

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

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.

Bookworm Meeting.

All Centralites are invited to join us as our book club, Bookworms, meets on **Tuesday, September 22**, for dinner and a conversation about Family of Spies: A World War II Story of Nazi Espionage, Betrayal, and the Secret History Behind Pearl Harbor, Christine Kuehn's 2025 memoir detailing her 30-year investigation into her family's hidden past as Axis spies. We'll gather at **7 p.m.** at the home of Julie and Wade Boggs, 1507 Peachtree Battle Ave., NW. After our potluck dinner, Wade will lead our discussion about this intriguing story. To sign up to contribute to the potluck dinner, **go to Realm to signup for the dinner.** If you have questions, email Linda McCord.

A Sacred Pilgrimage to Scotland.

From **September 29 through October 10**, our pilgrimage will take us to the sacred spaces of Scotland and the holy island of Iona. Along the way, we will worship with local congregations, explore the bold legacy of the Scottish Reformation and Presbyterian tradition, and listen to the stories that have shaped our faith. Together, we will make space to listen for God's presence and guidance. Rev. Shannon Kershner, Rev. Kate Culver, and 30 members of Central will share in this special journey of faith, fellowship, and discovery. While Rev. Kershner and Rev. Culver are away, Rev. Susan B. Landrum will lovingly lead our congregation, worship, and pastoral care. Please reach out to Rev. Susan if you need support, prayer, or a listening ear.

Edith Pageaud in Concert at Central.

Join us for an extraordinary evening of classical guitar with Edith Pageaud, a prize-winning French guitarist captivating audiences around the world. Her program journeys through centuries and styles, featuring music by Glass, Biber, Schubert, and Messiaen.

Volunteer Ushers Needed! We need 5–6 ushers to help welcome guests.

Ushers will enjoy the concert free of charge! To volunteer, contact Melissa Johnson at mjohnson@cpcatlanta.org.

Special Offer: Members of our community receive 20% off tickets with code CONGREGATION. Scan the QR code for tickets and more information.



Join Us for Lunch on World Communion Sunday!

Following worship on October 4, World Communion Sunday, we invite the whole congregation to gather around the table for a special time of fellowship and celebration. We'll share a delicious meal with our friends from Trinity United Methodist Church, continuing the joy of worshipping and growing together as neighbors and partners in faith. Come enjoy good food, warm conversation, and the gift of Christian community as we celebrate the unity that connects us across traditions, congregations, and around the world. Everyone is welcome—come join us! **Please go to Realm to sign up.**

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: John Blake
Tower Bell Ringer: Tricia Berrett
Deacon of the Day: Dane Jefferson
Musician: Jim Zellers, flute

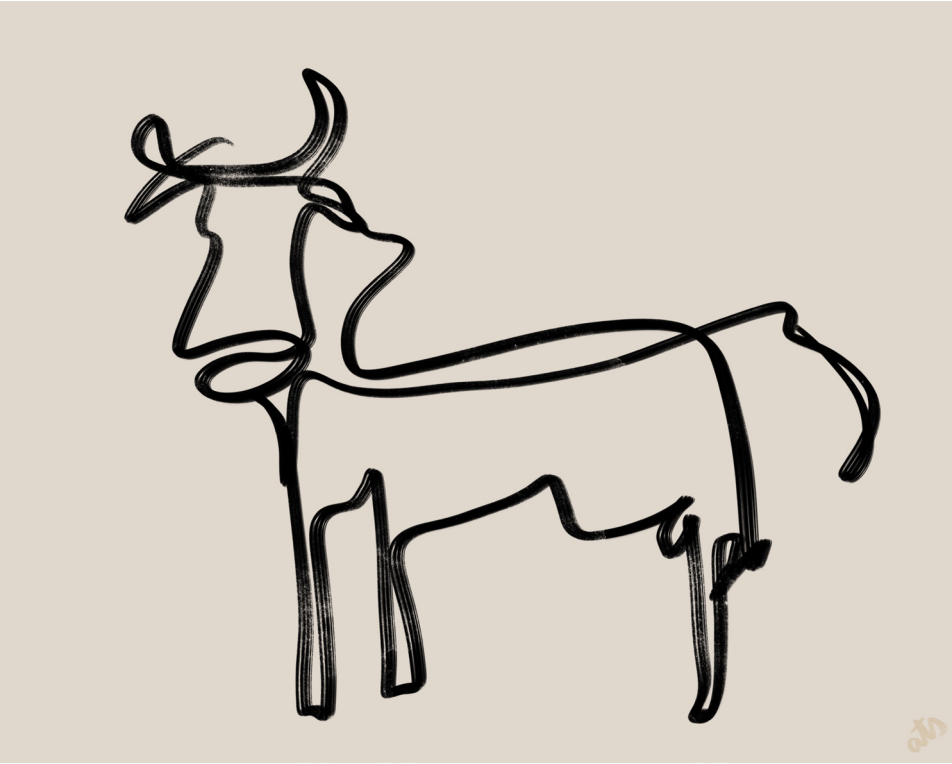
Hospitality Team:
Beth Grashof
Becky Battle
Liz Burkhardt
Philip Covin
Sandy Hoke
Linda Massengill
Chris Sciarrone
Ellen Thompson

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 Derie, Custodian
Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist
Karen Brown, Pianist, Jerusalem Choir
Rand Lines, Pianist, Nazareth Choir
Aaron Cummings, Music Intern
Josh Smith, Lead Audio Engineer
Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Assistant
Sarah Anderson, Video Production Manager
Toby Abrelat, Video Assistant
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director



Passing Likeness, Anna Strickland

Give

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



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

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026
Worship begins at 11 a.m.

Gathering Around the Word		
Prelude	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace Don Papenbrock, piano	Sangah Noona
Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Ringing 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.		
Centering Prayer	Be Still and Aware Sing three times	Sally Ann Morris
		
❖ Call to Worship	Rev. Kate Culver	
God has planted us with care, and calls us to bear the fruit of justice. We come to listen for God's voice and to tend what has been entrusted to us. Christ calls us to pay attention to the world around us, to the movement of the Spirit, to the choices before us. May we have courage to see clearly, faith to follow faithfully, and hearts ready to be changed. Come, let us worship God.		
❖ Hymn 307	God of Grace and God of Glory	CWM RHONNDA
❖ Call to Confession		
❖ Prayer of Confession	Gracious God, you have given us a world to tend, neighbors to love, and a calling to seek justice and mercy. Yet too often we fail to notice what is growing around us. We ignore the signs of suffering, grow comfortable with what is familiar, and resist the changes your Spirit asks of us. Where you seek justice, we settle for convenience. Where you call us toward courage, we choose safety. Where you invite us into deeper faithfulness, we turn away. Forgive us, God. Open our eyes to see clearly, our hearts to love boldly, and our lives to bear the good fruit of your kingdom.... (Silent Confession) Amen.	
❖ Assurance of Pardon	Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!	
❖ Passing of the Peace		
❖ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please stand as you are comfortable. Please silence your cellphones.		
❖ Hymn 623	I've Got Peace like a River	PEACE LIKE A RIVER
I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river, in my soul.		
I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river, in my soul.		
During the hymn response, the children are invited to come forward for A Time with Children.		
Proclaiming the Word		
A Time with Children		Rev. Susan B. Landrum
Prayer for Illumination		John Blake
First Lesson	Psalm 14	
Second Lesson	Exodus 32:1-14	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Sermon	How Firm a Foundation The Real Deal	
Responding to the Word		
❖ Hymn 402	How Lovely, Lord	MERLE'S TUNE
❖ Affirmation of Faith	Rev. Kimberly J. 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.		
Liturgy for Receiving New Members		Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Offertory Sentence		
Music at the Offertory	I Am The Vine Chancel Choir, Jim Zellers, flute, Don Papenbrock, piano Text based on John 15: 5 - 13	Allen Pote
I am the vine and you are the branches, abide in me and I will abide in you. Then you will bear much fruit for without me you can do nothing, abide in me and I will abide in you.		
As the Father has loved me, so I love you. Go then and love one another. Keep this commandment, for no greater love have you, than to lay down your life for your friends.		
I am the vine and you are the branches, abide in me and I will abide in you. Love on another as I have loved you. I am the vine, you are the branches. Go then and bear much fruit, go abide in my love.		
❖ 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 546	Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing	SICILIAN MARINERS
❖ Charge and Benediction	Rev. Shannon J. Kershner Please sing along if you would like.	
May God bless you and keep you. May God make God's face to shine upon you. May God be gracious and give you peace forever and ever.		
Postlude	Grand Choeur Don Papenbrock, organ	Théodore Salomé
This Week at Central September 20 - 27, 2026		
Sunday, September 20 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. Nazareth Choir 9:30 a.m. Session Meeting for New Members (Taylor Conf. Room) 9:45 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School Classes 9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology (Greene) 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:30 p.m. Jersalem Bell Choir 12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting (Tull Hall)		Wednesday, September 23 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Monday, September 21 9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard) 7:30 p.m. Facilities Committee (Zoom)		Thursday, September 24 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
Tuesday, September 22 10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom) 5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee (Zoom) 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. Bookworms Gathering		Friday, September 25 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes
		Saturday, September 26 Church Office Closed
		Sunday, September 27 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. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room) 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary 12:30 p.m. Jersalem Bell Choir