

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 open 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!

THANKSGIVING WEEK. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, there will be no gatherings for Bookworms or the Thirsty Thursday group. The church office, Our House and the OAC will also be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26–27. Wishing everyone a safe and joyful holiday!

ATTENTION ALL BOOKWORMS! Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, Bookworms will not meet in November. Our next meeting will be December 2 at 7:30. We will gather at the home of Rod and Ann Hunter, where they will lead our conversation about *James* by Percival Everett, a response to Huckleberry Finn told from the perspective of Twain's enslaved character Jim. Questions? Contact Linda McCord. If you can help provide refreshments, please contact Ann Hunter.

ADVENT MARKETPLACE & CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH
Join us for our Annual Advent Market and Congregational Lunch! Come enjoy a festive afternoon of good food, fellowship, and holiday spirit. Lunch will be provided by Bantam & Bidy, featuring delicious gluten-free chicken fingers, fresh salads, and tasty sides. Please register for the lunch in Realm or scan the QR code. The Advent Market is free—so be sure to stop by, browse, and shop with our wonderful mission partners!



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS
Each week during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, Central enjoys beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary as a visual reminder of the beauty and spirit of the seasons. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, a gift to the Flower Fund is a great way to do it. A portion of your gift will also be used throughout the coming year continuing to bring joy and beauty to our worship services. You may choose to make your gift in honor or in memory of someone, and your name will be listed in the December 21 bulletin.



ADVENT IS COMING!! Next Sunday, November 30th, is the First Sunday in Advent. For more details, check the CPC Website calendar and Realm. Here are the Central Advent Events:

Sunday, November 30		Advent Devotional Emails Start
Saturday, December 6	6:00 p.m.	Children & Youth Potluck
Sunday, December 7	12:00 p.m.	Advent Marketplace & Lunch
	6:00 p.m.	Session Christmas Party
Monday, December 8	11:00 a.m.	Rebekah Circle Christmas Gathering
Friday, December 12	6:30 p.m.	Young Adult Garden Lights & Dinner
Saturday, December 13	2:00 p.m.	Deacon's Christmas Tea
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Christmas Party
Sunday, December 14	12:00 p.m.	AMIS Christmas Lunch
	12:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group Christmas Party
Thursday, December 18	7:30 p.m.	Glenn Rainey & Paul Tate Present a Christmas Concert and Fundraiser for the OAC
Sunday, December 21	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant
	12:00 p.m.	Congregational Lunch
Wednesday, December 24	4:00 p.m.	Coffee & Connection (Tull Hall)
	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday, December 25		Christmas Day

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ted Wardlaw
Pastor Emeritus

Lector: Anita Carwile
Tower Bell Ringer: Nancy Wilkes
Deacon of the Day: Linda Massengill

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

Give

You may give via the envelope in the pew, online at www.cpcatlanta.org or using the QR code.



Reign of Christ Sunday
November 23, 2025
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



A Visit, John August Swanson

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Hymn Prelude on 'Darwell's 48th'</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 worshiping God.</i>	

✚ Call to Worship
The Holy One sends us out,
not alone, but two by two,
carrying peace and good news wherever we go.
We come, ready to be sent,
trusting that God’s Spirit goes before us.
The harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few.
Still, Christ calls us into the fields of love and justice.
We come to serve, to listen, to bless,
and to see God’s kingdom drawing near.
Rejoice, for our names are written in heaven!
Grace and power are ours through Christ.
**We return with joy, giving thanks to the One who reveals truth to the
humble and peace to the world.**

✚ Hymn 4 *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* GROSSER GOTT,
WIR LOBEN DICH

✚ Call to Confession

✚ Prayer of Confession
Merciful God,
You send us out with good news,
but too often we stay where it feels safe.
You invite us to bring peace,
but we carry anxiety, fear, or pride instead.
You ask us to trust in your provision,
yet we cling to what we can control.
Forgive us when we forget that the kingdom of heaven has come near,
not through our success, but through your grace.
Renew our hearts and our courage,
that we might go where you send us,
offering healing, hope, and joy in 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

✚ Hymn 817 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* 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."

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	Anita Carwile	
First Lesson	Isaiah 6:1-9	
Second Lesson	Luke 10:1-12, 17-21	Rev. Dr. Ted Wardlaw
Sermon	<i>Scratch the Walls</i>	

Responding to the Word

✚ Hymn 722 *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak* CANONBURY

✚ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

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 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* arr. Robert Lau
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, organ

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along,
I sing aloud Your praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory now!

Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.

✚ 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 de-
liver 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 268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns* DIADEMATA

✚ Charge and Benediction Rev. Dr. Ted Wardlaw

Postlude *Carillon Peal on 'Darwall's 48th'* James Biery
Don Papenbrock, organ

This Week at Central

November 23 - 30, 2025

Sunday, November 23		Thursday, November 27	
8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry	Thanksgiving - Church Office Closed	
9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens		
9:15 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Family Lounge	Friday, November 28	
9:30 a.m.	Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir)	Church Office Closed	
9:45 a.m.	Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)	Saturday, November 29	
	Bible Study (Brotherhood Room)	Church Office Closed	
10:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Rand Chapel)	Sunday, November 30	
11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary	1st Sunday in Advent	
12:00 p.m.	Reception for the Wardlaw family (Tull Hall)	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)
Monday, November 24		9:45 a.m.	Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)		Bible Study (Brotherhood Room)
		10:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Rand Chapel)
Tuesday, November 25		11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.	Moments of Movement (Zoom)	4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir (Jerusalem Choir)
		5:30 p.m.	Youth Group (Youth Suite)
Wednesday, November 26			
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)		

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