



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

February 15, 2026

## Sixth 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

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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, how long?

**ALL: Justice is coming.**

ONE: We will not feel guilt for hope.

**ALL: We'll accept nothing less than freedom.**

ONE: We will not make excuses for evil.

**ALL: Consequence is holy.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*A Place at the Table*

W&S #3149 v. 1, 3, and 5

**1. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead. *(Refrain)***

*(Refrain)* **And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight  
when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy!**

**3. For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong. *(Refrain)***

**5. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free. *(Refrain)***

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, MUSIC: Lori True; Words © 1998 Hope Publishing Company;  
music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc. CCLI 2815228

**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**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY

*Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*

arr. by Gene Grier and Lowell Everson



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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### \*SCRIPTURE

*Isaiah 41:17 - 20*

Khari Brown

The poor and the needy seek water but find one; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I, God, will answer them myself! I, the God of Israel, will not abandon them.

I will make rivers run on barren heights, and fountains bubble up in the valleys; I will turn the wilderness into a lake, and dry ground into a spring.

I will put cedar trees in the wilderness, acacias, myrtles, and olives. In the desert I will plant the cypress, the elm and the evergreen side by side,

So that all my see and know, all may observe and understand that the hand of God has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Total Praise by Richard Smallwood (1938-2025)

### \*SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 10: 42*

Khari Brown

"The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward."

### \*SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 25: 34 - 36*

Khari Brown

"The ruler will say to those on the right, 'Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit.'

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Khari Brown

## MESSAGE

Mark Fancher & Lorrain Brown

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*Jesus, Be With Us*

(see insert)

## BENEDICTION

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

God, guide us into a solidarity that demands something of us. Let us learn to risk ourselves on behalf of the vulnerable, believing that when one of us is harmed, we all are. And God, keep us from those who will demonize the fight in us, who would prefer us complacent and far from one another. Secure in us a courage to resist, knowing that together we will restore what the world as tried to suffocate in us. 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 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)