

**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 US FOR A COURSE IN COMMUNITY!** We are partnering with The Candler Foundry to host **Celtic Christianity: A Sacred Pilgrimage**. These classes will take place in the atrium of the OAC from 9:45am - 10:45am. **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** All readers, Boomers, and fans of humorous memoirs are encouraged to join Central's Bookworms at the home of Frances St John, 4555 Crestwicke Pointe, Atlanta, 30319, on **January 27 at 7:30**. We will discuss Bill Bryson's witty look at his childhood, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*. Coming to us via Zoom all the way from Portugal (where it will be after midnight), Mike Coleman will lead our conversation about this provocative and entertaining look at the '50s and 60's. Because the meeting will have to be Zoomed, if you would like to participate virtually or have other questions, contact Linda McCord.

**LUTHER COLLEGE NORDIC CHOIR CONCERT** Central is delighted to host the Luther College Nordic Choir, one of the premier collegiate choral ensembles in the United States, on Sunday, **February 1 at 7:00 pm**. Founded in 1946, the Nordic Choir has helped shape choral singing in America and has performed in venues such as Lincoln Center and Walt Disney Concert Hall. This concert is a special gift to our congregation and the wider Atlanta community. Scan the QR code to purchase tickets. We are also seeking members willing to provide overnight homestays for choir members following the concert. **If you are able to host students for the evening and provide breakfast, please contact Thom at tdixon@cpcatlanta.org**



This Week at Central  
January 18 -25, 2026

<b>Sunday, January 18</b> 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	<b>Thursday, January 22</b> 9:00 a.m. Alzheimer's Awareness Day (Tull Hall) 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Environmental Georgia Meeting <b>Friday, January 23</b> 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes <b>Saturday, January 24</b> Church Office Closed <b>Sunday, January 25</b> 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 12:00 p.m. Session Meeting (Tull Hall)
<b>Monday, January 19</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office Closed <b>Tuesday, January 20</b> 9:00 a.m. Bread for the World (Tull Hall) 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Zoom) <b>Wednesday, January 21</b> 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 9:00 a.m. Maternal Health Awareness Day (Tull Hall) 10:00 a.m. Georgia Water Coalition Advocacy Meeting 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	

Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Lector: Kathy Harben  
Tower Bell Ringer: Tricia Berrett  
Deacon of the Day: Linda Massengill

Hospitality Team  
Beth Grashof  
Becky Battle  
Philip Covin  
Liz Burkhardt  
Sandy Hoke  
Linda Massengill  
Chris Sciarrone  
Ellen Thompson

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.



Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 18, 2026  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



He is Risen, Romare Bearden



Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Hymn to Freedom</i> Don Papenbrock, piano	Oscar Peterson
Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Ringin <span>g</span> of the Bell		

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

✠ Call to Worship	Kimberly Parker
We have come together as those who choose the company of Christ. <b>Meet us as we gather, Jesus our Christ.</b> We have come in faith as those hoping to respond to God’s call. <b>Be with us as we wait, O God.</b> We have come as those who long for the life of the Spirit. <b>Come, Holy Spirit, come.</b>	

✠ Hymn 408	<i>There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit</i>	SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
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✠ Call to Confession
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✠ Prayer of Confession
<b>Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to serve as your witnesses in a hurting and broken world. Yet we acknowledge that we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. We pray this in Jesus’ name ...</b> <i>(Silent Confession)</i> <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
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✠ 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		Rev. Kate Culver
Prayer for Illumination		Kathy Harben
First Lesson	Isaiah 49:1–7	
Second Lesson	John 1:29–42	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Sermon		

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 468	<i>In My Life</i>	LORD, BE GLORIFIED
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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>	

Offertory Sentence
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Music at the Offertory	<i>I Believe This Is Jesus</i>	arr. Victor C. Johnson
	African American Spiritual	
	Chancel Choir, Janet Abercrombie, soloist	
	Don Papenbrock, piano	

	I believe this is Jesus; Come and see, come and see. I believe this is Jesus; Come and see, come and see.
	The light of God shines in His face; Come and see, come and see. He offers all His pardoning grace; Come and see, come and see.
	I believe this is Jesus; Come and see, come and see. I believe this is Jesus; Come and see, come and see.
	Did you ever see such love before? Come and see, come and see. Saying "Go in peace and sin no more!" Come and see, come and see.
	I believe this is Jesus; Come and see, come and see. I believe this is Jesus; Come and see, come and see.

✠ At the Presentation	<i>Doxology</i>	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
<p><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></p>		

✠ Litany of Dedication and Committment	Rev. Kate Culver
God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with you. For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints and for humble folks whose names never made the news but are recorded in your book of life, <b>we give you thanks, O God.</b> Especially this day we thank you for our brother Martin, for his courage and conviction, for his passion for peace, and for his tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises; <b>we give you thanks, O God.</b> For the countless saints who stood in the front lines and marches, integrated schools, restaurants, and churches, or sat in buses and at lunch counters and refused to move, <b>we give you thanks, O God.</b> For nameless multitudes who suffered the tortures of slavery and the tyranny of oppression, who were beaten and lynched, and for the nameless multitudes today whose lives are stunted and cut short by our structures of brutality, <b>we grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.</b> And for our siblings of every race and nation who long for safety, freedom, and hope in our community and land, <b>we grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.</b> Lead and guide us, that we may follow the way of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.	

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer
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>

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 339	<i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i>	LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING
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✠ Charge and Benediction
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Postlude	<i>Hymn to Freedom</i>	Peterson, arr. Mon Liedven Takle
	Don Papenbrock, organ	

*The sanctuary flowers were given with gracious thanks by the ACLU to Central  
and its staff for their hospitality in hosting their legislative event on Monday.*



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of  
the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ninety-six years ago this month, on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. was born here in Atlanta. Only thirty-five years later, this pastor and civil rights leader became the youngest individual to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. On this weekend when we join churches and communities across the nation in honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., we read here again the words he wrote from the Birmingham Jail in April 1963, excerpted from his letter, which was first printed in the Christian Century.

*We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless effort of men and women willing to be coworkers with God, and without the hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right....*

*If today’s church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century.... Is organized religion too inextricably bound to the status quo to save our nation and the world? Perhaps I must turn my faith to the inner spiritual church, the church within the church, as the true ekklesia and the hope of the world. But again I am thankful to God that some noble souls from the ranks of organized religion have broken loose from the paralyzing chains of conformity and joined us as active partners in the struggle for freedom.... They have acted in the faith that right defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. Their witness has been the spiritual salt that has preserved the true meaning of the gospel in these troubled times. They have carved a tunnel of hope through the dark mountain of disappointment.*