

**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!

**BOOKWORMS** will meet this month on **February 24 at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of Debbie and Jerry Miller, 1721 Noble Drive, Atlanta 30306. At this gathering, Gary Cornell will guide our conversation about the book *There Is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America* by Brian Goldstone. If you have questions, please contact Linda McCord. We hope you will join us. We have much to discuss.

**BOOK LAUNCH INVITATION:** Central Presbyterian Church and Charis Books warmly invite you to a special book launch on **March 12 at 7:00 p.m.** for *Finding God in the Basement: Reimagining a Theology of Addiction and Recovery* by Dr. Jenn Carlier. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Martha Moore-Keish as our special guest for this meaningful and engaging evening.

#### REGISTER NOW FOR OUR 2026 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Dates: **Friday, March 20th - Sunday, March 22nd.** The theme is Courage to Hear Our Call and our facilitator will be Dr. Folami Prescott- Adams. We'll spend the weekend reflecting on the theological idea of "vocation" and what it means to be called by God throughout our lives. Dr. Folami, a powerful facilitator and practicing Quaker, will engage us in practices of listening and discernment that we can use in our community during the weekend and surely beyond. We will also have fun, fellowship, and time to relax together! Go to Realm to register for the retreat.

## Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Philip Covin  
Tower Bell Ringer: Bobbie Paul  
Deacon of the Day: Ed Galloway

Hospitality Team  
Beth Grashof  
Ben Evans  
Kathy Harben  
Rachel Hull  
Jackie Randolph  
Mike Sizemore



First Sunday in Lent  
February 22, 2026  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.

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

Christian Antwi  
Samuel Ayantor  
Lucy Baum  
Ximena Leroux  
Kimberly Parker

## Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff  
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Susan Landrum, Associate Pastor  
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](http://www.cpcatlanta.org) or using the QR code.



*Life Begins Anew, Radcliffe Bailey, NY Rail*

## Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Prelude in E minor ("Cathedral"), BWV 533* J.S. Bach  
Don Papenbrock, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Ringling 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 Kimberly Parker

Blessed are those who come honestly before God.

**We bring our truth, our burdens, and our hope.**

God is our refuge and our shelter.

**Steadfast love surrounds us.**

Jesus meets us in sorrow and does not turn away.

**He stands with us and calls us toward life.**

Come, let us worship the God of mercy and new beginnings.

**We come to worship. Amen!**

✠ Hymn 166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

Call to Confession

Lenten Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we do not always live truthfully.**

**We hide our faults, avoid what is hard,**

**and keep parts of ourselves sealed away.**

**You meet us with compassion, not rejection.**

**You stand with us in our grief and call us toward life.**

**Open what is closed in us.**

**Free what is bound.**

**Lead us into honesty, healing, and newness of life....**

*(Silent Confession)* **Amen.**

Extinguishing the First Lenten Candle

Hymn 579 *Lord, Have Mercy* KYRIE ELEISON

(Orthodox)

**Lord, have mercy. (Sung three times)**

**Christ, have mercy. (Sung three times)**

**Lord, have mercy. (Sung three times)**

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

✠ Passing of the Peace

✠ Hymn 447 *We Are Forgiven* WE ARE FORGIVEN

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

*During the hymn response, the children are invited to come forward for A Time with Children.*

## Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Rev. Susan Landrum

Prayer for Illumination Philip Covin

First Lesson Psalm 32

Second Lesson Selections from Rev. Shannon J. Kershner  
John 11

Sermon **Following Jesus Through The Gospel of John**  
*Lazarus, Be Unbound*

## Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 822 *When We Are Living* SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

✠ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Kate Culver

ADAPTED FROM THE IMMIGRANT'S CREED  
FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP, PC(USA)

**I believe in the forgiveness of sin,**

**which makes us all equal,**

**and in reconciliation,**

**which binds us more deeply**

**than race, language, or nationality.**

**I believe that in the resurrection**

**God will unite us as one people,**

**in which all are distinct**

**and all are alike at the same time.**

**Beyond this world, I believe in life eternal,**

**in which no one will be an immigrant**

**but all will be citizens of God's kingdom,**

**which will never end. Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *I Will Arise* arr. Alice Parker and  
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, organ Robert Shaw

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms,  
In the arms of my dear Saviour, Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by faming tongues above,  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace,  
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

✠ At the Presentation *Lenten Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God throughout these forty days.**

**Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.**

**And praise the Spirit who imparts**

**God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

✠ Prayer of Dedication 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 653 *Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries* MORNING SONG

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

✠ Postlude *Prelude in F minor, BWV 534* J.S. Bach  
Don Papenbrock, organ



## This Week at Central

### February 22 - March 1, 2026

#### Sunday, February 22

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)  
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene)  
Sojourners Class (Brotherhood)  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children &  
Youth  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting (Tull Hall)  
5:30 p.m. Youth Group/Shelter Dinner

#### Monday, February 23

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common  
Ground (Courtyard)  
9:30 a.m. Georgia Poor People's Campaign  
(Tull Hall)

#### Tuesday, February 24

8:00 a.m. Justice Day at the Capitol  
(Sanctuary and Tull Hall)  
9:00 a.m. Faith in Public Life (Greene)  
9:00 a.m. E2 Advocacy Day (Taylor)  
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
11:00 a.m. Black Voters Matter (Rand Chapel)

#### Wednesday, February 25

7:00 a.m. Georgia ACT (Tull Hall)  
8:30 a.m. Fertility Justice (Rand Chapel)  
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common  
Ground (Courtyard)  
9:30 a.m. GA Water Coalition (Taylor)  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, February 26

7:30 a.m. Georgia Water Coalition  
Advocacy Day (Tull Hall)  
9:00 a.m. Prayer & Parenting Weekly  
Meet-Up (Zoom)  
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
10:00 a.m. Environmental GA (Greene)  
7:00 p.m. Thirsty Thursday (Manuel's Tavern)

#### Friday, February 27

Church Office closes at noon  
10:00 a.m. OAC Barbershop Day (OAC)

#### Saturday, February 28

Church Office closed

#### Sunday, March 1

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)  
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene)  
Sojourners Class (Brotherhood)  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children &  
Youth  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

✠ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please stand as you are comfortable.

**Please silence your cellphones.**

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