



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

September 1, 2019

Labor 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: UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing; SOZ = Songs of Zion

INTROIT

He Never Sleeps arr. A. Crouch

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We enter this sanctuary for kindness and comfort.

ALL: May rough-worn hands and aching backs be healed.

ONE: We enter this sanctuary of hope for equality.

ALL: May those who labor to survive, live to know justice.

ONE: We enter this sanctuary of love and vocation.

ALL: May our bonds of solidarity be strengthened.

ONE: We enter this meeting house of courage and friendship.

ALL: May we move hand-in-hand toward freedom.

*OPENING HYMN

O For a World

(sung to the tune of O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing UMH 57)

1. O for a world where everyone respects each other's way, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

2. O For a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

3. We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

5. O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

RESPONSIVE READING (written by Rev. Allison Farnum)

ONE: Blessed are the change-makers for faith in the face of apathy.

ALL: Blessed are the change-makers who name oppression and inequality.

ONE: Blessed are the change-makers for powerful courage and boldness.

ALL: Blessed are the change-makers for nonviolence and compassion.

ONE: Blessed are the change-makers knowing risk and sometimes failure.

ALL: Blessed are the change-makers for trying again and again in love.

ONE: Blessed are the change-makers for they are among you.

ALL: Blessed are the change-makers for you are among them.

ONE: Blessed are the change-makers! Rejoice and be glad!

ALL: Amen!

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Laura Burger

***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

*CENTERING HYMN

Together We Serve

TFWS #2175

1. Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.
2. We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.

3. We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.
4. Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

“The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard.

About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, and said to them, ‘You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.’ At that they left.

Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’

‘No one has hired us,’ they replied.

The owner said, ‘You go to my vineyard, too.’

When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, ‘Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.’ When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day’s pay, and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet they all received the same daily wage.

Thereupon they complained to the owner, ‘This last group did only an hour’s work, but you’ve put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.’

‘My friends,’ said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, ‘I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn’t you? Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you. I’m free to do as I please with my money, aren’t I? or are you envious because I am generous?’

Thus the last will be first and the first will be last.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SONG

Bobbi Thompson

MESSAGE

Pay More, Get Less

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (Written by Michelle L. Torigian)

ONE: Creator of the harvest – we lift our voices in praise!

ALL: Creator of the table – in you we find our peace.

ONE: In gratitude we gather to share this meal.

ALL: With thanksgiving, we gather to share our love for neighbor.

ONE: As the sun sets earlier, the days become cooler, and the crops near harvest, we celebrate the plentitude of fruits available to us. We acknowledge the ways that we can use our gifts to care for our siblings in need. We extend this table through the work of our hands and the missions of this church.

As we celebrate this sacrament, may we remember the laborers in the fields:

The harvesters of the wheat and grapes,

The transporters of their yields.

Those who transform wheat into bread and grapes into juice.

Bless their hands and feet as they labor at farms and gardens, in trucks and warehouses. We give thanks for the ones who prepare the table here today. May their gifts of preparation and hospitality inspire us to extend hospitality to the strangers among us.

After laboring on the streets of Jerusalem –

Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God –

Jesus clutched bread in his hands. He blessed the food, gave thanks, and heartfully expressed to his friends that this was the bread of life. “As you eat this bread, remember me.”

After supper, Jesus grasped the cup filled with the gifts of the vine. In his blessing, he reminded them “whenever you drink of this cup, remember me:

Spirit of wisdom and of wonder, wind around these elements today. May they stir us from stagnation into actively loving God, our neighbors, and ourselves. May our participation at this table transform us into the people God is calling us to be.

ALL: With gratitude, we gather at this table. As we take a piece of bread, let us experience the love of God seen in Jesus the Christ. As we drink the cup, let us remember the grace that pours from God. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

TFWS #2153

**1. I'm gonna live so God can use me,
anywhere, God, anytime! I'm gonna
live so God can use me, anywhere,
God, anytime!**

3. Pray

4. Sing

WORDS: African American spiritual, MUSIC: African American spiritual;
arr. by Wendell Whalum, Arr. © Estate of Wendell Whalum, CCLI 2815228

2. Work

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Lord Bless You, tune by Peter C. Lutkin

Bobbi Thompson

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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

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Nina Scott, Ensemble Director, Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

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Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists