

WELCOME TO CENTRAL! During your online visit today, we hope you feel the presence of the Spirit and the love of Christ as we worship God together. Please fill out the online Friendship Pads, especially if you are a visitor or have prayer concerns or life updates.

SUMMER SERIES: MAKING AND MEANING. All Church Sunday School meets Sundays, **9:45 am to 10:45 am** in the OAC Atrium every Sunday through **August 2**. Together we'll explore the connections between faith and creativity through conversations with theologians, artists, architects, and musicians from our Central family. Join us for a summer of beauty, wonder, and reflection on the creative life of faith.

SUMMER PICK-UP CHOIR - JUNE 28 AND JULY 26. All are invited to join our Summer Pick-Up Choir of the season! We'll meet in the sanctuary at 10:20 AM to briefly rehearse. No robes—just come as you are!

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

Christian Antwi
Samuel Ayantor
Ximena Leroux



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 21, 2026
Online Worship begins at 11 a.m.

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
Kristie Johns, Director of Financial Operations
Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator
John White, Facilities Manager
Abraha Diedre, Custodian
Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist
Karen Brown, Pianist, Jerusalem Choir
Rand Lines, Pianist, Nazareth Choir
Aaron Cummings, Music Intern
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

This Week at Central June 21 - 28, 2026

Sunday, June 21
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
11:00 a.m. Worship online

Monday, June 22
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common
Ground (Courtyard)

Tuesday, June 23
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 24
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common
Ground (Courtyard)

Thursday, June 25
9:00 a.m. Prayer & Parenting Weekly
Meet-Up (Zoom)
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. WMA Committee (Zoom)

Friday, June 26
Church Office closes at noon

Saturday, June 27
Church Office closed

Sunday, June 28
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:30 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:45 a.m. Summer Series (OAC)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Diaconate Lunch
12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting
(Tull Hall)

Give

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



Hagar, Mary Ascher

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Praise His Greatness (Great is the Lord)* arr. Mark Hayes
Don Papenbrock, piano

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. Shannon J. Kershner

ADAPTED FROM THOM SCHUMAN

Holy One, Creator of all that is, both seen and unseen, you listen to our voices,
whoever we are.

There is no one like you, God of the listening heart.

Those who live in fear, and those who look for signs, you fill us with hope and
surprises.

There is no one like you, God of steadfast love.

Seekers of power, as well as those who serve the vulnerable, you challenge us to
use our gifts for others.

There is no one like you, God of all people. Let us worship God.

✠ Hymn 401 *Here In This Place* GATHER US IN
verses 1, 2, and 4

**Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

We are the young; our lives are a mystery.

We are the old who yearn for your face.

**We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.**

Not in the dark of buildings confining,

not in some heaven, light years away:

**here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.**

**Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, in baptism, we are promised new life, yet we continue
to focus on those old ways which are so comfortable and seductive.
We are so good at fooling others that we are convinced we can trick
you as well. We have been called to walk with you, yet we run down
those paths paved with foolishness and fears. Forgive us, God of
steadfast love. You have claimed our lives in baptism, so we might
be set free from sin and be raised to new life. Just as you save us,
so give us the strength to be willing to take up whatever task you
give us, and the faith to be willing to lose our lives for others, so we
might find life forever with you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and
Savior.... (Silent Confession) Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

✠ Passing of the Peace

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination Rev. Kate Culver

First Lesson Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17

Second Lesson Genesis 21:8–21 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon **In the Beginning - Sermons on Genesis**
Exclusion

Responding to the Word

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Make a Joyful Noise* Mark Hayes
Thom Dixon, baritone, Don Papenbrock, piano

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises!

Sing praises to God with the harp, with the harp and sound of melody,
with the trumpets and the sounds of the horn.

Make a joyful noise before God, the Lord Most High.

Let the sea and all that fills it.

Let the earth and all who dwell in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands!

Let the hills sing together for you at the presence of God who is coming to judge
the earth, to judge the world with righteousness and with equity.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

Break forth and sign for joy and sing praises!

Sing praises to God with the harp, with the harp and the sound of melody,
with the trumpets and the sounds of the horn.

Make a joyful noise before God, the Lord God Most High.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing hallelujah!

Break forth and sign for joy and sing praises!

Sing praises to God with the harp, with the harp and the sound of melody,
with the trumpets and the sounds of the horn.

Make a joyful noise before God, lift you voice in jubilant praise.

We'll sing Your glory now and always, O Most High God.

Make a joyful noise!

✠ 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 de-
liver 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 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS
verses 1 and 3

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

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

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

Please silence your cellphones.

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