



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunrise

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

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER (enfleshed)

Holy Spirit, you show us the meaning of hope -- that after tragedy, after death, there is more meaning to be lived. There is more beauty to witness, more intimacy to experience, more relationships to delight in, more liberation to embody. Embolden us to be a people who practice this hope. Amen.

OPENING MUSIC

How Can I Keep from Singing

Zosette Guir

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 OF THE PEACE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

*SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18

Anton Hofmann

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple – the one Jesus loved – and told them, “The rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don’t know where they have put Jesus!” At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciples outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He didn’t enter but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus’ head lying not with the wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. As yet, they didn’t understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus’ body had lain.

They asked her, “Why are you weeping?”

She answered them, “Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don’t know where they have put the body.”

No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus. He asked her, “Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?”

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, “Please, if you’re the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you’ve laid the body, and I will take it away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned to him and said, “Rabboni!” – which means “Teacher.”

Jesus then said, “Don’t hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, “I’m ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!”

Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. “I have seen the Teacher!” she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Beholding Hope & Savoring Joy

Rev. Paul Perez

ACTS OF SHARING

HOLY COMMUNION (adapted from enfleshed: liturgy that matters)

ONE: The Holy One be with you.

ALL: And also with you. ONE: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to God.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, in whose image we are made.

ALL: To the Creator of all, we give thanks and praise.

ONE: Divine Protector, Defender of Life, your love for this world is everlasting. As oceans burn and species go extinct, our children are made vulnerable at school and our neighbors are denied at our borders, there is so much reason to despair. But you, O God, refuse to abandon us to destruction. Christ takes on flesh. In the midst of struggle, you are glimpses of hope, encounters of freedom, tastes of what satisfies when so much leaves empty. In these incarnate moments, we sense the closeness of your Kin-dom.

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of justice and love
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder
Hosanna, among us**

ONE: With this hope and assurance, we turn to the witness of Jesus whose teachings reveal the way to liberation. We seek his wisdom. We practice his courage. We remember his radical commitment to love. On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

**ALL: “This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

ONE: After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

ALL: “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

ONE: In remembrance of the love that saves us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**ALL: Christ was birthed among us.
Christ was executed among us.
Christ rises again among us.**

ONE: May the Spirit come and settle upon these gifts. Making this bread and this cup be for us a Holy Encounter. Reminding us that Christ is with us. That Resurrection is a promise granted to us. That the Kin-dom is always closer than we can imagine.

May we be nourished, that we might nourish others.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Zosette Guir

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Beloved One, if we grow weary in love, may this meal live on as a reminder of what sustains us. In seeking the flourishing, you intend for us, our neighbors, and this planet, keep our hearts tender, our spirits alive, and our senses attuned to the beauty that surrounds. With gratitude for your abiding presence, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

There Should Be Life and Love

(insert)

BENEDICTION

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

As the Risen Christ called out, “Mary”
on the other side of death, may you hear your own name on the lips of the
Beloved calling you into hope, even when your heart is shattered. Evil cannot keep us down.
Love rises. Love persists. Love always will.
Let us go forth in a collective hallelujah.

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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)