

## 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

#### Sunday, January 11

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry  
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens  
9:45 a.m. Doughnuts in the Youth Suite  
9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School: Celtic Christianity (OAC Lobby)  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Facilities Meeting (Taylor)  
12:15 p.m. Congregational Life Committee Meeting (Youth Suite)  
5:30 p.m. Youth Group (Youth Suite)

#### Monday, January 12

8:30 a.m. ACLU 1st Day of Legislative Session (Sanctuary)  
9:00 a.m. Georgia Poor People's Campaign Moral Mondays (Tull Hall)  
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)  
11:00 a.m. Rebekah Circle (Zoom)  
5:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)

#### Tuesday, January 13

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee (Zoom)  
5:00 p.m. Central Children & Youth Committee (Google Meet)  
6:30 p.m. Nominating Committee (Zoom)

#### Wednesday, January 14

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)  
9:30 a.m. Georgia Water Coalition Advocacy Group (Taylor)  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, January 15

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
10:00 a.m. Environment Georgia (Greene Room)  
7:00 p.m. Central Women (Debbie Miller's home)

#### Friday, January 16

12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

#### Saturday, January 17

Church Office Closed  
9:00 a.m. High School Learning & Mission trip to Birmingham departs

#### Sunday, January 18

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry  
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens  
9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Youth Suite  
9:30 a.m. Children's Choir (Nazareth Choir)  
9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School: Celtic Christianity (OAC Lobby)  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth  
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



**CENTRAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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

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.



*I Baptize Thee*, William H. Johnson



201 Washington St. Atlanta, Ga. 30303  
[www.cpcatlanta.org](http://www.cpcatlanta.org)

## Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

*Fantasia con organo pleno*  
Don Papenbrock, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Ringing of the Bell

*As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world  
that Central Presbyterian Church is worshiping God.*

† Call to Worship

Mountains and rivers, islands and oceans,

**Give God Glory!**

Foolish and wise, rulers and nations,

**Give God Glory!**

All who live, all who breathe,

**Give God Glory!**

Exciting God, Glorious God,

**Baptize us with wonder.**

Wise God, Righteous God,

**Baptize us with justice.**

Holy God, Covenant God,

**Baptize us with love. Let us worship!**

† Hymn 463

*How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

† Call to Confession

† Litany of Confession

Timeless God, you cast Light into sin's shadow places  
and call us your beloved. Forgive us:

**when we still linger in the shadows;  
when we treat others in hurtful ways;  
when we speak ill of your friends.**

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:

**when we put ourselves ahead of him;  
when we think he is no longer needed;  
when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.**

Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your servants  
in our time. Forgive us:

**when we fail to welcome the stranger;  
when we refuse to forgive as we should;  
when we believe we are too good to kneel down  
and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, and the little.**

Forgive us, O God, and make us new again.... (Silent Confession) We pray in  
Jesus' name. **Amen.**

† Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

† Passing of the Peace

† Hymn 795

*Healer of Our Every Ill* HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

**Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

*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

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

*As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world  
that Central Presbyterian Church is worshiping God.*

Rev. Kate Culver

## Responding to the Word

† Hymn 488

*I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry*

WATERLIFE

### 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

† Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Kate Culver

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.**

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

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.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory

*The Spirit of the Lord* Zebulon M. Highben  
Chancel Choir, Aaron Cummings, soloist  
Don Papenbrock, piano

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.

† 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

**Bearing and Following the Word into the World**

† Hymn 482

*Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN

† Charge and Benediction

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude

*Praeludium in C* Johann Christian Kittel  
Don Papenbrock, organ



**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!

Susan Landrum