

**CENTRAL WOMEN'S JANUARY GATHERING**  
The first 2026 Central Women's Gathering will be on **January 15 at 7 p.m.** at the home of Debbie Miller. Bede Campbell will be the presenter. Bede will discuss her years and experiences as a docent for Zoo Atlanta, encompassing animal conservation, animal welfare, and the study of animal behavior.



**JOIN US FOR A COURSE IN COMMUNITY!** We are partnering with The Candler Foundry to host **Celtic Christianity: A Sacred Pilgrimage**. On Sunday, **January 11th**, Adult Sunday School will be combined for our Winter Series with a focus on Celtic Spirituality. These classes will take place in the atrium of the OAC from 9:45am - 10:45am. Our first session will be led by Rev. Kate Culver and George Brown and offer an overview of the upcoming pilgrimage to Scotland. The next three sessions, **January 18, 25 and February 1**, will be facilitated by Dr. Brett Opalinski from The Candler Foundry. This class will explore the mystical, holy, and strangely practical way of being Christian that emerged from the Celtic World.

**BOOKWORMS** Join us on **January 27 at 7:00 p.m.** for a lively and enjoyable discussion of *The Life & Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson. Our conversation will be facilitated by Mike Coleman and graciously hosted by Frances St. John. We'd love to have you with us! If you have any questions, please contact Linda McCord.



This Week at Central  
January 11 - 18, 2025

<b>Sunday, January 11</b>		9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)
8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry	9:30 a.m.	Georgia Water Coalition Advocacy Group (Taylor)
9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens		Bell Choir Rehearsal
9:45 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Youth Suite	5:30 p.m.	
9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School: Celtic Christianity (OAC Lobby)	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m.	Sunday School for Children & Youth	<b>Thursday, January 15</b>	
11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.	Moments of Movement (Zoom)
12:00 p.m.	Facilities Meeting (Taylor)	10:00 a.m.	Environment Georgia (Greene Room)
12:15 p.m.	Congregational Life Committee Meeting (Youth Suite)	7:00 p.m.	Central Women (Debbie Miller's home)
5:30 p.m.	Youth Group (Youth Suite)	<b>Friday, January 16</b>	
<b>Monday, January 12</b>		12:00 p.m.	Church Office closes
8:30 a.m.	ACLU 1st Day of Legislative Session (Sanctuary)	<b>Saturday, January 17</b>	
9:00 a.m.	Georgia Poor People's Campaign Moral Mondays (Tull Hall)	Church Office Closed	
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	9:00 a.m.	High School Learning & Mission trip to Birmingham departs
11:00 a.m.	Rebekah Circle (Zoom)	<b>Sunday, January 18</b>	
5:00 p.m.	Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)	8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry
<b>Tuesday, January 13</b>		9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens
10:00 a.m.	Moments of Movement (Zoom)	9:15 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Youth Suite
5:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee (Zoom)	9:30 a.m.	Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir)
5:00 p.m.	Central Children & Youth Committee (Google Meet)	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School: Celtic Christianity (OAC Lobby)
6:30 p.m.	Nominating Committee (Zoom)	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School for Children & Youth
<b>Wednesday, January 14</b>		11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Lector: Elizabeth Earhart  
Tower Bell Ringer: Althea Brown  
Deacon of the Day:

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

Centralites Under Care of the Session  
As They Prepare for Ordained Ministry

Christian Antwi  
Samuel Ayantor  
Lucy Baum  
Susan Landrum  
Ximena Leroux  
Kimberly Parker

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, Bethlehem & Jerusalem Choir  
Kelly Grba, 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.



Baptism of the Lord Sunday  
January 11, 2025  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



*I Baptize Thee*, William H. Johnson



Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Fantasia con organo pleno</i> Don Papenbrock, organ	Johann Christian Kittel
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	Rev. Kate Culver	
Mountains and rivers, islands and oceans, <b>Give God Glory!</b> Foolish and wise, rulers and nations, <b>Give God Glory!</b> All who live, all who breathe, <b>Give God Glory!</b> Exciting God, Glorious God, <b>Baptize us with wonder.</b> Wise God, Righteous God, <b>Baptize us with justice.</b> Holy God, Covenant God, <b>Baptize us with love. Let us worship!</b>		
✠ Hymn 463	<i>How Firm a Foundation</i>	FOUNDATION
✠ Call to Confession		
✠ Litany of Confession		
Timeless God, you cast Light into sin's shadow places and call us your beloved. Forgive us: <b>when we still linger in the shadows;</b> <b>when we treat others in hurtful ways;</b> <b>when we speak ill of your friends.</b> As he knelt in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus as your Son, pointing to him as our way to you. Forgive us: <b>when we put ourselves ahead of him;</b> <b>when we think he is no longer needed;</b> <b>when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.</b> Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your servants in our time. Forgive us: <b>when we fail to welcome the stranger;</b> <b>when we refuse to forgive as we should;</b> <b>when we believe we are too good to kneel down</b> <b>and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, and the little.</b> Forgive us, O God, and make us new again.... (Silent Confession) We pray in Jesus' name. <b>Amen.</b>		
✠ Assurance of Pardon		
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. <b>In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!</b>		
✠ Passing of the Peace		
✠ Hymn 795	<i>Healer of Our Every Ill</i>	HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL
<b>Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.</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	Elizabeth Earhart	
First Lesson	Isaiah 42:1-9	
Second Lesson	Matthew 3:13-4:1	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Sermon		

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 488	<i>I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry</i>	WATERLIFE
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Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

✠ Baptismal Litany

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner and Susan Landrum

Remember your baptism and be glad!

**The waters of God's mercy have flowed, and we have been cleansed and refreshed.**

Remember the waters that God gathered together and called seas: the mothers of rivers, lakes, and springs that quench the thirst of the earth and all its inhabitants.

**We drink of the water of God's creation and praise God's name for life.**

Remember the waters of the Red Sea and God's salvation.

**With the people of old, we have been freed from our oppression and brought to a new land.**

Remember the well where our Samaritan sister found Jesus and received her blessing.

**We know that sacred place, for Jesus has also encountered us there, speaking truth to us and loving us.**

Remember Jesus at the River Jordan;

**the One who was without sin took upon himself our sin.**

We are redeemed by Jesus, called to live his righteousness.

**May God be our help.**

Remember God's grace; we are redeemed by Jesus and not by who we are or what we do.

**Thanks be to God for unmerited grace!**

Remember your baptism and be glad!

**We remember and our lives are filled with joy!**

✠ Profession of Faith and Renunciations	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner and Rev. Kate Culver	
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✠ 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>	

Blessing Over the Waters	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
Proclamation and Invitation for Remembrance	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner and Rev. Kate Culver	

The Lord's Prayer	Susan Landrum
TRADITIONAL	
<b>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.</b>	

Offertory Sentence		
Music at the Offertory	<i>The Spirit of the Lord</i> Chancel Choir, Aaron Cummings, soloist Don Papenbrock, piano	Zebulon M. Highben

Now John baptized with water, but the Lord baptizes with the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit of the Lord rest upon you; the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of council and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Blessed by the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone has done wondrous things.		
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✠ At the Presentation	<i>Doxology</i>	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
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<b>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</b>		
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✠ Prayer of Dedication	Susan Landrum	
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Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 482	<i>Baptized in Water</i>	BUNESSAN
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✠ Charge and Benediction	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
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Postlude	<i>Praeludium in C</i> Don Papenbrock, organ	Johann Christian Kittel
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**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!