

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



CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

WORSHIP, CONNECT, SERVE

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

Michael's Mind

I know plenty of people who say, "All this talk of new beginnings is hogwash!" They cynically say, "Time just goes on, moves forward, no beginning and no end. You just roll with the flow." I don't think those people have any idea about what "hogwash" is, nor have they ever been to a cemetery and contemplated the meaning of life. Transitions and re-birth are foreign to them. Setting a life-changing goal is not in their repertoire. Self-reflection and directional choice in life evades them. Using situational awareness to pre-choose possible reactions, responses to possible events is not in their skill-set.



Every day is new. Every year (another day) is another opportunity to begin the exercises that lead to an abundant life. Dave Weinbaum is a blogger from Missouri, owns a MCCDONALD'S restaurant, wrote **"The secret to a rich life is to have more beginnings than endings."** I'm on his team. Especially if the team includes trust in Jesus Christ by being a disciple. Life throws rocks at us. People can let us down. Politicians are a weak hope. Weinbaum also wrote, **"My father used to throw me up into the air-you know-to make me tough-Sometimes he would catch me."**

We have recently experienced some painful endings. We have also discovered the hope of new beginnings. 2021 was a tough year. It brought us new hopes and new disappointments-ups and downs. Is there a moment that defines the year for you? The birth of a new child; the loss of earthly life for someone you care for dearly are often rolled into the same expanse of a year. I have been discouraged and hurt by selfishness in our government and abuse of power, but I have not given up. Now is a time for a new beginning in attitude, in spirit and in reflecting truth. For Central Christian Church in San Antonio, we can renew our efforts of being a lighthouse of hope for our city and the missions we support.

Speaking of a mission...First Christian Church of Mayfield, Kentucky has experienced the destruction of their church building by that powerful tornado. Is it an ending for them? Yes and no. The historic edifice is gone. It can also be a new beginning, a new building will be constructed, new families will join and help build. Maybe we can help them, begin again. 2022 a new beginning, if you believe in stuff like that. **MichaelP**



My mother's younger brother Ben and his wife passed on from Covid and a stroke this past year. He was my best friend growing up. Although he was a decade older than me, he took time with me daily and we had so much fun together... After he graduated from high school, he joined the Navy. I went Army when I got older, and we went back and forth about which was better... he contributed significantly to helping me grow up to be tough... he would spin me around and throw me up in the air! And sometimes he would catch me... My humor attempt is to suggest that rough play and our struggles help us to grow and become stronger.

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. The man watched carefully and saw when an opening in the cocoon appeared and the butterfly struggled to force its body through the little hole. After several hours the cocoon appeared to be stuck, so the man took scissors and opened the cocoon for the butterfly. It emerged easily, but its body was swollen and its wings were small and shriveled. The butterfly never grew any further and spent the rest of its life unable to fly, crawling around in a swollen body with tiny wings. The man did not understand that the butterfly's struggle to get through the small opening was required to prepare the butterfly for flying by forcing fluid from the butterfly's body into its wings. Struggles in our lives help us grow stronger, are necessary struggles. Many of our struggles are challenges we need to tackle on our own.

Spiritual struggles in life... worries, fears, persecution, addiction... somehow they consume our thoughts and our hearts. How are we to handle them? God tells us trials are coming, but we are not to lose hope. In His Word, God encourages us to be an overcomer in this world and gives us Hope.

“For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you” (Isaiah 41:13).

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5).

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” (Romans 8:17-18).

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything” (James 1:2-4).

As you look to the New Year, possibly making a list of your New Year's Resolutions, consider that Jesus wants you to be successful... He will help you succeed and overcome struggles of all kinds that you might come against. Trust Him... Call on Him... Let Him work in your life... Make 2022 the year you draw close to Christ and allow Him to mold you and to shape you - body, heart, mind, spirit - into the person He intended for you to become before you were born. Trust Him! He loves you more than you can imagine.... For 2022, its “Team Jesus” – you and Jesus together! I sincerely hope your 2022 is your very best and most blessed year yet! I'd like to ask you if we ‘might keep each other in prayer’ as we lean on Jesus more through 2022. “*Oremus pro invicem!*” (that's ‘Let us pray for one another’ in Latin). Happy New Year to you & all your loved ones! Bob

CCC JANUARY 2022 PRAYER CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
“Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves	the impossible.” -Helen Keller					1 Ask God to forgive your mess-ups & to help you make a clean start for this new year
2 Pray continuously to God asking for guidance in all aspects of your life	3 Tell God of your love for Him and thank Him often for loving you!	4 Ask God to help you slow down enough to listen to Him and His plans for you	5 Ask God to send grace and love to all your friends & neighbors	6 Pray for those who are alone & offer them your hand/ friendship	7 Thank God that He is always at our side no matter what happens in our lives	8 Pray that our hearts be opened to our neighbors in need as we help where we can
9 Thank God for His faithfulness to us and His mercies which never end	10 Ask God to help you set aside a time each day to pray to Him - for He will hear	11 Ask God to help you start those tasks you’ve put off & soon they’ll be finished!	12 Pray for those looking for work that they find good and secure jobs	13 Pray that those with Covid are healed/ can return to a healthy life	14 Pray for siblings who, along with you, will always know your parents	15 Ask God to help you find ways to be the hands of Jesus for others – to share His love for all people
16 Thank God for the lay workers of the church as they help our congregation in so many ways	17 <u>MLK, JR</u> Ask God to help you utilize your special gifts to help others	18 Thank God you can take ALL your griefs to Him – no matter their size	19 Ask God for strength and courage as you go through each day’s trials	20 Ask God to wash away unkind words from people’s hearts/minds	21 Thank God for the many miracles He sends us – both large and small	22 Thank God for keeping your family safe even when you don’t see them all the time
23 Pray for our Children’s Church that our kids grow in wisdom & faith	24 Pray for the homeless that they find shelter & comfort	25 Pray for those who struggle with doubts to find clarity of mind in God	26 Thank God He always hears your prayers and answers	27 Ask God for peace and love among all people	28 Ask God to help you be a true friend to others	29 Pray for your friends who are struggling that they find help & resolution
30 Ask God to bless our ministers as we offer them our thanks and encouragement	31 Thank God He always leads you on the right path for your life			<i>Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past...</i>	<i>See, I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it?</i>	<i>I am making a way in the wilderness....</i> Isaiah 43:18-19ab

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 JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



January 2

Joann Drescher

January 3

Rylee Ann Guerrero

January 5

Kaylie Renee Forsyth

Michelle Ruiz

January 6

Laurie Beth Guerrero

January 8

Cullen Bennett Gray

January 12

Mary Lawrence

January 14

Curtis Clark

January 16

Cynthia Mendez

January 17

Carolyn Tatum

January 20

Kenneth Birkner

January 27

Cynthia Woolley

January 29

Yazmin Barajas

January 31

Heath Baxter

CCC JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						¹ New Year's Day
² 10:50 am Worship	³	⁴ 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake 10:30 am CWF in parlor	⁵	⁶	⁷	⁸
⁹ 10:50 am Worship	¹⁰	¹¹ 9:00 am Benevolent Sewing 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake 6:30 pm BOS Meeting in parlor	¹² 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	¹³	¹⁴	¹⁵
¹⁶ 10:50 am Worship	¹⁷ MLK, Jr. Day Church Office Closed	¹⁸ 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake	¹⁹ 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	²⁰	²¹	²²
²³ 10:50 am Worship 12:15 Endowment Fund meeting in Chapel	²⁴	²⁵ 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake	²⁶ 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	²⁷	²⁸	²⁹
³⁰ 10:50 am Worship	³¹					

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

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Our Staff:

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George R. Gregory, Organist/Carillonneur
Dr. Douglas R. Boyer, Minister of Music
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