

This Week at Central

January 19 -26, 2025

Sunday, January 19
 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
 9:30 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School
 Youth Sunday School
 Winter Studies 2025
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting & Holiday Gathering @ Rev. Kate Culver's home

Monday, January 20
 8:00 a.m. Memorial Drive Ministries Work Day
 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)
 7:00 p.m. Children & Family Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, January 21
 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
 7:00 p.m. Central in the City (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 22
 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)
 10:00 a.m. GA Water Coalition Advocacy Meeting
 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 23
 9:00 a.m. Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
 10:00 a.m. Environmental Georgia Meeting

Sunday, January 26
 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
 9:30 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School
 Youth Sunday School
 Winter Studies 2025
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Young Adult Lunch

THE NURSERY IS OPEN: Come Little Children! Central has resumed its nursery for children ages 3 months to four-years-old during our Sunday School and worship hours (9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday). Children are always welcome in our sanctuary, but for those parents or caregivers who prefer their little ones to be in a bright, safe, playful environment, please join us in the nursery!

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 dinner for 70 men on Thursday, January 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.

Select Congregants to serve on the Nominating Committee. It is time to begin considering congregational leadership for 2025! The first step in that process is to elect Nominating Committee. This year, the Nominating Committee will be chaired by LaShawn Green and the co-chair is Adam Seeley.

But here is where you come in: We also need to elect four congregational members to serve alongside these leaders. The primary task of the Nominating Committee is to discern the next class of spiritual leaders for CPC by bringing to the congregation a slate of ruling elders and deacons. We want the Nominating Committee itself to represent a wide variety of experience, backgrounds, and voices so we can make sure we are listening as broadly as possible to what God hopes for us.

PLEASE consider either nominating yourself or someone else for this important function of our ministry. **The deadline for nominations is January 26.** You can nominate someone by sending an email to skershner@cpcatlanta.org, filling out a nominating card in the pew racks or scanning the QR code:



Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Kevin Hackshaw
 Tower Bell Ringer: Tricia Berrett
 Deacon of the Day: Ellen Thompson
 Dean Hammond, Volunteer
 Technology Director

Hospitality Team
 Beth Grashof
 Becky Battle
 Philip Covin
 Liz Burkhardt
 Sandy Hoke
 Linda Massengill
 Chris Sciarrone
 Ellen Thompson

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
 The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor
 Susan Landrum, Director of Children & Youth
 Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts
 Mason Copeland, Organist & Music Associate
 Kristie Johns, Business Administrator
 Mark Wallace Maguire, Director of Communications
 Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator
 John White, Facilities Manager
 Abraha Diedre, Custodian
 Karen Brown, Pianist, Bethlehem & Jerusalem Choir
 Naomi McQuiller, Children & Youth Intern
 Thomas Chafin, Music Intern
 Kelly Grba, Music Intern
 Josh Smith, Audio Engineer
 Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Assistant
 Dorran Nickerson, Video Assistant
 Hala Hess White, Communications Associate



The Second Sunday After Epiphany
 January 19, 2025
 Worship begins at 11 a.m.



From a Birmingham Jail: MLK, L'Merchie Frazier

Give

You may give via the envelope in the pew, online at www.cpcatlanta.org or using the QR code.



Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* arr. Michael Burkhardt
Gwyn Bacon, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Ringing of the Bell

*As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world
that Central Presbyterian Church is worshipping God.*

✦ Call to Worship Lucy Baum
How precious is the steadfast love of God.
All people may take refuge in the shadow of God's embrace
Christ is the fountain of life.
In Christ we behold the Light of God.

✦ Hymn 761 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* BEECHER

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Prayer of Confession
Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully ...
(Silent Confession) **Amen.**

✦ Assurance of Pardon
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

✦ Passing of the Peace

✦ Hymn 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

During the hymn response, the children are invited to come forward for A Time with Children.

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Naomi McQuiller

Prayer for Illumination Kevin Hackshaw

First Lesson Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Lesson

John 2:1-11

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn 699 *Fill My Cup* FILL MY CUP

✦ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Kate Culver
CONFESSION OF BELHAR

**We believe ...
that God wishes to teach the church
what is good and to seek the right.
We believe ...
that the church must therefore
stand by people in any form of suffering and need,
which implies, among other things,
that the church must witness against
and strive against any form of injustice,
so that justice may roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
We believe ...
that the church as the possession of God
must stand where the Lord stands,
namely against injustice and with the wronged.
We believe ...
that in following Christ
the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged
who selfishly seek their own interests
and thus control and harm others.
Therefore ...
we reject any ideology
which would legitimate forms of injustice
and any doctrine which is unwilling
to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.
Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Roy Ringwald
Chancel Choir

✦ At the Presentation *Doxology* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia**

✦ Prayer of Dedication Rev. Kate Culver

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer
TRADITIONAL

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✦ Hymn 339 *Lift Every Voice and Sing* LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude *III. Toccata for Organ* Theodore Dubois
Gwyn Bacon, organ



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ninety-six years ago this month, on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. was born here in Atlanta. Only thirty-five years later, this pastor and civil rights leader became the youngest individual to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. On this weekend when we join churches and communities across the nation in honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., we read here again the words he wrote from the Birmingham Jail in April 1963, excerpted from his letter, which was first printed in the Christian Century.

We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless effort of men and women willing to be coworkers with God, and without the hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right....

If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century.... Is organized religion too inextricably bound to the status quo to save our nation and the world? Perhaps I must turn my faith to the inner spiritual church, the church within the church, as the true ekklesia and the hope of the world. But again I am thankful to God that some noble souls from the ranks of organized religion have broken loose from the paralyzing chains of conformity and joined us as active partners in the struggle for freedom.... They have acted in the faith that right defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. Their witness has been the spiritual salt that has preserved the true meaning of the gospel in these troubled times. They have carved a tunnel of hope through the dark mountain of disappointment.