



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

January 25, 2026

## Third Sunday after the Epiphany

### 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

### PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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

### ACTS OF WELCOME

### WELCOME

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Leave behind what shrivels your spirit

**ALL: and follow the lush lure of the Life-Giving.**

ONE: Leave behind the coldness of "shoulds"

**ALL: and follow the warmth of Inner Wisdom.**

ONE: Leave behind the hollowness of image

**ALL: and follow the rich depth of Beauty.**

ONE: Leave behind toxic positivity

**ALL: and follow mourning, soulful and honest.**

ONE: Leave behind holding it all together

**ALL: and follow that which breaks your heart open into a field of wildflowers.**

ONE: Dear people, follow the Thread of Love!

**ALL: For She guides us in the Ways of Life.**

**\*OPENING HYMN***Gather Us In*, v. 1, 2 & 4

TFWS #2236

1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young- our live are a myst'ry, we are the old - who yearn for your face,  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light-years away,  
but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kin-dom, now is the day. Gather  
us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in-all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WORDS: Marty Haugen; MUSIC: Marty Haugen; © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

**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 &amp; Brandon Reeves

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Deaconess Anne Hillman

**ACTS OF SHARING****INVITATION TO THE OFFERING****OFFERTORY***Dream a Dream*, words and music by Ed Robertson

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

## ANTHEM

*Order My Steps*, words and music by Glenn Burleigh

## \*SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 4:12-23*

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he went back to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town near the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, the way to the sea on the far side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." From that time on, Jesus began proclaiming the message, "Change your hearts and minds, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he watched two brothers—Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew—casting a net into the sea. They fished by trade. Jesus said to them, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of humankind." They immediately abandoned their nets and began to follow Jesus. Jesus walked along further and caught sight of a second pair of brothers—James and John, ben-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, mending their nets with their father. Jesus called them, and immediately they abandoned both boat and father to follow him. Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of heaven and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses among the people.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## MESSAGE

*Called to be a Community of Compassion & Care*

Rev. Paul Perez

## BLESSING OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE VOLUNTEERS

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Be Kind to One Another*

Tune of UMH #545

1. **Be kind to one another, be tender-hearted too —  
forgiving one another, as Christ has pardoned you.  
Refrain from any gossip, for gossip is a sin.  
Be open to new friendships, and welcome people in.**
2. **Be kind in all your speaking and hear what others say.  
Be open to Christ's teaching, and in all matters, pray.  
Be gentle, loving, faithful and keep a humble mind.  
Remember what is truthful. In everything be kind.**
3. **Be kind within your circle, but look past what you see;  
Be kind to those in trouble — the poor, the refugee.  
The world is filled with violence; write letters, call out sin!  
Don't ever sit in silence and let the evil win.**
4. **O God of love, you've taught us. You've shown us what to do:  
Be just, commit to kindness, walk humbly here with you.  
Your Spirit gives us courage to truly live this way.  
May love become our message; may kindness win the day.**

## BENEDICTION

### BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Beloveds— dance forth what can be healed and mourn what cannot be healed.  
For the Holy is compassionate in all things— our heartbreak, our healing, and our dreaming of New Life.

### 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)