



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

September 8, 2019

Rally Sunday/13th 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.

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

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Alexandra Ward

INTROIT

Bobbi Thompson

ACTS OF PRAISE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Written by Rev. Michael S. Mulberry)

ONE: We are a congregation of religious literacy and public liturgy: We believe in accurate information and informed discussion –

ALL: **We soften edges, build relationships and make God's Beloved Community possible. And we develop sound logic, seek out verifiable experience, and reference reputable sources. We strengthen ties cross-culturally, ecumenically, and in interfaith settings.**

ONE: We teach our children that new questions are welcomed. We invite our young people to challenge historic faith and popular convention.

ALL: **While our senior members model a compassionate and complex tradition. Courageously, they have been willing to discuss controversial issues related to religion. We pray that their example and care will teach a new generation how to speak truth to power.**

ONE: So today we celebrate the legacy and ongoing mission of our church. We establish safe spaces to express doubts and raise questions. We learn ourselves, confront fears, draw a bigger picture of our community.

ALL: **So that other faiths and practices might thrive, learn and teach. And we all might grow. We are a people of religious literacy and public liturgy. We rally to express our joy in this identity. May we not be conformed by the patterns of this world but transformed by the renewal of our minds! Amen!**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

This is a Day of New Beginnings

UMH #383

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

3. Then let us with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappoint, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

2. For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978, alt. 1987, MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984, Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.
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ACTS OF SHARING

GREETING AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (By Roddy Hamilton)

Brandon Gleaton

ONE: We believe the Word is not bound by ink and paper but is set free in us to dream dreams and unfold new adventures. Is this what you believe?

ALL: Yes, this is what we believe.

ONE: We believe the life God gives is not celebrated in rules but is celebrated in our diversity. Is this what you believe?

ALL: Yes, this is what we believe.

ONE: We believe that as the sun sets in one land, it rises in another, handing over the prayers of the world from one to another. Is this what you believe?

ALL: Yes, this is what we believe.

ONE: We believe the story of faith comes alive in the communities we grow but is hurt by the barriers we build. Is this what you believe?

ALL: Yes, this is what we believe.

ONE: We believe transformation is a gift from God which is never complete and longs to be set free in us. Is this what you believe?

ALL: Yes, this is what we believe.

ONE: We believe resurrection is heaven's conspiracy to redeem all that is evil and bring to life all that is good. Is this what you believe?

ALL: Yes, this is what we believe.

ONE: We believe justice is God's unraveling of all that hurts, oppresses and dulls life in each other. Is this what you believe?

ALL: Yes, this is what we believe.

ONE: We believe that a spark lights a flame which kindles an idea which ignites a movement. We all have a spark within us. Is this what you believe?

ALL: Yes, this is what we believe.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

With a Voice of Singing by Martin Shaw

Chancel Choir

***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

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

*CENTERING HYMN

Wounded World that Cries for Healing

TFWS #2177

1. Wounded world that cries for healing
– here we hold each other’s pain,
wounded systems, bruised and
bleeding bear the load, the scars of
strain; dollars ration out compassion,
hard decisions rule the day, Jesus of
the healing Spirit, free us to another
way!

3. Honor those whose loving spirit nurses
hope, restores and heals, towel and
basin used in service like the Christ
who comes and kneels; in the tending,
in the mending may we see the right
and fair, in our common quest for
wholeness heal each other by our care.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murry, MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson,
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2. Through our nation’s spent
frustration, through the corridors of
stress may there move a kindlier
wisdom all may feel, and all may bless;
tax and tithe are for a purpose shared
to shield the poor and weak; past the
symptoms of our sickness let the voice
of justice speak.

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 4:25-5:1

The Common English Bible

Therefore, after you have gotten rid of lying, each of you must tell the truth to your neighbor because we are parts of each other in the same body. Be angry without sinning. Don’t let the sun set on your anger. Don’t provide an opportunity for the devil. Thieves should no longer steal. Instead, they should go to work, using their hands to do good so that they will have something to share with whoever is in need.

Don’t let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say. Don’t make the Holy Spirit of God unhappy – you were sealed by God for the day of redemption. Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting and slander, along with every other evil. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ. Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SONG

Bobbi Thompson

MESSAGE

Be Angry! But....

Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel

***CLOSING HYMN**

We Shall Overcome

UMH #533

1. We shall overcome, we shall overcome,

3. We shall all be free.

We shall overcome someday!

Oh, deep in my heart I do believe

We shall overcome someday!

4. We shall live in peace

5. God will see us through

2. We'll walk hand in hand.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1986

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BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Go Now in Peace by Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Central United Methodist Church

23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226

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Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, PhD, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Daniel Dillingham, Minister of Music

Nina Scott, Ensemble Director

Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist & Soloist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Andrew Cox, Building Superintendent

Rod Rose, Custodian

Yvette Meadows and Angela Bakeley, Receptionists