

WELCOME TO CENTRAL! During your visit we hope you feel the presence of the Spirit and the love of Christ as we worship God together. Please fill out the Friendship Pads in the pews, especially if you are a visitor or have prayer concerns or life updates.

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!

VOLUNTEER AT THE SUMMER SHADE FESTIVAL! Join us for a fun and meaningful weekend at the Summer Shade Festival in Grant Park, **August 22–24!** We’re looking for friendly volunteers to help with our evangelism outreach—a great way to connect with the community and share some love. Scan the QR code to sign up and be part of something special!



WEAVING OUR CULTURE TOGETHER. Join us for a vibrant Memorial Drive Ministries fundraiser on Sunday, **August 24** at 5:00 p.m., celebrating diversity and unity — like a quilt woven from many cultures and stories. Enjoy food, music, dance, and fashion from around the world while helping us build community and support the Shalom community’s mission in Clarkston. Scan the QR code to RSVP. Let’s celebrate, connect, and make a difference together!



HEAR XUEFEI YANG IN CONCERT – USHERS NEEDED! Central is excited to host world-renowned classical guitarist Xuefei Yang on Monday, **August 25**. We need **4–6 ushers** for the event — volunteers receive free concert tickets! To sign up, contact Melissa Johnson. Xuefei Yang made history as the first guitarist admitted to a Chinese conservatoire after the Cultural Revolution. She's performed at Carnegie Hall, the BBC Proms, and in over 50 countries, collaborating with top artists and orchestras worldwide. Don’t miss this extraordinary evening of music at Central! Want to attend? Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.



REGISTER NOW FOR THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT. Join us for a weekend of fellowship, community-building, and fun in beautiful Montreat! Central Presbyterian Church will host our annual All-Church Retreat at the Montreat Conference Center in beautiful western North Carolina **August 30 - September 1**. This year’s theme for the retreat is "Stories That Shape Us," and together we will share, reflect, and co-create stories guided by our faith and commitment to radical inclusion. And there will also be plenty of time for unstructured fun and relaxation! Dr. Hannah Murphy-Buc and Dr. Yvette Conyers will co-facilitate Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning programming. You can find their bios in Realm. Please go to our website or Realm to register.

CENTRAL PRESENTS KINNARA: WRITTEN IN THE AIR Join us for an inspiring evening of choral music with the nationally renowned chamber choir Kinnara on Saturday, **September 6th at 7:00 p.m.** Their program, *Written in the Air*, is anchored by Herbert Howells’ radiant Requiem and explores the space between silence and sound through poetry, philosophy, and sacred texts. Group Discount Tickets are \$10 – please purchase by **September 3** to be included in our group order. Go to Realm to sign up.

JOIN US FOR RALLY DAY ON SEPTEMBER 7TH, complete with a congregational lunch after worship. We'll have a chance to eat with our parishes and learn what committees are up to, what programs we have to look forward to, and how to get involved in it all this program year! Register in Realm.

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Lector: Kerri Shannon
Tower Bell Ringer: Tricia Berrett
Deacon of the Day: Ed Galloway

Hospitality Team
Beth Grashof
Becky Battle
Philip Covin
Liz Burkhardt
Sandy Hoke
Chris Sciarrone
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 Christian Formation & Congregational Life
Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Mason Copeland, Organist & Music Associate
Kristie Johns, Director of Financial Operations
Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator
John White, Facilities Manager
Abraha Diedre, Custodian
Karen Brown, Pianist, Bethlehem & Jerusalem Choir
Kelly Grba, Music Intern
Josh Smith, Audio Engineer
Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Assistant
Sarah Anderson, Video Production Manager
Toby Abrelate, Video Assistant
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 17, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Awake My Soul, Mike Moyers

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>Prelude in G Major, BWV 541</i> Johann Sebastian Bach 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
We come to worship the One who speaks truth,
even when it unsettles us.
**We come to follow Jesus,
who kindles a holy fire in our hearts.**
Christ calls us to read the signs of the times,
to notice God at work here and now.
**We open our eyes to God’s movement
and our hearts to God’s call.**
The Spirit stirs us to courage and clarity.
**Let us worship God with hope,
with honesty, and with joy.**

✠ Hymn 846 *Fight the Good Fight* DUKE STREET

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession
**Holy and loving God,
You call us to live with urgency,
to notice your presence
and to join your work of justice and reconciliation.**
Yet we admit that we often turn away.
We resist the heat of your refining fire.
**We avoid hard conversations
and we shy away from the changes your Spirit stirs.**
Forgive us, God.
**Set us free from fear
and kindle in us a passion for your ways,
so that our lives may reflect your light and love ...** *(Silent Confession)*
In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

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

✠ Passing of the Peace

✠ Hymn 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)
**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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	Kerri Shannon	
First Lesson	Isaiah 5:1-7	
Second Lesson	Luke 12:49-56	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Sermon		

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 29 *O God, You Search Me* O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

✠ Affirmation of Faith Kimberly Parker
APOSTLES' CREED, TRADITIONAL
**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 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Rev. Kate Culver

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Air* Gerre Hancock
Mason Copeland, organ

✠ 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

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 725 *O Jesus, I Have Promised* NYLAND

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude *Fugue in G Major, BWV 541* Johann Sebastian Bach
Mason Copeland, organ

We invite you to remain through the conclusion of today’s postlude as we share a
moment of gratitude and recognition for Mason on his last Sunday with us.

This Week at Central
August 17 - 24, 2025

Sunday, August 17 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens 9:30 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 1:00 p.m. Pool Party @ the Lums 6:00 p.m. New Member Dinner @ Rev. Kate Culver's home	Thursday, August 21 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) Friday, August 22 10:00 a.m. Summer Shade Load In 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes Saturday, August 23 Church Office Closed 10:00 a.m. Summer Shade Festival
Monday, August 18 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 5:00 p.m. Central in the City Meeting (Zoom) 6:30 p.m. Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)	Sunday, August 24 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens 9:30 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:00 a.m. Summer Shade Festival 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting 4:00 p.m. Senior Hang - Atlanta United Game
Tuesday, August 19 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Zoom)	
Wednesday, August 20 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	