

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

Two months left in the year 2021. I'm not going to say it is over and done with- too many things unfinished. As I write I do not know who won the World Series in baseball. I am told there will not be a resolution to the 200,000 shipping containers left unloaded at just one of our nation's ports, our southern border is about to be over-run again, fuel and grocery prices (inflation) are above Jimmy Carter levels, the vaccine mandates for a vaccine that does not prevent us from catching or spreading the COVID virus are bringing social upheaval in the public service sector including health care workers, fire departments, and law enforcement, and we still have Americans left behind in Afghanistan. We may be glad to have the history of 2021 behind us, but there is a lot to fix.



Even with all the mess we are experiencing, November has one of our most important days as a nation inside the calendar. As sort of reminder for all of us, divided as we might be. In times of trouble, no matter how you might choose to cast your votes. Remember to pause and count your blessings...give THANKS to God. In 1789 our first president, George Washington, had Congress approve "A day of public Thanksgiving and prayer." President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, as the nation was literally "at war" with one another designated the holiday as a national day of "thanksgiving and praise." It took 7 years before Congress made it official. President Ulysses S. Grant signed the proclamation. Then, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his second most unpopular move as president (#1 was trying to pack the Supreme Court) chose to move Thanksgiving by executive fiat and he succeeded for two years (1939-1941) before Congress ruled that the national day would remain as authorized under Lincoln and the 1870 Congress had applied. Too much history?

The most important thought is, that giving thanks, and the spiritual lifting of our hearts to God, is important in the work of uniting us. So, let's get a jump on Thanksgiving by giving thanks to God for life, liberty and hope we share in faith. The old song is still important in my memory: "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done."



Amazing Grace has always been one of my favorite hymns. John Newton, a slave trader who turned Anglican clergyman, is credited as the song's author. As a young man, Newton served in the Royal Navy. Afterward, he became a slave trader. During a violent storm in 1748 that threatened his life, he underwent a spiritual conversion but continued in the slave trade for seven more years before becoming a Christian theologian. Although popular on and off throughout history, *Amazing Grace* became a popular song in both Folk music and Black Spiritual Music, especially during the 1960s (from Wikipedia).

My son Brian and I were actively involved in PromiseKeepers from 1994-1997. We attended every event they sponsored that we could get to in the Washington, DC area, and Dallas, including the Sacred Assembly of Men at the National Mall (first Million Man march) in Washington D.C. Whitney Phipps (singer, songwriter, record producer, and minister), introduced us to *Amazing Grace* in a new way. He described Captain John Newton writing his song on his slave trade ship shortly after leaving Victoria Island in Nigeria with a new load of slaves headed for the New World.

The inspired words came to him easily, and the tune came from the slaves below singing a song of lament for having been removed from their tribes, their loved ones, and the life they knew. Whitney Phipps hummed the tune first, with lots of stops filled with moans of agony from the slaves' hurting hearts. Then he sang *Amazing Grace* as a slave. It was so heart-wrenching and moving for all 80,000 men in that football arena! It so moved my son and me. My heart ached for the suffering of the uprooted slaves en route to a new life of service in an unknown world.

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood, His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind (was blind), but now (but now) I see

“All Saints Day” is November 1st and “All Souls Day” is November 2nd. “All Saints Day” is set aside for solemn remembrance, in honor of all the saints of the church, known and unknown. “All Souls Day” is a commemoration of the souls of the faithful Christians who have died.

The Apostle Paul said, “I am chief of sinners... but he never strayed from the heart of the gospel—“God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8). I believe John Newton, as he wrote *Amazing Grace*, felt very much like Paul.

Wishing you all a wonderfully blessed November!

CCC NOVEMBER 2021 PRAYER CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 Thank God for loving you and all His creation, for surely, He has given you joy	2 Ask God to help you be less critical of others & offer more love and compassion to all	3 Ask God to help you make each day count, so you may grow & fulfill your purpose	4 Pray for compassion in our hearts so we may offer help to those less fortunate	5 Pray for dear friends who are ill & lonely - that they feel cared for	6 Ask God to teach you how to ask for help, & thereby help others to feel needed
7 <u>All Saints</u> Thank God for those departed who have blessed our lives with their presence	8 Thank God for the comfort of knowing He is watching over you at all times	9 Pray for all families to strive to stay in touch with each other so their bonds never lessen	10 Give thanks for all those in public service & ask God to protect them	11 <u>Veteran's Day</u> Pray for all veterans who served our country nobly & well	12 Ask God to help you forgive others as He forgave you	13 Pray for seniors who live alone that they know yours & God's love
14 Thank God for your family of faith which encourages you & helps you in your spiritual journey	15 Pray that Christians around the world become unified in love, prayer and cooperation	16 Ask God to remind you to honor Him by doing something good for someone else	17 Ask God to help you let go of bad habits & work to create better ones to follow Him	18 Thank God for our siblings, near and far, and let them know they are loved	19 Ask God to help you trust Him with every part of your life as you listen to His guidance	20 Ask God to help us keep kindness in our hearts and minds and actions
21 Praise God for the blessings He gives us every day as we try to be a blessing to others	22 Ask God to help you try new things in life so you can experience His world in new ways	23 Pray for & thank God for the friends in our lives who have loved & supported us always	24 Pray for the hungry that their needs are met & their lives are touched by compassion	25 <u>T'giving</u> Thank God He gave us Jesus, our families & dear friends	26 Pray for your spouse/partner and encourage him/her in all they do & in all you do	27 Pray we see all people as our neighbors with love and caring
28 <u>1st Advent</u> Pray to have the faith/trust to accept God's will for you with obedience and joy	29 Pray that we prepare our hearts and minds for the Holy Birth of our Lord	30 Ask God to lift your burdens and restore your spirits & faith as you rest in Him			<i>"Gratitude is the greatest prayer. Thank you is the greatest mantra."</i>	-Swami Nithyananda

*Let them praise the Lord for His great love and for the wonderful things He has done for them.
Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and sing joyfully about His glorious acts.*

Psalm 107:21-22

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 NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



November 2 Judith Saucedo

November 3 Nate Stein

November 4 Nicklas Aune

November 8 Hayes Bettis
Don Deal

November 10 Rachel Caldwell
Richard Ray

November 14 Miranda Martinez
Sebastian Perrill

November 29 Roger Garland

CCC NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake	3 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6
7 10:50 am Worship World Premiere of <i>God Shall Wipe Away All Tears</i> Day Light Savings Ends	8	9 9:00 am Benevolent 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake Sewing 6:30 pm BOS Meeting	10 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 10:50 am Worship	15	16 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake	17 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 10:50 am Worship	22	23 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake	24	25 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 10:50 am Worship	28	30 10:00 am Bible Study POC-Rev. Bob Blake				

Please note that due to the COVID-19 stay at home policy, all regular meetings scheduled for November 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

What are you waiting for?
Follow us on Social Media Today.
Stay Connected.

@CCCSanAntonio



Our Minister:

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

Our Staff:

Bob Blake, Staff Minister

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