



# Central United Methodist Church

## *A Reconciling Congregation*

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822— Sanctuary completed 1867

February 11, 2024

Black History Month – Celebration of The Family

### 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

**PRELUDE**

Bobbi Thompson, Cynthia Bradford, Soloist  
Keith Livermore, Flute

### ACTS OF PRAISE

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

ONE: O God of Issac and Ishmael, Moses, Miriam, and Aaron, Ruth and Naomi, Creator, we recognize the multitude of challenges facing families as we celebrate the bonds of kinship established through your love.

**ALL: We celebrate black, brown, and indigenous families**

ONE: We celebrate migrant families

**ALL: We celebrate working families**

ONE: We celebrate multi-racial and multicultural families

**ALL: We celebrate queer families**

ONE: We celebrate blended families

**ALL: We celebrate chosen families**

ONE: We celebrate all the expressions of love, care, and community that give us a glimpse of your Kin-dom.

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*The Family God*

AAH #519

*(Refrain)* I'm so glad I'm a part of the fam'ly of God I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His love? Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, For I'm part of the fam'ly, the fam'ly of God.

1. You will notice we say "brother and sister" 'round here It's because we're fam'ly and these folks are so near; When one has a heartache we all share the tears, And rejoice in each vict'ry In this fam'ly so dear.  
*(Refrain)*

2. From the door of an orph'nage to the house of God No longer an outcast, a new sone I sing; From rags unto riches, from the weak to the strong, I'm not worthy to be here, But, praise God, I belong!  
*(Refrain)*

TEXT: Gloria Gaither, 1942 and William J. Gaither, 1936; TUNE: FAMILY OF GOD, Irregular; William J. Gaither, 1936; © 1970, William J. Gaither, Inc.; CCLI 2815228

## ACTS OF SHARING

### GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS

### ANNOUNCEMENT

### PASSING THE PEACE

Margaret Reese, Bobbi Thompson

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

### LITURGICAL DANCE

*The Goodness of God* by CeCe Winans

Peggy Kimbril

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*Cry My Last Tear Yesterday*

Laura Burger  
& Megan Mueller

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### ANTHEM

*Total Praise* by Richard Smallwood

Choir

## ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

### \*SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 12:46-50*

While Jesus was still speaking to the crowd, his family stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone said to Jesus, "Your mother and kin are standing outside, and they are anxious to speak with you." Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my kin?" Pointing to the disciples, Jesus said, "This is my family. Whoever does the will of Abba God in heaven is my sister and brother and mother.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

### MESSAGE

*Celebration of the Family*

Rev. Paul Perez

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Will The Circle Be Unbroken*

AAH #598

1. **There are loved ones in the glory  
Whose dear forms you often miss,  
When you close your earthly story  
Will you join them in their bliss?  
(Refrain)**

*(Refrain)* **Will the circle be unbroken  
by and by, yes, by and by? In a  
better home awaiting in the sky, in  
the sky?**

2. **In the joyous days of childhood,  
Oft they told of wondrous love,  
Pointed to the dying Savior, Now  
they dwell with Him above.  
(Refrain)**

3. **You remember songs of heaven  
Which you sang with childish  
voice, Do you love the hymns they  
taught you, Or are songs of earth  
your choice? (Refrain)**

4. **You can picture happy gath' rings  
Round the fire side long ago, And  
you think of tearful partings,  
When they left you here below.  
(Refrain)**

5. **One by one their seats were empty.  
One by one they went away, Now  
the fam'ly is parted, Will it be  
complete on day? (Refrain)**

# BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

## BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Bobbi Thompson

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**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.**

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[www.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, Music Director & Bobbi Thompson, Accompanist

Brandon Reeves, Choral Accompanist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

Yvette Meadow, & Angela Bakeley, Receptionists

*This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425.*

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### 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)