

This Week at Central
February 16 - 23, 2025

Sunday, February 16

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 Hour
Youth Sunday School Hour
Issues in Theology Class
(Greene Room)
Sojourners Class
(Brotherhood Room)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Ed Carwile
(Reception follows)

Monday, February 17

8:00 a.m. Our House Training (Tull Hall)

Tuesday, February 18

7:00 a.m. 9to5 GA Annual Lobby Day
(Sanctuary)
9:00 a.m. Moms Demand Action (Tull Hall)
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movements (Zoom)
6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 19

10:00 a.m. Georgia Water Coalition Advocacy Meeting (Taylor Conference Rm.)
11:00 a.m. The Carter Center (Tull Hall)
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 20

8:10 a.m. Alpha Phi Alpha Day at the Capital (Tull Hall)
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movements (Zoom)
10:00 a.m. Environmental Georgia (Greene Room)
7:00 p.m. Central Women

Friday, February 7

Church Office closes at noon

Saturday, February 8

Church Office closed

Sunday, February 23

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 Hour
Youth Sunday School Hour
Issues in Theology Class
(Greene Room)
Sojourners Class
(Brotherhood Room)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting (Tull Hall)
12:30 p.m. Young Adult Lunch (Tull Hall)
7:30 p.m. Derek Gripper Concert (Sanctuary)

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!

CENTRAL WOMEN will gather Thursday, February 20 at the home of Karen Gravel. All women of Central are welcome. We will meet at 7 p.m. for drinks and appetizers, followed by dinner (7:30) and a program/conversation (8 to 9:30) facilitated by Karen herself. Karen is a well-established architect with expertise in the restoration, preservation, and rehabilitation of historic buildings and sites. Karen will speak to us about one of the most revered and studied southern writers, Flannery O'Connor, who spent most of her life in Georgia. Karen will highlight the places Flannery lived in Milledgeville and efforts that have been made to preserve and tell Flannery's story.

Karen's address is 130 Krog Street, NE; Suite D; Atlanta GA 30307. There is a green gate that will be open. Please park anywhere in the parking lot. There are no assigned spaces and parking is free.

See y'all there! Questions? Ask Melanie Bliss at drdbliss@me.com or Karen Gravel at Karen.Gravel@lordaecksargent.com.

THIRSTY THURSDAYS Join other Central members at Manuel's Tavern for a time of informal fellowship this Thursday, February 20 at 7 p.m. 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

NEW CREW SOCKS NEEDED

The foot clinic is in need of men's white crew socks that are new (in this case we cannot accept gently used) and more than 50% cotton. If you would like to donate, please drop off your gifts to the church office labeled "for foot clinic." And for all of you creative souls who are drawn to colored and cute socks, please remember we need basic white, mostly cotton men's crew socks. In this case, uniformity helps. If you have questions, please contact Martha Crenshaw.

ISSUES IN THEOLOGY: SHAKESPEARE AND THEOLOGY

Sundays, February 16, 23, and March 23 (Greene Room) from at 9:45 a.m. For its first series in the spring term of 2025, the Issues in Theology class will offer "Shakespeare and Theology." This series will involve discussion of three plays with the following themes:

- "Hamlet": The World as Unweeded Garden or Place of Providence
- "Measure for Measure": Public Health and Social Justice
- "The Tempest": Revenge vs. Forgiveness

The class begins with some introduction on Shakespeare's religious world and continues with "Hamlet" on February 16 and 23. The class will then break to join Rev. Kershner's series on "Reformed Confessions," on March 2, 9 and 16. The class will pick back up with the other two plays starting March 23. Discussion class led by Tina Sizemore and actress Kessler Catterall. Questions? Contact Tina Sizemore (tinasizemore@bellsouth.net).

BOOK OF CONFESSIONS - OUR FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

Sundays, March 2, 9, 16 at 9:45 a.m. in The Parlor
Do you think the Book of Confessions is boring? Did you know we often contradict ourselves? In this special series, taught by Central's Senior Pastor Shannon J. Kershner, you will discover the family features that are in each confession, and you will learn why this theological work continues to inform who we are as Church. This series will be taught on March 2, 9 and 16. Questions? Contact Shanon Kershner (skershner@cpcatlanta.org).

Thinking of Joining Central? We'd love to welcome you! Join us in faith and community as we celebrate new members during worship on Sunday, March 2, or Sunday, March 16. This is a time to affirm our shared journey and commitment together.

Give

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



Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
FEBRUARY 16, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



"Men exist for the sake of one another. Teach them then or bear with them."
-Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, Meditations, VIII:59, Jacob Lawrence

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *My Lord, What a Mornin'* Trad. Spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh
Jennifer Sengin, soloist, Mason Copeland, piano

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Ringling of the Bell

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

✠ Call to Worship Rev. Kate Culver
Blessed are those who trust in the Lord
**They shall be like a tree planted by the water,
sending out its roots by the stream.**
Baptized and freed,
grounded in love,
Let us worship God.

✠ Hymn 247 *Now the Green Blade Rises* NOEL NOUVELET

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession
**God of grace and renewal, we admit to you and to each other
that we have not always loved you and our neighbors as fully as
you call us to love. We have failed to be good stewards of the air,
the water, the animals, and the plants. We have turned away from
you and toward our own self-interest. We have been short sight-
ed, and we are humbly sorry. Help us turn back to you, God of all
creation, to reach toward you as a tree sends its roots out toward
water ... (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 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONE

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.**

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

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Susan Landrum & Naomi McQuiller

Prayer for Illumination David Enniss

First Lesson Jeremiah 17:5-10

Singing the Psalter *Psalm 1* ROCKINGHAM
Janet Abercrombie, cantor Text by Michael Morgan
The cantor will sing the first verse. Congregation, please join on the second and third verses.

How blest are they who venture not
Into the dark and sinful way,
But find delight in God's own law,
And contemplate it night and day.

**As trees beside the stream they grow
And flourish, wholesome fruit they bear;
The wicked lot are cast aside
And lost to their own dark despair.**

**The judgement of the Lord is sure
And good to those who seek God's face;
The righteous find themselves redeemed,
And heirs to God's all-knowing grace.**

Second Lesson Luke 6:17-26 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 773 *Heaven Shall Not Wait* HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

✠ Affirmation of Faith Susan Landrum
ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967, 9.15
**God's sovereign love is a mystery
beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ
by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinful people.
The power of God's love in Christ
to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer
is the Lord and Creator
who made all things
to serve the purpose of God's love.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *The Meditations of My Heart* Elaine Hagenberg
Chancel Choir, Mason Copeland, piano

✠ 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

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 852 *When the Lord Redeems the Very Least* I'LL FLY AWAY

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude *Trumpet Tune in D* David Johnson
Mason Copeland, organ

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are placed by the Carwiles and Catteralls in honor
of the shared devotion by Ed and Robert to the Adult Education program at Central*

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: David Enniss
Soloist: Dr. Jennifer Sengin
Cantor: Janet Abercrombie
Tower Bell Ringer: Tricia Berrett
Deacon of the Day: Betty Carroll
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

Sarah Anderson, Video Assistant

Hala Hess White, Communications Associate

✠ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please stand as you are comfortable.
Please silence your cellphones.