

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 THE NEW SOUTH FESTIVAL SINGERS TODAY 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. Come be moved. Come sing in spirit with us. Please note that 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, Eric Larsen's fascinating and thorough account of the months leading up to the onset of the Civil War. Join us for our discussion about this compelling information and learn a lot more about this pivotal moment in US history. Questions? Contact Linda McCord.

SONGS FOR THE JOURNEY - AN ALL SAINTS' WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. Join us for a beautiful afternoon of music, remembrance, and hope as the combined choirs and clergy of Central Presbyterian Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, and Columbia Theological Seminary lead us in worship. Come and be renewed through song and community on this sacred day of remembrance.

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Lector: Sally Wood
Tower Bell Ringer: Bobbie Paul
Deacon of the Day: Peg Richards

Hospitality Team
Beth Grashof
Ben Evans
Kathy Harben
Rachel Hull
Jackie Randolph
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 Christian Formation & Congregational Life
Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist
Kristie Johns, Director of Financial Operations
Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator
John White, Facilities Manager
Abraha Diedre, Custodian
Karen Brown, Pianist, Nazareth & 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



Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
October 26, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Psalm 1, Louisa Kirkland (Central Youth, 10th grade)

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>Pastoral - Psalm 23, verse 1</i> Don Papenbrock, organ	Percy Whitlock
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
(BASED ON EPHESIANS 4:4-6)
We have come together as one.
One people, gathered in the name of the one God.
We will worship together as one.
One community, giving praise and honor to the Righteous One.
We are being empowered as one by One.
One body and one Spirit, called to the hope of one calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Parent of all who is above all and through all and in all.
Now, in the name of the Three-in-One, we act as one.
One people, giving witness to the power of One.

✠ Hymn 275 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN' FESTE BERG

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession
God of unity and love,
place within each of us
a spirit of hope and community.
Have mercy upon us
when we speak without love
or act without humility.
Cleanse us with the living water of your grace.
Create in us willing hearts
to live in patience and gentleness.
Raise us up to be your children,
growing toward maturity
in faith and love.
Strengthen this church,
that we may be a model
of ministry and unity
for all the world to see.
In Christ's name, we pray ... (Silent Confession) Amen.

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

✠ Passing of the Peace

✠ Hymn 59 *The Steadfast Love of the Lord* THE STEADFAST LOVE
OF THE LORD
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.

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	Sally Wood	
First Lesson	Ephesians 4:1-7	
Second Lesson	Joshua 4:1-6, 22-24	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Sermon	What's Central to Central <i>The Church that Taught</i>	

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

✠ Affirmation of Faith
(FROM CONFESSION OF BELHAR)
We believe in the triune God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the Church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. That unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the Church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain. That this unity must become visible so that the world may believe; that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the Church and must be resisted.

Offertory Sentence Sally Wood

Music at the Offertory *I Will Be a Child of Peace* Elaine Hagenberg
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, piano

O God, Creator, I will be a child of peace and purity.
For well I know Thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness.

✠ 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 Rev. Kate Culver

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 174 *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom* MADELIENE

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude *Exultemus - Psalm 81, verses 1-3* Percy Whitlock
Don Papenbrock, organ

The flowers are given in glory of God and in memory of Edna Bacon,
and given in love by The Supper Club:
Ann and John Bryan
Martha Kimes
Kathy and Norm Kohn
Mary Ann and Godfrey Oakley
Lynne Rea
Dianne Cox

This Week at Central

October 26 - November 2, 2025

Sunday, October 26 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. Confirmation Kick-Off Lock-in Ends 9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room) Bible Study (Brotherhood Room) 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting 2:30 p.m. New South Singers Concert (Sanctuary)		Thursday, October 30 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Parenting Weekly Meet-Up (Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)	
Monday, October 27 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)		Friday, October 31 10:00 a.m. OAC Barbershop Day (OAC) 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes	
Tuesday, October 28 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 3:30 p.m. Endowment Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. Bookworms Gathering		Saturday, November 1 Church Office Closed Bashor Night Shelter Opens	
Wednesday, October 29 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, November 2 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 (Brotherhood Room) 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:30 p.m. Pollard/Covenant Committee (Randolph Taylor Conf. Room) 2:30 p.m. All Saints' Day Worship Service (Sanctuary) 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Jerusalem Choir) 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	