

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 nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the Oglesby building, behind the sanctuary.

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 9**. 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 SINGERS OF ATLANTA. Join us today for a wonderful afternoon of music at **4 pm at the Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church**. The Summer Singers of Atlanta will present Arthur Honegger's 1923 symphonic psalm KING DAVID. The work is highly dramatic and features soprano, mezzo and tenor soloists, chorus, wind ensemble, and a narrator. Tickets available at the door or at www.festivalsingers.org/concerts.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. We will be having a congregational meeting to vote on new members for the Nominating Committee on **August 16** immediately following worship.

ALL CHURCH RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN! Join us for a weekend of fellowship, community-building, and fun in beautiful Montreat! Central Presbyterian Church will host our annual All-Church Retreat at the Montreat Conference Center in beautiful western North Carolina on **September 5 through 7**. This is a time to refresh, rejuvenate, and commune with Central friends - new and old. This year's theme for the retreat is "Exploring Sabbath in a Chaotic World." There will also be plenty of time for unstructured fun and relaxation! Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio, Candler School of Theology, will be our featured speaker. **Please go to Realm to register.**

This Week at Central

August 2 - 9, 2026

Sunday, August 2
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:30 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:45 a.m. Summer Series (OAC)
10:00 a.m. Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, August 3
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)

Tuesday, August 4
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 5
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)

Thursday, August 6
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)

Friday, August 7
Church Office closes at noon

Saturday, August 8
Church Office closed
9 a.m. Deacon's Retreat (Tull Hall)

Sunday, August 9
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:30 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:45 a.m. Summer Series (OAC)
10:00 a.m. Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Anita Carwile
Tower Bell Ringer: Ed Galloway
Deacon of the Day: Hugh Landrum
Guest Musician: Paul Tate, piano

Hospitality Team
Beth Grashof
Tricia Downing
Martha Kimes
Graham Kirkland
Em McNair
Annastassia Pons

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

Christian Antwi
Samuel Ayantor
Ximena Leroux

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

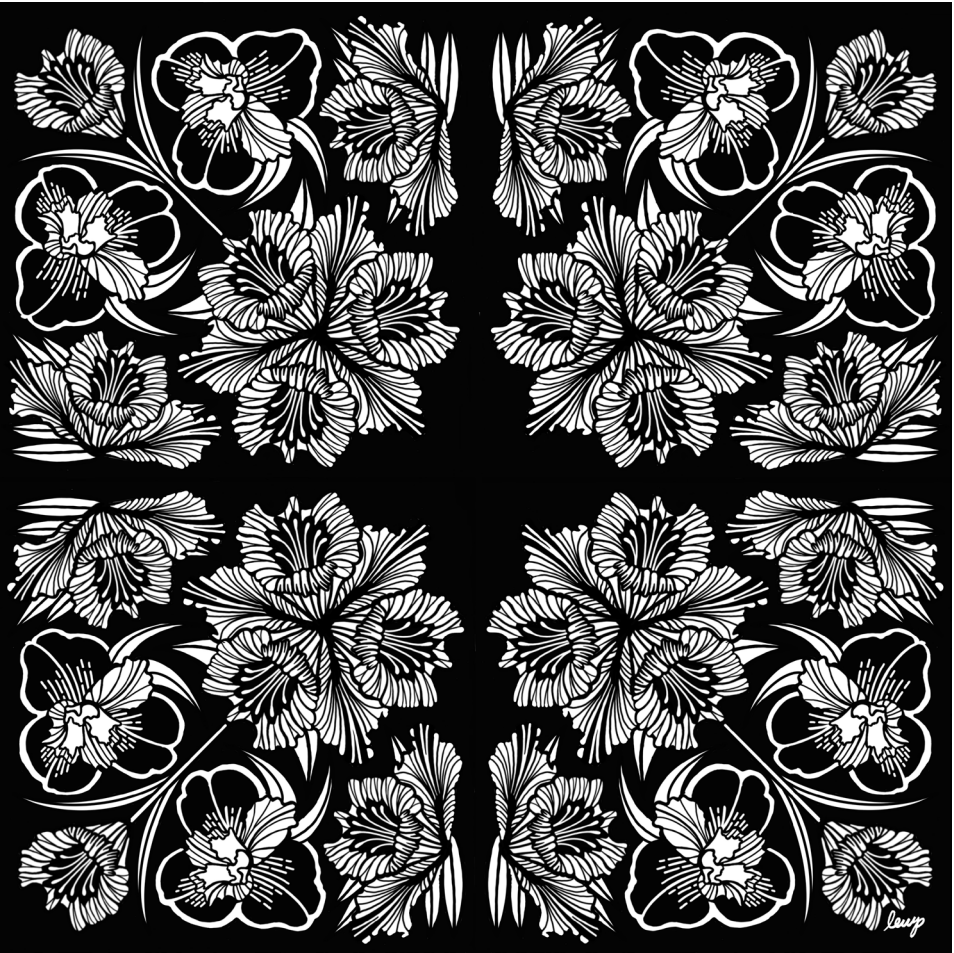
The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Susan B. Landrum, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Wardlaw, Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist
Kristie Johns, Director of Financial Operations
Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator
John White, Facilities Manager
Abraha Diedre, Custodian
Karen Brown, Pianist, Jerusalem Choir
Rand Lines, Pianist, Nazareth Choir
Aaron Cummings, Music Intern
Kirk Louis, Sunday Operations Coordinator
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.



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2026
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



The Cross Remains, Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Resting in God's Arms</i> Paul Tate, piano	Mark Hayes
Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Kate Culver
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 Blessed be the God who creates us; Blessed be the Christ who redeems us! Blessed be the God of wisdom and mystery; Blessed be the Christ of presence and mercy! In Christ we are made new; In Christ we are marked with the Holy Spirit! Let us worship our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer! Amen!	Rev. Susan B. Landrum
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✚	Hymn 475	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	NETTLETON
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✚	Call to Confession
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✚	Prayer of Confession ADAPTED FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH Gracious God, you created the world good and made us in your image to live as one community. But we rebel against you; we hide from you, our Creator. We ignore your commandments, violate your image in others and ourselves, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten the planet entrusted to our care.
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We have not trusted fully in Jesus Christ, who brought good news to the poor, released the captives, healed the sick, and taught by word and deed. We have resisted your Spirit, failing to unmask injustice, hear the silenced, or work for peace.

Yet you are faithful still, like a parent who runs to welcome the prodigal home. Redeem us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Silent Confession) **Amen.**

✚	Assurance of Pardon Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
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✚	Passing of the Peace
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✚	Hymn 582	<i>Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me</i>	GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)
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**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.**

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

Proclaiming the Word

Blessing of the Backpacks		Rev. Susan B. Landrum
Prayer for Illumination		Anita Carwile
First Lesson	Isaiah 45:22-25	
Second Lesson	Ephesians 1:3-14	Rev. Kate Culver
Sermon	Do I Really Have to Believe That? <i>Predestination</i>	

Responding to the Word

✚	Hymn 488	<i>I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry</i>	WATERLIFE
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✚	Affirmation of Faith SELECTIONS FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” Amen.	Rev. Kimberly J. Parker
	Offertory Sentence	
	Music at the Offertory	<i>Seek Ye First In God's Time</i> Keenan Rodgers, guitar
	At the Presentation	<i>Doxology</i>
		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	Rev. Kimberly J. Parker

The Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving The Lord be with you And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise... It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise. ...who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Sanctus
Hymn 552

Holy, Holy, Holy

LAND OF REST

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

... Great is the mystery of faith!

Memorial Acclamation
Hymn 553

Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

LAND OF REST

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

*We will partake communion via intinction. You may proceed to the station closest to you,
pick a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, partake of the elements, and return to your seat.
If you are unable to come forward, we will serve you while you remain seated.*

Prayer After Communion

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✚	Hymn 747	<i>The Lord Now Sends Us Forth</i>	ENVIADO
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Repeat lines 1 and 2 once, then repeat remaining lines 4 - 8 once.

✚	Charge and Benediction	Rev. Kate Culver
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✚	Postlude	<i>Indescribable</i> Mark Tate, piano	Jesse Reeves & Laura Story arr. Victor Labensky
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