

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!

THE NEW SOUTH FESTIVAL SINGERS. Join us **today at 2:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary for their annual Bon Voyage Concert before they depart to sing at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, a tradition they've held annually since 1989! Tickets available at the door.

A ZOOM STUDY: GILEAD. Join Pastor Susan for a spring reading of Marilynne Robinson's Gilead. **Our final session is May 20, 12–1 p.m.** We'll reflect on grace, faith, and forgiveness, with brief excerpts from Calvin. Read about a quarter of the book each week. A study guide will be shared. All are welcome—sign up on Realm for details and the Zoom link.

LEGACY GIVING DINNER. You're invited to an evening of fellowship, dinner, and inspiration at Tom and Marcia Holcomb's home on June 2 at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a buffet meal and a brief presentation on legacy giving and its impact on Central Presbyterian Church. **RSVP by May 19** to Ann Hunter at annhunter126@gmail.com.

CENTRAL WOMEN. We will gather on **May 21 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Kristeen Sorrells for a relaxed and welcoming evening together. Rather than a formal program this month, we'll enjoy time for fellowship, conversation, and catching up—something many have shared they've been missing. Please sign up using the SignUpGenius to let us know what dish or beverage you'd like to bring. If you'd rather not bring something, you're welcome to sign up under "Cash for the Kitty" instead. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful time of connection—we'd love to see you there! **Go to Realm to Sign up.**

BOOKWORM GATHERING. Bookworms will finish up our program year at **7:00 on May 26** with a potluck supper at the home of Martha Crenshaw, 322 Kenilworth Circle, Stone Mountain, 30083. Julie Boggs will facilitate our discussion about *My Name Is Emilia del Valle* by Isabel Allende, including a Zoom conversation with River Finlay, the producer of an upcoming documentary about Allende. Questions? Contact Linda McCord. **Go to Realm to Sign up.**

TOUR OF SOUTH DOWNTOWN Join us after worship on **June 7** to explore South Downtown. Walk or take the MARTA shuttle and enjoy a variety of dining options. Hear a Q&A with Jon Birdsong, CEO of SoDo Atlanta, at 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. **RSVP on Realm.**

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE. Join us for Montreat Youth Conference, **June 7–13, 2026** in Montreat, NC! Open to rising 9th graders through graduated seniors, we'll enjoy worship, speakers, small groups, recreation, and more. **Sign up on Realm.**

MAKING & MEANING: A THEOLOGY OF CREATIVITY CENTRAL SUMMER SERIES 2026. Starting June 7th What does it mean that we are made in the image of a creating God? This summer, we'll explore the deep connections between faith and creativity – from the Holy Spirit's role in our creative lives, to the metaphors we use to speak about God, to the ways our bodies, voices, and built spaces become instruments of worship. Through conversations with theologians, artists, architects, and musicians – many in our very own Central family – we'll ask together: What does it mean to make something? And what does our making say about who we are and who God is? Join us for a summer of beauty, wonder, and deeper reflection on the creative life of faith.

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Kitsy Battle
Tower Bell Ringer: Jason Bliss
Deacon of the Day: Jackie Randolph

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
Ximena Leroux

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Susan B. Landrum, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Wardlaw, Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Don Papanbrock, 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, Jerusalem Choir
Rand Lines, Pianist, Nazareth Choir
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 or using the QR code.



Seventh Sunday of Easter
Music Appreciation Sunday
May 17, 2026
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Riverside Revival: Lift Every Voice and Sing, Basil Kincaid

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *God's Love Rings Out!* arr. Sondra Tucker
(*The Hymns of Keith Getty*)
Geneva Handbell Choir

✦ 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. Kate Culver
Come, let us gather in the presence of the Holy, with song and with silence.
We come to lift our voices and open our hearts.
From the first breath of creation, God has been making music among us.
We listen for that song and join in its melody.
In joy and in sorrow, in harmony and in longing, God meets us here.
We bring our whole selves to worship.
Let us praise the One who calls us into life together.
Let us worship God.

✦ Hymn 641 *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* ENGELBERG

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Prayer of Confession
Holy and gracious God, we confess that we do not always live in harmony with you or with one another.
We forget that all creation is alive with your music, the song of the universe that holds us together in love.
We rush past your presence and ignore the needs around us.
We sing words of faith but fail to live them out.
Forgive us.
Retune our hearts to your love and teach us to listen for your Spirit again.... (*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 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD
(Vasile)

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Rev. Susan B. Landrum

Prayer for Illumination Kitsy Battle

First Lesson Psalm 98

A Shared Sermon of Music and Voice Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Praise Hymn 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (vs. 1 & 4)
Lament Hymn 792 *There is a Balm in Gilead* (vs. 1)
Lament Hymn 775 *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* (vs. 2)
Praise Hymn 12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (vs. 1 & 2)
Praise Hymn 623 *I've Got Peace Like A River* (vs. 1, 2 & 3)
Praise Hymn 66 *Every Time I Feel The Spirit* (vs. 1 & 2)

Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn 821 *My Life Flows On* HOW CAN I KEEP
FROM SINGING

✦ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Susan B. Landrum
FROM COLOSSIANS 3:12-17
Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *All Things Bright and Beautiful* John Rutter
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, piano

Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors;
God made their tiny wings.
(Refrain)

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.
(Refrain)

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.
(Refrain)

✦ At the Presentation *Doxology* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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!**

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer
MUSICAL SETTING BY J. HARL BROWN, FATHER OF ALLEAN AND ALTHEA BROWN
Kelly Grba, soloist, Don Papenbrock, piano
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 611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

✦ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude *Postlude on 'Darwall's 148th'* Brenda Portman
Don Papenbrock, organ

*The flowers today are given by Thom Dixon and Matt Hepler
with great appreciation to the Bell Choir, Chancel Choir,
and our organist, Don Papenbrock.*

This Week at Central

May 17 - 24, 2026

Sunday, May 17

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. Children & Youth Sunday
School Classes
9:45 a.m. Who Has Time for Joy?
Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
(OAC Atrium)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting
(Tull Hall)
2:30 p.m. New South Festival Singers
Concert in the Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, May 18

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common
Ground (Courtyard)

Tuesday, May 19

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

Wednesday, May 20

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common
Ground (Courtyard)
12:00 p.m. *Gilead* Study (Zoom)

Thursday, May 21

9:00 a.m. Prayer & Parenting Weekly
Meet-Up (Zoom)
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. Central Women Gathering

Friday, May 22

12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

Saturday, May 23

Church Office Closed

Sunday, May 24

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:30 a.m. Nursery Opens
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary -
Ordination and Installation of
Elders and Deacons

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please stand as you are comfortable.
Please silence your cellphones.