



The Weekly News

January 31, 2024

Congregational Meeting Called for this Sunday

Central has a called congregational meeting at the close of worship on Sunday, February 4, 2024 for three purposes: to vote on the pastors' terms of call, to elect the 2024 Nominating Committee, and to receive the 2024 budget. The meeting will not be streamed and we encourage you to join us in person.



Congregational Lunch slated for Sunday Feb. 4

A congregational luncheon will take place this Sunday, February 4 following worship and our congregational meeting. You may sign up [here](https://e.onrealm.org/events/f3df7961-03a8-4429-aea5-b0f3010e166b/meetings/9e047c8b-7b50-47a5-b90a-b0f3010e166c?from=news) or via the link below.

<https://e.onrealm.org/events/f3df7961-03a8-4429-aea5-b0f3010e166b/meetings/9e047c8b-7b50-47a5-b90a-b0f3010e166c?from=news>

The Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Co-Moderator of the 225th General Assembly to preach Sunday



The Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Co-Moderator of the 225th General Assembly will preach Sunday at Central. The Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace (she/her/hers) is Co-Moderator of the 25th General Assembly, the highest non-staff elected office in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), representing over 1 million members. Ruth serves together with the Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis under the theme “Unbounded We Thrive.”

Ruth began serving as Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia in February of 2014, making her the first woman and person of color to be installed in their more-than-300-year history. She is also a lauded author, scholar and has served on boards at institutions including Princeton Theological Seminary and The Presbyterian Foundation. You can read her biography by clicking [here](#).



YA Gathering with Wylde Centaur on Feb. 9

Young Adults Gathering
February 9

6 to 9 p.m.
Wild Heaven Brewery

Our Central Young Adults are gathering for a night out on the town on Friday, February 9 at **Wild Heaven Brewery** in Avondale Estates to enjoy the amazing sounds of Wylde Centaur, comprised of Central members Philip Covin and David Hunter. We will be there as early as 6 p.m. so join as you can. Dinner and live music will be provided by Central. Attendees are responsible for their own drinks.

Wylde Centaur performs classic rock songs including music by the Rolling Stones, Tom Petty, and the Beatles to REM, U2, and the Electric Light Orchestra.


Wild Heaven is located at 135B Maple St., Decatur, GA 30030

February 14, 2024



ASH WEDNESDAY

Central Presbyterian Church

Noon in Rand Chapel  7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

In addition to our two services, we will have Ashes 'on the go' in front of the church between 9 a.m. and noon and from 2 to 5 p.m. "We want to honor the sacredness of each person who passes by the church day in and day out. And we hope to remind everyone that they come from Love and to Love they will return," said Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner.

Thirsty Thursdays
7 p.m. monthly
Manuel's Tavern

Central members meet monthly at **Manuel's Tavern** for a time of informal fellowship. While this event was initially for Young Professionals, the event is open to all ages. Guests are welcome and no RSVP is required! Below are the dates through May 2024. Manuel's is located at 602 North Highland Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30307.

February 22
March TBA
April 25
May 23

Questions? Contact **M.E. Davis** at maryelizabeth.pope@gmail.com

Alison's Boutique – At Capacity!

The Central OAC team is so grateful for all of the clothing donations that have been made for Alison's Boutique. Thank you! Because of your generosity, *we are not able to accept any more clothing at this time*. We have limited storage space and it is overflowing with fantastic donations.

Once we have additional guests come in to “shop” and we need additional clothing, we will certainly let you know. If you have questions in the meantime, please reach out to Sonja Hodges, Employment Specialist, at shodges@centraloac.org. Thanks for all of your support.



Serve

February 6 is PBG Training Day; Lobby Day takes place March 14

This year's Georgia General Assembly is a very important session because the state has the largest ever (\$16 Billion) surplus of state funds that should be used to expand access to healthcare, mental healthcare, affordable housing, and other critical programs to help vulnerable Georgians. Presbyterians for a Better Georgia (PBG) needs the voices of people of faith like you who:



- Oppose cuts to the state low-income housing tax credit that supports construction and preservation of affordable housing;
- Support passage of the Safe at Home Act (HB 404) that provides essential protections for renters facing sudden eviction; and
- Advocate for increased funding for housing and mental health supports for unsheltered Georgians.

Please join us for on-line training, then come to Central Presbyterian Church (CPC) to walk across the street to the State Capitol and engage the people who represent you:

- PBG Advocacy Training (Zoom) February 6 at 7 p.m.
- PBG Lobby Day - March 14 at Central Presbyterian Church
- Georgia ACT Housing Day - CPC February 28

To learn more, go to the PBG website P4BG.org or email Al Stacer, PBG Chair at info@p4bg.com To register for Advocacy Training, visit [this page](#).

GFADP Day takes place February 7

GFADP Day
February 7
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (GFADP), Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty, the Catholic Mobilizing Network, and numerous other groups will convene at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta to fervently advocate with our legislators regarding the bill slated for filing this week concerning the death penalty and individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Georgians For Alternatives
to the Death Penalty



The schedule is as follows:

- 8 a.m. : Coffee and teach-in takes place in Room 125 in the Capitol Building.
- 11 a.m. : Catered lunch in Room 216.
- 12 to 1 p.m. : Speakers and press conference takes place on the south stairs of the Capitol.
- 1 to 3 p.m. : Meeting with legislators.

Please RSVP here to attend.

You do not have to know how to talk or meet with your legislators; we will teach you.

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!

[***Sign Up as a Tower Bell Ringer***](#)

Worship

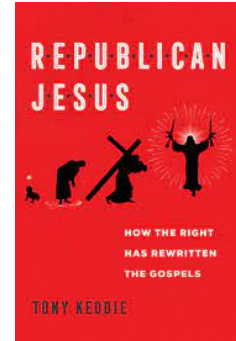
Sunday, February 4, 2024

Isaiah 40:21 + Ephesians 3:20-21

The Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace preaching

Learn

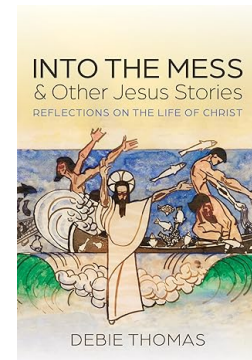
How the Right Has Rewritten the Gospels | An Issues in Theology Class Beginning Sunday 9:45 a.m. Greene Room



The Issues in Theology class will resume its discussion of Tony Keddie's book, *Republican Jesus: How the Right Has Rewritten the Gospels*. Keddie, a professor of Christian History at the University of British Columbia, wrote this book in response to what he feels is a political misuse of Biblical interpretation and history. The class will pick up with Chapter 4 and will continue through the remaining consecutive chapters until finishing on March 17. Note that while this is a provocative book to read, a summary of salient points from a subject chapter is provided each Sunday morning, so one does not have to read the chapter in order to participate in the class discussion.

The Issues in Theology Class meets from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Greene room. More information about the class is available from Tina Sizemore (tinasizemore@bellsouth.net) and Rod Hunter (rhunt02@emory.edu).

Grappling with Jesus's Teachings | A Sojourners Class Brotherhood Room Beginning Sunday 9:45 a.m.



The stories of Jesus' teachings that we find in the Gospels can present challenges in understanding and interpretation. In this class, we will grapple with these challenging stories with help from the thought-provoking essays of Debie Thomas in her recently-published book, *Into the Mess and Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ*. The "Wonders" section of this book, on the miracles of Jesus, provided the source for lively class discussions this past fall. In February and March, we will discuss stories from the "Teachings" section of the book: the beatitudes, the ten bridesmaids, the good Samaritan, and more. Join us for enriching dialogues that promise to offer fresh perspectives on Jesus' teachings.

The Sojourners class meets from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Brotherhood room. Information about this class is available from Ed Carwile (carwile1230@earthlink.net) and Robert Catterall (rfcatterall@gmail.com).

Antiracist Practices for Faithful Leadership Starting February 20

7 p.m.

This series will meet for six consecutive Tuesday evenings and will be led by **Shani L. McIlwain, a Leadership Trainer, Author and Antiracism Coach**. Her role as facilitator and the training materials are through **NEXT Church**.

Prior to each session, participants will have viewed a 30 to 45 minute pre-recorded video. The videos feature two teachers sharing their insights for how church members and leaders can embody antiracism.

One of this recorded series' teachers is Jessica Vazquez Torres, who led one of our all church retreats and frequently attended Central when she lived in Atlanta. The goal of the program as explained by **NEXT Church** is to, "give us the opportunity to learn, explore and practice bringing racial justice to the core of our leadership". The Mission Committee is the program's sponsor. Registration is limited. Sign up is available via the link below.



<https://e.onrealm.org/events/51df5168-11ab-4236-b111-b0dd015317d4/meetings/c5481deb-1739-4de1-8383-b0eb0167d135>

Questions? Contact M.E. Davis at maryelizabeth.pope@gmail.com.



Please mark your calendars for the Women's Retreat that will take place March 8 to 10 at the Calvin Center in Hampton, Ga. This year's retreat will focus on the Eastern Enneagram and Breathwork and will be facilitated by Sharon Junn and Nayoung Kim of **SumTeo**.

Nayoung Kim is an Eastern Enneagram teacher with an understanding of energy, a trained spiritual director, and an ordained pastor. She studied

spirituality in her master's program and D.Min program. Nayoung hears the heart of souls with a deep listening heart, and guides others to wholeness with her intuitive spirit.

Sharon Junn, formerly a resident pastor at Central, is a trained spiritual director, a graduate of Shalem Institute Spiritual Guidance Program. She is an ordained pastor, a trained clinical chaplain, a teacher, and a cross cultural worker with diverse cultural backgrounds. Sharon creates a safe space, listening with the ear of her heart, allowing others to open to their fullest lives. She leads them in their sacred journeys with her gentle spirit.

You may register via the link below or by scanning the QR code.

<https://onrealm.org/cpcatlanta/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=N2I4NDgyYWUtYTZMS00NGI4LWE3MGQtYjBmMjAxNzA5ZDE3>



Central Women Schedule of Upcoming Events

All the women of Central are invited to join the group for any or all of our upcoming programs. We'll have dinner at 7 p.m. followed by our varied and compelling programs. Questions? Contact **Linda McCord** at lindasavagemccord@gmail.com

2/15/24	Home of Betsy Smalley 255 The Prado NE Atlanta 30309	Kimberly Parker and the OAC	Julie Boggs
3/21/24	Home of Jill Lum 1328 Avalon Place NE Atlanta 30306	Meet Melissa Johnson	Denise de La Rue
4/18/24	Home of Julie Boggs 1507 Peachtree Battle Ave. NW Atlanta 30327	Althea Brown and filmmaking	Julie Boggs
5/16/24	Home of Frances St John 4555 Crestwicke Pointe Atlanta 30319	Artists in our Midst	Linda McCord

Give

Automated Giving through Realm

If you would like to make your pledge payments electronically, you can do so through your Realm account by visiting cpcatlanta.org, navigating to the giving page, and selecting 2024 Member Giving from the drop-down menu. To set up scheduled giving, you can choose “give multiple times” with a start date and ending date and gifts will process automatically on the schedule you choose (monthly, weekly, bi-monthly, etc.).

Realm does not update your scheduled gifts automatically with your new pledge

Should you already have an automatic gift set up, you may need to adjust the gift to match your new pledge or set up a new 2024 gift while canceling the 2023 gift if it does not have an end date. If your 2023 automated giving had an end date of December 2023, you will need to set up a new scheduled giving for 2024. This is done by logging into your Realm account, going to your giving tab, and clicking on the schedule button. You can use the three dots on the right to edit, hold, or cancel your giving. If you have any difficulties, please reach out to Kristie Johns (770) 888-9292 or kjohns@cpcatlanta.org for help.

4 Ways to Give



Mobile Giving



Online Giving



Text Giving

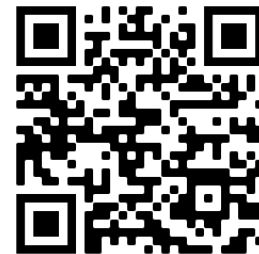


Cash/Check

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>

If you have any difficulty logging in to your profile or making your online gift within Realm, please contact **Melissa Johnson**.

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

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