

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 its nursery for children ages 3 months to four-years-old during our Sunday School and worship hours (9 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!

NOMINATIONS NEEDED! It’s time to nominate Deacons, Ruling Elders, and members of the Nominating Committee! Please pray about whom God may be calling to serve — including yourself. Submit nominations no later than **TODAY, Sunday, November 9**, by scanning the QR code. The Class of 2029 officers and 2026 committee members will be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 15.



GEORGIA TECH CHORALE & CHAMBER CHOIR IN CONCERT
Join us on Sunday, November 16 at 2:30 p.m. for an inspiring afternoon of beautiful choral music as the Georgia Tech Chorale and Chamber Choir, directed by Dr. B.E. Boykin and Dr. Josh Palkki, performs in our sanctuary. This free concert is open to all—donations will be gratefully accepted to support Central’s Arts of the Spirit fund.

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE. On the evening of Nov. 16 Central is gathering with our friends at The Collective for a special worship service to mark Trans Day of Remembrance. The service will take place in the sanctuary of Central at 5 pm with a meal following in Tull Hall.

HELP OUR FRIENDS AT THE NIGHT SHELTER. One of the beautiful ways Central members serve at the Night Shelter is by offering pedicures and foot massages to the shelter guests. No experience is needed; seasoned volunteers provide on-the-job training, and there are many ways to help. We serve on Wednesday nights, and continuing most weeks through March (with breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas). You can serve once or volunteer regularly. For further information, please contact Martha Crenshaw via email or 404-444-1958. You can also talk with Ed Galloway, Mary Jane Cornell, Adam Seeley or Beth Grashof to hear about their experiences.

The Mission Committee is seeking Central groups to serve. Volunteers will serve guests of the night shelter by providing sack lunches. There is also a need for people to serve dinner, provide breakfast snacks, and volunteers overnight. They will need lunch bags, dinner and breakfast for 70 men.

If you or your group is interested or if you have questions, please contact Ben Sutton at ben.t.sutton@gmail.com to see what dates that Central Presbyterian will be volunteering to serve our neighbors.

CENTRAL WOMEN NOVEMBER GATHERING. Join us at the home of Nancy Wilkes on November 20th at 7 p.m. for an evening of fellowship, food, and conversation. The program will feature Central’s own Denise de la Rue, an attorney and trial consultant who has worked on high-profile cases including the Unabomber and Olympic Park Bomber trials. Don’t miss this fascinating look behind the scenes of the courtroom! Please RSVP and sign up to bring food, a beverage, or \$10 “Cash for the Kitty.” Questions? Contact Karen Gravel or Debbie Miller.

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Lector: Brian Bishop
Tower Bell Ringer: Althea Brown
Deacon of the Day: Brian Bishop

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
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



Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
November 9, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



From the Balcony, Izzy Wood (Central Youth, 11th 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>This is my Father's World</i> Don Papenbrock, organ	Diane Bish
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>	
Choral Introit	<i>Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ</i> Nazareth Choir, Kelly Grba and Aaron Cummings, conductors Thom Dixon, claves, Don Papenbrock, piano	LINSTEAD
✠ Call to Worship	Rev. Kate Culver All that we have and all that we are come from the goodness of God. We come with grateful hearts, to give thanks and to dedicate our lives once more. The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it the world and those who live in it. We are stewards of this sacred trust, called to tend, to share, and to serve. Let us worship the One who calls us to generosity and joy, to justice and compassion, to faith made visible in the living of our days. With open hands and open hearts, we come to worship God!	
✠ Hymn 234	<i>Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain</i>	ST. KEVIN
✠ Call to Confession		
✠ Prayer of Confession	Gracious and Generous God, you have poured out your abundance upon us, yet we confess that we often live as though there is not enough. We cling to what we have, fearing there will not be more. We measure our worth by our possessions and our security by what we can control. Forgive us, O God. In your mercy, remake us into a people whose generosity mirrors your own, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend ... (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 817	<i>We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight</i>	DUNLAP'S CREEK
	We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."	
	<i>During the hymn response, the children are invited to come forward for A Time with Children.</i>	
A Time with Children		Susan Landrum
Prayer for Illumination		Brian Bishop
First Lesson	Psalm 99	
Second Lesson	Matthew 13:31-32, 34	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Proclaiming the Word

Sermon	What's Central to Central <i>The Church that Is</i>	
	Responding to the Word	
✠ Hymn 298	<i>Lord, You Give the Great Commission</i>	ABBOT'S LEIGH
✠ Affirmation of Faith	Susan Landrum EXCERPTS FROM BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.	
Liturgy for New Members	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner and Rev. Kate Culver	
Offertory Sentence		Brian Bishop
Music at the Offertory	<i>All Nations</i> Jerusalem and Chancel Choirs, Karen Brown, piano	Mark Miller
	All nations will stream to the mountain of God, all races, all peoples as one: from the ends of the earth to the farthest of reaches, up to God's mountain they'll come.	
	Their weapons of anger will all become plowshares; pruning hooks come from their spears; out of Zion shall go forth instructions for justice, joy will replace all their tears.	
	O, the love of God flows down from the mountain, where war is no more, all the peoples, the nations singing together, sing of God's peace evermore!	
	All the people will gather at God's holy mountain, seeking to hear of God's ways, learning to travel the path of God's choosing, living in light all their days.	
	O, the love of God flows down from the mountain...	
	Joy flows down, let us go to the mountain of God. Love flows down, down from the Lord. Peace flows down, peace evermore, peace flows down evermore!	
	All nations will stream to the mountain of God, all races, all peoples as one: from the ends of the earth to the farthest of reaches, up to God's mountain they'll come.	
	O, the love of God flows down from the mountain...	
✠ 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		Susan Landrum
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 822	<i>When We Are Living</i>	SOMOS DEL SEÑOR
	Please bring your pledge cards to the table as we commit our gifts for 2026	
✠ Litany of Dedication	The Creator of all life and love has given our earth bountiful blessings. God created humanity to share in the wonder of these blessings and to steward them for the purposes of God. All thanks be to God, Giver and Receiver of all that is good. We return to God portions of what God has given us: our time, the fruits of our labors, our commitment. May the giving from the fullness of our lives be acceptable in God's sight. May the gifts we bring show that God's rule is at hand—both now and to come. We dedicate our promise toward the ministry God has given us. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!	
✠ Charge and Benediction		Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Postlude	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing</i> Don Papenbrock, organ	Diane Bish
	<i>The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and with gratitude and in honor of Rev. Shannon Kershner by Bobbie and Rod Paul, celebrating the marriage of their son, Andrew Paul, to Ms. Lindsay Rider on November 8th at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.</i>	

This Week at Central
November 9 - 16, 2025

Sunday, November 9 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) 9:30 a.m. Called Session Meeting for New Members 9:45 a.m. Fall Mini-Series on Campbell and Eagan (OAC Atrium) 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary	Thursday, November 13 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Parenting Weekly Meet-Up (Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. WMA Committee (Zoom) 8:00 p.m. Prayer & Parenting Monthly Meet-Up (Zoom)
Monday, November 10 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 11:00 a.m. Rebekah Circle (Zoom) 5:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)	Friday, November 14 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes
Tuesday, November 11 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee (Zoom)	Saturday, November 15 Church Office Closed 10:00 a.m. Georgia Tech Choir Concert Rehearsal
Wednesday, November 12 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sunday, November 16 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. Fall Mini-Series on Campbell and Eagan (OAC Atrium) 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting (Tull Hall) 2:30 p.m. Georgia Tech Choir Concert (Sanctuary) 4:30 p.m. Jerusalem Choir (Youth) 5:00 p.m. Trans Day of Remembrance (Sanctuary followed by meal in Tull Hall)

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