

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.

Central Women Gathering

Central Women are invited to gather **Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.** at Meena’s Manor in Kirkwood for an evening of fellowship, conversation, and shared supper. Address to follow! Our host, Sagdrina Brown Jalal, founder of Sage D Collective, will lead a conversation with several Pollard/Covenant Foundation grant recipients about community, “third spaces,” belonging, and how we give and receive support. Come enjoy this beautiful community space, share a meal, and connect with Central Women! **Go to Realm to Signup.**

Join The New South Festival Singers

Join The New South Festival Singers on **Sunday, October 25, at 2:30 p.m.** as they open their 42nd season with All Creation Sings, a celebration of the beauty, wonder, and interconnectedness of the world around us. Through music spanning generations and traditions, the concert invites us to listen more deeply and celebrate the wonder of creation through song.

Calling all Bookworms

All Centralites are invited! Join Bookworms on **Tuesday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m.** for a fascinating conversation about I Dared to Hope, the memoir of Centralite Oscar McLeod. Oscar and co-author Martin will lead our discussion of Oscar’s remarkable life and connections with nationally renowned political and faith leaders. We’ll gather at Linda and Martin Lehfeldt’s home, 2329 Venetian Dr. SW. **Please sign up on Realm to attend.** Questions? Contact Linda McCord.

Congregational BBQ Lunch

On **Sunday, November 1**, after worship, let’s gather around the table for a delicious DAS BBQ meal and a joyful time of fellowship with our Central family. Come share a meal, connect with friends, and celebrate growing together in faith and community! **Please sign up on Realm.** We hope to see you there!

An All Saints' Worship Service

On **Sunday, November 1 at 2:30 p.m.** join us for a beautiful afternoon of music, remembrance, and hope as the combined choirs and clergy of Central, Covenant and Morningside Presbyterian Churches lead us in worship. The service will feature Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem. Come and be renewed through song and community on this sacred day of remembrance at **Morningside Presbyterian, 1411 North Morningside Drive, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30306.**

Antoine Boyer and Yeore Kim Concert at Central

Join us for a wonderful evening with guitarist Antoine Boyer and harmonica player Yeore Kim on **Sunday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m.** (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). Blending jazz, classical music, and improvisation, this dynamic duo creates an intimate and lyrical sound filled with elegance, emotion, and freedom. **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.



Special Participants in Today’s Worship

Lector: David Earhart
Tower Bell Ringer: Bobbie Paul
Deacon of the Day: Nancy Wilkes

Hospitality Team:
Beth Grashof
Martha Haythorn
Kathy Kohn
Norm Kohn
Kathy McCloud
Isabelle Werber
Dane Jefferson

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 Technician
Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Technician
Sarah Anderson, Video Production Manager
Toby Abrelat, Video Technician
Christian Davis, Production Technician
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director



Earth Sermon–Beauty, Love and Peace, Alma Thomas

20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026
Worship begins at 10 a.m.

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

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude	<i>Ubi Caritas Et Amor</i> Don Papenbrock, organ	Rachel Laurin
Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Susan B. Landrum
Ringin		

*As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world
that Central Presbyterian Church is worshipping God.*

Centering Prayer
Hymn 399

God Welcomes All
First time: Choir
Second time: Organ Side
Third time: Font Side
Last time: All Together

THEMBA AMEN

**God welcomes all,
strangers and friends;
God's love is strong
and it never ends.**

 **Call to Worship** Rev. Kate Culver
We gather in the presence of the God who created us in love.
We come as the people God has made us to be.
We celebrate the beautiful diversity of God's creation.
Every story, every body, every beloved identity.
Here there is room for joy, truth, and belonging.
Come, let us worship the God whose love is wider than we can imagine.

 Hymn 301
 Let Us Build a House
 TWO OAKS

✦ Call to Confession

 **Prayer of Confession**
God of boundless love, you created each of us in your image and called us good. Yet we confess that we have drawn lines where you offered welcome. We have stayed silent when others were excluded or harmed, instead of reflecting your love.
Forgive us, O God. Give us courage to speak, humility to listen, and faith to build a church where no one must hide who they are to know they are beloved. Make our welcome more than words, and our love visible in the world.... (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 329

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength WINCHESTER OLD

**God is our refuge and our strength,
our ever-present aid,
and therefore, though the earth be moved,
we will not be afraid;**

**Though hills amid the seas be cast,
though foaming waters roar,
yea, though the mighty billows shake
the mountains on the shore.**

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		David Earhart
First Lesson	Isaiah 25:1-9	
Second Lesson	Philippians 4:1-9	Rev. Susan B. Landrum
Sermon		

Responding to the Word

 Hymn 308
 O God in Whom All Life Begins
NOEL

✦ Affirmation of Faith
(BASED ON PSALM 139, GENESIS 1, JOHN 10, EPHESIANS 2, ACTS 2, ISAIAH 56,
1 JOHN 4, ROMANS 8)

We believe in God, who knit each of us together in the womb, who looked
on all that God had made and called it very good.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who ate with those the world pushed aside, who
broke down the walls that divide us, and who came so that all might have
abundant life.

In Christ there are no outsiders. We all belong.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came like wind and fire at Pentecost and
spoke to each person in their own language, meeting every one of them right
where they were.

God's Spirit is poured out on all people.

We believe God's promise spoken through Isaiah: to those shut out and cut
off, God gives an everlasting name and a place within God's house.
God's house is a house of prayer for all people.

**We believe that God is love, and perfect love casts out fear. We are
convinced that neither death nor life, nor anything in all creation,
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Therefore we rejoice in the Lord always. Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *Arms Opened Wide* NEW CENTURY (2009)
Lyrics by Mary Louise Bringle arr. Howard Helvey
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, organ

Arms opened wide to the needs of the neighbor;
eyes opened wide by the wonders of God's will;
daring to venture on pathways uncharted,
we move in faith that our God is speaking still.

Doors opened wide as a bold sign of welcome;
minds opened wide to the meanings of God's call:
"No longer alien or stranger or outcast--
my holy house is a house of prayer for all."

Hopes opened wide toward the light of the future,
 hearts opened wide by the blessings of our past,
 we pledge our lives to God's promise unfolding:
 that love and justice shall fill the earth at last!

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 853
 We Are Marching in the Light of God
 SIYAHAMBA

✦ Charge and Benediction Rev. Susan B. Landrum

Postlude	<i>Fantasy Toccata on "Italian Hymn"</i>	Mark A. Miller
	Don Papenbrock, organ	

This Week at Central

October 11 - 18, 2026

Sunday, October 11		Thursday, October 15	
8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry	10:00 a.m.	Moments of Movement (Zoom)
9:30 a.m.	Nursery Opens	Friday, October 16	
10:00 a.m.	Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel)	12:00 p.m.	Church Office closes
10:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary	Saturday, October 17	
12:00 p.m.	Central Marches in Pride Parade	Church Office Closed	
Monday, October 12		Sunday, October 18	
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Ministry
11:00 a.m.	Rebekah Circle (Zoom)	9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens
7:00 p.m.	Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)	9:15 a.m.	Doughnuts in the Family Lounge
Tuesday, October 13		9:30 a.m.	Nazareth Choir
10:00 a.m.	Moments of Movement (Zoom)	9:45 a.m.	Children & Youth Sunday School Classes
6:00 p.m.	Stewardship (Zoom)	9:45 a.m.	Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
Wednesday, October 14		10:00 a.m.	Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel)
8:30 a.m.	Our House Medical Exam (Youth Suite)	11:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary
9:00 a.m.	Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
5:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal		
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal		