



The Weekly News

March 5, 2025



This Sunday



Children & Youth serve at our breakfast ministry. Maryville College Concert Choir will participate in worship

The Maryville College Choir will join us in worship this Sunday as Central

observes the first Sunday in Lent. This video snippet is from a performance last year. The choir was founded in 1917. Affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, Maryville College is a nationally recognized institution that blends liberal arts education with professional preparation. We look forward to having these voices join us in the sanctuary and are grateful for members who have opened their homes to house many of the choir members.

Presbyterians for a Better Georgia Seek Your Support

A promotional graphic for the 2025 Lobby Day event. The top left features the logo for 'Presbyterians for a Better Georgia', which includes a stylized blue and yellow figure holding hands under a yellow dome, surrounded by the text 'PRESBYTERIANS FOR A BETTER GEORGIA'. To the right is a photograph of the Georgia State Capitol building's golden dome against a blue sky. Below the logo and photo, the text reads '2025 Lobby Day' in large blue font. Underneath that, in a yellow banner, is 'REGISTER AT WWW.P4BG.ORG' in bold black text, followed by 'Tuesday, March 11th @ 8 am', 'Central Presbyterian Church', and '201 Washington St SW, Atlanta, GA 30303'. At the bottom, in white text on a yellow background, it says 'Bring a friend new to Lobby Day and be entered to win each of you a gift certificate to locally owned businesses'.

[REGISTER HERE](https://www.p4bg.org)



The Rev. Emma Neishloss of Morningside Presbyterian Church attended Lobby Day with Presbyterians for a Better Georgia for the first time last year. She loved it so much that she joined our board. Watch a 1 minute video testimony of how easy, accessible and energizing our training and advocacy day at the GA state capitol is. And, there's a raffle for prizes for first-timers and the friend who brings them this year.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

You're Invited!

Central's Director of Music and Worship, Thom Dixon, will be giving his doctoral choral conducting recital on Tuesday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and will take place at the University of Georgia Performing Arts Center (230 River Rd, Athens, GA 30605).



The program includes two contrasting choral-orchestral works featuring Psalm texts. Jan Dismas Zelenka's *Miserere in C Minor ZWV 57* is a setting of the penitential Psalm 51, "Have mercy on me, O God." It features a small baroque orchestra with strings, continuo, and oboes. Adolphus Hailstork's *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes* is a cantata of psalm text and will feature Associate Professor of Voice, Greg Broughton as the tenor soloist. This work melds together texts from Psalm 121, "I will lift up mine eyes," Psalm 13, "How long, O Lord, wilt Thou forget me," and Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd." It draws on music from African American worship traditions and is a bold declaration of personal faith.

If you are not able to attend in Athens, you can join by livestream beginning at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, March 11.

ATTEND BY LIVESTREAM

Want to Take Action?

This is a new feature in our weekly update. This update comes from Central member Rachael Szymanski

From results.org:

In late January, the Trump Administration imposed a Stop-Work Order on almost all foreign aid programs. The impact was nothing short of catastrophic. Lifesaving services that fight diseases such as TB, malaria, and AIDS were shut down overnight, putting millions at risk of disease and death.

Despite court orders to resume funding, the Administration has yet to comply. Now they have canceled 90 percent of all USAID contracts. Foreign assistance dollars not only provide essential services, they strengthen U.S. alliances around the world. These actions are a direct affront to the will of Congress and must be reversed.

Please call or email your members of Congress today and urge them to demand the Administration reverse the termination of lifesaving aid

immediately. Click the link below for assistance in composing and sending your email.

CONTACT CONGRESS

Update from Children & Youth

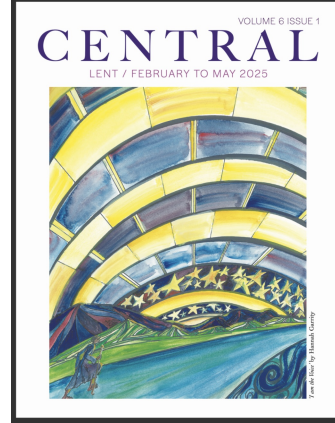


This past Sunday, we enjoyed a field trip to see Decatur High School's production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. It was a delightful and mysterious afternoon where we actually got to vote on the ending! Hats off to the community of Decatur High for putting on such a wonderful and fun play.

Pick up your copy of Central's new magazine this Sunday!

Central's Lent magazine is available to pick up at the church this Sunday!

This issue covers February to May and features a variety of events, activities, and reflections from our staff as we move into this special season.



State House Recognizes Central's Mike Coleman

The Georgia House of Representatives recently presented Central member Mike Coleman with a resolution commending his work as an award-winning author and longtime Georgia resident. Mike's state representative Karen Lupton made the presentation in the House Chamber on February 27. House Resolution 375 recognizes Mike's coming-out memoir *The Way from Me to Us*, for which Mike won 2024 Georgia Author of the Year recognition, and his 45-year career as a



reporter and writer for businesses and nonprofit organizations. Mike is also the author of a 2005 book commemorating the construction of the Georgia Aquarium. Central's Kimberly J. Parker and Mark Wallace Maguire attended the event with Mike's husband, Ted Brothers. Congratulations, Mike!



Coming Soon

Central has joined the Downtown Native Plant Initiative and will be converting the portion of the Memorial Garden along Washington Street into a pollinator garden. If you would like to help with this fun project, please contact Ginger Heidbreder (770-367-2524) OR Mary Lillian Walker (404-229-4526).

The work will take place in several stages:

- Removal of the non-native plants that do not support pollinators. (We'll be honest – this stage won't be attractive.)
- Over the course of several months, install native plants.
- Watch our garden grow! Remember that gardens sleep the first year, creep the second year, and then leap the third year.

Be on the lookout for bees and butterflies!



GREATER ATLANTA NBPC

**SATURDAY, MARCH
29, 2025
10:00 AM**

Westhills Presbyterian Church
2600 Fairburn Rd. SW
Atlanta, GA 30331

Save the Date

Central member and President of the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus Lauren Fields invites you to join her at the March meeting of the chapter for important discussions and planning for the future. Your presence and engagement are essential as we continue our work together.

Please mark your calendar, spread the word, and stay tuned for more details!

Saturday, March 29
10 a.m.
Westhills Presbyterian Church
2600 Fairburn Road, Atlanta, GA 30331

Hybrid Option Available (Join via Zoom)

For those who are unable to attend in person, there is a virtual option. You can join us via Zoom using the link below:

[**Greater Atlanta NBPC Zoom**](#)

Meeting ID: 838 7755 8821 Passcode: 005401

GIVE

You may give to Central online using this QR code or by



going to cpatlanta.org.

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@cpatlanta.org

Connect

The Rebekah Circle
Monday, March 10
11 a.m.
Zoom

The Rebekah Circle will meet Monday, March 10, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. See link below. Kathy Walker will lead Lesson 6 "*Climate Change*" of the *Bible Study Book "Let Justice Roll Down."* Visitors are welcome. Please direct any questions to Frances St John at fstjohn210@gmail.com.

Meeting ID: 820 7890 0904
Passcode: 579526

JOIN ON ZOOM

Thirsty Thursdays
Thursday, March 27
7 p.m.
Manuel's Tavern

Central members meet monthly (the fourth Thursday of the month) 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

Support the OAC with Your Feet



We hope you will join Central Outreach and Advocacy Center for the In Their Shoes 10 Mile Challenge on March 30 immediately following worship. Sign up today to make a difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness.

Thank you to Bill Huss who donated a remarkable matching gift in honor of his brother John J. Huss, Jr. Through February 19, every donation (up to \$25,000) to Central Outreach and Advocacy Center was matched. Even more exciting—your registration for the walk will also be included in the match!

This is your chance to make a real difference. Use the button below to register for the walk or to make a donation and join us in creating pathways to stability and hope!



Meal needed for March 19

The Bashor Night Shelter is an ecumenical ministry of hospitality to our homeless brothers that 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 date:

- Dinner for 70 men on Wednesday, March 19

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.



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](#).

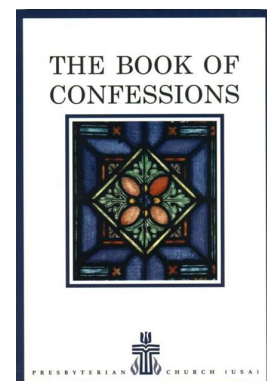
Worship

Sunday, March 9, 2025
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 + Luke 4:1-13
The Rev. Shannon J. Kershner preaching

Learn

Book of Confessions - Our Family Photo Album
Sundays, March 9, 16
OAC Atrium
9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

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.

Class location: OAC Atrium. Questions? Contact Shanon Kershner (skershner@cpcatlanta.org).

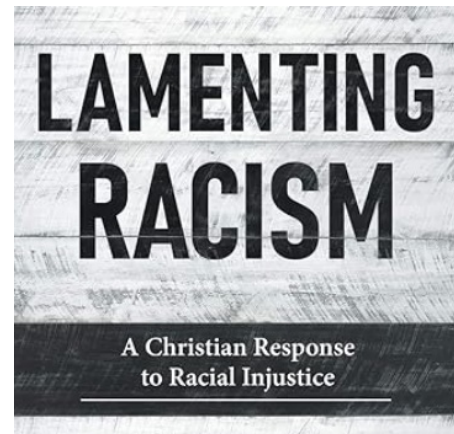
Issues in Theology: Shakespeare and Theology
Sunday, March 23
Greene Room
9:45 to 10:45 a.m.



The class began with some introduction on Shakespeare's religious world and continues with "Hamlet" this Sunday, February 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).

Lamenting Racism
Sunday, March 23
Brotherhood Room
9:45 to 10:45 a.m.



You are invited to join us for a 6-week pop-up Sunday School class starting during Lent called *Lamenting Racism: A Christian Response to Racial Injustice*.

Here is how the course is described: In *Lamenting Racism*, a team of leading pastors and theologians invite us into the transformative and motivating practice of biblical lament as a powerful way to confront racism. Through their conversations in six thought-provoking videos, they name that God's people of every race are called to consider how we have been shaped and formed by race, and they guide us into experiencing lament as an anti-racism practice. Encouraging congregations to reclaim the lost art of biblical lament, these pastors and theologians model a powerful way to pour out the fear, shame, grief, and rage of racism as we cry out to God in prayer. In the process, we will be transformed and motivated to reclaim hope and to act for a world shaped by God's inclusive vision of love and blessing.

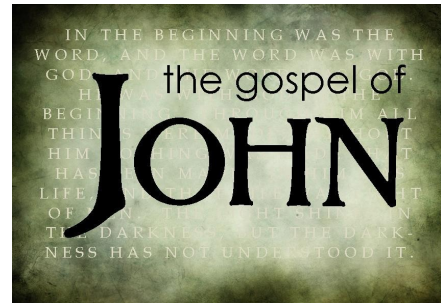
We will gather during the Sunday School hour to watch a short video for the first 10-15 minutes and then have plenty of time for discussion and reflection. Our sessions will be March 23, March 30, April 6, April 27, May 4 and May 11, in the Brotherhood Room.

As a Matthew 25 church, Central has committed to dismantling systemic racism in our midst. With this short series, we have an opportunity as a

congregation to name and lament racism and its impact as well as take new steps to live out our commitment to antiracism.

Contact M.E. Davis at maryelizabeth.pope@gmail.com or 404-630-2678 with any questions.

**Central Bible Study: The Gospel of John
Begins Sunday, March 23
The Parlor
9:45 to 10:45 a.m.**



Central Bible Study, a new adult Sunday morning class, will meet for the first time on March 23. Central Bible Study will be a traditional Bible study class - what some would describe as "close examination of Scripture." The verse-by-verse approach will mean that we'll often cover, in a given class session, just one chapter of the Scripture book of interest. We'll use the NRSV translation of the Bible. The approach to Scriptural analysis will be critical in nature, and we'll engage in Scriptural interpretation that reflects our Reformed theology. The first book of the Bible that will be explored by the Central Bible Study class will be the Gospel of John.

Class location: The Parlor (off of Tull Hall).

CALL TO JUSTICE: Advocacy Training
Presented by
Columbia Theological Seminary in
partnership with the PC(USA)
Washington D.C. Office of Public
Witness, the Self Development of
People from the Presbyterian Mission
Agency, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta,
Presbyterians for a Better Georgia
and Faith in Public Life (Georgia)

Advocacy Days of Training
March 6-7, 2025

COLUMBIA
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Columbia Seminary is hosting Call to Justice, a two-day seminar on March 6-7 at 9:30 a.m. in Harrington Hall. The seminar is an opportunity to learn about organizations within PC(USA) and in our community that witness to their Christian faith through participation in the public square.

For more information and registration go here:

**REGISTER FOR ADVOCACY
TRAINING**

Give

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***.

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.





cpcatlanta.org

Central Presbyterian Church | 201 Washington Street SW | Atlanta, GA 30303 US

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