



CONTACT WITH CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
San Antonio, Texas

January 2019

WORSHIP, CONNECT, SERVE



Experiencing life abundant
through **worshipping** God,
connecting with each other
and the community, and **serving** others.

Michael's Mind



Here we are on the cusp of 2019. On New Year's Eve we will say "Happy New Year and hope for that very thing. I watched several friends and acquaintances not even try for a Merry Christmas this year. Life can be tough, but it does not have to rob us of all cheer. Some of the most positive, joyful people I have met lived in terrible poverty, experienced the violence of war, the fear of oppression. Still they danced, they sang, they loved.

May I give you some good news? You were created for joy. You were not made to fret and worry and think the dark snitty thoughts you express at times. You were made for peace and love and light and joy.

If these words cause consternation in you, I am truly sorry, but not if they move you toward joy. What would happen if we got to the end of our lives and realized that we spent time fretting over so many things, complaining about this and that yet life was passing by so quickly. I will say it again: you were made for joy. You were not meant to harbor dark thoughts and resentments. You were made for peace and love and light and joy. Remember Carl Sandberg on children?

You were made for joy, child.

The feet of you were carved for that.

The ankles of your run for that.

The rise of rain,

The shift of wind,

The drop of a red star on a far water rim...

An Endless catalogue of shouts and laughter's,

Silent contemplations

They made you from day to day for joy, child, for joy.

Jesus said among his life's purpose was:" That your joy may be complete" John 15: 11

So, Happy New Year every one of you!



Associate Minister's Corner: A Peaceful Christmas

It's time for new beginnings! It's time for a fresh start!
It's time to make some resolutions!

As the advent season dwindles, we are ready to welcome once more the "baby in the manger". The noise is high and the agitation is almost unbearable. No time for all last-minute preparations: presents to be wrap, cookies to make, cloths to get ready, house to be clean and decorate, and much more. We must rush to finish up, Christmas is almost here!

There is a wonderful Scripture found in Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) "*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*"

While there is so much to unpack in that Scripture, I wanted to take a moment to focus on the fact that Jesus came as our Prince of Peace. If there is anything this world needs today, it is the realization that Jesus Christ came to bring peace to mankind.

Many people equate the word "peace" with nations that have been at war with each other have come to an agreement not to be at war anymore. While that is a wonderful thing, I believe it is something that goes far deeper than that.

The Bible tells us that there is a peace that passes all understanding as we read about in Philippians 4:7 (NKJV) "*and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*"

In reality, this kind of peace is what each individual really needs. People's lives are filled with seemingly endless turmoil and tribulation. The peace that we can know as people of God does not necessarily mean the absence of conflict, but it does mean we have confidence even through the storms of life.

As you walk about during this Christmas season and the welcoming of a New Year, I would encourage you to be open as you look around and see so many who are without the peace we know. They cannot have true peace until they know the Prince of Peace personally as Lord and Savior.

The Christmas season can often be a season of pain for many, yet I believe as we are sensitive to the leading of the Spirit, God will help us to share the Good News of the Gospel.

Please join us for our Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7 PM and be thinking of some friends you would like to invite to church.

May God richly bless you with abundant peace.

Rev. Nelson Torres



Rev. Katherine B. Wright

While the end of 2018 is upon us, I can't help but celebrate my first whole year at Central Christian Church. It has been an honor to serve you and alongside you. Some of the things this church did this year that should be recognized (in no particular order)...

Devoted time, money, and energy to children and youth. This Easter baptized four into the body of Christ. We welcomed them with open arms as they discovered their faith. This June, we had a fantastic youth Sunday, helping for all of us to see the importance of making room for all the voices in our church, especially the younger ones. We supported the Childcare and celebrated an awesome Christmas program where they shared the story of Jesus' birth. The church became the place of weekly youth gatherings where friendships were formed that will hopefully last a lifetime. Thank you to everyone who makes those possible by providing dinner. Okay, I am a little bias but this is probably my favorite of the six things I am listing.

Prayed for our neighbor. Our April calendar on the bottom quoted from Luke 18:1 where Jesus tells his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. This year with our monthly prayer gatherings and our prayer calendars with daily prayers, we have prayed consistently. I think we learned how continually praying for those people in our lives and not in our lives can help us to understand more fully how prayer matters.

Fed our neighbor. You could say that God provides. Jesus was able to feed over 5,000 people with a few loaves and some fish. We were able to be the hands of Jesus as we aimed low but fed thousands ourselves. Our work providing food in honor of the SA 300 is one that we should be proud of and hopefully inspires us to continue looking to serve our neighbor.

Faithfully invested in our sacred space. One of the things I love about Central Christian Church is the calling to serve downtown San Antonio. The church adores the historical building and we recognize that we want it to be the same beauty for the future as well. Thank you to the congregation, as we continue to provide upkeep to our stained-glass windows and the outward appearance in order to maintain our sacred building for the future generations.

Supported each other through hard times. The church has been alongside you in the difficult times, walking along with you on your journey of life. Every single week we name aloud and to ourselves who in our community and outside our community needs our prayers. While darkness can take over, we know that we can lean on our family of faith when we need it.

Celebrated life's best moments. In addition to baptisms, we have had high school and college graduations, babies, and overall watching kids grow up before our eyes. We have had weddings, promotions, good health news, and overall fun times in fellowship together. This church is always looking to celebrate and we have definitely had many reasons to.

May we give thanks for the incredible ways that God has provided for Central Christian Church this year. May we continue to work in the ways God has called us, in these six ways and so much more.

CCC JANUARY 2019 PRAYER CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
"I have so much to do today, that I had better spend another hour on my knees." - Dr. MLK, Jr.		1 <u>New Year's Day</u> Pray that we remember to call on God each day for all things as we start this New Year	2 Ask God to help us be more forgiving of others just as He forgave all of us	3 Give thanks for those who work in service to others, that they remain steadfast	Pray for those in spiritual pain, that they know God's comfort through us	5 Pray that we act in God's love to look out for/help our Christian brothers & sisters
6 Pray for friends who are absent from church & let them know they are missed	7 Pray for all returning students that they are eager to continue learning	8 Pray that new programs in our church will grow, so more will know of God	9 Pray for our choirs that they continue to glorify God thru music	10 Pray that countries around the globe work for world peace	11 Pray that God removes our fears as we put our trust always in Him	12 Pray & thank God for His continued blessings to all of us
13 Pray for our new church lay leaders that they remain true to God's purpose for us	14 Pray that we remember that God should be in all our actions every day	15 Pray for those in need of new jobs that they find work, security & peace of mind	16 Thank God that He sees us in all our trials & knows of our weaknesses as He stands by us always	17 Pray for & rejoice in the friends we have at church and at work	18 Pray that we live our lives without grumbling, but with joy & gladness	19 Pray for & thank all volunteers who cheerfully give of their time to help others
20 Pray that we welcome others in friendship & fellowship and not as strangers	21 <u>MLK, Jr Day</u> Pray for love, patience & understanding with all people around us	22 Pray for our global ministries that they continue to grow & thrive	23 Ask God to heal those who are struggling with anxieties	24 Pray that we slow down & remember God's care for us daily	25 Give thanks to God for His healing grace to friends who have been ill	26 Pray that we let go of our anger & turn everything over to God's will
27 Pray that we focus on God more and on ourselves less, knowing He is always with us	28 Pray for patience in all things with God's help and love	29 Pray for all our seniors, that they know we love and appreciate them	30 Pray for those who are troubled in spirit, that they find peace/hope	31 Pray for those starting new life experiences, that they stay faithful to God's word		

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

LEADERSHIP INSTALLATION SUNDAY JANUARY 13TH

2019 opens with a celebration of service to Jesus Christ through the ministries of Central Christian Church San Antonio. First, during the worship service, Ministry Chairs and Officers for the New Year will be introduced. Next, there will be the installation and blessing of new members of the Diaconate. Then, the new Elders will be introduced and blessed in a service of ordination, including the “laying on of hands” in the Apostolic tradition.

Finally, following the worship service on January 13th, there will be a planning session with the Board of Stewards to plan, calendar and vision the future ministries of Central Christian Church. A seasonally appropriate meal of hot stew, cornbread, and desserts will be provided through the ministerial staff.



Prayers for all.

*Our hope for you is that you continue to experience a life abundant –
may joy, love & peace be yours always.*

*Please feel free to contact the church office if you have questions about
any events in the life of the church.*

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	1 New Years Day Church Office and Childcare CLOSED	2 9:30 am CWF Group 1- 10:30 am CWF Groups 2-3	3	4	5
6 Epiphany Sunday 10:50 am Worship Elders Meeting 12:00-1:00pm 	7 9:00 am Benevolent Sewing 6:30 Board of Stewards	8 9:00 am Benevolent Sewing 6:30 Board of Stewards	9 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	10	11	12
13 10:50 Worship Installation of Church Leaders 12:00 pm Leadership Retreat 5:00 pm Fun youth outing	14 11:00 am CWF 11:45 am CWF Luncheon	15 11:00 am CWF 11:45 am CWF Luncheon	16 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	17	18 Chi Rho Mid Winter → → →	19 → → → →
20 10:50 Worship 12:15 pm Endowment Meeting End of Chi Rho Mid Winter	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office CLOSED	22	23 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	24	25	26 9:00 am CMF
27 10:50 am Worship 9:45 am All Church Sunday Class 5- 7 pm Youth & JYF	28 Yazmin's Birthday!!!! 	29	30	31		

I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.

Psalm 119:147

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