



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent: *Faithful Lent - Release & Give Up*

### 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**

Bobbi Thompson

### ACTS OF PRAISE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

**ONE:** Get behind us, empires and death-dealing politicians!

**ALL:** **Get behind us, consumerism and corporate greed!**

**ONE:** Get behind us, ambivalence and numbing out!

**ALL:** **Get behind us, excuses and rigid thinking!**

**ONE:** Guide the way, community and wise teachers!

**ALL:** **Guide the way, simplicity and generosity!**

**ONE:** Guide the way, devotion and mindfulness!

**ALL:** **Guide the way, courage and expansive dreams!**

**ONE:** We gather, rejecting what shrivels our souls,  
and guided by Liberating Love.

**ALL:** **Let us Worship God.**

684 Faith Begins by Letting Go

1 Faith be-gins by let-ting go, giv-ing up what  
2 Faith en-dures by hold-ing on, keep-ing mem-ory's  
3 Faith ma-tures by reach-ing out, stretch-ing minds, en-

4 had seemed sure, tak-ing risks and press-ing on,  
roots a-live so that hope may bear its fruit;  
larg-ing hearts, shar-ing strug-gles, liv-ing prayer,

7 though the way feels less se-cure: pil-grim-age both  
prom-ise-fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer-it  
bind-ing up the bro-ken parts; till we find the

10 right and odd, trust-ing all our life to God.  
we pos-sess but by God's great faith-ful-ness.  
com-mon-place ripe with wit-ness to God's grace.

## 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

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*Siyahamba*, African folk song

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*)

Strong and Kind God—we know suffering for suffering's sake is not redemptive. Difficult days at the hands of evil systems do not glorify you. You despise when creatures and land live and die in conditions of desolation! Bless our resources towards accountability for warmongers and the greedy. Bless our offering towards compassionate New Worlds unfolding even now. Amen.

### LEGACY PARTNER INTERVIEW – Swords Into Plowshares

Ian Matchett, Director

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### ANTHEM

*Spirituals Medley*, arr. Jaqueline Hairston.

Rod Reese, Bass

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### \*SCRIPTURE

*Hebrews 12: 1-2*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside everything that impedes us and the sin that so easily entangles us. Let us run with perseverance the race laid out for us. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### \*SCRIPTURE

*Mark 8: 31-38*

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly.

Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this, Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter: "Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God's!"

Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, "If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you'll lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you'll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the world but lose yourself in the process?"

What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

### MESSAGE

*Faithful Lent - Release & Let Go*

Rev. Paul Perez

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*I will Trust in the Lord*, V. 1, 2, 4, & repeat 1

AAHH #391

**1. I will trust in God, I will trust in  
God, I will trust in God till I die. I  
will trust in God, I will trust in  
God, I will trust in God till I die.**

**2. I'm gonna treat ev'ry-body right,  
I'm gonna treat ev'ry-body right,  
I'm gonna treat ev'ry-body right  
till I die. I'm gonna treat ev'ry-  
body right, I'm gonna treat ev'ry-  
body right, I'm gonna treat ev'ry-  
body right till I die.**

**4. I'm gonna stay on bended knee,  
I'm gonna stay on bended knee,  
I'm gonna stay on bended knee, till  
I die, I'm gonna stay on bended  
knee, I'm gonna stay on bended  
knee, I'm gonna stay on bended  
knee, till I die.**

**1. I will trust in God, I will trust in  
God, I will trust in God till I die. I  
will trust in God, I will trust in  
God, I will trust in God till I die.**

## BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

**BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH** (adapted from enflashed: *liturgy that matters*)

Go forth leaving behind ways too narrow  
for all this life we have brimming in our bones.  
The Soulful God awaits our plotting for liberation,  
let us meet Them with expectant hearts!

### CHORAL BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson

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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  
Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist  
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 Waawiyataanong (“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)