



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

January 11, 2026

Baptism of the Lord

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

Zosette Guir

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

ONE: God hovered over the waters and brought forth life.

ALL: Delighting in earth's creatures and creations, God called these wonders "good!"

ONE: Though greed and cruelty seeped in,
bringing violence and destruction into life's abundance,

ALL: still, God persists in the work of love.

ONE: Stirring the waters again and again, God points us back to our divine beginnings
while also ushering us towards new forms of life.

Let us remember anew with joy God's proclamations over creation:

**ALL: The earth and all its creatures are beloved. All life is Sacred.
Each person, birthed from the Divine.**

ONE: Thanks be to God, who calls us back to ourselves - beloved and good and free to
pursue life together.

*OPENING HYMN

Wade in the Water, v. 1, 3, & 4

TFWS #2107

*(Refrain) Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water, God's a gonna trouble the water.*

**1. See that host all dressed in white, God's a gonna trouble the water.
The leader looks like the Israelite, God's a gonna trouble the water. (Refrain)**

**3. Look over yonder, what do I see? God's a gonna trouble the water.
The Holy Ghost a coming on me, God's a gonna trouble the water. (Refrain)**

**4. If you don't believe I've been redeemed, God's a gonna trouble the water.
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream, God's a gonna trouble the water. (Refrain)**

Words: African American spiritual; MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. by Carl Haywood; Arr. © 1992 Carl Haywood; 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

Zosette Guir

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Amani Utupe, (Grant Us Peace, Give Us Courage)
words and music by Patsy Ford Simms



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

Lead Me Lord, words and music by John D. Becker

***SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 3: 12-17

Roland Amarteifio

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!"

But Jesus replied, "Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed.

Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Living the Questions

Rev. Paul Perez &
Remington Devereaux

***CLOSING HYMN**

Ask the Complicated Questions
CCLI 2815228

See Insert

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BENEDICTION

**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)