

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

WORSHIP, CONNECT, SERVE

Michael's Mind



CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CH

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



"On this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it." (Jesus speaking as recorded in Matthew 16: 18) The church is Jesus' personal project. No way will "the gates of hell" put it out of business. With all the problems in the world it sometimes seems that the church is impotent. I do not believe this is true. The coming of Holy Week and the victory of Easter helps renew my confidence. I recall a sermon by Dr. Jay Kesler on the church from years ago:

- 1. The church is the only institution dealing with the ultimate issues. Death. Judgment. Relationships. Purpose. Lasting priorities. Meaning in life. Identity. Heaven and Hell.***
- 2. The church provides perspective that gives dignity to humankind. We live in a day in which humanity has become a means rather than a goal. This creates a desperate sense of inner worthlessness. The Gospel counteracts this insidious message.***
- 3. The church provides a moral and ethical compass in the midst of relativism. Like a swamp of murky, slimy water, our society has either rethought or resisted, or completely rejected any absolutes. Not the church! It still stands on the timeless bedrock of Scripture and truth.***
- 4. The church is the only place I know to find true community, healing, compassion, and love. It is here that people care. Really care. Not because of status or money. But because the Spirit of God is at work, weaving together the lives within the Body.***
- 5. The church (like no other institution) has provided motivation for the most lasting, unselfish, essential, courageous ministries on earth. Schools. Hospitals. Halfway houses. Orphanages. Leprosariums. Missions.***

Now, the church is not perfect (you are a part of it aren't you?) and it has not always modeled its message. But whatever is next in order to its importance in world history is a distant second—way down the line. Most of all, not on Kesler's list, is the fact that Jesus Christ Himself claims ruler ship as the head. As long as we realize that Christ is in charge of the church, and our lives, we will be just fine.

See you in church this Sunday.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S CORNER: I LOVE EASTER!



Born and raised in Puerto Rico, USA, my “Holy Week” experience was probably a little bit different from your own experience. To begin with it was our school Spring Break. “Holy Week” was our precious time off from school and a great time to just relax and do nothing. Literally, for many, “do nothing”.

The observance of Holy week demanded a very strict quiet meditation. It marked the end of lent, a time when many Puerto Ricans did penance by mortifying their flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and denial of ego. It was common to see people walking along side of the road wearing purple or black robes and carrying a cross from one town to the next. In my mind, the biggest the cross the worst was the sin. I remember seeing people walking on their knees as penance.

As a child I was not allowed to play outside with my cousins during the entire lent season. Playing baseball was like hitting Jesus with a bat, or jumping rope was like giving lashes to Jesus. Mom's will make us feel ashamed to play any games during lent. Instead, we'll go to mass often and every day during “Holy Week”. On “Holy Friday” we all joined the “Holy Week Procession”. A statue of Jesus in a glass coffin will be carried on the shoulders of a dozen men through the main streets of town follow by hundreds of people singing solemn hymns and praying the rosary. There were other statues of Mary and Joseph and lots of people wearing their robes and carrying their crosses. It was like a contest of who carried the largest and/or heaviest cross.

All that came to an end on Easter Sunday. People will wear white robes and white cloths. A beautiful mass with joyful music was followed with great celebrations at the park in front of the church where candies, cookies and punch were served. Finally, I could go and play and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! I love Easter!!!!

Easter Sunday represents an opportunity for each of us to reflect on our relationship with a loving Creator and a wonderful Savior. It is a time for us to apply eternal perspective to the daily matters at-hand and to contemplate our fate beyond these years on earth. I hope that you will come and celebrate with us on April 21st as we seek to honor God Almighty for His steadfast faithfulness and sacrifice.

I pray that as you celebrate the upcoming holiday with family and friends, you will also find a renewed and revived faith and hope in the One who came to save us all. I pray that the words of scripture come alive for you during this season and that you don't just let it pass you by unnoticed. Please join us on Easter Sunday this year as we celebrate together!

Blessings in Christ,

Rev. Nelson Torres



Rev. Katherine B. Wright

During the season of Lent, the church spends time preparing for Jesus' death on Good Friday. A time where we are reflecting on our own immortality and what might take us away from the One who Created us. For kids and youth in our church, Lent is a time where they are invited to think about and discern their own Discipleship and membership in our church. This year, it is a great, wonderful joy to share that we have five considering joining the church by baptism. It will be up to them in the end to elect if they are ready to make that important and one-time decision.

It is an honor for me to facilitate a class where as a group, they learn about different aspects of Christianity and the Church. This week the Discipleship class learned about the term *contrition*. According to Rev. Christopher Wilson, the writer of *Passage into Discipleship: Guide to Baptism*, sin is when we move away from God and contribution is the lifelong journey of when we move back towards God. On Sunday afternoon, I drew a diagram on the whiteboard, where sin was an arrow pointing away from God and then I explained that contrition was an arrow pointing us back to God. I promise, all at once, every person in the room together took a deep breath and said, "Ohhhh, I get it now." They understood what contrition, forgiveness, and repentance really meant.

As people in our community of faith are walking on this journey with God towards baptism, you too are invited to walk on this journey with them. Not only to support and pray for them, but to provide the experience to you again. Anytime you witness a baptism, you are reminded of your own. So, during this last few weeks leading up to Easter, I ask for you to pray for those beginning their journey to baptism as well as those being reminded of their own (including yourself).

In the same way of being reminded of your own walk with Christ to baptism, I invite you to think of one of those times that you had an "Ohhhh, I get it now" moments. A time where, you said "Aha!" Maybe you can even call it an eureka effect of your faith. In scripture, we get a lot of those "Eureka!" moments: Saul on the road to Damascus, Mary accepting the news of Jesus to be born from Gabriel, and even Jesus changing his mind by the words of the women at the well.

The more I think about it, the more I believe that "Aha" moment is, in fact, getting you closer to God, and therefore a moment of experiencing contrition. Maybe it's a figurative apple hitting you on the head, but it's a time where you have been discerning with God, and your relationship with the Divine is stronger. I pray that you have a moment where you can better understand the fullness of the presence of our Creator. May we be that supportive community of all who seek to learn, grow, and serve the Most Holy. During this time of Lent, let us be open to the discernment of God, no matter where we are on our journey with Christ whether we are simply beginning it or getting back on track.

CCC APRIL 2019 PRAYER CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 Pray for those who suffer from mindless terror that they find peace	2 <u>Prayer Gathering</u> Ask God to help you be stronger in your own prayer life	3 Ask God to always direct our steps in the way we should go	4 Pray that we always speak with care & love to others around us	5 Pray for quietness of mind in order to let God enter our hearts	6 Pray for those whose parents are ailing, that all may feel God's love & comfort
7 Pray for our Disciples Class that they will walk in the path of the Holy Spirit	8 Pray for & thank all medical personnel as they work to keep us healthier	9 Ask God to blind us to the faults of others & to be kinder to those in need	10 Pray for the repose of those who are gone but remain in our hearts with love	11 Ask God to help us remember He love us completely & thank Him that He does	12 Ask God to bless all marriages that they flourish & grow in unity & love	13 Pray & be thankful for the good friends you have & be a good friend to others
14 <u>Palm Sunday</u> Pray that our walk thru Holy Week is meaningful & strengthening to our spirits	15 Pray for those who struggle in mind and spirit that they find peace in the Lord	16 Pray that healing may come to all the world and between all peoples	17 Pray for those in the military that they stay protected as they serve our country	18 <u>Maundy Thursday</u> Ask God to always be with us as we strive to follow Him	19 <u>Good Friday</u> Ask God to forgive our sins and help us love Him always	20 Pray that you can always be a ray of sunshine for someone else
21 <u>Easter</u> Praise God for His everlasting glory & thank Him for the resurrection of His Son, Jesus!	22 <u>Earth Day</u> Thank God for the beauty of nature that surrounds us, and work to keep it so	23 Pray to God to take your burdens away & lift you up to His peace & light	24 Pray that we always send our best into the world in everything we do	25 Pray that we always look to God for help in all things	26 Pray for love, good health & friendship for all our church family	27 Pray that we use our energies to help others in any way we can
28 Thank God for the happiness children bring to our lives as we ask God to bless them	29 Ask God to help you show your gratitude to those who have helped you	30 Pray that young families find their way to a strong relationship with God & with each other			"We must pray to pray, and continue in prayer that our prayers	may continue." -C. H. Spurgeon



Holy Week

at Central Christian Church

Palm Sunday April 14th
Pancake Breakfast 9 am
Worship Service 10:50 am

Maundy Thursday April 18th
Fellowship Hour 7:00 pm

Good Friday April 19th
Worship Service 7:00 pm

Pastor's Bible Study
Monday-Friday at Noon

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Central Christian Church San Antonio

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Palm Sunday April 14th 9:00 am
Benefiting Summer Youth Mission Trip



THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



We are collecting individually wrapped egg-sized candy and eggs for our Easter egg hunt! The kids will really appreciate you helping them celebrate Easter! A collection basket will be outside the office.



Giving is Caring

**Collecting Peanut Butter and Jelly
For Inman Center Food Pantry**



A GATHERING OF CLOSE FRIENDS

MAUNDY THURSDAY BREAD & WINE FELLOWSHIP

Central Christian Church
San Antonio
Thursday, April 18th
at 7:00 pm
with Live Music
featuring Michael
O'Brien and his
ensemble



Love one another
as I have loved you

- Jesus (John 13:34)



Scholarship Information

The Endowment Fund accepts applications from individuals who plan to enter college or who are already attending college for the purpose of earning a degree. Preference is given to members of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who plan to enter the ministry or a church-related vocation; however, all who are interested may apply. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends upon funds available. Deadline for applications is May 31, 2019-they can be mailed to the church office or emailed to Scholarship Chairperson Karen Bessette at kbessette@satx.rr.com. For more information and to receive a copy of the application, contact Yazmin at secretary@cccsa.org.



Note: New addresses for our Friends

Joann Drescher

Brookdale Senior Living
5000 Fawn Meadow – Apt. 130
San Antonio, TX 78240

Cheryl Dorton

Warm Springs Rehab Hospital
14747 Jones Maltsberger Rd, Rm. 302
San Antonio, TX 78247

Barbara and Allen Garverick

8222 S. Yale Ave. #269
Tulsa, OK 74137
Ph: 918-878-7009
Email: abgarverick@icloud.com



special
THANK YOU

The Central Christian Child Development Center thanks the kind person who donated the colorful scarves. Children are now dancing and twirling around the classrooms while they listen to music.

This month we are asking for donations for old pots and pans, wooden spoons, funnels, strainers and cookie sheets.



Sincerely,

Ms. June, Director

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 am CWF Group 1 10:30 am CWF Group 2-3 6:00 pm Prayer Gathering	3 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	4 6:30 pm Lent Book Study	5	6 10:00 am Dow Baby Shower
7 10:50 am Worship 4:00 pm Discipleship Class 5:00 pm Youth	8	9 9:00 am Benevolent Sewing 6:30 BOS	10 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	11 6:30 pm Lent Book Study	12	13 Katherine's Birthday!!! 
14 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Pancake Breakfast 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Discipleship Class Lunch 5:00 pm Youth	15 12:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	16 12:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	17 12:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	18 Maundy Thursday 12:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study 7:00 pm Bread, Wine & Cheese Fellowship Hour	19 Good Friday Office Closed 12:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship Service	20
21 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:50 am Worship	22 Easter Monday Office Closed	23 6:30 Elders	24 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	25 6:30 pm Lent Book Study	26 Battle of Flowers Parade Office Closed	27 9:00 am CMF
28 10:50 am Worship 5:00 pm JYF & Youth Class	29	30				

Every Wednesday we have Military Ministry from 6:30- 7:30 pm



**Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**
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@CCCSanAntonio



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Rev. Katherine B. Wright
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