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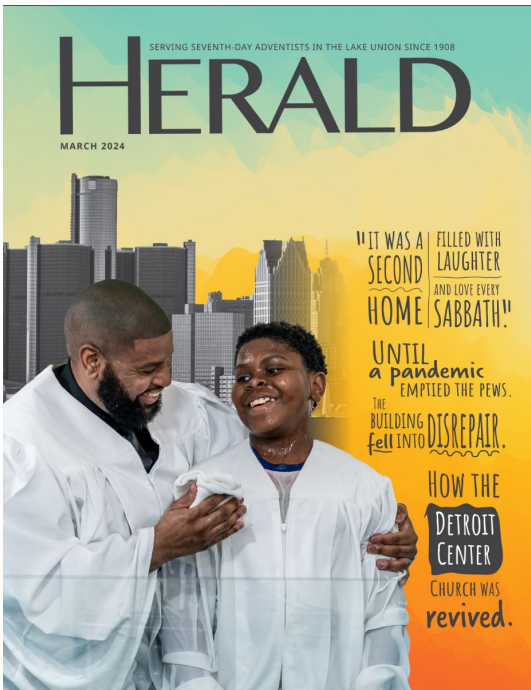


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# Lake Union HERALD

March 2024



## See inside the March 2024 issue

This month's issue features Detroit Center and its efforts to rebuild in the post-pandemic era.

## Evangelism is not Optional

After being in ministry for 23 years and working with so many congregations throughout North America and abroad, I have discovered that mission-driven churches are always concerned with the needs of others in their community. An in-depth study of Matthew 9:35-38 will reveal the five fundamental principles that will help keep churches alive and mission-driven.

- Genuine care for the community
- Prayer and dependence on God
- Proclamation of the Gospel
- Demonstrating God's love through action
- Training and equipping lay members for mission in their ministry context

Claval Hunter  
Associate Director of the Center for Community Change at the Seventh-day  
Adventist Theological Serminary on the campus of Andrews University

# FEATURED STORIES



## From Condemned to Cornerstone: The Revival of Detroit Center Church

The day of Detroit Center Seventh-day Adventist Church's long-awaited reopening in January 2024 was one of the coldest days in memory. Inside the unassuming beige brick one-story building, a familiar sense of warmth and fellowship filled the air, a welcomed contrast to the frigid bite of winter.

The praise team led the congregation in songs of gratitude, restoration, and resilience. A chorus of “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms,” could be heard down the quiet street. It had been almost four years since anyone worshiped in the building on Puritan Avenue.

More than 90 smiling faces reflected the light of a spiritual home reborn. Worshippers from Pontiac, Flint, and Saginaw churches helped to fill the pews alongside the remaining Detroit Center members and a few new converts. The congregation buzzed with a renewed sense of faith, connection, and purpose.

With the support of his wife and former church members, Pastor Steve Bramwell had helped steer the church through a transformative period of outreach and rebuilding. Assigned in early 2023 to lead both Pontiac Southside and Detroit Center churches, Pastor Bramwell hustled between pews greeting congregants and ensuring everything was in place.

“Who’s excited to be back here?” asked Charles Branch, an elder from the Pontiac Southside church. “This building is a metaphor. It doesn’t look how it used to look. We don’t look how we used to look.”

- Danni Thaw is a freelance writer and alum of Andrews University.

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*Lake Union Herald*  
8450 M 139 | P.O. Box 287 Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Debbie Michel, director of Communication  
Felicia Tonga, assistant director of Communication  
Katie Fellows, assistant Communication specialist

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