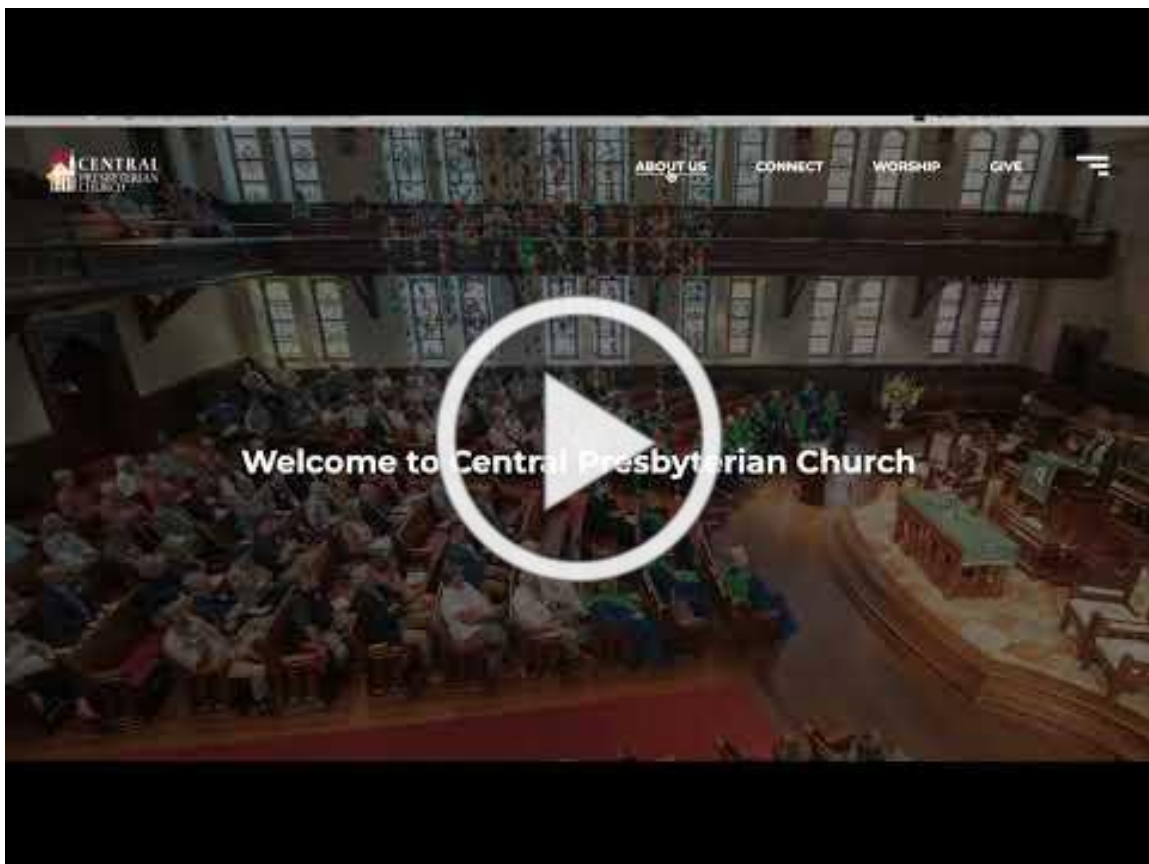




## The Weekly News

December 6, 2023

### Central's new website is launched



Central has a new website. The new website remains at the same web address, [www.cpcatlanta.org](http://www.cpcatlanta.org). It is easier to navigate on your desktop, tablet, or phone. It also has easy access to view prior services, download sermons as a podcast, connect with others, and to send prayer requests. While Realm will remain as our primary means to communicate internally, we hope this new site makes your accessibility, and our community's accessibility, to life at Central easier. We have created a video for a quick tour. Just click the box above.

# Matthew 25 Summit:

## An Invitation to Innovation

The PC(USA) invites you to a first-of-its-kind event happening January 16 to 18! The Matthew 25 Summit will bring mid-councils, churches, and individuals together to explore this vision. What does it mean to eradicate poverty; how can we begin dismantling systemic racism; how will we know if we are building a vital congregation? This will be a chance to dialogue, learn with, and grow with others in exploration. Featuring innovative speakers, thriving ministries, transformative workshops, and space to imagine what's next! The event cost is \$199 and includes two lunches, two dinners and conference materials.

Follow [this link](#) to learn more or register.



## Belonging to God - Sharing Our Gifts

*"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."*  
Psalm 24:1

Recently I was talking with Mary Caroline Lindsay about stewardship. She told me that many years ago, it was the deacons (not the elders) who were responsible for the church's finances. She told me her father often said, "God loves a cheerful giver and so do the deacons!"



Well, I'm happy to report that Central has many cheerful givers. Since the last pledging report compiled 10 days ago, the 2024 pledges total \$1,082,290.00. This is \$152,804.00 more than 2023's total pledges, a 16% increase so far. We have received 137 pledges and anticipate another 15 pledges before the end of December, hopefully 152 pledges. This would be 10 more than last year.

Sixty-six members and friends increased their pledge from last year and 19 are new pledges. The average amount per pledge is \$7,899.93, a remarkable amount.

All of these numbers demonstrate amazing generosity at Central, for which we praise God and rejoice. Our faithful giving will enable us to continue supporting Christ's work at our doorstep, throughout our community, and around the world.

If you haven't pledged yet, it's not too late! There are pledge cards in the pews which you can put in the offering plate, or you can pledge online at this link. <https://onrealm.org/cpcatlanta/AddPledge/2024pledgecampaign> We welcome your pledge. For questions, you may call Kristie Johns, Business Administrator at 770-888-9292.

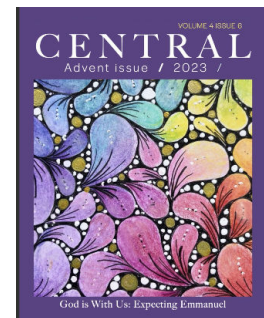
Please prayerfully consider joining with others to share your gifts, given to God's glory.

With deep gratitude,  
Ann Hunter, Chair  
Stewardship Committee

---

## Central's Advent Issue now available!

Central's Advent Issue is now available! This edition features articles by our staff, members, a calendar for upcoming events and much more. You can pick up a copy at Central or click [here](#) to read it online.



---

# CENTRAL

upcoming events





### **Wednesday, December 13**

#### **CENTRAL'S NIGHT AT THE NIGHT SHELTER**

Volunteers are needed to provide sack lunches, service dinner and volunteer overnight. Please contact Chris Sciarrone at [sciarrone.chris@gmail.com](mailto:sciarrone.chris@gmail.com) with any questions

### **Friday, December 15**

#### **CENTRAL OAC**

#### **GUEST HOLIDAY PARTY**

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## **CENTRAL** upcoming events

---



### **Sunday, December 17**

#### **AMIS HOLIDAY PARTY**

Tull Hall following worship

### **Sunday, December 24**

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE!**

Sunday Breakfast Ministry  
in Tull Hall (*please note this  
special time*)

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.



Our Children's Pageant will  
take place as part of our morning worship at 11 a.m.

Our Christmas Eve Service will take place that evening at 5 p.m.



# Sunday Morning Breakfast

This past Sunday, Central's Choir and the Central Confirmands served our guests at the Sunday Morning Breakfast. The Spirit ordained many holy moments between our choir members, youth, and guests, two of which were captured in photos (below). If you have time to stop by Tull Hall on Sunday mornings to enjoy a copy of coffee, you won't regret it! These are special times of fellowship.



Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish spends a moment in prayer with one of our guests



Hannah Hilimire and a guest play a spontaneous clap-and-rhyme game

## Christmas Joy Offering: Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.



**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



**\$1.1 million in gifts from 2022**



are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.

### **272 individuals helped**

including retired church workers and surviving spouses.

### **223 recipients**

could afford to stay in their homes, assisted living, or long-term care 621 Emergency Assistant Grants helped people facing economic hardship.

---

## Do you need a canine companion?

LaShawn Greene has taken in three stray dogs that need a forever home. If you have room in your heart and home for a canine companion, please email him at [glashawn01@gmail.com](mailto:glashawn01@gmail.com).

---

## Please be aware of fake emails

Church family and friends, please be aware that unsavory individuals have been sending out emails that appear as if they are from our pastor The Rev. Shannon J. Kershner and other Central staff. As with prior attempts of spamming and phishing, these emails at first may appear authentic. However, please take a closer look on any emails from staff, especially if the email asks for money, personal information or other financial materials. Here is a clear and concise guide on how to avoid this fraud and stay safe.

<https://support.google.com/mail/answer/8253?hl=en>

---

## Serve

### Contribute to the Sanctuary Flower Fund

Each week during the Advent and Christmas season, we will enjoy beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary. You can choose to designate your gift in honor or in memory of someone and your name will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin so the Central family can thank you.

If you would like to do so, please follow the link below to designate your gift. The button at the bottom of the form will take you to Realm where you can complete your donation.



## Volunteers Needed for Bashor Night Shelter

The Bashor Night Shelter is in need of volunteers to serve **next Wednesday, December 13**. Four are needed to provide sack lunches in batches of 10. Each lunch sack consists of two sandwiches, fruit, chips, and a water bottle. You can learn more about the Bashor Night Shelter **here** and sign up to volunteer by clicking **this link**. Please contact Chris Sciarrone at **[sciarrone.chris@gmail.com](mailto:sciarrone.chris@gmail.com)** with any questions.

---

## Knitting for Neighbors

Temperatures have dropped and our neighbors and guests at the OAC are facing some cold months ahead. Please join us in Knitting for Neighbors to provide them with warm hats and scarves to help with the chill. Don't know how to knit? Don't worry! No experience is necessary, advanced and novice crafters are welcome! We will be offering opportunities to knit together, and you can also knit on your own. **[Please click here to learn more](#)**, and reach out to **Emmalee Hackshaw**, **Linda Lehfeldt**, or **Linda McCord** for more information.



---

## Items of Warmth Needed for Central's OAC Guests

As the weather continues to cool off, most of us already have a hardy selection of scarves, hats, gloves, and cozy socks to keep us warm. If not, they are just a few clicks away from being at our doorsteps. For our neighbors experiencing homelessness whom we serve at Central Outreach and Advocacy Center, this is not always the case. As temperatures drop, our guests need access to hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and foil blankets. Please consider spreading warmth and love by donating some of these items. You can access our Amazon wish list by scanning the QR code below or following this link:

**[Central OAC's Amazon Wish List](#)**



## Sunday Sign-Ups: Friendship & Fellowship

We are grateful for the many ways we're reconnecting in this new season. We need the support of our Central family to sustain two crucial ministries: the collection of the friendship folders and the hosting of our lemonade fellowship hour. Both of these Sunday activities are simple, fun, and crucial to our continued engagement of visitors and of course, connecting with one another. Here are a couple of notes:

1. Individuals or groups (such as committees) are invited to host the lemonade



fellowship. Supplies are provided.

2. Collection of the friendship folders is an excellent family activity! Please note the need to move easily in both the sanctuary and balcony.

Please use this **Sign-Up Genius** to claim a few Sundays that work for you to plug into these volunteer opportunities.

---

## Flip Flops for Bashor Night Shelter Guests

The Foot Clinic of the **Bashor Night Shelter** gives each guest a pair of flip flops to wear in the shower to avoid catching or sharing athlete's foot. It is difficult to find them in the winter and they are frequently more expensive than in the summer. If you find yourself in Walmart or the Dollar Store or a similar place, will you please pick up a pair or two of men's flip flops, sizes 9 to 14, and bring them with you to church? There will be a box in the narthex where you can put your gifts. Thank you!



## Tower Bell Ringers

Thanks to all our "regular" ringers for taking care of the tower bell each Sunday. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday in March or beyond, click on the link below.

If you still aren't sure about it, go to the bell tower on Sunday morning and observe our expert ringers in action!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4FAFA72AA64-bell>

---

## Worship

Sunday, December 10, 2023 | 11 a.m.

**Isaiah 40:1-11 + Mark 1:1-8**

The Rev. Shannon J. Kershner preaching

---

# Learn

**Study on First Peter**  
**A Sojourners Class**  
**The Brotherhood Room (off of Tull Hall)**  
**Sunday, December 10**  
**9:45 to 10:45 a.m.**

A three-session study of 1 Peter will begin on Sunday, December 3. The New Testament epistle known as "First Peter" - a letter sent from Rome to Christian communities in northern Asia Minor (known today as Turkey) sometime in the last quarter of the first century - contains powerful messages of encouragement to Christians who were experiencing difficult challenges stemming largely from the hostile views held of them by non-believers amidst whom they lived. These ancient words provide truths that can sustain us in our present faith journeys. Join us in exploring the "living hope" given to us by God through the resurrection of Jesus.



If you have any questions, contact Ed Carwile at [carwile1230@earthlink.net](mailto:carwile1230@earthlink.net) or Robert Catterall at [rfcatterall@gmail.com](mailto:rfcatterall@gmail.com).

# Give

## 4 Ways to Give



Mobile Giving



Online Giving



Text Giving



Cash/Check

There are four easy ways you can make your contribution to the mission and ministry of Central Church.

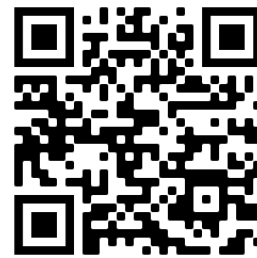
**Give through REALM Connect mobile app**

Give through the Realm Connect mobile app;  
download from your device's store.

**2023 Pledge:** You may pledge through this [link](#)

**Give online**

Visit the **CPC website** to securely make your contribution.



**Text to give\***

Text **CPCATLANTA** to **73256** followed by your gift amount.

**Mail a check to our address**

201 Washington St SW, Atlanta, GA 30303

**Please give generously, and thank you!**

*\*Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies.*

*Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.*

Privacy Policy - <https://legal.acst.com/privacy-policy>

Terms of Service - <https://legal.acst.com/terms-service-use>

---

If you have any difficulty logging in to your profile or making your online gift within Realm, please contact [Linda Massengill](#).

Questions about your giving statement? Please contact [Kristie Johns](#) at (404) 601-3128.

---

Acting boldly and compassionately to serve  
people who are hungry, oppressed,  
imprisoned or poor.



[cpcatlanta.org](http://cpcatlanta.org)



Sent by [bycbland@cpcatlanta.org](mailto:bycbland@cpcatlanta.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!