



Central Congregational
United Church of Christ
a justice and peace-seeking, Open & Affirming congregation

THE MONTHLY

JULY 2024



***No matter who you are, or where you are on
life's journey; you are welcome here!***

DEAR MEMBER AND FRIENDS,

The weather app on my phone says I am in Berlin, Germany, but it feels like my mind and body are stretched over the Atlantic, to home and to you. My thoughts ping-pong back and forth from here to Central. Just one example of this came early in the pre-course reading that threw me right back home:

“Attending to the crack” means attending to the openings, the challenges, and the disruptions where we feel the past ending and the future wanting to begin. P23

So, here’s a question that comes to me and that you might reflect on: How did you know it was time for a “designated term?” When did you know? Can you recall how the “impulse” (for want of a better term) came to life? Were there signs of...something? And what were you hoping it would bring?

Some of the answers to these questions are in your search materials and some easy to find words for. What may not be there is a sense or awareness of the many events, feelings, structures... personal and congregational, all of which led to a moment when you sensed collectively something different was needed. In the language we use here, where you felt the past ending and the future wanting to begin—a future different from the past.

I can’t wait to get back and to our spiritual journey together. (It’s not time to check in for the return flight yet but it’s getting close.) When we are together again, I look forward to exploring what gave rise to what we call the Designated Term, to learning what this season together calls us to, and to shaping a way forward toward what wants to be born now.

What a blessing it is to share this time with you. Sometimes, I pinch myself. And I thank God for you and for

Grace upon grace.

Rev. Liz

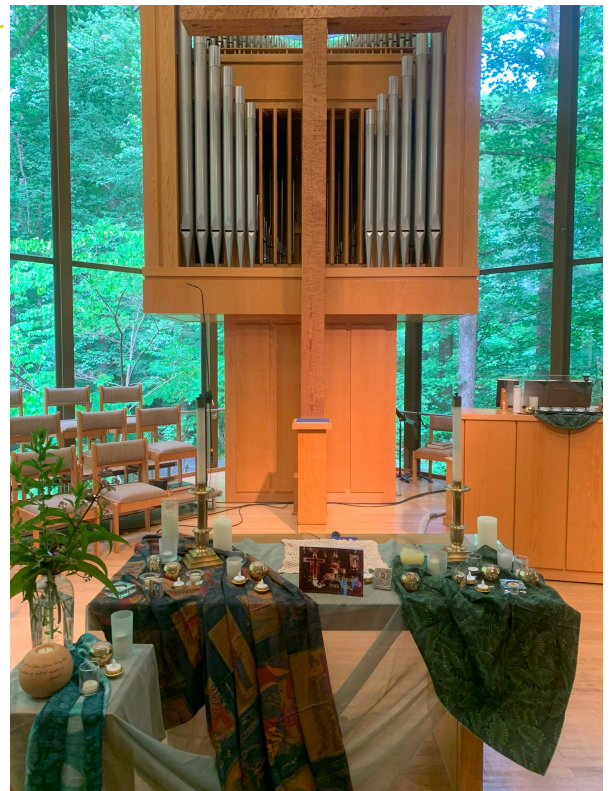
Designated Term Senior Minister

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

First Worship Taizé + communion

9 AM Sundays

Taizé prayer is marked by meditative singing, readings from scripture, silence and intercessions. The tradition comes from the Taizé Community, an ecumenical monastic community founded in 1940 in the village of Taizé in France. We are delighted to expand the practice of Taizé prayer in Atlanta for a short while.



11 AM worship

July 7, 2024

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Rev. Liz, preaching

July 14, 2024

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Thomas, preaching

July 21, 2024

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

New Member Sunday

Rev. Liz, preaching

July 23, 2024

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Liz, preaching

EVENTS @ CENTRAL

JULY 2024



Weekly events:

Sundays	Practical Theology
Mondays	Lunch & Learn Bible Study
Tuesdays	Tuesday Together

Monthly events:

July 2	Plymouth Harbor Caregiver Support Group
July 6	Fellowship of the Grape
July 10	Phoenix Sewing Bee
July 11	20s/30s Meeting Plymouth Harbor Hawaiian Party
July 13	Lena's Place Coffeehouse
July 14	Council Meeting
July 16	Plymouth Harbor Caregiver Support Group
July 17	Green Team Meeting
July 21	Sandwich Sunday
July 28	Summer Common Read - in person
July 31	Summer Common Read - online

July Arts in the Commons

Early August

August 3	Fellowship of the Grape
August 4	The Blessing of the Backpacks
August 8	Women's Daytime Book Group

EXPLORE

Faith Formation



CHECK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE YOUR FAITH

Practical Theology

Sundays @ 9:30am in Room 206 & on Zoom

This Just Peace Covenant class studies and explores current issues. We're an energetic group ready to study, discuss, and act! Visitors and new members are ALWAYS welcome.

Contact **Mary White** (buffalo2635@gmail.com) or **Lee Culpepper** (lee@culpepper.com) for more info.

July 2024 Topics

For the month of July, we will be exploring **prison issues in Georgia and the United States**. We will be reading some relevant articles and have one or two speakers.

Lunch & Learn Bible Study

Mondays @ Noon on Zoom

This informal conversation group discusses the scripture for each Sunday's services. Join us for an inclusive and enriching addition to the worship experience.

Contact: office@central-ucc.org for more information.

Do you have an idea for a new small group?
Email Rev. Thomas (thomas@central-ucc.org)
or Nancy Wetzel (njwetzel73@gmail.com) to share your ideas!



CENTRAL
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Tuesdays Together

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

The Tuesdays Together Crew welcomes you to join us Tuesdays at **Mason Mill Park** for a stroll on The Boardwalk.

MASON MILL PARK:
1400 MCCONNELL DRIVE, DECATUR 30033

MEETING POINT:
THE TENNIS CENTER PARKING LOT

MEETING TIME:
9.00 AM

No formal sign up is necessary.

Feel free to contact

Maureen O'Brien with questions: -
mob30064@yahoo.com.



JULY 2 & JULY 16



Plymouth Harbor Caregiver Support Group | Fireplace Room | 10:15 am

Plymouth Harbor is offering a Caregiver Support Group facilitated by Helen Fredrick, every first and third Tuesday of the month. The group is open to any caregiver in the congregation as well as the community.

Contact **Helen Fredrick** for more information: hpfredrick@gmail.com.

JULY 6

Fellowship of the Grape (FOG)

JULY 6, 2024
6.00 pm

HOST:
MARTHA AND RON SMITH

Monthly meeting with Central's members and visitors of all ages in a casual setting.

A new host each month.
FOG is NOT about the alcohol;
it is about the FELLOWSHIP.



All are welcome!



JOIN US

Martha and Ron Smith will host Fellowship of the Grape and have selected California red and white wines. Please bring a sweet or savory appetizer or dessert to add to the spread.

For more information about this month's meeting, please contact **Martha and Ron:**

woodmoorlane@hotmail.com or
404 272 2567.

To be added to the **FOG email list**, please contact **RobinLee Fitch:**
robinleefitch@hotmail.com or 404
786 9810.

JULY 10



**Phoenix Sewing Bee |
10 am - 2 pm | Fellowship Hall**

Inviting all quilters, knitters, crocheters, cross-stitchers, all who are interested in fiber and fabrics.

Phoenix Sewing Bee

Sponsored by East Cobb Quilt Guild

At

Monthly Meeting
Second Wednesday
of each Month

Fellowship Hall
10 am - 2 pm
2676 Clairmont Road NE,
Atlanta, 30329

CENTRAL
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Phoenix Bee
ECQG

We have tables and electricity.
Bring your own machine and other equipment.

More info: contact **Dianne Hiltman**
@ hiltmans@gmail.com

JULY 11



Plymouth Harbor Hawaiian Party | 1 pm | Fellowship Hall

Special events and parties are an important part of Plymouth Harbor's activity, and we always try to offer new experiences to our participants and their families.

In **July**, we are organizing a **Hawaiian Party**, including a special **live performance by Marty Berning**.

Plymouth Harbor is a ministry of Central serving older adults - without regard to gender, religion, race, or ethnicity.

If you know 50 - 90 years old adults with different diagnoses of physical or cognitive impairment or older adults who may not wish or are not able to stay home alone for extended periods of time, make sure they know about this opportunity to benefit from social interaction and a structured environment.

Berthe is more than happy to give them more information: berthe@centra-ucc.org, 404 800 5573.

PLYMOUTH HARBOR
HAWAIIAN PARTY
JULY 11, 2024 @ 1pm
Island Appetizers. Refreshments. Fun.
Live Music with **Marty Berning**

PLEASE COME DRESSED IN
YOUR BEST HAWAIIAN ATTIRE

2024 ENDOWMENT GRANTS

GROUPS WHO WILL RECEIVE 2024 GRANTS FROM CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Church Women United in Atlanta: www.cwuatl.com

a racially, culturally, theological inclusive ecumenical women's movement.

The Decatur-Area Emergency Assistance Ministry: www.deamdecatur.org

assists local communities with utility and prescription bills and a food pantry.

El Refugio Ministry: www.erefugiostewart.org

assists immigrants at Stewart Detention Center and their loved ones through hospitality, visitation, support, and advocacy; offers a hospitality house in Lumpkin.

Furnish With Love: www.furnishwithlove.org

transforms empty housing into uplifting homes for families coming out of homelessness.

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light: www.gipl.org

inspires and equips communities of faith to organize, implement practical climate solutions, and advocate across Georgia on issues of climate change, environmental justice, and community resilience.

Global Spokes: www.globalspokes.info

gives members of the Atlanta, Decatur and Clarkston refugee communities access to bicycles, safety education and equipment, and training to help with basic transportation and recreation needs.

The Harvest Ministries: www.theharvestministries.org

shares the gospel and builds mission homes in El Salvador.

Interfaith Children's Movement: www.icmgeorgia.org

is a grassroots interfaith advocacy movement working to ensure that all Georgia's children have what they need to thrive.

New Hope House (Possum Trot Ministries) www.newhopehousega.org

offers support and hospitality for Georgia's death row prisoners and their families in Jackson, Georgia. (it was originally organized by members of Open Door Community, Koinonia Farm and Jubilee Partners).

Students to Scholars : www.students2scholars.org

provides tutoring and meals for K-12 students in the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods of northwest Atlanta.

Toco HillsCommunity Alliance: www.tocohillsalliance.org

provides assistance to Northeast Atlanta/North Central DeKalb area communities, including food, hygiene supplies, and clothing for families and individuals in need, and meals for unhoused neighbors.

The Urban Clinic of Atlanta: www.urbanclinic.org

is a free clinic in Fulton County providing primary care and medications to uninsured and low-income adults in Metro Atlanta.

Villa International: www.villainternational.org

provides a welcoming home for international guests and healthcare professionals.

JULY 11



20s/30s meeting | 7 pm |
@ Taqueria del Sol (Decatur)

Third Place

20s/30s gatherings

Our July gathering will be at **Taqueria del Sol (Decatur)** on **Thursday, July 11th @7pm.**

Let Rev. Thomas know you intend to join the 20s/30s July meeting. Our 20s/30s group aims to gather once each month. In most cases, that will be at the church or nearby in the Decatur area. Questions? Reach out to Rev. Thomas! Thomas@central-ucc.org.

JULY 13



Lena's Annual Summer of Love Show is taking place on July 13 @7pm. By coming and enjoying acoustic music, refreshments and coffee, you are contributing to Central's "Lena Working Fund" for local charities, with all proceeds going directly to a different local charity each month.

You won't want to miss this special evening!
Doors open at 6:30 pm.
The concert starts at 7:00 pm.

Contact **Evelyn Brewer** for more information:
evelyn.brewer@gmail.com .

JULY 14

All members are welcome to attend the monthly Council Meeting that takes place on **the 2nd Sunday of each month**.

On July 14th, we are meeting **in person, in the Fellowship Hall, at 12.15pm**.

Contact: **office@central-ucc.org** for more information.



JULY 17



Green Team Monthly Meeting | 7 pm | on Zoom



The Green Team Green is committed to advocating for sustainable practices in our church and in our local community and welcomes new members at its monthly meeting. A meeting agenda will be sent out to Green Team members via One Church in advance.

To be added to the Green Team group on One Church to receive announcements and access information, contact Mary White at buffalo2635@gmail.com.

Please use [this link](#) to attend our monthly meeting online.

Meeting ID: 870 2853 9227; Passcode: 511878

JULY 21

Gather with us after the 9:00 or 11:00 am services **to pack lunch kits for Central Outreach and Advocacy (OAC)**.

Clients receive a nutritious lunch (sandwich, fresh fruit, chips or crackers, a cookie, and drink) while meeting with Central OAC staffers who provide a full range of services for the homeless population in downtown Atlanta.

If unable to help with lunch packing, consider bringing a dozen sandwiches (meat, egg salad, peanut butter), bags of chips, crackers, or canned drinks to church on this Sunday.



Email **Maureen O'Brien** with questions: mob30064@yahoo.com.

**JULY 28
& JULY 31**



The Summer Common Read

offers the opportunity to engage in a shared reading experience outside the spaces of our familiar groups and gatherings.

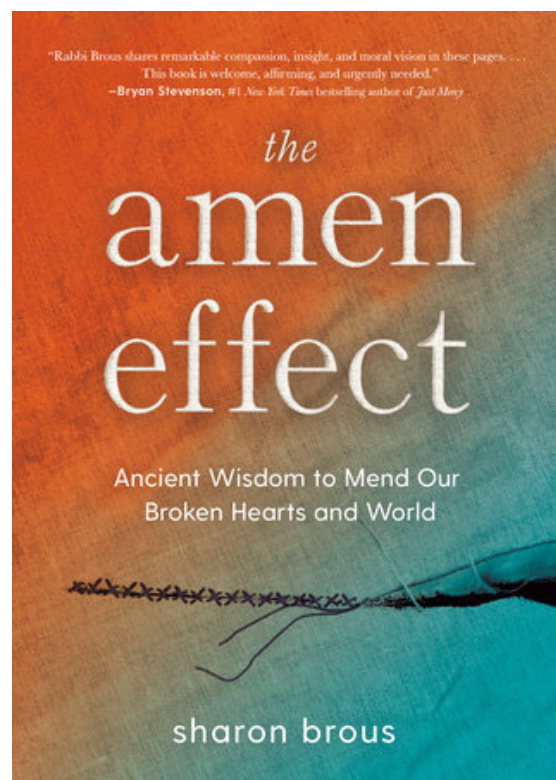
This year, the Christian Education Board has selected

The Amen Effect, by Rabbi Sharon Brous.

From one of our country's most prominent rabbis, an inspiring book about the power of community based on one of her most impactful sermons.

In a time of loneliness and isolation, social rupture and alienation, what will it take to mend our broken hearts and rebuild our society?

Sharon Brous—a leading American rabbi—makes the case that the spiritual work of our time, as instinctual as it is counter-cultural, is to find our way to one other in celebration, in sorrow, and in solidarity. To show up for each other in moments of joy and pain, vulnerability and possibility, to invest in relationships of shared purpose and build communities of care.



We invite you to:

- 1) spend July reading the book.
- 2) join us at the end of the month for:

an in-person discussion

Sunday, July 28th

@ 9:30 a.m. in Room 208

OR

a virtual session

Wednesday, July 31st

@ 7:00 p.m.

Let's
DONATE
for
**TOCO HILLS
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**

THINGS THEY NEED

**HYGIENE
ITEMS**



**CANNED
OR SHELF-STABLE
MEATS**



Collection Location:

Central Congregational United Church of Christ
2676 Clairmont Road NE, Atlanta, 30329 - The office area

Collection Deadline:

July 31, 2024

Contact: Evelyn Brewer

evelyn.brewer@gmail.com

JULY - SEPTEMBER



John Davis has his 3-month art exhibit @ Central, in the Commons. He called the exhibit **"Create"** because he hopes his art display will inspire you to explore your creative side. 20% of his sales will be redirected to Central.

ART IN THE COMMONS
EXHIBITS

"CREATE"

JOHN DAVIS

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2024

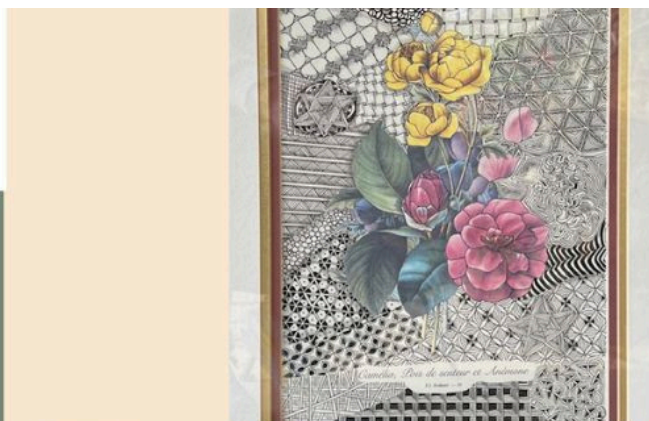
VISITING HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 2 pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 9 am - 12 pm

FREE ENTRY



Central Congregational
United Church of Christ

2676 Clairmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA, 30329



Fellowship of the Grape (FOG)



AUGUST 3, 2024
6.30 pm



HOST:
LINDA FINK



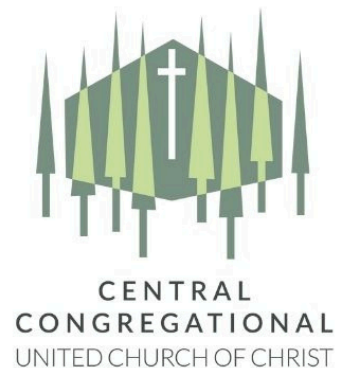
Monthly meeting with Central's members and visitors of all ages in a casual setting.

A new host each month.

FOG is NOT about the alcohol;
it is about the FELLOWSHIP.



All are welcome!



JOIN US



More Information about
this month's meeting:

llrf10@aol.com

770 570 7842

To be added to the
FOG email list:

robinleefitch@hotmail.com

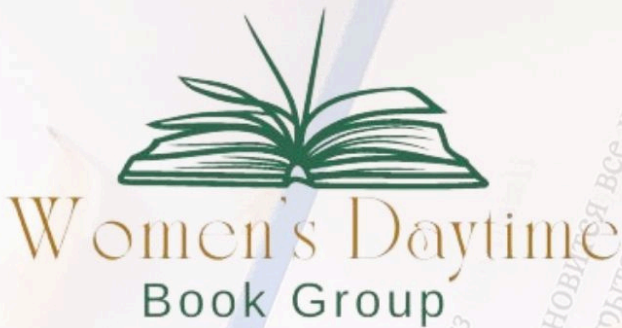
404 786 9810



Celebrate the start of a NEW school year with us!

ALL students and teachers
from preK – grad school
are invited to bring their backpack, tote
bag, or briefcase, to church
for a special blessing and moment of
celebration during the 11AM worship
service.





August 8
2 PM
via Zoom

Honor
by
Thrity Umrigar

SIGN UP FOR THE GROUP:

Email Geneva Benoit @
neve44@bellsouth.net

GIVING at Central Congregational United Church of Christ

Our 2023-24 fiscal year has come to a close. Thank you for your generous support of our congregation and its ministries. We concluded the year having received \$7,047.46 more than budgeted for our Sunday offering plate, and \$10,106 less than budgeted through our regular giving.

For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the congregation approved an aspirational budget that calls for \$20,000 received in our Sunday offering plate, and \$444,800 dollars to be received through regular giving.

If Central is a part of your faith and life journey, we hope that you might consider offering the gift of your time, talent, and/or financial support of our ministries and community. You can give online by visiting: central-ucc.org/donate

No gift is too small! Indeed, all are precious.

Time & Talent Opportunities

be on the lookout for opportunities to support Kids Space, our Garden Team, Luncheons/Potlucks, and other needs that may arise!

Offerings Budgeted

July 2024 - June 2025

Plate Offering Budgeted:	\$20,000
Regular Offering Budgeted:	\$444,800



Central Congregational
United Church of Christ

a justice and peace-seeking, Open & Affirming congregation

Contact Us

Office Email: office@central-ucc.org
Phone: 404-633-4505
Website: central-ucc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/centralucc
Youtube: youtube.com/centralcongregationalucc

Office Hours

Monday: Closed
Tuesday - Friday: 9am - 2pm

Minister's Hours

Rev. Liz: By Appointment
Mondays-Off

Rev. Thomas: Wednesdays, 1-3pm
Thursdays, 11AM - 4PM or by appointment
Fridays- Off

On vacation: July 18-August 1