

**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!

**CENTRAL MEN COOK!** Join Us for Food, Fun & Fellowship today after Worship. Come enjoy a special lunch café featuring delicious dishes prepared by the Men of Central Presbyterian. Each person will be allowed to choose two entrees. All proceeds will support the Outreach Advocacy Center.

**BOOKWORMS** will gather at 7:00 pm (Note change from our usual time!) on Tuesday, May 20, at the home of Linda and Martin Leheldt for our end-of-season potluck supper and conversation with the author, Centralite Hannah Palmer, about *The Pool Is Closed: Segregation, Summertime, and the Search for a Place to Swim*. We anticipate an engaging and timely discussion about this dark and intriguing aspect of Atlanta history and culture. Bring your copy for Hannah to sign! Please “sign up” by scanning the QR code, through Realm, or the link in the Wednesday Weekly. Questions? Contact Linda McCord.



**JULIE MURPHY AND JONATHAN VAN NESS IN CELEBRATION OF LET THEM STARE.** On May 21 Charis Books and More + Charis Circle will welcome Julie Murphy and Jonathan Van Ness in celebration of *Let Them Stare*, a bighearted story about friendship, love—and discovering the secrets and beauty of your own hometown. This event will take place here at Central in our sanctuary. The doors will open at 6:00 pm and the event will take place from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. You can use the QR code to signup.



**BOOK TOUR: YOU ONLY GET WHAT YOU'RE ORGANIZED TO TAKE.** On Saturday, May 24th at 6:00 pm Central will be hosting Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and Noam Sandweiss-Back, co-authors of the book, *You Only Get What You're Organized to Take: Lessons from the Movement to End Poverty*. Liz is the Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary and Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and teaches at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. **She will also preach here at Central on Sunday, May 25th.** Noam is an organizer with longstanding experience supporting movements for social and economic justice having served as Director of Partnerships for the Poor People's Campaign and currently working with the Kairos Center on a special project to counter the power of Christian nationalism.



**SAVE THE DATE! MUSIC AND ARTS SUNDAY — JUNE 1**  
You won't want to miss this joyful celebration of Central's vibrant Music and Arts community! Join us for a special worship service filled with beauty, creativity, and inspiration. The sanctuary will come alive with stunning visual art by Central members, the shimmering sounds of two anthems from the Geneva Handbell Choir, and a powerful musical offering from the Chancel Choir: *Chandos Anthem No. 4: O Sing Unto the Lord* by George Frideric Handel, featuring guest soloists and orchestra. Come celebrate the gifts of music and art that enrich our worship and community life — and bring a friend to share in the joy!

## Special Participants in Today's Worship

**Lectors:** Cameron Dake  
Carmen Holden  
Aubrey Johnson  
**Tower Bell Ringer:** Jason Bliss  
**Deacon of the Day:** Linda Massengill

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

## Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff  
The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor  
Susan Landrum, Director of Children & Youth  
Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts  
Mason Copeland, Organist & Music Associate  
Kristie Johns, Business Administrator  
Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator  
John White, Facilities Manager  
Abraha Diedre, Custodian  
Karen Brown, Pianist, Bethlehem & Jerusalem Choir  
Naomi McQuiller, Children & Youth Intern  
Thomas Chafin, Music Intern  
Kelly Grba, Music Intern  
Josh Smith, Audio Engineer  
Jamel Morris-Barclay, Audio Assistant  
Sarah Anderson, Video Production Manager  
Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

## Give

You may give via the envelope in the pew, online at [www.cpcatlanta.org](http://www.cpcatlanta.org) or using the QR code.



5th Sunday of Easter  
May 18, 2025  
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



Maquette for *Bien Venida y Vaya Con Dios (Welcome and Go with God)*, Maria Alquilar

# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude *Jesus Lead Thou On* Paul Manz  
Mason Copeland, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Ringling 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.*

Choral Introit *Light of Light* Nancy Gifford  
Children's Choir, Kelly Grba, conductor, Karen Brown, piano

✠ Call to Worship Susan Landrum  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God on high!  
**Praise God, sun and moon.  
Praise God, all you shining stars!**  
Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and ocean depths!  
**Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, praise the Lord!**  
Kings and all peoples of the earth, princes and all rulers of the earth,  
praise the Lord!  
**Old and young together; all people praise the Lord!**  
Let us worship God!

✠ Hymn 14 *For the Beauty of the Earth* DIX

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession  
**Holy God, you command us to love one another,  
yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace.  
You command us to care for all of creation,  
yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through carelessness.  
You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus,  
yet we too often walk our own way.  
Forgive us, O God.  
Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth.  
Lead us to reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community,  
as we share your love with your people everywhere.... (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 587 *Alleluia* CELTIC ALLELUIA  
(sing twice)



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

# Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children Susan Landrum and Naomi McQuiller

Prayer for Illumination Carmen Holden

First Lesson Psalm 148 Cameron Dake  
Carmen Holden  
Aubrey Johnson

Second Lesson John 13:31-35 Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Sermon

# Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 374 *O Holy City, Seen of John* MORNING SONG

✠ Affirmation of Faith Rev. Kate Culver  
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 ascend-  
ed 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.**

Thanksgiving for Children and Youth Volunteers Susan Landrum

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory *In Bright Mansions Above* Traditional Spiritual  
Chancel Choir, Mason Copeland, piano arr. Roland Carter

Lord, I want to live up yonder in bright mansions above.  
My mother's gone to glory, I want to go there too;  
Lord, I want to live up yonder in bright mansions above.  
In my Father's house there are many mansions,  
If it were not so, I would have told you.

✠ 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 634 *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY

✠ Charge and Benediction Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Postlude *God of Grace* Paul Manz  
Mason Copeland, organ

## This Week at Central

### May 18 - May 25, 2025

#### Sunday, May 18

11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Central Men Cook!  
12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting

#### Monday, May 19

8:00 a.m. Domestic Workers Alliance  
9:00 a.m. Church of the Common  
Ground (Courtyard)  
11:00 a.m. Rebekah Circle (Zoom)  
6:30 p.m. Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)

#### Tuesday, May 20

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
5:00 p.m. Children & Youth Committee  
(Zoom)  
Personnel Committee (Zoom)  
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Zoom)  
7:00 p.m. Bookworms (Lehfeltdt home)

#### Wednesday, May 21

9:00 a.m. Church of the Common  
Ground (Courtyard)  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. Book Tour - Julie Murphy and  
Jonathan Van Ness, *Let Them  
Stare* (Sanctuary)

#### Thursday, May 22

10:00 a.m. Moments of Movement (Zoom)  
4:00 p.m. CHNDC & Heart of South  
Downtown Meeting (Tull Hall)  
7:00 p.m. Thirsty Thursdays (Manuel's  
Tavern)

#### Friday, May 23

12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

#### Saturday, May 24

Church Office Closed  
6:30 p.m. Book Tour - Rev. Dr. Liz  
Theoharris and Noam  
Sandweiss-Back, *You Only Get  
What You're Organized to Take:  
Lessons from the Movement to End  
Poverty* (Sanctuary)

#### Sunday, May 25

8:45 a.m. Breakfast Ministry  
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens  
9:45 a.m. Issues in Theology: Shakespeare  
and Theology (Greene Room)  
The Gospel of John (The Parlor)  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary -  
Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Liz  
Theoharis

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