



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

February 1, 2026

Fourth 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

PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

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

ACT OF PRAISE

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

ONE: There is power in our breath

ALL: There is agency in this body.

ONE: Where can I go?

ALL: God, take me where it's safe.

ONE: God, tear down the tyrant.

ALL: Lift up the healers.

***OPENING HYMN**

Lead Me, Guide Me

AAHH #474

(Refrain) **Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if You lead me, I can not stray.
Lord, Let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.**

- 1. I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me. *(Refrain)***
- 2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee.
Lead me, oh Lord lead me. *(Refrain)***
- 3. I am lost if You take your hand from me,
I am blind without Thy Light to see,
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be.
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me. *(Refrain)***

TEXT: Doris M. Akers, b. 1922; Tune: Doris M. Akers, b.1922; harm. by Richard Smallwood; © 1953, Doris M. Akers.
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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

PASSING THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson & Brandon Reeves

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Oh, Freedom, arr. by Brazeal Dennard



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

ANTHEM

O, Jeremiah!, words by Joseph M. Martin, music by Joel Raney

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

***SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 1

Karen Tyler-Ruiz

Happiness comes to those who reject the path of violence, who refuse to associate with criminals or even to sit with people who belittle others.

Happiness comes to those who delight in the Law of God and meditate on it day and night.

They're like trees planted by flowing water—they bear fruit in every season, and their leaves never wither: everything they do will prosper.

But not wrongdoers! They're like chaff that the wind blows away.

They won't have a taproot to anchor them when judgment comes, nor will corrupt individuals be given a place at the Gather of the Just.

God watches over the steps of those who do justice; but those on a path of violence and injustice will find themselves irretrievably lost.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

MESSAGE

Malik Yakini, Detroit People's Food Co-Op

***CLOSING HYMN**

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

ZSS #104

**1. Ain't gonna let no-body turn me 'round,
turn me 'round, turn me 'round.**

Ain't gonna let no-body turn me 'round

I'm gonna keep on a-walk-in', keep on a-talk-in', march-in' on to freedom land.

2. segregation

3. persecution

WORDS: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual, arr. by Lavinia L. T. Odejimi;
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BENEDICTION

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

May you wake and rest with humility in your hearts. May you be protected from the greed and fear that you would be able to be both leader and follower without threat to your sense of self. May you live responsibly and tenderly, that your power would never come at the expense of someone else's. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

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)