

This Week at Central

March 9 - 16, 2024

<b>Sunday, March 9</b>		<b>Thursday, March 13</b>	
8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry	8:00 a.m.	Clergy Day with Rep. Randal Mangham (Sanctuary)
9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens	9:00 a.m.	Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (Tull Hall)
9:15 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Youth Suite	10:00 a.m.	Environment Georgia (Greene Room)
9:30 a.m.	Children's Choir	7:00 p.m.	Facilities Committee (Zoom)
9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School Hour	<b>Friday, March 14</b>	
	Youth Sunday School Hour	12:00 p.m.	Church Office closes
	Book of Confessions - Our Family Photo Album (OAC Atrium)	<b>Saturday, March 15</b>	
11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary	Church Office Closed	
5:00 p.m.	Deacon's Potluck @ Rev. Kate Culver's home	4:00 p.m.	Sip and Paint (Tull Hall)
<b>Monday, March 10</b>		6:00 p.m.	Family Ministries and Down Yonder Parish serve dinner at Night Shelter
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	<b>Sunday, March 16</b>	
11:00 a.m.	Rebekah Circle Christmas Gathering (Zoom)	8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry
7:00 p.m.	Central In the City (Zoom)	9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens
<b>Tuesday, March 11</b>		9:15 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Youth Suite
8:00 a.m.	Presbyterians for a Better Georgia Lobby Day (Tull Hall)	9:30 a.m.	Children's Choir
8:00 a.m.	Divine 9/HBCU Day with Rep. Randal Mangham (Sanctuary)	9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School Hour
9:00 a.m.	Environment Georgia Solar Training (Rand Chapel)		Youth Sunday School Hour
10:00 a.m.	Moments of Movement (Zoom)		Book of Confessions - Our Family Photo Album (OAC Atrium)
5:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary
		1:30 p.m.	Atlanta Preservation Society
<b>Wednesday, March 12</b>			
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)		
10:00 a.m.	Georgia Water Coalition (TCR)		
5:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal		
6:30 p.m.	Foot Clinic (Gym)		
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal		

**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!

**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 pm. 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. A livestream QR code is also available, beginning at 7:30 pm on Tuesday March 11.



**Central Women** will meet on Thursday March 20 at the home of Vanessa Hunter, 241 Sycamore Place, Decatur, 30030. We will meet for happy hour (7:00), dinner (7:30), and a stimulating program (8:00-9:30). Janikqua Cutno, LMSW, director of Emory University's Violence Prevention Program, will speak about gun violence prevention. Please "sign up" as early as possible by scanning the QR code for food/drink/cash donations as this will be your RSVP. Questions? Contact Melanie Bliss (drdbliss@me.com) or Debbie Miller (debbietimmmiller@gmail.com)



**Lamenting Racism: A Christian Response to Racial Injustice:** This pop-up Sunday School class takes place March 23 to April 6 with a break for PalmSunday and Easter and then picks up April 27 to May 11. The class takes place in the Brotherhood Room. Contact M.E. Davis at maryelizabeth.pope@gmail.com or 404-630-2678 with any questions.

**IN THEIR SHOES:** The OAC's annual fundraiser takes place following worship on March 30. Visit CentralOAC.org/InTheirShoes to register.

**April 6:** Congregational Lunch. Cathy Harmon-Christian of Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty will speak. Visit REALM to register.

**April 13:** Palm Sunday. Join us in the Courtyard before we parade around the block with our friends at Trinity UMC and The Shrine.

**April 13:** Georgia Tech Chamber Choir Concert in the sanctuary at 2 p.m.

**April 13:** Easter Egg Hunt for Children & Youth at Mary Lillian Walker's home. Stay tuned for details!

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:** Join us on April 18 at 7 p.m.at Morningside Presbyterian Church, as we observe this special day with Morningside & Covenant Presbyterian Churches.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Join us in Tull Fellowship Hall for breakfast for all before worship.



First Sunday in Lent  
March 9, 2025  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Desert Pass, Helen Frankenthaler

Give

You may give via the envelope in the pew, online at [www.cpcatlanta.org](http://www.cpcatlanta.org) or using the QR code.



Gathering Around the Word

Prelude  
*Esto Les Digo*  
Kinley Lange  
Ella Morse, soloist, Maryville College Concert Choir  
Jacob Parauka, conductor and choir assistant  
  
I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them (Matthew 18: 19-20)

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  
The season of Lent sets us on a journey.  
**The Journey begins in the wilderness.**  
We follow the way of Jesus, who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.  
**Like Jesus, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is on our lips.**  
Our call is to trust in God alone, to do God's will in all things.  
**For God leads us not only into the wilderness, but also through the wilderness.**

✠ Hymn 166  
*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*  
ST. FLAVIAN

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Lenten Confession  
**O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall into temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words on our own. We choose ease and comfort over your claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ's name we pray ...**  
*(Silent Confession)* **Amen.**

✠ Extinguishing the First Lenten Candle  
Hymn 579  
*Kyrie*  
KYRIE ELEISON  
  
**Lord, have mercy.** (Sung three times)  
**Christ, have mercy.** (Sung three times)  
**Lord, have mercy.** (Sung three times)

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

✠ Passing of the Peace

✠ Hymn 422  
*Create in Me a Clean Heart*  
CREATE IN ME (Capers)  
  
**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**  
  
*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  
Hannah Kershner

First Lesson  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Anthem  
*Deep River*  
arr. Donald Moore  
Off Kilter Ensemble, Stacey Murphy Wilner, conductor

Second Lesson  
Luke 4:1-13  
Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon  
Following Jesus through the Gospel of Luke

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 429  
*As a Chalice Cast of Gold*  
INWARD LIGHT  
  
✠ Affirmation of Faith  
Susan Landrum  
ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967, 9.21  
**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for all people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgive-ness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory  
*We Shall Overcome*  
arr. G. Phillip Shoultz II  
Maryville College Concert Choir, Stacey Murphy Wilner, conductor

✠ At the Presentation  
*Doxology*  
OLD HUNDREDTH  
  
**Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spirit who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

✠ 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 712  
*As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*  
FOREST GREEN

✠ Charge and Benediction  
Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude  
*Nearer My God to Thee*  
arr. Dan Forrest  
Gabe Hatcher, trombone, Maryville College Concert Choir,  
Chase Hatmaker, piano, Stacey Murphy Wilner, conductor

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Maryville College Choir  
Stacey Murphy Wilner, conductor  
Jacob Parauka, conductor and choir assistant  
Ella Morris, soloist  
Off Kilter Ensemble  
Gabe Hatcher, trombone  
Chase Hatmaker, piano  
  
Hospitality Team  
Beth Grashof  
Martha Haythorn  
Kathy Kohn  
Norm Kohn  
Kathy McCloud  
Isabelle Werber

Lector: Hannah Kershner  
Tower Bell Ringer: Jason Bliss  
Deacon of the Day: Debbie Miller  
Dean Hammond, Volunteer  
Technology Director

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