

This Week at Central

March 23 - 30, 2025

Sunday, March 23

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
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 24

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common
Ground (Courtyard)

Tuesday, March 25

8:30 a.m. Partners 4 Faith & Justice Day
at the Capitol (Tull Hall)
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 26

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!

BOOKWORMS will meet 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/InTheir-Shoes** 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.



Thursday, March 27

10:00 a.m. Environment Georgia
(Greene Room)
Moments of Movement (Zoom)

Friday, March 28

12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

Saturday, March 29

4:00 p.m. Sip and Paint (Tull Hall)

Sunday, March 30

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
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
12:00 p.m. In Their Shoes, OAC Annual
Fundraiser and Lunch



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 29.**

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH & LEARNING. On Sunday, April 6 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).



Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



New Jerusalem, Sister Gertrude Morgan

Give

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



Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Herzliebster Jesu</i> Mason Copeland, organ	Johannes Brahms
Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Ringin g 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
Worship is a place to grow.
We listen for God's word.
We invite it to challenge us.
We lean in with curiosity.
We ask questions.
Worship is a place to grow.
So come into this space.
Come rest and grow here.
For where two or more are gathered,
God is always there.
Let us worship our gracious God.

✠ Hymn 415 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* RESTORATION

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Litany of Confession
FROM A SANCTIFIED ART
Holy God, There are days when we fail to rest.
We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation.
We run a million miles a minute.
We ignore your command to rest.
There are also days when we fail to act.
We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.
We find excuses and justify our inaction.
God, forgive our imbalance.
Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.
Show us how to do the same... (Silent Confession) Amen.

✠ Extinguishing the Third Lenten Candle
Hymn 579 *Kyrie* KYRIE ELEISON
(Sing each line 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	Emmalee Hackshaw	
First Lesson	Isaiah 55:1-9	
Second Lesson	Luke 13:1-9	Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson
Sermon	Following Jesus through the Gospel of Luke	

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 438 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* TOPLADY

Affirmation of Faith
FROM A SANCTIFIED ART

We believe in Jesus Christ, who said to ordinary people, “Follow me,” and with his love, changed the world.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who tethers us to all of creation, nudging us toward deeper and more intentional faith.
And we believe in the Creator who brings the sun over the horizon each morning, allowing every day to be a new beginning.
So with this new day, with Jesus’ invitation ringing in our ears, and the Holy Spirit’s tethering love, we realign our hopes with our words, our dreams with our prayers, our intentions with our actions.
Jesus, we believe.
Guide our feet.
Amen.

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *We Shall Walk Through The Valley* arr. Undine Smith Moore
Chancel Choir

We shall walk through the valley in peace.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.
If Jesus himself shall lead us,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no trials there.
There will be no trials there.
If Jesus himself shall lead us,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

✠ 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 743 *O God, You Are My God* STEP BY STEP
(Sing twice)

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude *Improvisation*
Mason Copeland, Organ

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Preacher: Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson,
Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
Lector: Emmalee Hackshaw
Tower Bell Ringer: Althea Brown
Deacon of the Day:
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

Hospitality Team
Beth Grashof
Ben Evans
Kathy Harben
Bettie Hardin
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

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