

**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!

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP EVENTS.** Join us for joyful fellowship! Hear from Shannon and the stewardship committee as we launch this year’s theme: “Grounded in Faith – Growing to Serve.” We’ll share what this means for Central and our life together. Please RSVP in Realm and sign up to bring a dish. Questions? Contact Susan Landrum.

<b>Sunday, October 19th</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Northern Lights Parish</b> Rachel Stewart's Home
<b>Saturday, October 25th</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Decatur Parish</b> Clairmont Place

**CENTRAL WOMEN GATHERING - WHY TRAVEL?**  
We will gather Thursday **October 16** at the home of Rachel Stewart, 187 Pinehurst Lane, Marietta, GA 30068-3947. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. for drinks and appetizers, followed by dinner and a program/conversation. Our speaker will be our own Vicki Collier who will present her travelogue experience, with travel tips that Vicki lives by and peppered with a few photos. All Central women and friends are welcome. If you have questions about signing up, email Karen Gravel (Karen.Gravel@lordaecksargent.com) or Debbie Miller (debbietimmmiller@gmail.com).



**CONCERT AT CENTRAL OCTOBER 23.** Central is hosting the world-class guitarist, Kasia Smolarek, winner of over 20 international prizes — including rare honors at two of the world’s most prestigious performance competitions: Pittaluga (Italy) and Luis Sigall (Chile). This event is more than a concert — it’s an evening alive with passion, rhythm, and emotion. From the sparkling elegance of Scarlatti to the fiery intensity of Brouwer, the program is designed to sweep you away. Kasia Smolarek — already acclaimed on major stages across Europe, South America, and Australia — is one of the most exciting guitarists of her generation. If you're able to volunteer as an usher, you can watch the concert for free or, **if you prefer - you can be paid for ushering.** Please email Melissa Johnson to volunteer, mjohnson@cpclatlanta.org. If you just want to attend the concert, you can save 15% by using the discount code "CONGREGATION" at checkout. Scan the QR code above to purchase your tickets.



**JOIN THE NEW SOUTH FESTIVAL SINGERS ON OCTOBER 26** as they open their 41st season with "most this amazing day," a powerful program centered on peace, gratitude, and spiritual reflection. Our own Thom Dixon is the Music Director and Conductor for the New South Festival Singers. This fall concert draws on the rich legacy of American Shaker songs, paired with choral works spanning from the Renaissance to the 21st century. Kevin Siegfried’s Shaker Songs serve as musical guideposts, shaping a narrative that moves through themes of peace, love, radiance, sorrow, and eternity. Unified by the enduring clarity of the Shaker tradition, this concert invites listeners into a space of quiet joy and deep connection. Please note that FREE parking is available at our parking lot. Scan the QR code to purchase your ticket.



**CENTRAL'S BOOK CLUB, BOOKWORMS,** will gather at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, **October 28**, in the community room of Heritage Place, 211 Colonial Homes Drive NW, Atlanta 30309, where Ellen Thompson will be our host. Isabelle Werber will lead our conversation about *The Devil of Unrest*, by Eric Larsen. Questions? Contact Linda McCord.

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

<b>Guest Pastor:</b> Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush	<b>Hospitality Team</b>
<b>Lector:</b> Kitsy Battle	Beth Grashof
<b>Tower Bell Ringer:</b> Althea Brown	Martha Haythorn
<b>Deacon of the Day:</b> Jacqueline Randolph	Kathy Kohn
	Norm Kohn
	Kathy McCloud
	Isabelle Werber



Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
October 12, 2025  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.

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  
Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist  
Kristie Johns, Business Administrator  
Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator  
John White, Facilities Manager  
Abraha Diedre, Custodian  
Karen Brown, Pianist, Bethlehem & Jerusalem Choirs  
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.



To: Susan  
For Pride, Bruno Palmer (Central Youth, 7th grade)



# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Andante Religioso</i> Don Papenbrock, organ	Alec Rowley
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		
FROM A SANCTIFIED ART		
Source of Life, in the beginning, <b>you made us and called us beloved.</b> When we forget how to love, <b>you remind us we are beloved.</b> When the powers of the world try to oppress us, <b>you name us beloved.</b> If our siblings in faith condemn us, <b>you claim us: beloved.</b> We are your beloved, so today we sing your praises, Source of Love.		
✚ Hymn 301	<i>Let Us Build a House</i>	TWO OAKS

✚ Call to Confession

✚ Litany of Confession		
ADAPTED FROM A SANCTIFIED ART		
Divine Creator, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking forgiveness.		

**We confess, O God, that we have subjected others to the kind of rejection and misunderstanding that you yourself experienced in the form of Jesus.**

Have mercy on us, O God, when we have believed what others say about us rather than what you promise. Have mercy on us, O God, when we have caused others to doubt your love.

**Forgive us for the moments we stand in our own way or in the way of others— dimming a God-given light, participating in the silencing of God-given voices.**

Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have allowed ego to overshadow our ability to extend solidarity and support to our most marginalized siblings.

**In times of fear and uncertainty, may we find solace in your promises, O God.**

Strengthen us with the knowledge that you will always take us in and hold us close, especially when we feel alone or misunderstood by those we hold dear.

**Help us, O God, to live authentically and boldly as the children you created us to be.**

Give us courage to trust our belovedness. Strengthen us to embody your love and courage in all that we do. Guide us to walk humbly, act justly, and extend grace and mercy to all whom we encounter.

**May our lives be a reflection of your boundless love and embrace. In your holy name we pray ... *(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		
✚ Hymn 59	<i>The Steadfast Love of the Lord</i>	THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD
<b>The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, new every morning; great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.</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	Kitsy Battle	
First Lesson	Micah 6:8	
Second Lesson	Mark 12: 30-31	Rev. Paul B. Raushenbush
Sermon	Courage: A Heart-Filled Response to Our Current Crisis	

## Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 760	<i>Bring Many Names</i>	WESTCHASE
✠ 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		
Music at the Offertory	<i>Covenant Prayer</i>	Karen Marrolli
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, piano		
Creator, we belong to you, and you dwell within our hearts. Though the road be rough, we will follow you with the strength your grace imparts. Though we be brought high, though we be brought low, though we journey far from home, Let us always seek to grow in love, no matter where we roam.		
Now let us reach out with loving hands to accept, affirm, embrace ev'ry child of God throughout the world and shower them with grace. And let us reach out with grateful hearts and praise our God above through our acts of light and justice as we warm the world with love.		
Creator, let us understand that our covenant with you is a covenant with humankind to hon- or and pursue the road of Christ, through the rocky fields, to the broken and unshod. Let us heal with love, for each soul we meet is a precious child of God.		
Now let us reach out with loving hands to accept, affirm, embrace ev'ry child of God throughout the world and shower them with grace. And let us reach out with grateful hearts and praise our God above through our acts of light and justice as we warm the world with love.		

✚ 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 754 *Help Us Accept Each Other* BARONITA

✚ Charge and Benediction Rev. Paul B. Raushenbush

Postlude *Epilogue* Alec Rowley  
Don Papenbrock, organ

## This Week at Central

### October 12 - 19, 2025

<b>Sunday, October 12</b>	<b>Thursday, October 16</b>
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry	9:00 a.m. Prayer & Parenting Weekly
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens	Meet-Up (Zoom)
9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge	10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
9:30 a.m. Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir)	6:00 p.m. Central in the City (Zoom)
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)	<b>Friday, October 17</b>
10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Brotherhood Room)	12:00 p.m. Church Office closes
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth	<b>Saturday, October 18</b>
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary	Church Office Closed
12:00 p.m. Pride Marchers Pick up Lunch Boxes in Tull Hall	10:00 a.m. No Kings Atlanta Rally
1:00 p.m. Pride Festival Booth and Parade	11:00 a.m. Young Adult Brunch Meet-Up
<b>Monday, October 13</b>	<b>Sunday, October 19</b>
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry	8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:30 a.m. Rebekah Circle (Zoom)	9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge
5:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	9:30 a.m. Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir)
<b>Tuesday, October 14</b>	9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)	Bible Study (Brotherhood Room)
5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee (Zoom)	10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth
Children & Youth Committee (Zoom)	11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
<b>Wednesday, October 15</b>	12:30 p.m. Endowment Meeting
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Jerusalem Choir)
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30 p.m. Youth Group
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Northern Lights Parish Stewardship Event (Rachel Stewart's home)

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