

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.

The Nursery Is Open: Come Little Children!

Central has a 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.

Youth Group Kick-Off!

Please join us for our launch of the youth group year for 2026-2027 tonight at 5:00 p.m. at Central! Parents and families are invited! We'll have dinner together (Chipotle), get to know one another, welcome our incoming 6th graders, and while parents are sent off somewhere to hang out and socialize, the youth will create their covenant for the year! We're looking forward to it.

Congregational Meeting.

We will be having a congregational meeting to vote on new members for the Nominating Committee today immediately following worship.

Join us for a course in community!

We are partnering with The Candler Foundry to host Kirk and Covenant: Scotland's Reformation and the Roots of Presbyterianism. We will have two more sessions on Sundays, **August 23 and 30** in the **OAC Atrium at 9:45 a.m.** These classes will be facilitated by Dr. Chelsea Williams, Pitts Librarian, Chandler School of Theology.

Calling All Singers!

Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or just choir-curious, now is the perfect time to jump in! The Central Presbyterian Chancel Choir begins a new program year with a fun, music-filled Choir Camp, a two-day retreat focused on community, connection, and the joy of singing together.

Friday, August 21 | 7:00–9:00 PM at Central Presbyterian

Saturday, August 22 | 9:30 AM–4:00 PM at Emory Presbyterian

We will be having a post-Choir Camp gathering and the location will soon be determined. We will need to know if you will attend both Friday and Saturday, want to order lunch on Saturday, and if you will join us for the post Choir Camp Gathering. This is a fantastic chance to explore your voice, meet new friends, and experience the magic of choral singing—no pressure, just joy! **Go to Realm to Signup.**

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! We're especially excited to share this year's retreat with our friends from Covenant Presbyterian Church! Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio, Candler School of Theology, will be our featured speaker. **Please go to Realm to register.**

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Janet Abercrombie
Tower Bell Ringer: Chantal Tusher
Deacon of the Day: Linda Massengill
Musician: Lucy Smith, soloist

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*
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*
Josh Smith, *Audio Engineer*
Jamel Morris-Barclay, *Audio Assistant*
Sarah Anderson, *Video Production Manager*
Toby Abrelate, *Video Assistant*
Dean Hammond, *Volunteer Technology Director*



Ceramic Wall Mural "#988", Robert Sperry

Give

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

The logo for Central Presbyterian Church Atlanta, featuring a stylized purple flower icon with a yellow center, surrounded by the text "CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" and "ATLANTA, GA" in a circular arrangement.

201 Washington Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.cpcatlanta.org

12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026
Worship begins at 11 a.m.

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>It Is Well With My Soul</i>	arr. Marianne Kim Karen Brown, piano; Don Papenbrock, organ
Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
Ringling of the Bell	<i>As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world that Central Presbyterian Church is worshiping God.</i>	

❖ Call to Worship Rev. Susan B. Landrum
Come with your questions, come with your awe!
For the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.

Come with your energy, come with your weariness!
For the God who breathes new life into the dust meets us in this place.

Come with your sadness, come with your joy!
For the God who dared to become human meets us in this place.

❖ Hymn 15 *All Creatures of Our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

❖ Call to Confession

❖ Responsive Prayer of Confession
Incarnate God,
For the times we’ve hurt you,
Forgive us.

For the times we’ve hurt others,
Forgive us.

For the times we’ve hurt ourselves,
Forgive us.

For we are made in your image,
and it is very good... *(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

Prayer for Illumination	Janet Abercrombie	
First Lesson	Psalm 29	
Second Lesson	Selections from Genesis 1 and 2	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Sermon	Do I Really Have to Believe That? <i>Creationism or How We Read Scripture</i>	

Responding to the Word

❖ Hymn 22	<i>God of the Sparrow</i>	ROEDER
The Sacrament of Baptism	Tirzah Kathy Ayantor child of Samuel and Lydia Dogbe Ayantor	
Affirmation of Faith	Rev. Kate Culver <i>Apostles' Creed, Traditional</i> 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.	
Hymn 306	<i>Blest Be the Tie That Binds</i> verses 1, 2 and 5	DENNIS

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**Before our Maker’s throne we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and
perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

Offertory Sentence		
Music at the Offertory	<i>In The Garden</i>	C. Austin Mills Lucy Smith, soloist; Don Papenbrock, piano

❖ 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 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 32	<i>I Sing the Mighty Power of God</i>	ELLACOMBE
❖ Charge and Benediction	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner	
Postlude	<i>I Want Jesus To Walk With Me</i>	arr. Marianne Kim Don Papenbrock, organ

This Week at Central

August 16 - 23, 2026

Sunday, August 16 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens 9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge 9:45 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School Classes 9:45 a.m. Kirk and Covenant Class (OAC) 10:00 a.m. Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel) 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting 5:00 p.m. Youth Group Kick-Off	Thursday, August 20 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 5:00 p.m. ACR Committee (Zoom)
Monday, August 17 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	Friday, August 21 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes 7:00 p.m. Choir Retreat (Central)
Tuesday, August 18 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)	Saturday, August 22 Church Office Closed 9:30 a.m. Choir Retreat (Emory Pres.)
Wednesday, August 19 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Zoom)	Sunday, August 23 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry 9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens 9:15 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge 9:45 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School Classes 9:45 a.m. Kirk and Covenant Class (OAC) 10:00 a.m. Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel) 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting (Tull Hall)