



Central United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822—Sanctuary completed 1867

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday After 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

Brandon Reeves & Augustus Williamson

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

ACTS OF PRAISE

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

ONE: Come, let us delight in the ways of God.

ALL: When we abide in Love, our cup overflows.

ONE: Though hate and violence bring destruction,

ALL: Love builds us up.

ONE: When we are made to feel small,

ALL: Love calls us to courage.

ONE: When cycles of wickedness trap us in despair,

ALL: Love sets us free.

ONE: Those who prosper at the feet of evil will only find themselves empty.

ALL: Bring your justice, O God, and let all wickedness cease.

***OPENING HYMN:** *This Little Light of Mine*

UMH #585

**1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

2. Everywhere I go

3. All through the night

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1987;
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

Brandon Reeves and Augustus Williamson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Total Praise by Richard Smallwood

***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

Guide My Feet arr. by Henry Leck and Martin Ellis

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:27-38

The Inclusive Bible

"To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don't demand it back.

"Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' do as much. If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' lend to other 'sinners' expecting to be repaid in full.

Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You'll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked.

"Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Pardon, and you'll be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure—packed down, shaken together and running over—will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you'll be given back."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Truth Crushed to Earth Shall Rise Again:

Dr. David Goldberg

Black Workers' Struggles against Capitalism and Imperialism

Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2019

Beach Spring, attr. B. F. White;
harm. Christopher Gage

1. Christ, your words of love con - found us, ev - en as we give you praise,
2. Make us mind - ful: love is ac - tion, not a feel - ing that up - lifts.
3. Faced with those who seek to hurt us, make us con - fi - dent and free:
4. If we love just those who love us, where's the giv - ing? Where's the grace?

for the les - sons that you teach us seem so far from this world's ways.
In each dai - ly si - tu - a - tion, love's the great - est of all gifts.
you don't call us to be help - less but to stand with dig - ni - ty.
Ev - en sin - ners try to do this; they have friends that they em - brace.

How can we love those who hate us? How can we love en - em - ies?
It's the wis - er, strong - er per - son who will break the chain of hate.
Lord, when oth - ers are de - mand - ing, may we know they mat - ter more
May we do, Lord, un - to oth - ers as we'd have them al - so do.

What of peo - ple who a - buse us? How can we love ev - en these?
Love can ush - er in re - demp - tion; love can make a peo - ple great.
than our mo - ney or pos - ses - sions. May we share, not keep - ing score.
You have shown us: Love is ac - tion. May we love, and make things new.

BENEDICTION

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

Friends, our lives are too precious to be handed over to evil. God has given us hearts that are tender, spirits that are brave, and faith that is rich in wisdom. Let us go from here and live by the Spirit of Love. Doing all the good we can, we trust in the One who ushers in the age of justice. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allersellen no 8 by Strauss,

Brandon Reeves, piano
Laura Burger, soprano

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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

Dave Wilson, Maintenance Manager

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)