

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

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

Monday, January 19
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office Closed

Tuesday, January 20
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)

Wednesday, January 21
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



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

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

Christian Antwi

Samuel Ayanotor

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

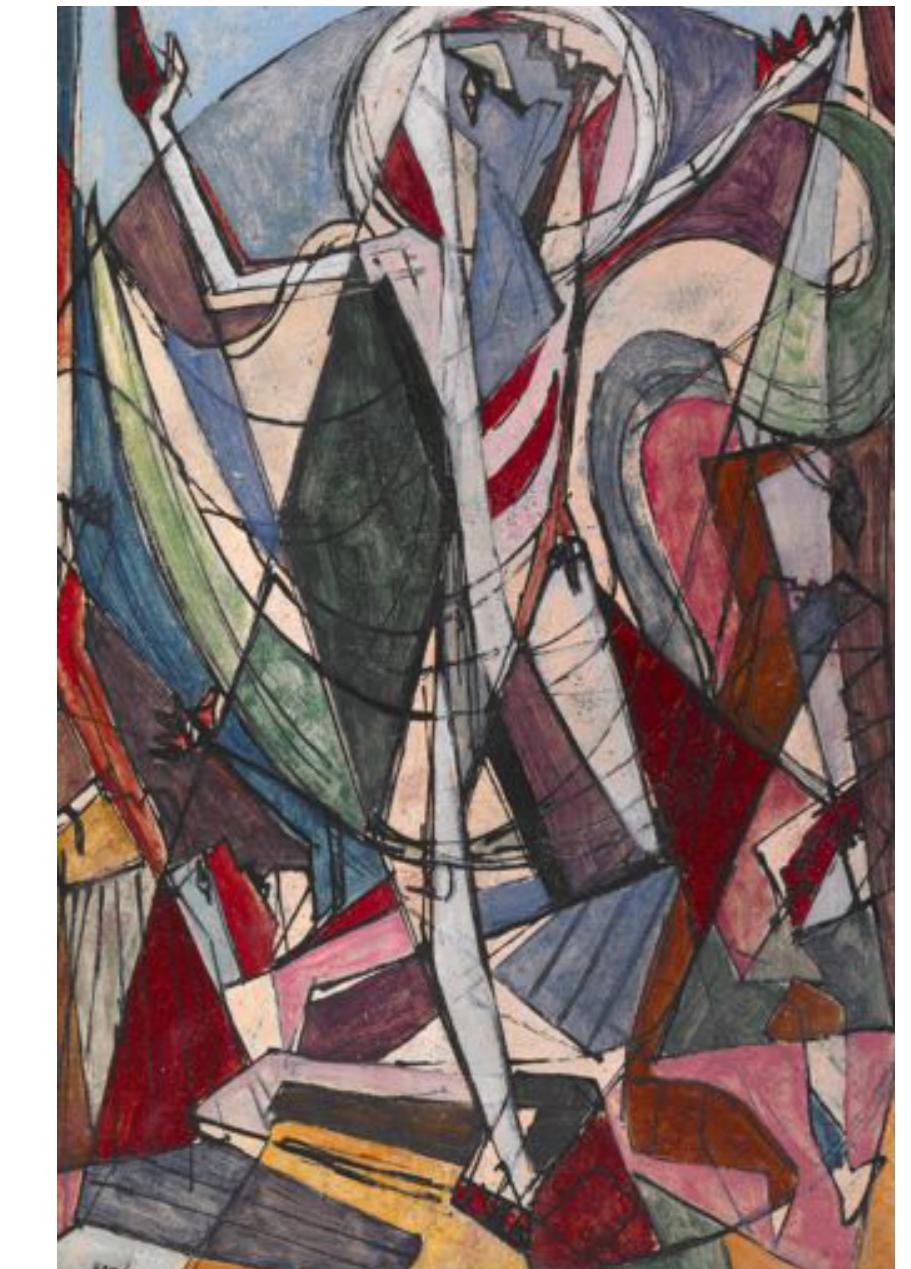
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

Give

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



201 Washington St. Atlanta, Ga. 30303
www.cpcatlanta.org



He is Risen, Romare Bearden

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Hymn to Freedom
Don Papenbrock, piano

Oscar Peterson

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

We have come together as those who choose the company of Christ.

Meet us as we gather, Jesus our Christ.

We have come in faith as those hoping to respond to God's call.

Be with us as we wait, O God.

We have come as those who long for the life of the Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

† Hymn 408

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession

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 ... (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 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

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Second Lesson

Sermon

Rev. Kate Culver

Kathy Harben

Isaiah 49:1-7

John 1:29-42 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

† Hymn 468

In My Life LORD, BE GLORIFIED

† Affirmation of Faith

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.

Rev. Kate Culver

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 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 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

† Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Hymn to Freedom

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 ekklisia 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.