



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent: *Faithful Lent - Take On & Develop*

WOMEN'S 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.

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

PRELUDE

Bobbi Thompson

The prelude and introit are times for silent prayer and meditation guided by some of our gifted musicians.

ACTS OF PRAISE

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

Nicole Gerring

ONE: The good news of the gospel brings power to the people.

ALL: Among the ordinary and mundane, divine possibilities await.

ONE: Even when we believe it is not so,

ALL: we have so much to offer.

ONE: God calls us healers and prophets, teachers and companions.

ALL: God enables miracles among us.

ONE: In each of our hearts, Divinity dwells.

ALL: We gather and remember the power of God.

***OPENING HYMN**

God of the Women
(To the tune of *Be Thou My Vision*)

1. **God of the women who answered your call, trusting your promises, giving their all, women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth — give us their courage to live in your truth.**
2. **God of the women who walked Jesus' Way, giving their resources, learning to pray, Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more — may we give freely as they did before.**
3. **God of the women long put to the test, left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed, quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" — in Jesus' dying you show us our worth.**
4. **God of the women who ran from the tomb, prayed with the others in that upper room, then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day — may we so gladly proclaim you today.**
5. **O God of Phoebe and ministers all, may we be joyful in answering your call. give us the strength of your Spirit so near that we may share in your ministry here.**

ACTS OF SHARING

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

Paul Perez



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

Paul Perez

PASSING THE PEACE

Paul Perez

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Sylvia Oatley

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Ruth Biersdorf

OFFERTORY

When You Believe (from *The Prince of Egypt*)
Arranged by Stephen DeCesare,
Laura Burger and Clara Zundel, Sopranos

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 (*adapted from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters**)

Ruth Biersdorf

Incarnate One, in so many ways we have learned to minimize our potential. As individuals, a community - as people of faith. Letting others define our worth and capabilities, we deny our power. May your presence among us awaken and enliven all that you envision for us. That we may be faithful to you and the generations to come. Amen.

LEGACY PARTNER INTERVIEW – Noah at Central

Stacie Vaughn Covington
Director of the NOAH Project

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Paul Perez

ANTHEM

I Choose Love music by Mark Miller, words by Linda Thompson
Central Choir

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE**

Ephesians 6:10-17

Cynthia Bradford

Finally, draw your strength from Christ and from the strength of that mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand firm against the tactics of the Devil. Our battle ultimately is not against human forces, but against the sovereignties and powers, the rulers of the world of darkness, and the evil spirits of the heavenly realms. You must put on the armor of God if you are to resist on the evil day and, having done everything you can, to hold your ground. Stand fast then, with truth as the belt around your waist, justice as your breastplate, and zeal to spread the Good News of peace as your footgear. In all circumstances, hold faith up before you as your shield; it will help you extinguish the fiery darts of the Evil One. Put on the helmet of salvation, and carry the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***SCRIPTURE**

John 2:13-22

Cynthia Bradford

Since it was almost the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

In the Temple, he found people selling cattle, sheep and pigeons, while moneychangers sat at their counters.

Making a whip out of cords, Jesus drove them all out of the Temple—even the cattle and sheep—and overturned the tables of the money changers, scattering their coins. Then he faced the pigeon sellers: “Take all this out of here! Stop turning God’s house into a market!” The disciples remembered the words of scripture: “Zeal for your house consumes me.”

The Temple authorities intervened and said, “What sign can you show us to justify what you’ve done?”

Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

They retorted, “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you’re going to raise it up in three days?” But the temple he was speaking of was his body. It was only after Jesus has been raised from the dead that the disciples remembered this statement and believed the scripture—and the words that Jesus has spoken.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION OF OUR GUEST PASTOR, Rev. Dr. April Gutierrez

Karen Tyler Ruiz

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. April Gutierrez

CLOSING HYMN

O God of Truth and Glory

*(To the tune of *The Church's One Foundation*)*

- 1. O God of truth and glory, in listening to your Word, we sometimes miss the story of voices seldom heard. Forgive our poor attention to women who were there — to those we hardly mention in scripture, hymn or prayer.**
- 2. For Eve was Adam's partner, and Noah had a wife and Sarah laughed in wonder at how you changed her life. Rebekah, strong and forceful, knew just what she would do. and Rachel was resourceful, and Dinah mattered, too.**
- 3. Young Miriam saved her brother; she found the boy a home, and so the Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses as her own. You called on countless women to work and serve and pray. God, may we, too, be listening when you call us today.**

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

May the God of Eve teach you to dance.

May the God of Hagar bring you comfort in the desert.

May the God of Miriam bring companions to you when you struggle.

May the God of Deborah teach you courage for your battles.

May the Christ who knew Mary and Martha show you the way of balance.

May the Christ who healed the bent-over woman heal your pain.

May the Christ of Mary Magdala send you out to proclaim your story.

In the name of Christ who is the memory and hope of the future.

Niluka Perera, Sri Lanka

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 & Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

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)



Rev. Dr. April Gutierrez

Rev. Dr. April Gutierrez is currently appointed as Associate Pastor at St. Paul's UMC in Rochester, MI and is the co-convener of the Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Working Group for the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church.

She holds a Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction from Garrett Evangelical-Theological Seminary, her thesis being "*Embodied Spiritual Practices for Brown and Black Bodies Exploring Sabbath Rest.*"

Prior to answering the call to ordained ministry, she worked for more than a decade in higher education with a focus on social justice education and ministry. She is passionate about vital worship that is table-centered, rich in practice-based ministry that cultivates adult spirituality. Pastor April and her husband, Evan, have two children, Silvio (age 14) and Miriam (age 9).

Women's History Month

Celebrating Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Etta Foster Taylor



Etta Foster Taylor (1878-1948), is remembered for founding the Christian Industrial Club and establishing the Frances Harper Inn. The rooming house at 307 Horton Street opened in 1915 and became a refuge for black women during the first wave of the Great Migration of African Americans to Detroit. The inn, named after poet and abolitionist Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, provided badly needed shelter for single, black women who were denied help by white philanthropic organizations and the city. During this era, 1.6 million blacks moved north to cities including Detroit from the deep South in search of well-paying jobs and as an escape from the discrimination and danger in the Jim Crow South. However, when they arrived in Detroit, African Americans found that the population influx and segregated neighborhoods had resulted in a severe housing shortage. The Frances Harper

Inn filled a critical role by allowing women to live in a safe house at an affordable rate. At the inn, members of the club offered classes in sewing, embroidery, dressmaking, and other 'domestic arts.' Residents started businesses including catering and hair care companies, or worked as domestics, elevator operators, or in other service jobs. The inn weathered the Great Depression and faced challenges including being vandalized by members of the Ku Klux Klan and nearly closing due to financial struggles. Over the years, it became an important spot for meetings, parties, fundraisers, and weddings in the black community. It is now owned by the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative.

The Frances Harper Inn was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2023. Karren Yurgalite, who worked on the submission, said that the inn is significant to Detroit and black women's club history. "The Frances Harper Inn was the first rooming house for Black women in Detroit that we can find," she told *The Detroit News*. "The house represents an important milestone in Black women's club movement in Detroit. It's a testament to the Black women's clubs and their tenacity and willingness to help each other out."

-Nicole Gerring