

This Week at Central

September 7 - September 14, 2025

<b>Sunday, September 7</b>		<b>Thursday, September 11</b>	
8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry	10:00 a.m.	Moments of Movement (Zoom)
9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens	7:00 p.m.	Facilities Committee (Zoom)
9:15 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Family Lounge	7:00 p.m.	WMA Committee (Zoom)
9:30 a.m.	Children's Choir		
9:45 a.m.	Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)	<b>Friday, September 12</b>	
	Bible Study (Parlor)	12:00 p.m.	Church Office closes
10:00 a.m.	Sunday School for Children & Youth	<b>Saturday, September 13</b>	
11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary	Church Office Closed	
12:00 p.m.	Rally Day Luncheon	<b>Sunday, September 14</b>	
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir (Jerusalem Choir)	8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry
5:30 p.m.	Youth Group	9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens
		9:15 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Family Lounge
		9:30 a.m.	Children's Choir
		9:45 a.m.	Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
			Bible Study (Parlor)
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School for Children & Youth
<b>Monday, September 8</b>		11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	12:00 p.m.	WMA Sanctuary Decoration
5:00 p.m.	Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)	12:30 p.m.	Congregational Life Committee (Youth Suite)
<b>Tuesday, September 9</b>			
10:00 a.m.	Moments of Movement (Zoom)		
5:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee (Zoom)		
<b>Wednesday, September 10</b>			
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)		
5:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal		
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal		

**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!

**JOIN US TODAY FOR RALLY DAY**, 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!

**SELECT CONGREGANTS TO SERVE ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** It is time to begin considering congregational leadership for June 2026 through May 2027! The first step in that process is to elect a Nominating Committee. This year, the Nominating Committee will be chaired by elder Adam Seeley and vice-chaired by elder Melanie Bliss. In addition to those two elders, Nancy Wilkes is serving on behalf of the Diaconate. But here is where YOU come in: We also need to elect four congregational members to serve alongside these leaders. The Nominating Committee serves for one year, with the majority of work will be this Fall in preparation for the annual meeting in February. The primary task of the Nominating Committee is to discern the next class of spiritual leaders for CPC by bringing to the congregation a slate of ruling elders and deacons. We want the Nominating Committee itself to represent a wide variety of experience, backgrounds, and voices so we can make sure we are listening as broadly as possible to what God hopes for us. PLEASE consider either nominating yourself or someone else for this important function of our ministry. **The deadline for nominations is September 15th.** You can nominate someone by sending an email to skershner@cpcatlanta.org, or scanning the QR code.



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**  
Please stay after the benediction and prelude on Sunday, September 21st for a congregational meeting to vote for the nominating committee members that you have nominated as well as Rev. Kate Culver becoming our official Associate Pastor.

**THE RACIAL HEALING COMMITTEE IN COLLABORATION WITH CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CLAIRMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INVITE YOU TO TABLE TALK: GATHERING TO HEAL THE DIVIDE.** We live in challenging, complicated, and contentious times. As Christians, we are called to unity and our witness is stronger when we speak with one voice. Yet it is hard to be faithful as a Church amid so much confusion and division about race, gender, sexuality, immigration, Christian nationalism, and other matters. This event invites people of faith to talk together about our most pressing issues with the goals of mutual understanding and clarity rather than judgment and conformity. Join us for dinner, a roundtable panel discussion, and hopeful conversation. Panelists are: John Blake; Shannon Kershner; Megan Johnson; and William Yoo. This event will be held at Clairmont Presbyterian Church on **October 1st at 6:00 p.m.** **Please scan the QR code to register no later than September 24th.**



Special Participants in Today's Worship

**Lector:** Izzy Wood  
**Tower Bell Ringer:** Bobbie Paul  
**Deacon of the Day:** Nancy Wilkes

**Hospitality Team:**  
Beth Grashof  
Tricia Downing  
Martha Kimes  
Annastassia Pons

**Musicians:**  
Paul Tate, piano  
Chris Sciarrone, percussion

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

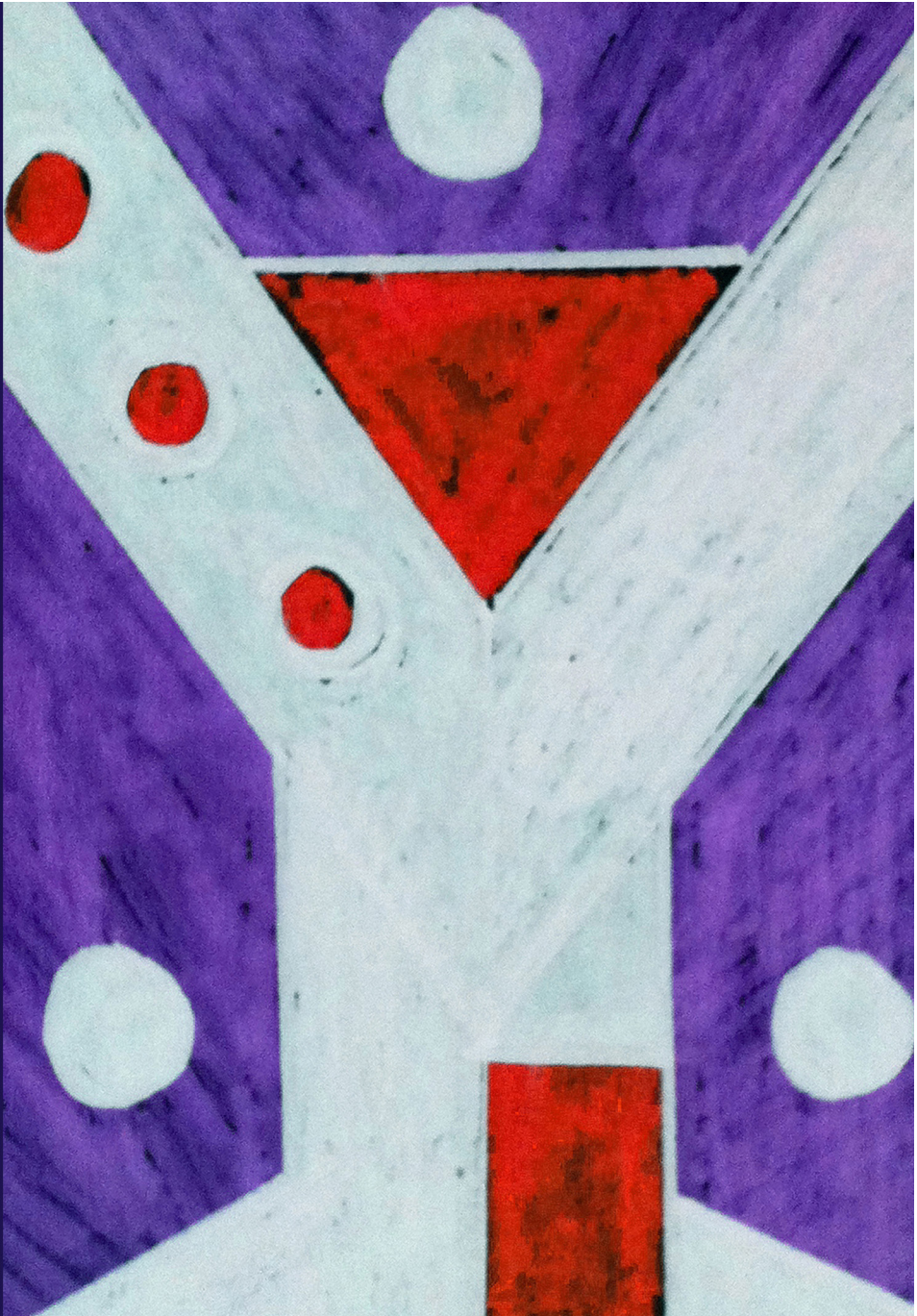
The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff  
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor  
Susan Landrum, Director of Christian Formation & Congregational Life  
Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts  
Kristie Johns, Business Administrator  
Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator  
John White, Facilities Manager  
Abraha Diedre, Custodian  
Karen Brown, Pianist, Bethlehem & Jerusalem Choir  
Kelly Grba, Music Intern  
Aaron Cummings, 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

Give

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



Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 7, 2025  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Eucharist, Robert R. Thurman



# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Resting In God's Arms</i> Paul Tate, piano	Mark Hayes
Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
Ringling 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	Susan Landrum
BASED ON JOB 38	
Lord, You laid the earth's foundations; <b>You placed its cornerstone;</b> while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy, <b>You set limits for the sea;</b> You gave orders to the morning and showed the dawn its place; <b>You moulded the earth until it took shape.</b> You alone know the springs of the sea; <b>You alone comprehend the vastness of the universe;</b> You alone know the laws of heaven! <b>Lord, give wisdom to our hearts and understanding to our minds,</b> <b>as we worship you today. Amen!</b>	

✠ Hymn 297	<i>In Christ Called to Baptize</i>	ST. DENIO
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✠ Call to Confession
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Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,**  
**We confess that we have not lived as your faithful children.**  
**We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred.**  
**We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice.**  
**We have not been a light to the nations,**  
**and our lives have not revealed your glory.**  
**Forgive us, Merciful God.**  
**Repair the ugliness of our sin**  
**and restore in us your beautiful grace;**  
**Through Jesus Christ our Lord ...** *(Silent Confession)* **Amen.**

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

✠ Passing of the Peace
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✠ Hymn 445	<i>God, How Can We Forgive</i>	LEONI
<b>God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?</b> <b>How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?</b> <b>When human loving fails and every hope is gone,</b> <b>your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.</b>		

*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	Izzy Wood	

First Lesson	Job 38:4-18	
Second Lesson	Mark 2:1-12	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Sermon	<b>This is What Church Could Be</b> <i>Unapologetic and Undomesticated</i>	

## Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 29	<i>O God, You Search Me</i>	O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME
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✠ Affirmation of Faith	Rev. Kate Culver
APOSTLES' CREED, TRADITIONAL	
<b>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.</b>	

Offertory Sentence
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Music at the Offertory	<i>Yours Are The Hands</i>	Mark Burrows
Chancel Choir, Chris Sciarrone, percussion		




Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body now.

✠ At the Presentation		
✠ Prayer of Dedication	Rev. Kate Culver	



## The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table
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Prayer of Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you
<b>And also with you.</b>
Lift up your hearts.
<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise...</b>
It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise.
...who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Sanctus	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	LAND OF REST
Hymn 552		
		
1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of		
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the		
		
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are		
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the		
		
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.		
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.		

... Great is the mystery of faith!

Memorial Acclamation	<i>Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen</i>	LAND OF REST
Hymn 553		
		
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.		
		
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.		

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.**

Words of Institution
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Communion of the People
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*We will partake communion via intinction. You may proceed to the station closest to you, pick a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, partake of the elements, and return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, we will serve you while you remain seated.*

Prayer After Communion
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## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 686	<i>God of Our Life</i>	SANDON
✠ Charge and Benediction	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
✠ Postlude	<i>Ode To Joy</i>	Beethoven; arr. Tate
Paul Tate, piano		

*The flowers today are given by the Conyers family in glory to God  
and in honor and memory of Jane Conyers.*

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