

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

2021, can you imagine? Two thousand and twenty-one years in the Christian era. The year of our Lord, 2021; “*anno domini*. ” When I was ten years old my mind could not even stretch to the next millennium. I was a Boy Scout in Cheyenne, Wyoming learning the Scout motto: “Be Prepared.” Years later, on trips up into the Rocky Mountains I learned about the need to be prepared for sudden changes in the weather. The motto of the old trappers: “There’s no such thing as bad weather; there’s just unprepared people.” However, if you are prepared for everything, you are going to have to pack a lot of luggage! It is a good thought and a good idea to plan and prepare, but now that I am a bit older, I think one of the best attributes of being prepared, is to “be flexible.”



At the beginning of last year, who could have imagined that our government would take over so much of our lives in a frantic effort to turn back the COVID 19 virus? Our nation was not prepared for the emergence of such a pandemic. Previous administrations had ignored or depleted our country’s emergency supplies of ventilators and PPE (masks, gowns, gloves and face shields). How does one prepare for the political blame games bantered about by both of our primary political parties? I was always taught that medicine and science should never be politicized. How many fundamental constitutional rights will we surrender to the theoretical arena of safety and security? Is this what it means to be prepared? It saddens me to see that the controversy concerning many social protocols is squarely divided along political party affiliations.

So, that “looking backward stuff” is only helpful if we will honestly learn the lessons of history. Maybe it is too soon to have a fair perspective. What we need to do right now is affirm that we are, first and foremost, all of us and each of us, children of the Most-High God. I will promise to keep my love of God: mind, heart, soul and strength-primary. Including my love of neighbor along with my love of self. I believe if we can observe the Great Commandment of love we will be prepared for all the upheaval or steadying of the year before us. If I am going to pick a side in the conflicts around us, it will not be in a party affiliation. It will be the church’s eternal commitment to God’s love in Jesus Christ.



I salute you, warriors in the Army of God as we enter 2021. And no, it is not 2020 won... Jesus still has purpose for us, and we still have good to do. I challenge you to go ahead and make your list of New Year's resolutions. Just like attending or hosting a New Year's party has changed to sitting on the couch in front of a festive movie, so too I am guessing your resolutions will look quite a bit different this year.

It is my opinion that many of you are tired of the New Year's resolution emphasis on meals and waistline, and might be looking for resolution ideas on mental health, your sleep routine, maybe cleaning up a mess in your closet or some other area of your house.

Of course, we always start with goals to pray more, study the Bible more, grow in faith and closeness to Jesus. But maybe there are some new good ideas for resolutions out there.... ideas like cook one new thing each week, read more books, book all of your doctor's visits for the year, be kind to yourself, take the stairs, become a plant owner, consider digital therapy, decorate with family history, try hydrotherapy, donate old clothes, forget multi-tasking and do one thing at a time, make chaotic zones more calm, make your bed every morning, eat more citrus, take a hot bath before bedtime, get artsy, eat more blueberries and walnuts, take trips with no destination in mind, make your home more fragrant, give yourself compliments, be kind to yourself, get more quality sleep, learn a new language, adopt a cute pet, spend less time on social media, reinvent yourself, stop being late, start writing a book or journal, be kind to yourself...

Jesus emphasized his expectations by saying something three times... Did you notice something I included three times? I expect you to be kind to yourself in making your list of resolutions.

This year, instead of crawling around like a caterpillar in 2020, I want to fly in 2021 like a butterfly. I'm thinking you probably do too. Reflect, then dream, then turn it into a plan.

I'd like you to add "Shalom within yourself" – trusting in the Lord brings you inner security which allows you to sleep well (Psalm 4:8). "Shalom within yourself" brings profound psychological and emotional peace to those who steadfastly set their minds on Him (Isaiah 26:3). "Shalom within yourself" brings righteousness before God or "peace" which brings quietness and confidence forever (Isaiah 32:17). Please do not forget to add the goal of "Shalom within yourself" to your list of New Year's resolutions!

I am praying that your 2021 will be your very best year yet!

Looking Forward in Christ,
Bob Blake

CCC JANUARY 2021 PRAYER CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
“And now we welcome the new year, full of things that	have never been.” -Rainer Maria Rilke				1 <u>New Year’s Day</u> Always lean on God for everything in your life	2 Look to God for new ways to draw nearer to Him as you use your gifts to His service
3 Give thanks to God for the joy we have in happy memories with our families	4 Realize you can trust God to help you through all the confusion in your life	5 Ask God to come into your heart with joy each day no matter what the day may bring	6 Ask God for patience in all things as you work with and for those who are in need	7 Give God all your problems and He will give you rest from them in Him	8 Praise God that his unfailing love surrounds you always	9 Pray for all who are scared during these hard times that they know God is always at their side
10 Give thanks to God for the joy of having the freedom to worship Him	11 Pray for all working parents who are also in school that they survive and thrive	12 Pray that we know that with God’s help we can move any mountain before us	13 Pray that we offer help to those in need knowing we offer it to Jesus also	14 Pray for those who have lost a partner in this crisis, that they find peace	15 Praise God for the joy of new births for new hope will surely follow	16 Pray for all health care workers that they remain strong and thank God for their lives
17 Ask God to help you invite all people into your heart with His love & compassion	18 <u>MLK, Jr., Day</u> Pray that we strive to love all people everywhere	19 Ask God to help you find the right path for your own life and thank Him for loving you	20 Ask God to give us all a better attitude of gratitude & patience to get thru life	21 Ask God to help you bring peace and comfort to those in distress	22 Thank God for the comfort of His words & love for us in times of grief	23 Pray for all who are ill from this virus that they recover their strength and their hope
24 Thank God for the music that helps to lift our souls to Him as we bow our heads to His Glory	25 Pray for our church staff that they stay healthy and safe in God’s service	26 Pray for all caregivers that they be blessed and stay strong and faithful	27 Thank God that He always remembers us as we are comforted by His love	28 Ask God to give you the right words to help calm those who aren’t	29 Ask God to help you do all that you do, be always done with love	30 Thank God that He always keeps us safe when any storm comes into our lives – as we trust in Him
31 Thank God for the blessings of family who are there to help each other				“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.	“They are plans for good and not for harm,	to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

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

<u>January 2</u>	Joann Drescher
<u>January 3</u>	Rylee Ann Guerrero
<u>January 5</u>	Kaylie Renee Forsyth Michelle Ruiz
<u>January 6</u>	Laurie Beth Guerrero
<u>January 8</u>	Cullen Bennett Gray
<u>January 12</u>	Mary Lawrence
<u>January 14</u>	Curtis Clark Barbara Ringen
<u>January 16</u>	Cynthia Mendez
<u>January 17</u>	Carolyn Tatum
<u>January 20</u>	Kenneth Birkner
<u>January 27</u>	Cynthia Woolley
<u>January 29</u>	Yazmin Barajas
<u>January 31</u>	Heath Baxter



CCC JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:50 am Worship Epiphany Sunday	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:50 am Worship	11	12 9:00 am Benevolent Sewing	13	14	15	16
17 10:50 am Worship	18 MLK Day Church Office Closed	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:50 am Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:50 am Worship						

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.

Contact with Central Christian Church
Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
720 N. Main Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78205

office hours: 8:30-4:30 mon.-fri.
phone: 210.227.5273
fax: 210.223.5151
website: www.cccsa.org

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Our Minister:

Dr. Michael Passmore, Senior Minister
michaelpassmore@cccsa.org

Our Staff:

George R. Gregory, Organist/Carillonneur
Dr. Douglas R. Boyer, Minister of Music
Yazmin Barajas, Church Secretary
210.227.5273

secretary@cccsa.org

Cynthia Mendez, Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@cccsa.org

June Airheart, Director
Childcare Center 210.226.9672
Juneairheart@cccsa.org

Joe Lopez, Custodian