



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 5, 2026

EASTER 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: W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal, TFWS = The Faith We Sing

ACTS OF PRAISE

PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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

WELCOME

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

ONE: Beloveds, rejoice!

ALL: Systems of evil cannot overcome Hope;

ONE: forces of oppression cannot destroy Love.

ALL: Alleluia! The Holy is alive within us!

ONE: Praise the God of New Life even amidst grief,

Praise the God of Possibility even when all seems lost.

ALL: The stone of despair has been rolled away!

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen Indeed!

***OPENING HYMN**

Christ The Lord is Risen Today
(inclusive lyrics by Jim Burklo)

UMH #302

**At the dawn new life surprises, Alleluia
From the darkness light arises, Alleluia
See the stone is rolled away, Alleluia
On this resurrection day, Alleluia**

**Over death God's love prevails, Alleluia
Over all of our travails, Alleluia
By no cross is it restrained, Alleluia
By no grave is it contained, Alleluia**

**Reap in joy what's sown with tears, Alleluia
Courage springs from all our fears, Alleluia
Stand in wonder at the sight, Alleluia
Sunrise overtakes the night, Alleluia**

**Buried till its second birth, Alleluia
Hope emerges from the earth, Alleluia
In morning light our voices raise, Alleluia
Singing out with joyful praise, Alleluia**

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Who are those practicing sturdy, soulful hope? Who are those cultivating gardens of new life amidst the rubble? From the wisdom of the marginalized and the stories of the cast-aside comes a map to our collective flourishing. We collect our offerings this Easter, guided by this powerful undercurrent of love.

OFFERTORY

Christus Resurrexit (Christ Is Risen),
words by Sally Albrecht, music by Jay Althouse.

Choir, Janae Swanson, trumpet



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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Come, let us look for the living -- relationships and efforts that lead to the thriving of our spirits, our bodies, and our communities. Let us water seeds of solidarity, tend the soil of creativity, and relish the blooming of healing. As the body of the Risen Christ, we collect our offerings for the Love we want to grow. Amen,

ANTHEM

Sing Gloria by Joel Raney Choir & Janae Swanson, trumpet

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18

Anton Hofmann

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple – the one Jesus loved – and told them, “The rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don’t know where they have put Jesus!”

At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciples outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He didn't enter but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus' head lying not with the wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. As yet, they didn't understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus' body had lain.

They asked her, "Why are you weeping?"

She answered them, "Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don't know where they have put the body."

No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. He asked her, "Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?"

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, "Please, if you're the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you've laid the body and I will take it away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned to him and said, "Rabboni!" – which means "Teacher."

Jesus then said, "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, "I'm ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!"

Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. "I have seen the Teacher!" she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Beholding Hope & Savoring Joy

Rev. Paul Perez

***CLOSING HYMN**

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

UMH #304

**1. Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring Alleluia!
Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing**

**2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our God empowered us to triumph over every foe. Alleluia!
Alleluia! On to victory now we go.,**

**3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster
to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia!
Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.**

WORDS: William M. James, 1979; MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867
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BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (*enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

As the Risen Christ called out, "Mary"
on the other side of death,
may you hear your own name
on the lips of the Beloved
calling you into hope,
even when your heart is shattered.
Evil cannot keep us down.
Love rises. Love persists. Love always will..
Let us go forth in a collective hallelujah.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

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Margaret Reese, Director of Music

Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Building Maintenance Manager

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)