

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!

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: Rev. Dr. Trace Haythorn
Lector: Peg Richards
Tower Bell Ringer: Jason Bliss
Deacon of the Day: Linda Massengill

Hospitality Team
Beth Grashof
Becky Battle
Liz Burkhardt
Philip Covin
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
Ximena Leroux
Kimberly Parker

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

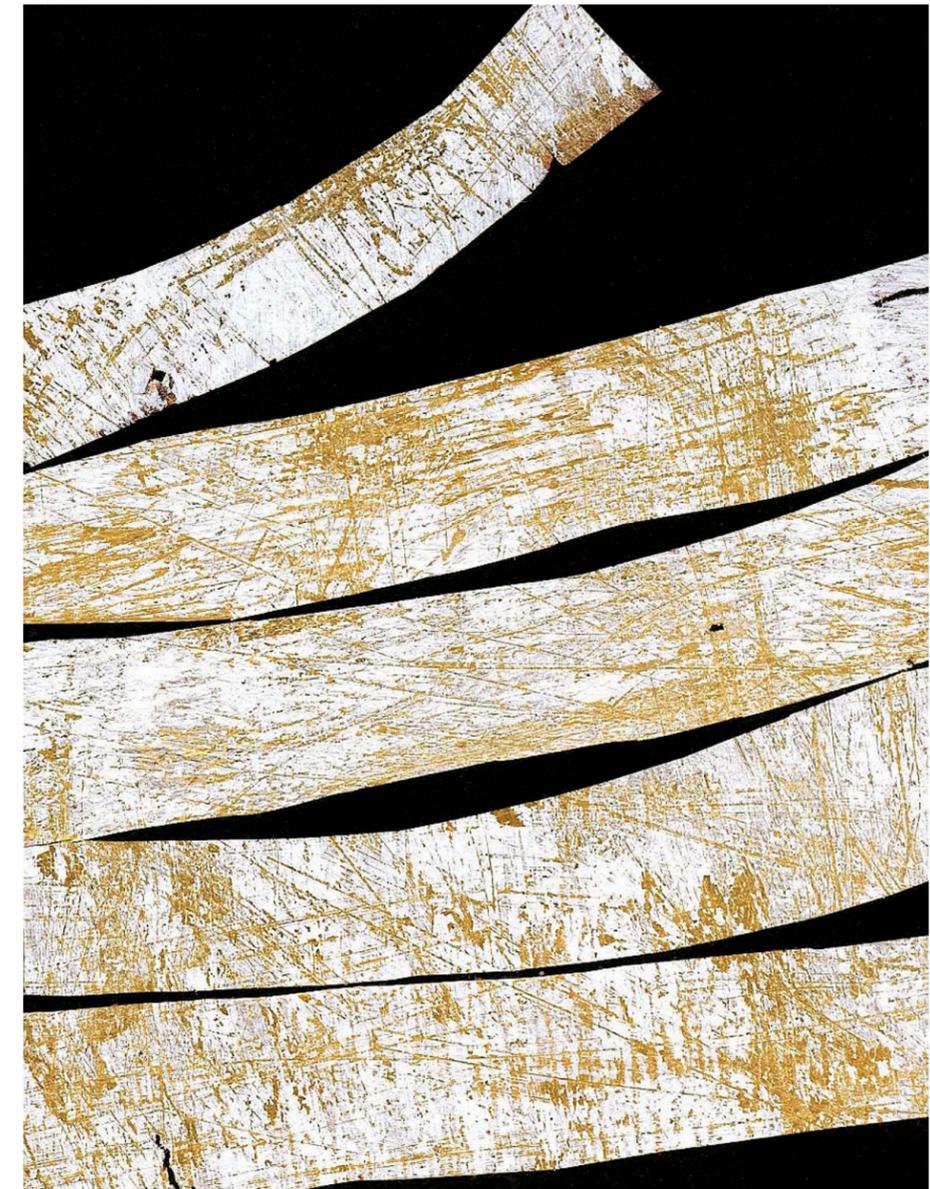
The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Susan Landrum, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Wardlaw, Pastor Emeritus
Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist
Kristie Johns,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



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Unbinding Words, Jan Richardson

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *O Gott, du frommer Gott* Johannes Brahms
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 worshipping God.

✠ Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Trace Haythorn

(BASED ON PSALM 145:8–21)
The Holy One is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God is good to all, and compassion rests upon all creation.

The Holy One upholds all who are falling and raises up those who are bowed down.

Our eyes look to You, and You meet us in our need.

You are near to all who call on You in truth.

Near to us in our doubt, near to us in our searching, near to us in our longing for what is real.

Let every living thing bless the Holy Name.

We come to bless, to trust, and to worship with open hearts and honest spirits.

✠ Hymn 264 *At the Name of Jesus* KING'S WESTON

Call to Confession

Lenten Prayer of Confession

Merciful and steadfast God, You are gracious and full of compassion, yet we confess how often we resist Your truth. We ask, “What is truth?”

while resisting the One who stands before us.

We choose comfort over courage, silence over love, control over trust.

We participate in systems that wound, and we cling to the illusion of control.

Forgive us.

Strip away what is false within us.

Turn our hearts toward Your reign of mercy,

and give us courage to stand with Christ in truth and love....

(Silent Confession) **Amen.**

Hymn 579 *Lord, Have Mercy* KYRIE ELEISON

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

Extinguishing the Fourth 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 Peg Richards

First Lesson Psalm 145:8-21

Second Lesson John 18:28-40 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon **Jesus' Journey Through John**
What is Truth?

Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 345 *In an Age of Twisted Values* CHURCH UNITED

✠ Affirmation of Faith Kimberly Parker

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 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* arr. Dale Wood
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, organ

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call Thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with Thy wonted loving-kindness;
hear Thy servants as they pray,
and Thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls alway.

Laud and honor to the Creator,
laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One:
One in might and One in glory
while unending ages run!

✠ 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 269 *Lead On, O King Eternal* LANCASHIRE

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude *Prelude in G minor* Johannes Brahms
Don Papenbrock, organ

The flowers are given today in honor of the ordination of Kimberly Parker by Ellen Dunn, Butch and Jane Parker, and Billy and Becky Dunn. We are all so very proud of you, Kimberly!

This Week at Central

March 15 - 22, 2025

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

Monday, March 16

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 17

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Zoom)
6:00 p.m. Mission Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 18

8:00 a.m. Homeschool Day at the Capitol (Sanctuary)
9:00 a.m. Presbyterians for a Better Georgia Day at the Capitol (Tull Hall)
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)
9:30 a.m. GA Water Coalition (Taylor)

Wednesday, March 18 (cont.)

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Foot Clinic
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 19

8:30 a.m. Partners 4 Faith & Justice 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)

Friday, March 20

7:00 a.m. Georgia Youth Justice Coalition (Rand Chapel)
7:00 a.m. Repro for All Advocacy Day (Tull)
9:00 a.m. OAC Movie Day (OAC Atrium)
Church Office closes at noon

Saturday, March 21

Church Office Closed

Sunday, March 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)
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

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

Please silence your cellphones.