

CONTACT WITH CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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



CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

WORSHIP, CONNECT, SERVE

February 2022

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

Michael's Mind

Usually Lent starts in February. Not so this year! The forty days before Easter (not counting Sundays) will begin next month. March 2 is Ash Wednesday! I do not know how often I looked for the date on my Disciples calendar for February, then noted the Ash Wednesday date was not in March either! An oversight? Looking *for* and not *finding* sent my head into a sort of philosophical/theological meander...common during the age of COVID. So, here is the study meander from my head.



Henry David Thoreau- "It is not what you look at that matters, it's what you see." First of all, some things we "look at" can get stuck in our head and cause no end of trouble. But that was not Thoreau's point. His point is that our mind filters what we look at. You look at your watch. I see you do it, then ask you "what time is it?" In almost every instance you will look at your watch again to see what time it is. When you first looked at your watch you may have asked yourself, "Am I late to my next appointment?" Teaching oneself to look and see is a matter of training called, *situational awareness*.

"Seeing is believing" is not a biblical quote. The closest biblical quote to it comes from John 20:29. Jesus is speaking to Thomas at his second resurrection appearance to the Disciples: Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Thomas Fuller, a 17th century clergyman is credited with saying, "Seeing is believing, but feeling is the truth." I agree that believing and the truth are at times very separate matters, but feelings are not the best measure of empirical thought.

Chris Van Allsburg is an American illustrator and author, mainly of children's books. My age, but still playful. His books are the source of movies: *The Polar Express*, *Zathura*, and *Jumanji I and II*. He, too, has dived into the seeing is believing topic: "Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are things we cannot see." Check out Isaiah 6:9 and Matthew 13, "They look but they do not see and they listen, but do not hear." So, Jesus taught a lot in parables. Our faith in Jesus Christ is a walk in believing, not always seeing what is around the corner, but trusting it is going to be all right.



2022 Greetings to all! I'm a month late with my New Year's greeting because I spent the first four weeks of the new year battling Covid and burying two, my wife's father and brother. January 1st, I didn't feel quite right, tested positive on an at-home Covid test; went to the ER, they told me I had Omicron, but that my lungs were absolutely clear. They prescribed no medicines because they apparently don't help with Omicron. Our son-in-law Ross contracted it first, then both of their daughters, Hope and Faith, then our pregnant daughter Cynthia all caught it. I stayed on my immunity regimen and stayed home for 14 days; tested negative on day 14. All six of us were cleared on the 14th, but then we got the word Nancy's father (95 years and 28 days) passed on to heaven – a successful farmer/rancher. At the same time her brother Ed went in for emergency surgery on his G/I tract, and had a massive heart attack eight hours later, and he passed the same day as we buried Nancy's father. Most difficult start to a new year I can remember... but Jesus gave us strength to go through it all. And I want to sincerely thank you for your prayers!

How do you weather life's successive battles that tear at your soul? Jesus is constantly there whispering, "I am *with* you!" "I am *with* you!" His question that searches us all to the depths of our soul, "Are you willing to be *with* Me?" The Scriptures reveal that saying "yes" to this invitation thrusts us into life *with* God! From the Bible, we see this with-God life in communion with Adam, Eve, Enoch, and Noah. We see this with-God life in the development of the family with Abraham. We see this with-God life through the Exodus into the Promised Land and the building of a nation, and God's people went through, including rebellion and exile and restoration. We witnessed the coming of Immanuel, and in the formation of the church, an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with God at the very center as its prime Sustainer and most glorious Inhabitant. God keeps saying, "I am with you in all the love and terror and pity and pain that is your life. I am *with* you. Are you willing to be *with* me? Do you know of the *Immanuel Principle* – spiritual transformation intertwining divine action and human reaction – in all of human experience, from stories of biblical characters through Christian tradition to our own lives today. The goal is to live "life that is life indeed" such that our hearts and minds are progressively transformed to the very nature of the heart and mind of God (1 Tim 6:19). Our rock-solid purpose is to transform into the likeness and character of Jesus. We take on the spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control (Gal 5:22-23). We become scented with the fragrance of Heaven. (from *Life with God* by Richard J. Foster)

2 Cor 3:18 tells us, "And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." James Bryan Smith identifies spiritual formation as: "Christian spiritual formation is the process of being transformed into the image of Christ, through a relationship of intimacy with God, by the power of the Spirit, in order to live a good and beautiful life of faith, hope, love, joy and peace—a life that will be a blessing to oneself and to others and will glorify God now and for all eternity. For 2022, I really want God to immerse me in a life penetrated throughout by love, one that overcomes evil with Christlikeness. I want to increasingly live a "with-God life." My answer is, "Yes, I am willing to be *with* You, Jesus!" And my question to you is, "How about you in 2022?"

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| | <div>CCC FEBRUARY CHURCH CALENDAR</div> | | | | | |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | | |
| | | <div>1</div> <div>10:30 am CWF In the Parlor</div> | <div>2</div> | <div>3</div> | <div>4</div> | <div>5</div> |
| <div>6</div> <div>10:50 am Worship</div> | <div>7</div> | <div>8</div> <div>9:00 am Benevolent Sewing 4:00 pm Executive Committee</div> | <div>9</div> | <div>10</div> | <div>11</div> | <div>12</div> |
| <div>13</div> <div>10:50 am Worship</div> | <div>14</div> | <div>15</div> | <div>16</div> <div>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</div> | <div>17</div> | <div>18</div> | <div>19</div> |
| <div>20</div> <div>10:50 am Worship</div> | <div>21</div> <div>President's Day Church Office Closed</div> | <div>22</div> | <div>23</div> <div>6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</div> | <div>24</div> | <div>25</div> | <div>26</div> |
| <div>27</div> <div>10:50 am Worship</div> | <div>28</div> | | | | | |
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THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SCHOLARSHIPS

Information about applying for a college scholarship through the Endowment Fund is available on the church website, and/or by emailing Cecille Martinez for an application. Current recipients of the scholarship must reapply each year. Applications may be emailed to a_cecille@yahoo.com and/or turned into Cecille personally by the deadline of May 31, 2022.

CCCSA Contributions

There are several methods to contribute your support of Central Christian Church.

Your contributions may be mailed to Central Christian Church or now contributed via online, through this link: <https://www.cccsa.org/give>

Please let us know if you have any questions.

CCC FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>February 4</u> | Marty Ruiz |
| <u>February 5</u> | Darrell Ream |
| <u>February 13</u> | Nancy Allyn |
| <u>February 18</u> | Victoria McMillion |
| <u>February 20</u> | Becky Sims |
| <u>February 21</u> | Christine Sherwood |
| <u>February 22</u> | Jimmy Percival |
| <u>February 25</u> | Ariana Moembo |
| | Brianna Moembo |
| <u>February 26</u> | Julie Grace Carlson |
| <u>February 27</u> | Jerry Gray |
| <u>February 28</u> | Edward Martinez |
| | Cristina E. Slaughter |

A stylized, handwritten-style graphic in red that says "Happy Birthday". The word "Happy" is on the top line and "Birthday" is on the bottom line. There are three small red stars to the right of the word "Happy".

CCC FEBRUARY 2022 PRAYER CALENDAR

| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Monday</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> | <u>Thursday</u> | <u>Friday</u> | <u>Saturday</u> |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| True love is inexhaustible; the more you give, the more you have. | -Antoine de Saint-Exupery | 1 Thank God that through all the changes in your life, His love for you remains the same | 2 Ask God to help you think clearly before speaking & only w/Jesus' love in mind | 3 Ask God to help you remember to always thank Him for the good in your life | 4 Pray for those who need an extra hand & extend yours to help them | 5 Ask God to be with you as you travel life's uncertain paths |
| 6 Praise God that He has forgiven all our sins and remember that He loves us boundlessly | 7 Pray for those with no church home that they can still learn of God and His love for us all | 8 Ask God to fill your heart & mind with good thoughts & optimism, replacing any worries | 9 Ask God to help you honor His law thereby freeing you to live in His power/peace | 10 Ask God for strength when grief or sorrow comes and He will comfort you | 11 Ask God to help you listen to His voice & to guide you thru life's challenges | 12 Ask God to watch over our grandchildren as they grow into adulthood |
| 13 Give God thanks for His ever constant protection & guardianship as He keeps us always safe | 14 <u>Valentine's</u> Pray that the radiance of God's love blesses you and all those around you | 15 Pray for our partners in life and thank God He sent them to be with us | 16 Give thanks for those who work in service to others for they are truly God's servants | 17 Ask God to give you a heart and mind for prayer for He is always listening | 18 Pray for those looking for work that they find their way in life | 19 Thank God that He made you & believes you are good and beautiful in His sight |
| 20 Ask God for help whenever you need it – He offers us blessings & help whenever we ask Him | 21 Thank God for all young children and pray they receive only love & support | 22 Pray for those less fortunate than you for they, too, are children of God | 23 Thank God for His promise to never leave you for He is ever at your side | 24 Ask God to help you show mercy to others as He has shown it to you | 25 Pray to God for His help to take away your doubts & fill you with trust in Him | 26 Ask God to help you carry out deeds of love to those around you |
| 27 Ask God to give you courage to make the right choices wherever you are in life | 28 Ask God to bless your best friends for they will always be in your corner | | | | | |

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1st Corinthians 13:13

HONORARIA & MEMORIALS January – December 2021

To the George R. Gregory Organ/Carillon Fund

CCC Choirs, Cecille Martinez - *In Honor of George R. Gregory*
Cristina E. Slaughter - *In Memory of Stan Silvus*

To the CCC Music Ministry

In Honor of Dr. Doug R. Boyer
Cristina E. Slaughter, Cecille Martinez, CCC Choirs

In Memory of Stan Silvus
Cecille Martinez, Rosemary Toland, Koinonia Sunday School Class

In Memory of Barbara Ringen
Cristina E. Slaughter, Cecille Martinez, Jimmy Percival

To the Barbara Garverick Benevolent Sewing Fund

Cristina E. Slaughter - *In Memory of Estelle Rabedeau*

In Memory of Barbara & Allen Garverick
Jimmy Percival, Cecille Martinez,
Cristina E. Slaughter, Cynthia Woolley, CWF

To the Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Koinonia Sunday School Class - *In Memory of Jerry Hamilton*

To the General Budget

Judy Saucedo, Allison & Kong Woo – *In Memory of Daniel Saucedo*
Judy Saunders - *In Memory of John Thurman*

***To Inman Christian Center Food Bank Ministry
In Memory of Daniel Saucedo***

Bill Napper, Teresa Williams, Fran Hiesser,
Jan Davis Howden, Cecille Martinez, Helen McCoy,
JoAnn Drescher, Nancy Jordan, Mary Scott,
Becky Sims, Margaret Holt, Carolyn Tolar, CWF

To the CCC Endowment Fund

Cristina E. Slaughter – *In Honor of Bill & Becky Sims*
Karen Bessette - *In Memory of Stan Silvus*

In Memory of Norma Deal

Linda & Billy Laughlin, Karen Bessette, Cecille Martinez,
Jimmy Percival, Cristina E. Slaughter, CWF

To the CCC Endowment Scholarship Fund

Patricia & Roger Garland – *In Honor of Tim Tolar*

In Memory of Rita Gray

Cristina E. Slaughter, Cecille Martinez, Jimmy Percival

***In Memory of Hazel Luck, Barbara & Allen Garverick,
Norma Deal, Paul Nunley***
Patricia & Roger Garland

Cecille Martinez – *In Memory of Louis & Aurelia Giron*

In Memory of Harry Steel

Jimmy Percival, Cecille Martinez, Patricia & Roger Garland

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@CCCSanAntonio



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