



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

INTROIT

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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

ACTS OF PRAISE

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

ONE: The Holy is our Guide,

ALL: we are not alone.

ONE: She invites us to wide open fields of liberation

ALL: and leads us to protected sacred waters.

ONE: She refreshes our souls.

ALL: She lures of towards the Ways of Life

ONE: for the sake of Love.

ALL: Lead us today, Holy One,

ONE: guard us from the snares of life with your Wise Love.

***OPENING HYMN**

Gather Us In

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 lives are a myst'ry, we are the old—who yearn for your face, we have been sung throughout all of his 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.—**
- 3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.—Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.—**
- 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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PASSING THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

River in Judea by J. Feldman and J. Leavitt

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 (*enfleshed liturgy that matters*)

Wise Spirit, follow our gifts with your goodness and love all the days of our lives. That, together, we will dwell in your kin-dom on earth now & forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Roll Down Justice by Mark Miller

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

Psalms 23

God, you are my shepherd—
I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in green meadows;
you lead me beside restful waters:
you refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
for the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff—
they give me courage.
You spread a table for me
in the presence of my enemies,
and you anoint my head with oil—
my cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in your house, God,
for days without end.,
ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

What is going to happen at the General Conference? Rev. Paul Perez

*CLOSING HYMN

As a Fire is Meant for Burning

TFWS #2237

1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care, we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

3. As a green bud in the spring-time is a sign of life renewed, so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued. As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone, may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way. We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay. By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light. In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.

WORDS: Ruth Duck; MUSIC: From *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; Words © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

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

Go forth shepherded by the Compassion of the Living God,
who dreams with us of a world
free from the evil of oppression
where all beings may rest in pastures of abundance
by streams of wonderful mercy. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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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, Receptionist

Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

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)