

The Window

JULY 2026



Central Christian Church

JULY EVENTS

Wed. 07/01	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 07/01	7:00 pm	Prayer Gathering (Via Zoom)
Sun. 07/05	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 07/06	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Mon. 07/06	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting
Wed. 07/08	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 07/08	7:00 pm	Prayer Gathering (Via Zoom)
Fri. 07/10	2-6:15 pm	General Assembly (Online)
Sat. 07/11	10am-5 pm	General Assembly (Online)
Sun. 07/12	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 07/13	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Mon. 07/13	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting
Tues. 07/14	7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting (Via Zoom)
Wed.. 07/15	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 07/15	7:00 pm	Prayer Gathering (Via Zoom)
Sun. 07/19	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Sun. 07/26	11:00 am	Guest Minister Rev. Cari Fowler (In-person & FB Live)
Wed. 07/29	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 07/29	7:00 pm	Prayer Gathering (Via Zoom)

** Pastor Layne will be on vacation beginning after worship on July 19th through July 28th. However, he will be available by email and phone if needed.

** Pastor Heidi will be on vacation July 17th through July 26th with limited access to email as she'll be floating around in the Pacific Ocean somewhere.

** Monica, church admin, will be on vacation July 27th.

** No Open Sanctuary while Pastor Layne is out of town

** No Prayer Gathering on Wednesday, July 22nd

Dear Sisters and Brothers.....



Thoughts from Pastor Layne

I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles. – 2 Corinthians 12:12

We're signposts to others, guiding them through our actions, words, and presence... As followers of Christ, it's essential to live in a way that honors God and points others toward Him. – Christian Fellowship Community

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Signs are everywhere, and they matter. They tell us where to go, what to buy, and sometimes, they even make us laugh. The legendary baseball player and broadcaster Joe Garagiola once recalled an old outfield wall in Philadelphia. It featured a large advertisement reading, “The Phillies use Lifebuoy soap.” Underneath it, a clever fan had scrawled, “And they still stink.”

It is a funny image, but it carries a serious spiritual truth: nobody likes false advertising. I want us to think for a moment about the signs around our church—both the physical ones on our grounds and the living ones we display every day.

Most of us “old timers” could navigate our church grounds blindfolded. We know exactly which sidewalk leads to the office entrance, where the community room is, and which door is closest to the kitchen. But we must constantly think about the neighbors from our community who do not yet know the lay of the land.

Our campus is meant to be a true sanctuary—a safe, peaceful haven from the noise of the world. Clear, welcoming signs on our property are essential to enhance that welcome and safety. They help visitors find exactly what they are looking for without anxiety. A well-placed sign says, “We expected you, you are safe here, and we care about your experience.” Let’s ensure our physical space reflects that radical hospitality.



Even more important than the wood and metal signs on our lawn and the smaller signs in our gardens are the living signposts we create with our lives. In 2 Corinthians 12:12, the Apostle Paul reminds us that true faith is accompanied by “signs, wonders, and miracles.”

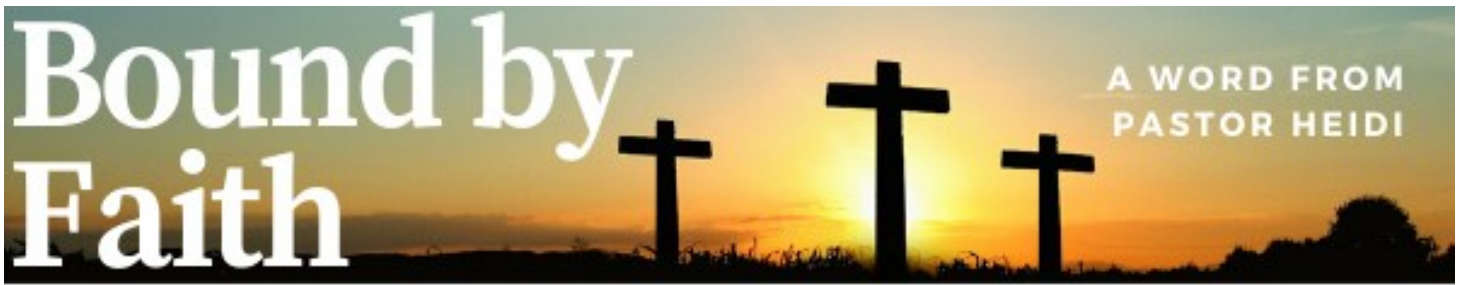
The people in our broader community are looking to us to find their way. They might not be completely “lost” in life, but they may still be searching for direction, meaning, and a place to belong. They are deciding their own paths, and our daily Christian walk should serve as an attractive, helpful guide. When they look at us, they should see a community that embodies the peace of the sanctuary we invite them into.

This brings us back to that Philadelphia outfield wall. If our church signs point people to a place of love, but our actions do not match, we are guilty of false advertising.

If we claim to offer a sanctuary of grace but walk in judgment or division, our message “stinks” to the outside world. Our internal character must match our external message. Let us pray that our lives are a “sweet aroma of Christ” (2 Cor. 2:15), offering a genuine, trustworthy refuge to everyone in our community who walks through our doors.

Peace,

Pastor Layne



He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.'
- Mark 6:31

As the days grow longer and the pace of life shifts, summer offers us a gentle invitation: slow down, breathe deeply, and notice God's presence in new ways.

For many of us, summer means vacations, family gatherings, backyard cookouts, camps, or simply enjoying a quiet evening outside. While our routines may change, God's faithfulness remains constant. The same God who walks beside us during busy schedules and demanding seasons also meets us in moments of rest, laughter, and renewal.

In Scripture, we often find Jesus stepping away from the crowds to pray, rest, and reconnect with God. He understood that renewal is not a luxury—it is part of faithful living. In our own lives, taking time to rest can help us return with renewed energy to love God and serve our neighbors.

As you enjoy this season, I encourage you to look for small glimpses of God's grace. Perhaps you'll find it in a breathtaking sunset, the laughter of children, a conversation with a friend, the beauty of creation, the quiet stillness of an early morning or beautiful sunset. These ordinary moments often become holy reminders that God is near.

While many travel during the summer months, our church continues to be a place of welcome, worship, and community. Whether you are here every Sunday or joining us when your schedule allows, know that your presence matters. Every gathering around the Lord's Table reminds us that we are one family in Christ, connected by God's love wherever we may be.

Summer is also a wonderful time to share God's love through simple acts of kindness. A visit to someone who is homebound, volunteering with a favorite organization, donating to our Petite Pantry, inviting a neighbor to worship, or simply offering a listening ear can become a powerful witness to Christ's compassion. Sometimes the smallest acts of generosity have the greatest impact.

As we move through these summer weeks, may we embrace both rest and purpose. May we make space to enjoy God's creation, deepen our relationships, and remain open to the ways the Holy Spirit is at work among us.

May this season refresh your spirit and remind you that wherever your summer adventures take you, God's love goes with you.

Shalom,
Pastor Heidi



A Note from our Music Minister Mark Kuroski

Draw the Circle Wide

The choir recently sang the song *Draw the Circle Wide* by Gordon Light and Mark A. Miller for the special music moment of our worship service. The song has a beautiful melody—and the lyrics are reminiscent of a prayer.

The chorus is wonderfully simple:

“Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.”

Those words capture the heart of the Gospel.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus was constantly widening the circle. He welcomed those whom society pushed aside. He shared meals with people others refused to sit beside. He touched those considered untouchable. He crossed cultural, religious, and social boundaries that many believed should never be crossed. Again and again, Jesus demonstrated that God’s love is always bigger than our expectations.

The image of a circle is a beautiful one because a circle has no corners where someone can be hidden away and no “head of the table” where some are more important than others. Everyone belongs equally. Everyone has a place.

As a church, we continue to ask ourselves an important question: *Who still needs to hear that they belong here?* Sometimes drawing the circle wider means welcoming a newcomer. Sometimes it means listening more deeply to someone whose experience differs from our own. Sometimes it means extending grace when it would be easier to judge.

The beautiful truth is that God’s love is never diminished by being shared. It only grows.

When we gather to sing each Sunday, our voices become a living expression of that widening circle. Every voice—trained or untrained, young or old, joyful or weary—adds something unique to our song. Together we become a small glimpse of God’s kingdom, where all are invited and all are loved.

May *Draw the Circle Wide* continue to challenge and inspire us. May it remind us that the work of radical welcome is never finished, and that Christ is always inviting us to make room for one more person. And may we continue to draw the circle wider...until everyone knows they belong.

Musically Yours,

Mark Kuroski



July 4th Faith, Family, Friends, Fireworks and Fellowship

**Join us Saturday evening
from 8-9pm in the church parlor
for potluck snacks and desserts.
Around 9pm we will go across the
street to the top of the county
parking garage to watch the
fireworks. Bring a lawn chair.**

RSVP to Pastor Layne



Prayer Gathering

**Wednesday evenings
7pm via Zoom**

**Join us each
Wednesday evening
to lift up any prayer concerns
or celebrations.**



July 10th 2pm—6:15pm

July 11th 10am—5pm

Join us at CCC as we serve as a Host Church
for this year's virtual General Assembly.

RSVP to Pastor Layne if you plan to attend.

The whole church throughout the United States and Canada, is invited to attend General Assembly 2026. Ephesians 3:14-21 invites the Stone-Campbell tradition of today and tomorrow to be rooted and grounded in the love of God that surpasses knowledge and barriers to build fuller relationships and ministries led by the limitless love of God. The prayer that calls to the church in Ephesus also calls the Christian Church to set a bigger table that surpasses our previous capacity.

More than just a series of meetings, General Assembly is a covenantal table set for education, discussion, worship, business, fellowship, and action. Each congregation is invited to boldly claim their covenantal place at the table by inviting everyone to attend online and by prayerfully designating 3 delegates to vote at General Assembly. Meeting every year online will allow more Disciples to connect more frequently and to work together more fully "to be the church we say we are." If you've never attended General Assembly before, a special welcome is extended to you.

One and all, individuals, Congregations, General Ministries, Regional Ministries, Ministry partners, and friends are invited to actively participate in our new way of being church and our church wide resolve to embody and share God's surpassing love as we gather in July.



Social & Fellowship

Sunday, July 12th

Fellowship lunch gathering
across the street at
Sweetwater's Coffee and Tea
immediately following worship.

Let Michyl-Shannon know if you
plan to attend!



Christian Women's Fellowship

is on summer break
and will meet again in September! .

Contributions to CWF can be made by
mail or Sunday morning offering.

HELP STUDENTS
START STRONG!

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

DURING THE MONTH OF **JULY!**

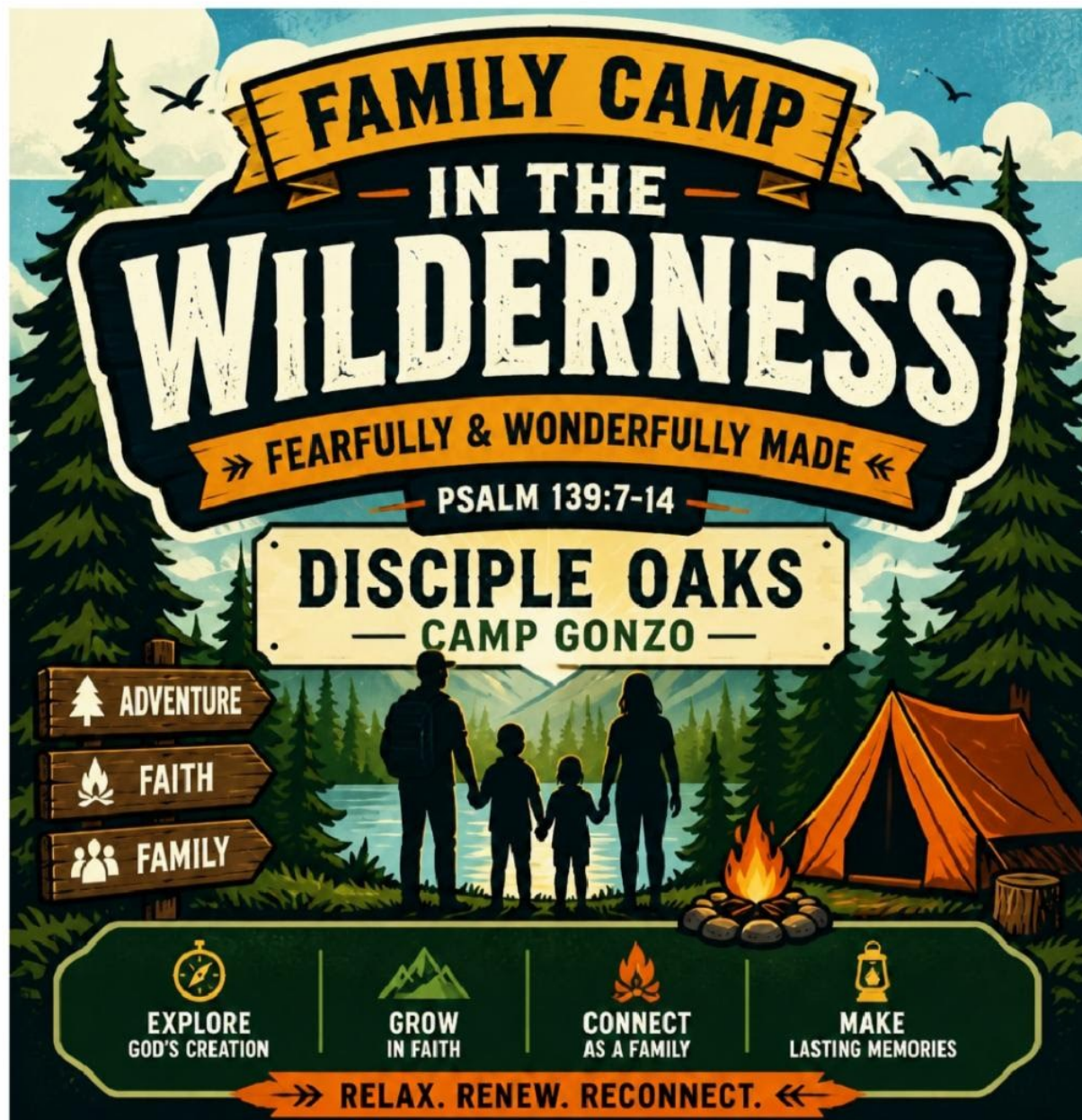
Your donation helps provide students
with the supplies they need to learn,
grow, and succeed!

WE ARE COLLECTING:

- NOTEBOOKS
- PENCILS
- PENS
- CRAYONS
- COLORED PENCILS
- MARKERS
- FOLDERS
- GLUE STICKS / BOTTLES
- RULERS

...AND MORE!

TOGETHER,
WE CAN MAKE A
BIG DIFFERENCE!



SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2026

Family Camp is for every kind of family. All ages are welcome as long as one child attending is under 18 (or developmentally delayed) and one adult is over 21.

Families come to camp for **rest, play, worship, and time together** in a place designed for connection and renewal. Every family shape, size, and story belongs here.

Register at Disciple Oaks Camp & Retreat @ www.discipleoaks.org

Deadline to register August 28th

Cost: \$125.00 per adult ages 5-18 \$100.00 per person Families of 4+ \$400.00



The State of the Church 2026

from General Minister and President, Rev. Terri Hord Owens. In this address, she reflects on the ministry priorities, spaces of vitality and vision in our congregations, and our “growing edges” as a church.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaah-kjFekc>



Regional Assembly

November 6th-7th
University Christian Church
Fort Worth

The theme for this year's Assembly is **Jubilee**.

A Jubilee is more than an anniversary. It is a sacred turning point where: care for what has been entrusted to us is restored, relationships are reconciled, and trust in God is revived.

Registration information at ccsw.org

Outreach Opportunities



Petite Pantry

Our petite pantry
is in need of donations.
Please place items directly
into the pantry.

You may also donate using your
preferred method, please be sure
to designate that it is for the
Petite Pantry.

See Pastor Heidi
for a list of items needed.

Eye Glasses

Donate your old, gently used
eye glasses.

Glasses benefit the Lions Club
Recycle for Sight Program.
A local member of the Lions Club
pickups our donations to send
onto their recycling center.

Donation bin located
near the Church Parlor.

Medicine Bottles

Donate your old pill bottles.
Please remove the labels prior to
placing in the donation bin located
near the Church Parlor.

Pill bottles are then sanitized and
boxed up to ship to a mission
team who will utilize them to
safely dispense medications in
areas around the globe.

Elders & Deacons for July

Elders for July

July 5th

Brad Bounds—Communion
Nancy Goodman-Gill —Offertory

July 12th

Maxine Jenks —Communion
Russell Ward —Offertory

July 19th

Larrie Gaylord —Communion
Linda Gaylord — Offertory

July 26th

Nancy Goodman-Gill —Communion
Maxine Jenks —Offertory

Deacons for July

July 5th

Phil Conard and Whitney Williams

July 12th

Barbara Sabo and Phil Conard

July 19th

Julie Fox and Ashley Monroy

July 26th

Preston James and David Ward

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2026 Servant Leaders

Executive Officers

One year term

Nancy Goodman Gill, Chair
Brad Bounds, Vice-Chair
Linda Gaylord, Secretary
Judy Moore-Heim, Treasurer

Trustees

Judy Moore-Heim (term ending 2026)
Tom Maser (term ending 2027)
Larrie Gaylord (term ending 2027)
Preston James (term ending 2028)
Whitney Williams (term ending 2028)

At-Large Members

One year term

Miriam Stewart
David Ward
Russell Ward
Whitney Williams

Elders

Term ending 2026

Brad Bounds
Larrie Gaylord
Linda Gaylord
Maxine Jenks
Russell Ward

Term Ending 2027

Nancy Goodman-Gill
Tom Maser

Term Ending 2028

David Fox

Diaconate

Term ending 2026

Phil Conard
Barbara Sabo

Term ending 2027

David Ward
Whitney Williams
Julie Fox

Term ending 2028

Preston James
Ashley Monroy
Will Monroy



Happy Birthday to each of you celebrating a birthday in July!

July 6th—Alex Ortiz
July 22nd—Mark Kuroski
July 29th—Larrie Gaylord
July 31st—Carey Taylor

About Central Christian Church

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Central Christian Church Austin, Texas, is a Welcoming and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person created in God's image. We welcome and embrace the God-given gifts that each person brings to the life of our congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and the commandments to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves, we embrace and respect all people—every sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic condition, all refugees and immigrants, those of all physical and mental abilities, all household compositions, those of diverse political and theological backgrounds and beliefs—and we invite those who desire to participate equally and fully in the life, ministry, fellowship, worship, leadership, responsibilities, and blessings of our church family to join us. Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, as God's beloved, you are worthy and welcome!

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister: Layne Beamer

Associate Minister: Heidi Bounds

Music Minister: Mark Kuroski

Administrator: Monica Ross

Wedding Coordinator: Judy Moore-Heim
weddingcoordinator.ccc@gmail.com

CONTACT US

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