur - ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing strong em - brace.
Love de - fend - ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en - fold - ing all.

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PASSING THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INTRODUCTION OF SUMMER INTERN

Dean Falleti & Ian Matchett

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

True Colors by Cyndi Lauper

Laura Burger

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 (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Visionary One, these offerings signify our dedication to your story of freedom. Forgive us for when our dreams are too stingy, or when our capacity for spaciousness is stifled by old stories. May we have the wisdom and clarity to remove obstacles blocking the flow of justice. May we heal one another into your expansive ways. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

As Christ's coworkers we beg you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For God says through Isaiah, "At the acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you." Now is the acceptable time! Now is the day of salvation!

We are putting no obstacles in anyone's way, for we don't want our ministry to be blamed. Instead in all that we do we try to present ourselves as ministers of God, acting with patient endurance amid trials, difficulties, distresses, beatings, imprisonments and riots, in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger. We conduct ourselves with innocence, knowledge, patience and kindness in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, with the message of truth and the power of God, wielding the weapons of justice with both right hand and left— regardless of whether we are honored or dishonored, spoken of favorably or unfavorably.

We are called impostors, yet we are truthful; we are called unknowns, yet we are famous; we are said to be dying, yet we are alive; punished, but not put to death; sorrowful, though we are always rejoicing; poor, yet we enrich many. We seem to have nothing, yet we possess everything!

We have spoken frankly to you, Corinthians; we've opened our hearts wide to you. We're not holding anything back; you, on the other hand, are holding back your affection from us. It would be a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—if you'd open your hearts as widely to us as we do to you.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Stumbling Blocks

Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN**

As Colors in the Sky

12b

As Colors in the Sky

$\text{♩} = 60$

Unison

E♭ Eb/D Cm Cm/B♭

1 As col - ors in the sky, we move and blend in love, a
2 Our bod - ies may not match the way we feel in - side, but
3 Cre - at - ing God, you dance, you move as one in three. Come

A♭ Eb/G Fm7 B♭sus4 B♭

touch of this, a mix, a match, as gifts from heaven a - bove. Our
we can change, trans - form, and find your love still deep and wide. So
show us, by your rain - bow light, our shared hu - man - i - ty. The

E♭ Eb/D Cm Cm/B♭

gen - ders may seem fixed, but ev - en these may change as
if we break the mold trad - i - tions put in place, let
heav - ens and the earth are made new ev - ery day, help

A♭ Gm7 Cm7 Fm B♭7 E♭

we find beau - ty in - be - tween that may at first seem strange.
us with cour - age live our lives with kind - ness, love, and grace.
us dis - cov - er by your grace, new truth, new life, new ways.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon
Words and Music © 2016 Hope Publishing Company

COLORS IN THE SKY
S.M.D.

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (adapted from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)
Where lies and falsehoods shape and distort imagination, God provides stepping stones of liberation. May we see ourselves for the wildflowers we are: beautiful, singular, collective, beloved. As we go, may the Breath of Life bless our undoing and our reclaiming that we may flourish into a community where Holy Belonging is accessible to all.

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves and Keith Livermore

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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, Choral Accompanist
Debra Cox, Office Administrator
Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager
Yvette Meadow, 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)