

This Week at Central

March 16 - 23, 2025

Sunday, March 16		Thursday, March 20	
8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry	10:00 a.m.	Environment Georgia (Greene Room)
9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens		Moments of Movement (Zoom)
9:15 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Youth Suite	Friday, March 21	
9:30 a.m.	Children's Choir	12:00 p.m.	Church Office closes
9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School Hour	Saturday, March 15	
	Youth Sunday School Hour	6:30 p.m.	Children & Youth will serve dinner at the Night Shelter with the Down Yonder Parish
	Book of Confessions - Our Family Photo Album (The OAC)	Sunday, March 23	
11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary	8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry
1:30 p.m.	Phoenix Flies Tour at Central	9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens
5:00 p.m.	Deacon's Potluck at Rev. Kate Culver's home	9:15 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Youth Suite
		9:30 a.m.	Children's Choir
		9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School Hour
			Youth Sunday School Hour
			Issues in Theology: Shakespeare and Theology (Greene Room)
			Lamenting Racism (Brotherhood Room)
			The Gospel of John (The Parlor)
		11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary
Monday, March 17			
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)		
Tuesday, March 18			
10:00 a.m.	Moments of Movement (Zoom)		
Wednesday, March 19			
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!

CENTRAL WOMEN THURSDAY MARCH 20
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” by scanning the QR Code for food/drink/cash donations as this will be your RSVP. Please sign up as early as possible (preferably by March 18) as Vanessa will be preparing our main course. If you are gluten free and/or vegetarian, please contact Melanie (drdbliss@me.com) by **March 18** so we can have an accurate number of meals ready for you! Questions? Contact Melanie Bliss (drdbliss@me.com) or Debbie Miller (debbietimmmiller@gmail.com).



BOOKWORMS will meet next Tuesday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Lynne Jones, 545 Tanacrest Circle, Sandy Springs, 30328. Vicki Norman will facilitate our discussion of The Women, Kristin Hannah's exploration of the role of women in the VietNam war, "at once an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided" (Goodreads). Questions? Contact Linda McCord.

THIRSTY THURSDAYS: 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

IN THEIR SHOES: The OAC's annual fundraiser takes place following worship on March 30. The OAC invites you to join them for lunch as we celebrate Central OAC’s In Their Shoes event. Lunch will be served starting at 11:45 AM, offering a wonderful opportunity for food and fellowship. The cost is \$10 per person. If you’ve already registered for In Their Shoes, no separate lunch registration is needed. If you’d like to participate in both the event and lunch, you can register visit **CentralOAC.org/InTheirShoes** to register. **Please register by March 26th** for a guaranteed lunch spot. We hope to see you there! To register for lunch **only**, scan the QR Code to register in Realm.



SIP & PAINT. Join us for a late afternoon of fellowship, fun, and heavy hors d’oeuvres on Saturday, April 5 at 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., in Tull Hall. Sip on a beverage of your choice and paint away as Lucy Baum guides us through step-by-step instructions to create our own take-home masterpieces. We’ll provide the food and all the painting supplies. You bring your own beverage - we’ll have cups and corkscrews! The parking garage will be open. We must have a reservation so we’ll know how much food and paint supplies to purchase. The cost is \$20 per person. No experience necessary and all are welcome. However, we do recommend that this activity is best suited to ages 12 and up. Visit Realm to register or scan the QR code. **The registration deadline is March 29th.**

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH & LEARNING. On Sunday, April 6th Cathy Harmon-Christian of Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty will speak. Visit Realm to register.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION. On April 13 join us in the Courtyard before we parade around the block with our friends at Trinity UMC and The Shrine.

GEORGIA TECH CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT. Join us on April 13 in the sanctuary at 2 p.m.

EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH. Mary Lillian Walker will host the Easter Egg Hunt at her home on April 13. Stay tuned for details!

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: Join us on April 18 at 7 p.m. at Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 as we observe this special day with Morningside and Covenant Presbyterian Churches.

EASTER SUNDAY: Join us in Tull Fellowship Hall for breakfast for all before worship. No registration is needed.

WATCH US BLOOM! 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).

Give

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



Second Sunday in Lent
March 16, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Los Fantamas: Lamento, María Martínez-Cañás

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Improvisation</i> Mason Copeland, organ
Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Ringling of the Bell	
<i>As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world that Central Presbyterian Church is worshipping God.</i>	

✚ Call to Worship Susan Landrum
The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?
We seek your face, O Lord. Do not hide your face from us!
Do not forsake us, O God of our salvation!
Make us strong, and let our hearts take courage.
We wait for the Lord. Let us worship God!

✚ Hymn 49 *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI

✚ Call to Confession

✚ Prayer of Lenten Confession
Loving God, you have formed a covenant with us, committing yourself to us and inviting us to walk with you. Yet we have resisted, seeking other companions, going in different ways, thinking that we know best. Now we find ourselves far from life, further still from you. Have mercy on our waywardness. Help us find our way back. Give us faith so that we can hold the hand you have extended to us in Jesus Christ ...
(Silent Confession) **Amen.**

✚ Extinguishing the Second Lenten Candle
Hymn 579 *Kyrie* KYRIE ELEISON
(Sing three times)

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

✚ 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.**

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	Harry Suazo
First Lesson	Psalm 27
Second Lesson	Luke 13:1-9 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Sermon	Following Jesus through the Gospel of Luke

Responding to the Word

✚ Hymn 213 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* RATHBUN

✚ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Kate Culver
APOSTLES' CREED, TRADITIONAL PC(USA)
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Liturgy of Receiving New Members
David & Elizabeth Earhart, Thom Dixon & Matt Hepler

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Cantique de Jean Racine* Gabriel Fauré
Chancel Choir, Mason Copeland, piano

Word of the Highest, our only hope,
Eternal day of earth and the heavens,
We break the silence of the peaceful night;
Saviour Divine, cast your eyes upon us!

Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace,
That all hell may flee at the sound of your voice;
Banish the slumber of a weary soul,
That brings forgetfulness of your laws!

O Christ, look with favour upon your faithful people
Now gathered here to praise you;
Receive their hymns offered to your immortal glory;
May they go forth filled with your gifts.

✚ 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 223	<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	HAMBURG
✚ Charge and Benediction	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
Postlude	<i>Fugue in C Minor</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
<i>The flowers today are given glory to God and in memory of Mary Jane Lester DeFeo on the 30th anniversary of her death with love from her children and grandchildren.</i>		

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Harry Suazo	Hospitality Team	
Tower Bell Ringer: Ed Galloway	Beth Grashof	Sandy Hoke
Deacon of the Day: Debbie Miller	Becky Battle	Linda Massengill
Dean Hammond, Volunteer	Philip Covin	Chris Sciarrone
Technology Director	Liz Burkhardt	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