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.

Kasia Smolarek Concert at Central

Join us for a wonderful evening with classical guitarist, Kasia Smolarek, on **Friday, December 4, at 8:00 p.m.** (doors open at 7:15 p.m.). Kasia Smolarek, is a winner of more than 20 international awards. Don't miss this extraordinary performance by one of today's most exciting classical guitarists! **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 20% off tickets with code CONGREGATION. Scan the QR code for tickets.

Deacons are Hosting a Christmas Party

Join the Deacons for a Merry & Wise Christmas celebration on **December 5 at 1:00 p.m.** at the home of Peg and Charlie Richards. All members age 65 and older are invited to enjoy an afternoon of holiday cheer, fellowship, and fun. Please RSVP to Peg Richards by email or phone. If you plan to attend, please also send Peg a few photos of yourself so she can create a special slideshow for everyone to enjoy! We look forward to celebrating the season together!

Beer & Hymns

Join us at Manuel's Tavern on **December 5 at 7:00 p.m.** for a fun-filled time of fellowship, great food, music, and good cheer! Come enjoy the lively atmosphere, share a few laughs, and connect with friends over a wonderful evening together. We hope to see you there!

Advent Marketplace, Chili Cook-Off and Wreath Making

Join us for a festive afternoon of food, fellowship, creativity, and holiday fun on **December 6** following worship! Browse the Advent Market featuring our mission partners and local arts and crafts, sample delicious entries in the Great Central Chili Cook-Off, and vote for the winner of the coveted Golden Ladle! For $15, create a beautiful Advent wreath to take home while supporting Central's Worship, Music & Arts and Children & Youth Ministries and their partnership around the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. Come shop, eat, create, and celebrate the season of Advent with your Central family! **Go to Realm to signup and make your donation!**

Advent & Christmas Flower Donations

Each week during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, Central enjoys beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary as a visual reminder of the beauty and spirit of the seasons. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, a gift to the Flower Fund is a great way to do it. A portion of your gift will also be used throughout the coming year, continuing to bring joy and beauty to our worship services. You may choose to make your gift in honor or in memory of someone, and your name will be listed in the December 20 bulletin. **The deadline for these gifts and memorials will be December 16 by noon.**

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Lector: Kitsy Battle
Tower Bell Ringer: Jason Bliss
Deacon of the Day: Hugh Landrum

Hospitality Team:
Beth Grashof
Ben Evans
Kathy Harben
Rachel Hull
Jackie Randolph
Mike Sizemore
Amanda Smith

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

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

Central
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ATLANTA



Trans Forming Libery, Amy Sherald

Reign of Christ Sunday
November 22, 2026
Worship begins at 11 a.m.

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude — *Prelude on "Darwall's 148th"* — Percy Whitlock
Don Papenbrock, organ

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Kate Culver

Ringing of the Bell

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

Centering Prayer
Hymn 466 — *Come and Fill Our Hearts* — CONFITEMINI DOMINO
Choir will sing melody first, then please join four times through.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

✥ Call to Worship — Rev. Shannon J. Kershner
Mountains and rivers, islands and oceans,
give God glory!
Foolish and wise, rulers and nations,
give God glory!
All who live, all who breathe,
give God glory!
Let us worship God.

✥ Hymn 367 — *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* — ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

✥ Call to Confession

✥ Prayer of Confession
ADAPTED FROM A PRAYER IN AN IONA PRAYER BOOK, WRITTEN BY PETER MILLAR
Holy One, you asked for our hands that you might use them for your purpose. We confess we gave them for a moment then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice. We confess we gave you a whisper that we might not be accused. You asked for our lives that you might work through us. We confess we gave a small part that we might not be too involved. Lord, forgive our calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for us to do so, only in the places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. Forgive us, renew us, and send us out anew. Remind us of our baptisms and may that give us courage…. (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 441 — *Hear The Good News of Salvation* — NETTLETON

Hear the good news of salvation:
Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy!
Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.

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 — Kitsy Battle

First Lesson — Jeremiah 23:1–6

Second Lesson — Ephesians 4:1-6 — Rev. Kate Culver

Sermon — **From the Church, with Love**
To the Newly Baptized

Responding to the Word

✥ Hymn 306 — *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* — DENNIS

✥ Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Susan B. Landrum
for Transgender Day of Remembrance
ADAPTED FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH
In life and in death we all belong to God.
We trust in Jesus Christ,
who ate with those the world cast out,
blessed those others would not touch,
and called each one by name.
Unjustly condemned, Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain.
But God raised Jesus from the dead,
breaking the power of hatred and fear,
so that death does not have the last word.

We trust in God our Creator,
who made the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
of every gender, every race, and every people,
to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to speak the names of those we have lost,
to hear the voices of people long silenced,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
and to work with others for justice, belonging, and joy.

With believers in every time and place,
and with all who have gone before us,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to God, Creator, Christ, and Spirit. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory — *Everything Is One* — Charles Forsberg
Chancel Choir, 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 317 — *In Christ There is No East or West* — MCKEE

✥ Charge and Benediction — Rev. Kate Culver

Postlude — *Marche triomphale, "Nun danket alle Gott"* — Sigfried Karg-Elert
Don Papenbrock, organ

✥ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please stand as you are comfortable.
Please silence your cellphones.

This Week at Central

November 22 - 29, 2026

Sunday, November 22
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
10:00 a.m. Doughnuts in the Family Lounge & Pageant Meeting
10:00 a.m. Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. Session Meeting (Tull Hall)

Monday, November 23
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)

Tuesday, November 24
10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 25
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common Ground (Courtyard)

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving - Office Closed

Friday, November 27
Office Closed

Saturday, November 28
Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 29
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. Called Session Meeting (Parlor)
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology Class (Greene Room)
10:00 a.m. Children & Youth Pageant Run-Through & Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Trinity UMC Worship (Rand Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. Jerusalem Bell Choir

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