

This Week at Central
February 23 - March 2, 2025

Sunday, February 23
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
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
2:30 p.m. Young Adult Lunch (Tull Hall)
7 p.m. Derek Gripper Concert
(Sanctuary)

Monday, February 24
9:00 a.m. Cover Georgia Advocacy Day
(Tull Hall)

Tuesday, February 25
8:00 a.m. Justice Day (Sanctuary & Tull Hall)
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movements (Zoom)
7:30 p.m. Bookworms

Wednesday, February 26
8:00 a.m. GA ACT 2025 Housing Day at the Capitol (Sanctuary & Tull Hall)
10:00 a.m. GA Water Coalition Advocacy Meeting (Taylor Conference Rm.)
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 27
9:00 a.m. 2025 Muslim Advocacy Day
(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 28
10:00 a.m. Movie Day at OAC (Atrium)

Saturday, March 1
Church Office closed

Sunday, March 2
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
Book of Confession: Our Family Photo Album (Parlor)
Issues in Theology Class
(Greene Room)
Sojourners Class
(Brotherhood Room)
11:00 a.m. Communion Service in the Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Congregational Lunch (Tull Hall)
4:30 p.m. Youth Group (Youth Suite)

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 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner is at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham today. She is the speaker for the Barbara Noojin Walthall Bible Series, an annual event that features a different preacher each year.

BOOKWORMS Central's book club will meet this Tuesday, February 25 in the community room of Heritage Place, 11 Colonial Homes Drive, NW, Atlanta 30309, hosted by Ellen Thompson. Our book under discussion is "An Unfinished Love Story," a compelling and remarkable memoir / history book by Doris Kearns Goodwin. If you remember the 1960s and the decade's powerful juxtaposition of political optimism and civil rights clouded by assassination and the war in Viet Nam, or if you want to learn more about this decade of upheaval and change, please plan to join us. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Linda McCord (lindasavagemccord@gmail.com).

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) will be featured as the program for Central's lunch on March 3 after our Communion Service. CMEP will focus on the most current news from the region, including the organization's most recent trip to Israel/Palestine and other parts of the Middle East last fall. Formed in 1984, CMEP is a coalition of more than 30 national Church denominations and organizations working to encourage U.S.



policies that actively promote just, lasting, and comprehensive resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East. You may sign up via Realm or the QR code on the prior page.

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.

IN THEIR SHOES Lace up your sneakers for this year's In Their Shoes: 10 Mile Challenge, a four week fundraising event in which participants of all ages, stages and skill levels commit to walk a total of 10 miles at their own pace March 2 to 30 while reflecting on the distance people experiencing homelessness walk each day. On March 30, we will gather together at Central Outreach and Advocacy Center (COAC) headquarters in downtown Atlanta to enjoy lunch and walk the last mile together. This family friendly event is open to all ages, and we hope you will join us immediately following worship. All proceeds benefit the Central Outreach & Advocacy Center. <https://centraloac.org/>

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 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@cpclatlanta.org).

ISSUES IN THEOLOGY: SHAKESPEARE AND THEOLOGY
Sundays, February 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." The class will 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).

Give

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



Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
FEBRUARY 23, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Moon Masque, Lois Mailou Jones

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Adoration* Florence B. Price
Mason Copeland, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Kate Culver

Ringling 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 Susan Landrum
The way of Christ turns the world upside down.
God’s ways are not our ways.
It moves us beyond retribution and cycles of violence.
God’s ways are not our ways.
It leads us to enemy-love and scandalous forgiveness.
God’s ways are not our ways.
It calls us beyond reciprocity into radical giving.
God’s ways are not our ways.
So let us commit our way to the Lord together
**until our righteousness shines like the dawn
and our justice like high noon.**

✠ Hymn 410 *God Is Calling Through the Whisper* W ZLOBIE LEZY

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession
**O Christ,
the economy of your love is beautiful,
expending goodness
and extending lines of forgiveness
beyond our imagining.
The economy of our love
is stingy and crooked.
We invest love where it can be repaid.
We spend mercy where it yields gain.
We advance blessing we can bank on.
We hold grudges with interest.
We do all of this with no recognition
of how deeply indebted we are to you.
Forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
we pray with our whole hearts ... *(Silent Confession)* Amen.**

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

✠ Passing of the Peace

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

✠ 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

Prayer for Illumination Kristeen Sorrels

First Lesson Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Second Lesson Luke 6:27-38 Rev. Kate Culver

Sermon

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 754 *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace* PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

✠ Affirmation of Faith Kimberly Parker
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 men and women.
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 *We Walk by Faith* arr. Kenneth Kosche
Chancel Choir, Kelly Grba, conductor

✠ 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 Kimberly Parker

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer
TRADITIONAL: INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE
**Beloved parent who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 754 *Help Us to Accept Each Other* BARONITA

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Kate Culver

Postlude *The Rejoicing* Charles Callahan
Mason Copeland, organ

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Liturgist: Kimberly Parker	Hospitality Team
Lector: Kristeen Sorrels	Beth Grashof
Tower Bell Ringer: Kristeen Sorrels	Ben Evans
Deacon of the Day: Ellen Thompson	Bettie Hardin
Dean Hammond, Volunteer	Kathy Harben
Technology Director	Rachel Hull
	Mike Sizemore

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