



The Weekly News

November 27, 2024



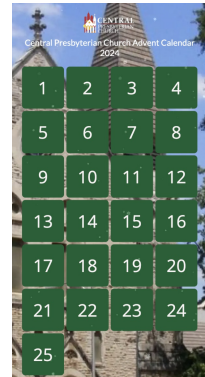
Church Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving.

Flowers for Advent & Christmas

Each week during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, Central enjoys beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary as a visual reminder of the beauty and spirit of the seasons. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, a gift to the Flower Fund is a great way to do it. Use the button below to make your contribution. You may choose to make your gift in honor or in memory of someone, and your name will be listed in the December 18 bulletin. A portion of your gift will also be used throughout the coming year continuing to bring joy and beauty to our worship services.

Our daily Advent devotional will be delivered to your inbox starting Sunday!

Beginning on Sunday, you will receive a daily devotional in your inbox written by one of Central's members. We are looking forward to this special gift provided during this season. Next week, we will feature a more in-depth look at the work that went into this project.



Pick up your copy of Central's Advent magazine

CENTRAL ADVENT / 2024



Central's Advent magazine is available to pick up at the church. It is filled with exciting news and features about what is happening in our congregation and beyond. Thanks again to the talented Betti Rosszer for contributing the artwork for the cover. You may also view the magazine digitally via this link.

<https://cpcatlanta.org/about-us/publications/>



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL

Christmas Tea

HOSTED BY THE DEACONS

Saturday, December 7

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

*At the home of
Betsy Smalley & Steve Young*



The annual Deacons Christmas Tea will take place on Saturday, December 7, at the home of Betsy Smalley and Steve Young. Invitations went out last week so look for them in your mailbox and save the date.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES at Central

Advent begins Sunday at Central and we have many events and activities coming up to observe this special season.

DECEMBER

08

**Youth Group
Christmas Party**
Central Youth Suite
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.



Advent Marketplace

Tull Fellowship Hall
Following Worship to 2 p.m.

Please join us for a Congregational Lunch, our annual Advent Marketplace featuring our mission partners, cookie decorating, adorning the sanctuary with Advent decor and more!

DECEMBER

13

**Central OAC Annual Guest
Holiday Party**

Central Courtyard
10 a.m.



Central OAC holds its annual Holiday Party and all are welcome to volunteer! If you would like to provide food for this event, the OAC is welcoming baked goods, protein items, and fruit. It's best if it is a finger food type of item, not an item that requires serving utensils. Please RSVP to Kimberly Parker, kparker@centraloac.org if you want to attend and/or if you can provide a food item.



DECEMBER

14

**Children, Youth & Families
attend Ballethnic
Nutcracker**

(to support Aubrey Johnson)
2 p.m.

Contact Susan Landrum
for more information on this event!



DECEMBER

15

AMIS Luncheon

Tull Fellowship Hall

Following Worship to 2 p.m.

The Central Mission Committee is hosting 'Christmas with AMIS' on Sunday, December 15 from 12 to 2 p.m. in Tull Hall. This event includes a meal, holiday crafts and games, and a tour of the church. For many international students, it will be an introduction to American Christmas traditions, and it's a great opportunity to reminisce about holiday experiences from childhood as students and volunteers decorate cookies, get creative with crafts, and play games together. Let George Brown know if you would like to join us.



DECEMBER

22

Christmas Pageant

11 a.m.

Join us in worship as we observe this favorite Advent tradition.



◆◆◆◆◆
DECEMBER

24

◆◆◆◆◆

Christmas Eve

5 p.m.

Join us for this special service of lessons, carols, and candlelight.

Pledge Sunday was November 3, yet there is still time to make your commitment for 2025! You may sign up via Realm. Questions? Contact Kristie Johns at kjohns@cpatlanta.org

Central's 2024 Communications Department report available

Central Communications Department completed their EOY Communications Report. The church's communication efforts continue to trend upwards in all facets of communications - social media, livestream, email marketing, website engagement, and public relations. The report contains analytics on demographics, engagement, and geography of our digital audience. You can click via the [link](#) below or the image to read the entire report.



Derek Gripper to Perform at Central

One of South Africa's leading guitarists Derek Gripper is bound for Central in the new year, and we'll need two volunteers to help with ticket taking. Volunteers attend the concert free of charge.

Gripper is renowned for his innovative technique that evokes the rich sounds of the West African Kora (21 string harp), he blends the intricate music of great African composers including Toumani Diabaté and Ali Farka Touré alongside the timeless compositions of Arvo Pärt and J.S. Bach.

Tickets for the February 23 performance are now on sale with an early bird

discount of 50 percent. You can purchase tickets and listen to Gripper's work by clicking the button below:

MORE INFORMATION

The Work Continues on Black Mountain

For those of you who would like to donate funds to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church's (BMPC) community support, you may give through [Realm](#) by clicking the button below. Central will ensure that these funds go directly to BMPC. If you'd like to support efforts throughout the region, donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance by clicking the buttons below.

Online Donation BMPC

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Thirsty Thursday Community & Friends

Come one, come all! Please join us for a holiday "Friends-thanks-mas" potluck dinner party! Use the button below to sign up for at least one item per person to ensure we have enough for everyone to enjoy a meal.

Date: Saturday, December 7

Location: Melanie and Jason Bliss' home

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Address: 466 Leonardo Ave, Atlanta 30307

Attire: Come casually but feel free to dress in holiday clothes- whatever that might be! It's never too early for a Christmas sweater!

Questions? Contact Melanie at drdbliss@me.com or 404-387-0780.

SIGN UP



CENTRALITES IN THE COMMUNITY



M'ville members Mike Coleman, Collins Anderson, Jeff Clemmons, Maryann Daves Lozano, Robert Gwaltney and Dawn Major

Central's Mike Coleman featured at upcoming Artist Salon Celebration

M'ville, an Atlanta-based artist salon of writers, musicians and illustrators, will host a holiday celebration from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 8, in the Vinyl Listening Room at Block Drum Distillery in Chamblee.

There'll be live music, book readings and signings by **Central member Mike Coleman** and other Georgia Author of the Year Award-winning writers, illustrated holiday cards for sale by artist Collins Anderson, and a cocktail specially crafted for the event. Plus, plenty of good conversation about books and the arts. Admission is free.

M'ville is short for Marthasville, the second of three names for the city of

Atlanta. The salon nurtures and supports artists working in Atlanta and North Georgia.

DEADLINE REMINDER: As a reminder, our deadlines for the Wednesday e-weekly is Monday at noon. If you have an announcement, please email Hala Hess White at hhwhite@cpcatlanta.org

Connect

Bookworms

Tuesday, December 3

7:30 p.m.

Home of Ginger & John Heidbreder

Bookworms has changed the location for our meeting on December 3, We'll gather at 7:30 at the home of John and Ginger Heidbreder 4663 Village Court, Dunwoody 30338. Vicki Collier will facilitate our conversation about James McBride's "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store."

All are welcome to join the conversation about this remarkable novel. Questions? *Contact Linda McCord.*

Thirsty Thursdays

Thursday, January 23

7 p.m.

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! Manuel's is located at 602 North Highland Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30307.

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

Serve

The Bashor Night Shelter needs meals

This ecumenical ministry of hospitality to our homeless brothers has operated since 1980, providing nightly meals and a safe warm place

to sleep. The Mission Committee is seeking Central groups to serve on the following dates:

- Dinner for 70 men on Wednesday, Dec. 11
- Dinner for 70 men on Thursday, Jan. 30

If your group is interested or if you have questions about the details, please contact Chris Sciarrone at sciarrone.chris@gmail.com or 404-966-0380.



Help Central OAC Throw Its Annual Guest Holiday Party

We would like to invite you to join us on Friday, December 13 at 10 a.m. for our annual guest holiday party. If you would like to provide food for this event, that would be great! We welcome baked goods, protein items, and fruit. It's best if it is a finger food type of item, not an item that requires serving utensils. Please RSVP to Kimberly Parker (kparker@centraloac.org) if you want to attend and/or if you can provide a food item. We hope you will be able to join us for a favorite event of the year!

Sunday Sign-Ups for collecting friendship pads

We still need assistance collecting friendship pads each week. Collection of the friendship folders is an excellent family activity! Please note the need to move easily in both the sanctuary and balcony. You may sign up by clicking [this link](#).

Worship

Sunday, December 1, 2024
Jeremiah 33:14-16 + Luke 21:25-36
Rev. Kate Culver preaching

Learn



Faith, Theology, and Practice for the Impending Environmental Crisis | The Issues in Theology class

This series, with sessions on November 24, December 8 and December 15 (no class on December 1), will be led by Rod Hunter. The sessions will explore the hypothetical possibility of serious environmental catastrophe - the possibility of the collapse of our civilization, the devastation of our environment, and the ultimate extinction of human life on earth if the planet becomes so overheated as to become uninhabitable. How can we remain persons of faith in such an apocalyptic, worst-case scenario? What practices of faith will be appropriate under such conditions? What can we affirm about God, and the meaning of human life and Christian faith, if such a catastrophe actually unfolds, as some scientists and others are fearing? Is it possible, theologically, that human life and civilization, in God's eyes, are not finally, as we have always assumed, "all about us"? Will God "save" us if we are unable to save ourselves? The class will consider several theological perspectives and possibilities.

The Issues in Theology Class meets in the Greene Room, off

of Tull Hall. All are welcome, and no advance preparation is required; handouts will be distributed in advance and in class. Class contacts are Rod Hunter (rhunt02@emory.edu) and Tina Sizemore (tinasizemore@bellsouth.net).

Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories - Reflections on the Life of Christ | A Sojourners class

The Sojourners class will continue discussions based on the thought-provoking essays found in Debie Thomas's book, *Into The Mess*. These brief essays uncover meaning and raise questions that bring new life to familiar stories of Jesus found in the Gospels - often presenting familiar passages in a new light, and challenging us to apply Jesus' teachings in our lives in the modern world. The class is examining essays in the section of the book titled, "Encounters," about Jesus' interactions with a variety of individuals.

The Sojourners class meets in the Brotherhood Room, off of Tull Hall. Class contacts are Ed Carwile (carwile1230@earthlink.net) and Robert Catterall (rfcatterall@gmail.com)



Antiracist Practices for Faithful Leadership Tuesday, December 3 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom

As a Matthew 25 church, Central has committed to dismantling systemic racism in our midst. One of several efforts in the recent past was undertaken by a group of Centralites who took a live, virtual course together in the spring facilitated by NextChurch. The course, "Antiracist Practices for Faithful Leadership" was designed for people in the church looking to take the next step in their antiracism journey. As the course ended, they decided to keep encouraging each other to practice antiracism in their work at Central and throughout their lives. They meet from time to time to check in and plan actions for Central to consider. This is not a committee or taskforce; the significance of this means all are welcome to contribute to this important work of the church. Indeed, it will not be possible to dismantle structural racism in and around Central without more participation from a wide array of people

The next gathering is via zoom on Tuesday, December 3, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. All Centralites interested in this ministry are encouraged to attend and lend

Give

Humanitarian Response in Israel/Palestine

We have witnessed the millions of people caught in the middle of the devastating conflict between the government of Israel and Hamas. This humanitarian crisis is dire, and the loss of human life is unimaginable. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Church (USA) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of their neighbors. Our biggest concern is the safety and care for those caught in the middle of this conflict and in need of humanitarian aid, no matter their religious beliefs, politics, or nationality.

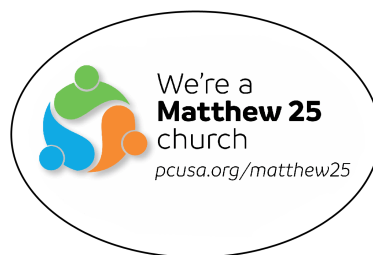
Click this link to give to Disaster Relief for Israel/Palestine (please note Middle East in the Disaster Supported box).

You can also click here to read more.

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.



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