

**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!

**REBEKAH CIRCLE** The Rebekah Circle Women's Group will meet Monday, **March 9 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** via Zoom. Please join us for fellowship and Bible study. We will be studying lesson six in our study book, *The Gift of the Woman who was Poor*. All women of the church are welcome. Please contact Mary Lillian Walker if you have any questions.

**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. Our parking garage will be open.

**CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH.** Join us for fellowship and lunch after worship on **Sunday, March 15th.** We will be having DAS BBQ. Please go to Realm to register for the lunch.

**KIMBERLY PARKER'S ORDINATION.** Please join us on **Sunday, March 15, at 2:00 p.m.** for the Service of Ordination of Kimberly Parker. This meaningful and sacred moment honors a significant step in her journey of faith and leadership at the Outreach and Advocacy Center. We invite the entire community to join in celebrating this special day.

#### 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.

**BOOKWORM GATHERING.** Central's book club, Bookworms, meets monthly during the program year to socialize and converse about books of interest. This month on **March 24 at 7:00 p.m.** we will be discussing *The Frozen River* written by Ariel Lawhon. The gathering will be facilitated and hosted by Chip Blankinship. Questions? Contact Linda McCord.

**PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL.** On **March 29th at 9:45 a.m.** join us in the Courtyard before we parade around the block with our friends at Trinity UMC and The Shrine.

**EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH.** Sean Smith and Mary Lillian Walker will host the Easter Egg Hunt at their home on **March 29th at 4:00 p.m.** The hunt will begin promptly at 4:15. Please go to Realm to RSVP or email Susan Landrum.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNERS.** The Maundy Thursday dinners will happen on **April 2.** Mark it on your calendar and look for the registrations.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:** Join us on **April 3 at 7 p.m.** at Covenant Presbyterian Church 2461 Peachtree Rd, Atlanta, GA 30305, as we observe this special day with Morningside and Covenant Presbyterian Churches.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Join us on Easter Sunday, **April 5th at 9:45 a.m.** in Tull Fellowship Hall for breakfast for all before worship. No registration is required.

## Special Participants in Today's Worship

**Worship Leader:** Christian Antwi  
**Lector:** Sam and Katie Sutton  
**Tower Bell Ringer:** Chantal Tusher  
**Deacon of the Day:** Marci Bozeman  
**Musician:** Julie Moore, flute

**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  
Ximena Leroux  
Kimberly Parker

## Central Presbyterian Church Staff

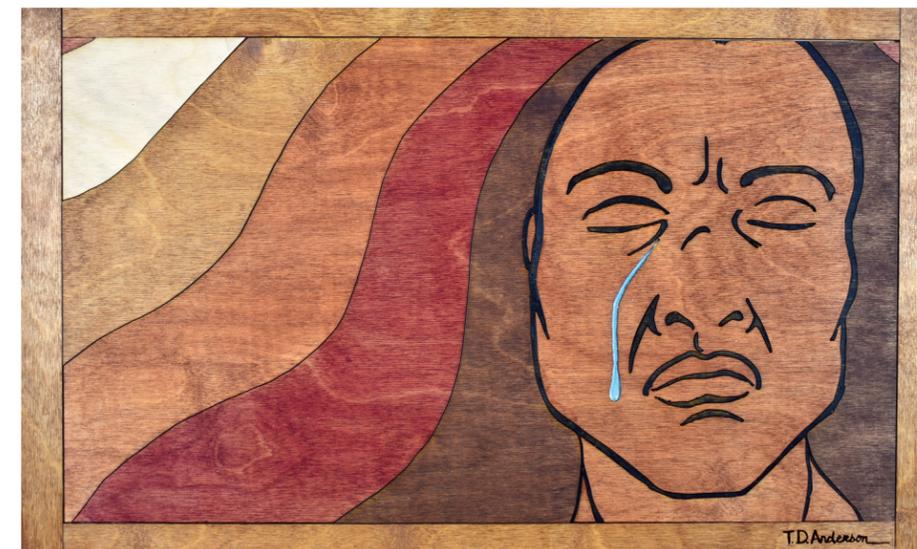
The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff  
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Susan Landrum, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Wardlaw, Pastor Emeritus  
Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts  
Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist  
Kristie 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.



Third Sunday in Lent  
March 8, 2026  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Enough, T. Denise Anderson

# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Tranquillo, ma con moto* Herbert Howells  
Don Papenbrock, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Kate Culver

Ringing 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 Christian Antwi

ADAPTED FROM THOM SHUMAN

Christ of the comfortable, you would call us from our security and sameness,  
down that unknown path which leads to God's heart:

**with trust, we would place our hands in yours, and follow.**

Companion of our sleepless nights, you would beckon us out of the shadows  
of our fears, calling us to bring our doubts and questioning hearts along:

**with humility, we would listen to those answers we do not expect, or  
even understand.**

Word which creates out of nothingness, you would fill us with life where we  
see only emptiness, you would keep your promises when all ours lie littered  
on the ground:

**we would let your grace transform us into faithful disciples.**

**Let us worship God.**

✠ Hymn 450 *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

Call to Confession

Lenten Prayer of Confession

ADAPTED FROM THOM SHUMAN

**We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have very little  
to learn from others, even our ancestors in the faith. We close tight  
the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get  
in to transform our lives. Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise  
Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives,  
or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not  
stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You  
will always be our help, whether we recognize it or accept it, even as you  
remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.... (Silent Confession)  
Amen.**

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)**

Extinguishing the Third Lenten Candle

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. Shannon J. Kershner

Prayer for Illumination Sam and Katie Sutton

First Lesson Psalm 17:1-7

Second Lesson Selections from John 18 Rev. Kate Culver

Sermon **Jesus' Journey Through John**  
*Trial and Denial*

## Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 797 *We Cannot Measure How You Heal* YE BANKS AND BRAES

✠ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

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.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Lord Jesus, Think On Me* Thurlow Steffy  
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, piano, Julie Moore, flute

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and take away my sin;  
from earthborn passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
amid the battle's strife;  
in all my pain and misery  
be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.

✠ 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

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 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONNDA

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Kate Culver

Postlude *Allegro scherzando* Herbert Howells  
Don Papenbrock, organ

## This Week at Central

### March 8 - 15, 2025

#### Sunday, March 8

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)  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children &  
Youth  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Jerusalem Choir)  
5:30 p.m. Youth Group

#### Monday, March 9

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common  
Ground (Courtyard)  
11:00 a.m. Rebekah Circle (Zoom)  
5:00 p.m. Diakonate Meeting (Zoom)

#### Tuesday, March 10

8:00 a.m. Blood Cancer United (Tull)  
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
12:00 p.m. Faith in Public Life (Rand Chapel)  
5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee (Zoom)  
5:00 p.m. Central Children & Youth  
Committee (Zoom)

#### Wednesday, March 11

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, March 12

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)  
11:30 a.m. Migrant Equity (Tull Hall)  
7:00 p.m. Facilities Meeting (Zoom)  
7:00 p.m. WMA Committee (Zoom)  
7:00 p.m. A Book Launch with Dr. Jenn  
Carlier (Sanctuary)

#### Friday, March 13

Church Office closes at noon

#### Saturday, March 14

Church Office Closed  
6:30 p.m. Central Children's Shelter Dinner

#### Sunday, March 15

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 Room)  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children &  
Youth  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Congregational Lunch (Tull Hall)  
2:00 p.m. Ordination Service for Kimberly  
Parker

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

**Please silence your cellphones.**

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