

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!

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.



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.



CENTRAL WOMEN GATHERING will occur on Thursday, Friday September 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Ginger Heidbreder's home. The program is Ginger and Mary Lillian Walker speaking about Georgia/Southern native plants and Fall planting. Please sign up in Realm.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH. Join us for a congregational lunch following worship on October 5th, World Communion Sunday. We will have a meal featuring Mediterranean food. We'll also have an opportunity to hear from Rev. Shannon and the stewardship committee about what is central to Central in these coming months. Go to Realm or our website to sign up for lunch.

PRIDE FESTIVAL. Central is excited to participate in the upcoming Pride Festival on **October 11th and 12th.** On Friday, **October 10th** we need a few volunteers to bring in our booth materials. On Saturday October 11 and Sunday October 12 we will host a booth at the Festival in Piedmont Park. Also, on Sunday we will leave immediately after church and travel via MARTA to Piedmont Park to join in the parade. There may be a chance to order box lunches, so stay tuned! Please go to Realm to sign up.

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Lector: Hannah Palmer
Tower Bell Ringer: Althea Brown
Deacon of the Day: Marci Bozeman
Musician: Paul Tate, piano

Hospitality Team
Beth Grashof
Martha Haythorn
Kathy Kohn
Norm Kohn
Kathy McCloud
Isabelle Werber

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, 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



Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 14, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Fall, Kim Chong Hak

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>Give Me Jesus</i> Paul Tate, piano	Spiritual; arr. Hayes
Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
Ringing 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	
Come, praise the eternal God! All you in the heavens, angels above— praise God! Sun, moon, and stars in the sky— praise God! Dolphins and whales, fish in the sea— praise God! Lighting and thunder, snow and rain— praise God! Mountains and hills, desert and prairie— praise God! Fruit trees and cedars, flowers and weeds— praise God! People of authority and political power— praise God! People of all genders, people of all ages— praise God! Let them all praise the name of God! For God’s name stands alone, above all others; God’s glory shines over earth and heaven. Let’s worship God together!		
✠ Hymn 32	<i>I Sing the Mighty Power of God</i>	ELLACOMBE
✠ Call to Confession		
✠ Litany of Confession		
Based on Colossians 3:12-17 Christ, work in our hearts. Help us to forgive others as freely as you have forgiven us.		
Let us clothe ourselves, above all, with love, which will join us together in perfect unity. We have been called to be one body; therefore, let Christ’s peace govern our hearts.		
Christ, work in our hearts. Help us to live in perfect unity with all whom you have called into your church.		
Gratefully make room for Christ’s Word to live in our hearts. Let us chal- lenge one another to live up to Christ’s teachings, and learn wisdom from one another.		
Christ, work in our hearts. Help us to live a truly Christlike life. Help us to be teachable.		
Let us sing to God with grateful hearts! Give thanks to God in the name of Jesus. Whatever we say or do, let us do it in the name of the Lord Jesus.		
Christ, work in our hearts. Help us to live in a spirit of grateful abundance. Help us to live in a way that is worthy of your name ... (Silent Confession) Amen.		
✠ Assurance of Pardon		
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!		
✠ Passing of the Peace		

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

✠ Hymn 445	<i>God, How Can We Forgive</i>	LEONI	✠ At the Presentation	<i>Doxology</i>	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn? How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn? When human loving fails and every hope is gone, your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.					
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 Palmer			
First Lesson		Psalm 148			
Second Lesson		Colossians 3:12-17 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner			
Sermon		This is What Church Could Be Created and Communal			
Responding to the Word					
✠ Hymn 353	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	SOLID ROCK			
✠ Affirmation of Faith	Susan Landrum				
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.					
Offertory Sentence					
Music at the Offertory		<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>		John Ness Beck	
		Chancel Choir, Karen Brown, piano			
		The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faith never; I nothing lack if I am His, And He is mine forever.			
		Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leaders, And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.			
		In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With Thee, dear Lord, beside me, Thy rod and staff my comfort still; Thy cross before to guide me.			
		And so through all the length of days, Thy goodness faith never.			
		Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy house forever.			

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 436	<i>God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us</i>	O QUANTA QUALIA
✠ Charge and Benediction	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
Postlude	<i>Sunday Joy!</i> Paul Tate, piano	Mark Hayes

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This Week at Central		
September 14 - September 21, 2025		

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✠ At the Presentation	<i>Doxology</i>	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.

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This Week at Central

September 14 - September 21, 2025

Sunday, September 14 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens 9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge 9:30 a.m. Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir) 9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room) Bible Study (Parlor) 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:30 p.m. Congregational Life Committee (Youth Suite)	Thursday, September 18 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
Monday, September 15 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	Friday, September 19 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes
Tuesday, September 16 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Zoom)	Saturday, September 20 Church Office Closed
Wednesday, September 17 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sunday, September 21 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens 9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge 9:30 a.m. Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir) 9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room) Bible Study (Parlor) 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Jerusalem Choir) 5:30 p.m. Youth Group