

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
San Antonio, Texas



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

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

WORSHIP, CONNECT, SERVE

Michael's Mind

Dr. Robert S. Eliot, a cardiovascular surgeon from the University of Nebraska wrote a book titled, Is It Worth Dying For? This book was part of my “fun reading” after I finished my doctoral work back in 1984. I wish I had taken this book more seriously on my first reading. The book was about the relationship between stress and heart disease. The basic thesis has been proven in the years since his writing. It revolves around the thought that we have “hot reactors” to certain life stresses which can have serious implications on our health. Dr. Elliot calls a solution to this problem his Two Rules for Life...Rule Number One is ‘Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff!’ Rule Number Two is: “It’s All Small Stuff!” I know you have heard the rules, but now you know from whence they came.



Dr. Elliot was not trying to be cynical. He was also not wanting to be taken literally. Dr. Elliot recognizes that there are indeed some things worth dying for...But, he was simply pointing out that...the things that so often “do us in” are the little things. It’s the small stuff that kills us. He reminds us that we can be consumed with things that will not ultimately matter...with little things, emotional triggers, our outbursts often do us in. We can become so obsessed by small stuff that we miss the main thing.

I believe it was Bishop Bevel Jones who first said, “We need to remember that the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing!” And what is the main thing? Jesus answered that question in Matthew 22:37 with these words: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Now with that admonition in mind we can enter the season of Advent and approach Christmas. May we remember to keep the main thing the main thing. As the stresses of the season creep upon us, may we choose a path of peaceful living. It is the gift that we have already received from God that truly matters most. It is our love of God and others that should be wings for our souls, not weights to be carried. The stresses imposed on the season by any other enterprise is the smaller stuff. It can be deadly.



I love this time of year! Such an exciting time – having finished up a wonderful special day of Thanksgiving to God for His abundant provision... and now in the season of Advent, awaiting the arrival of Christmas, and all our funtastic and expectant traditions of this marvelous season, my “mostest favoritest” time of year!

Advent defined (*noun*) - ¹*the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event;* ²*the first season of the Christian church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.* In the bigger picture of how our worship comes together, we have All Saints/All Souls days, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving, the Advent Season and Christmas that start our Holy Year.... With All Souls Day, we remember those who have gone on to Heaven ahead of us. It is a solid reminder of our hope in Heaven that we have in Jesus Christ and a faith builder for trusting Him. With Christ the King Sunday, we reaffirm Christ as King of our lives and of everything that has meaning to us. With Thanksgiving, we count our blessings (it has become less about the 1601 harvest feast of Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people), especially for those we hold dear. Christmas is our most special remembrance of the birth of the person who died for all our sins, restoring us to God and to realizing His amazing plan for our lives.

Just curious... what do you remember from your past Christmases? ...your most precious gifts you received or gave... things you did... what did you eat... your fondest school and church Christmas celebration memories... what touched your heart the most? Mine? Grandparents and uncles... amazing Christmas gifts that I thought my parents could not have afforded... green boughs and holly... cutting Christmas trees in beautiful snow covered mountains... traveling long distances to visit parents and grandparents... children and grandchildren... our big family Christmas Eve parties with gift giving at my parent's home... Christmas dinner (always turkey with all the trimmings including my favorite Waldorf salad)... beautiful candlelight services at church... amazing prophecies fulfilled... nativity scenes... angels, shepherds and the three wise men.... and the Word became Flesh... singing happy birthday to Jesus around the angels chimes on Christmas morning... wonderful memories that are treasures I hold most dear... For my whole life, I have lived the Christmas calendar and always cherished every minute of it.

But this is Christmas ‘present.’ What does it look like for you? There are so many obnoxious things around us to take away our Christmas joy. I’d challenge you to not let the odiousness around us limit your Christmas. I challenge you to plan and carry out a wonderful holiday. Experience the River Walk again. Make time with family. Make memories. Remember the prophecies in Isaiah 9:6, the Angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary in Luke 1:26-38, the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:1-7 and Matthew 1:18-25, the Shepherds and the Angels in Luke 2:8-21, the visit of the Three Wise Men in Matthew 2:1-12, and the Biblical meaning of Christmas as explained in John 1:1-18. Enjoy the age-old Scriptures of our youth. Sing Christmas carols. Really “celebrate” the Birth of the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Prince of Peace, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, the Resurrection and the Life, the Ransom for our Sins, the Way-the Truth-and the Life, the One who holds me in Existence! I challenge you to really celebrate and enjoy Christmas this season! Feliz Navidad!

CCC DECEMBER 2021 PRAYER CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u> “Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking	<u>Monday</u> creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates Love. - Lao-Tse	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u> 1 Ask God to help you be able to <i>rest</i> in Him and not get too busy <i>because</i> of Him	<u>Thursday</u> 2 Pray that God uses you to shine His light for others to see	<u>Friday</u> 3 Pray for those who have lost dear friends so they feel God’s peace	<u>Saturday</u> 4 Thank God He is with you at all times, easing your burdens and giving you comfort
5 <u>2nd Advent</u> Pray that God’s peace and loving grace be with all of us each day	6 Pray for all young children in need as you donate to your favorite charity	7 Ask God to quiet your mind for you to hear Him calling you, drawing you closer to Him	8 Pray for young adults out on their own that they follow God’s path	9 Praise God for the life you have and smile at everyone you see	10 Ask God to comfort those with long term illnesses that they find relief	11 Thank God for loving us as He does – so let us also love each other
12 <u>3rd Advent</u> Pray that the joy of the Good News of Jesus is spread all over the world	13 Pray that all followers of Christ find the happiness and contentment that God promises	14 Thank God for your loving family and remember to call those far away	15 Always turn to God when you feel low in spirit for His love never fails	16 Praise God for helping you believe that through Him all things are possible	17 Ask God to help you make the best choices in your daily life	18 Thank God for His Spirit living in us, so we may always have Him in our hearts
19 <u>4th Advent</u> Pray that we give to others the love God has given us through His Son	20 Thank God for your children and grandchildren – the future of your lives	21 Pray for the cold and hungry as you donate to the Food Bank and take clothes to a shelter	22 Thank God for our partners in life who stand by us and love us	23 Ask God to help you serve Him by helping others wherever you go in life	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> Praise God that He came into our lowly lives lifting us up to Him	25 <u>Christmas Day</u> Praise God for His ultimate gift of Love – His Son Jesus
26 Pray for the peace and love of Christ to rule in our hearts always	27 Thank God for the gift of true friends and friendships which sustain us through everything	28 Ask God to help you lay your burdens on Him so He may give you comfort & rest	29 Ask God to be with you when your job changes and uncertainty follows – He is always there	30 Pray for our families to remain strong and connected all our lives	31 <u>New Year’s Eve</u> Ask God to help you focus on Him as you walk a new path each new day	

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth James 1:17-18a ³

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



CCCSA Contributions

We hope everyone is doing great during these times.

If you are still wanting to give your Sunday contributions you can mail them to us here at Central Christian Church or now contribute via online , through this link: <https://www.cccsa.org/give>

Please let us know if you have any questions.

CCC DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



December 1 Rachel Stein
December 2 Cindy Ivy
December 5 Faye Bettis
Todd Henderson
December 6 Cecille Martinez
December 7 Susan Ashley
Simpson-Obregon
December 9 Caleb Moembo
Daniella Moembo
Jim Smith

December 11 Caroline Drake
Juliette Drake
December 12 Bette King
Nicole Russell
December 17 Velma Garcia
December 19 Dawn Ezell
December 22 Zuzu Moembo
December 24 Cherilyn Patteson
Margaret Norbury
December 27 Michael Anderson
Peggy Wardlaw
December 28 Les Bettis
December 31 George R. Gregory

CCC DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4
5 10:50 am Worship	6	7 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake 10:30 am CWF at home of Becky Sims	8 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 10:50 am Worship Choir Cantata	13	14 9:00 am Benevolent Sewing 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake 6:30 pm BOS Meeting	15 6:30 pm Handbells	16	17	18
19 10:50 am Worship Handbell Sunday	20	21 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake	22 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 Christmas Eve Service Church Office Closed	25 Christmas Day
26 10:50 am Worship	27	28 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake	29 6:30 pm Handbells	30	31 New Year's Eve Church Office Closed	

Please note that due to the COVID-19 stay at home policy, all regular meetings scheduled for December will not occur, unless notified by email or telephone.

Let's Celebrate

Don't Miss - Invite Family and Friends

Central Christian Church Music Ministry celebrates Advent with special music. The Chancel Choir and Handbell Choirs have been working hard to make December worship special this Advent Season. Special musical guests join the choirs in worship throughout the month. Please share these worship opportunities with friends, family and neighbors!

Sunday, December 5th, 2021

Jennifer Black – guest soprano

Lyric soprano Jennifer Black is “gleaming and glorious, with wonderful nuances of light and shade and complete dynamic control,” (*Santa Fe New Mexican*) and is in high demand on international opera and concert stages. Recently, she dazzled audiences in her show-stopping performance as Lida in *La Battaglia Di Legnano* with Sarasota Opera, for which critics hailed “Jennifer Black, as Lida...is a brilliant soprano with a cutting but beautiful voice and the air of a leader’s wife.” Black will recently returned to the Metropolitan Opera for their production of *Gianni Schicchi* and made her debut with Opera Australia in *Il Viaggio a Reims* in 2019

Sunday, December 12th, 2021

Christmas Cantata Sunday

Guest musicians from the San Antonio Symphony join the choir:

Rachel Ferris, harp

Eric Siu, violin I

Angela Caporale, violin II

Daniel Wang, viola

Morgen Johnson, cello

The Chancel Choir will perform selections from Robert Hobby’s major choral work ***Holy Light***

with guest musicians from the San Antonio Symphony. Many of the pieces are familiar carols

that have been reimagined for choir, strings, harp and organ.

Sunday, December 19th, 2021

Handbell Sunday

Guest percussionists join the CCC Handbell Choir to ring out Christmas praises.

Friday, December 24th, 2021 – Christmas Eve

Dr. Eric Siu, violinist, will again join the members of the choir for

Christmas Eve worship.



Many, many thanks to Eva Blackmon, Christie Adams, Nancy Jordan and the Forsyth family for supporting the childcare Scholastic Book Fair. Your purchases will help to reach our goal.

June Airheart-CCCSA Childcare Director



Central Christian Church will be selling beans and poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one. Inserts with all the information will be added to the bulletins this Sunday.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 5, 2021

The Annual Congregational Meeting of CCC will be held this coming Sunday, Dec 5 after worship. Please make plans to stay to vote on many important items for the church: The Proposed 2022 Operating Budget, Elders and Deacons, Trustees and Directors of the Endowment and Permanent Funds, and Officers of the Board of Stewards. Your attendance and vote to approve these matters is important and necessary to continue the work of our church. Thank you, and blessings to all during this Advent Season.

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Our Staff:

Bob Blake: Staff Minister
George R. Gregory, Organist/Carillonneur
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