



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Black History 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.

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

ACT OF PRAISE

PRELUDE

Teresa Youngblood

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*)

ONE: God, protect our stories.

ALL: Make us keepers of our memory

ONE: We come from pain

ALL: We come from beauty

ONE: We will not protect the lie.

ALL: We will remember.

*OPENING HYMN

Welcome

W&S #3152

1. Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,
singing welcome, (*Refrain*)

(*Refrain*) welcome to this place.

You're invited to come and know God's grace.

All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.

2. Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,
singing welcome, (*Refrain*)

3. Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice,
crying welcome (*Refrain*)

WORDS: Laurie Zelman and Mark A. Miller; MUSIC: Mark A. Miller;
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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE VOLUNTEERS

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ANTHEM

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit arr. by William Dawson

Rod Reese, Bass

*SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:13-20

Inez Torbert

"You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt were to lose its flavor? How could you restore it? I would be fit for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. You don't build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do you? You don't light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven,

"Don't think I've come to abolish the Law and the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. The truth is, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter of the Law, not even the smallest part of a letter, will be done away with until it is all fulfilled. That's why whoever breaks the least significant of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in the kin-dom of heaven. Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands will be called great in the kin-dom of heaven.

"I tell you, unless your sense of justice surpasses that of the religious scholars and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kin-dom of heaven,
ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Central Speaks!

Helen Monroe & Val Ogbonnaya, moderated by Rev. Paul Perez

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Teresa Youngblood



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

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

(adapted from United Methodist Discipleship Ministries and enfleshed: liturgy that matters)
The Great Thanksgiving for Black History Month

ONE: The Holy One be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Open your hearts to the One who is Love

ALL: We open our hearts to you, O God

ONE: Let us give thanks to God

We give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Holy One, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When human cruelty reared its ugly head, you sustained your people
and made it possible for us to survive the middle passage,
auction blocks, whipping posts and forced labor.

You softened the hearts of many who worked in secret on our behalf
you lifted our heads with the message that God sides with the oppressed
and delivers the captives.

You strengthened our hands to struggle for justice and freedom

And so, with your people on earth and the generations past and to come
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy One, God of justice and love,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of justice and love.

Hosanna in the highest.

ONE: Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus Christ,
by his life and example, he taught us
that it was possible to love our neighbors
and live together as family.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

**ALL “This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

ONE: After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

ALL: “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

ONE: In remembrance of all you have done to save us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

ALL: Christ was birthed among us.

Christ died among us.

Christ rises again among us.

ONE: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Give us a taste of resurrection hope that lasts through even the most challenging of time. In collective longing for a taste of your Kin-dom on earth, we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

ALL: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name

thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

COMMUNION ANTHEM

At the Table of the Lord by Jay Althouse

Megan Mueller, Solo, Diana Oatley, handbells

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Teresa Youngblood

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, we recognize the ways you still make yourself vulnerable to us today. In gratitude for a taste of your Kin-dom, may our discipleship shape us into fierce protectors of the vulnerable, give us courage to practice our own vulnerability, and help us to honor the sacredness of our need for one another. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

UMH #585

1. **This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine**

2. Everywhere I go

3. All through the night

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH (from Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*)

May the Sacred Chronicler travel with you into the stories that have formed you, that having made that pilgrimage, you return freer and more whole, body and soul. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Brandon Reeves

Central United Methodist Church
23 East Adams,
Detroit, Michigan 48226,
313.965.5422

CUMCdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org

<http://www.centralumchurchdetroit.org>

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, 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)