

The Window

MARCH 2026



Central Christian Church

MARCH EVENTS

Sun. 03/01	9:30-10:30 am	Breakfast and Bible with Pastor Layne
Sun. 03/01	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 03/02	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Mon. 03/02	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting
Wed. 03/04	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 03/04	6:00 pm	Lent Study & Meager Meal (In-person & Zoom)
Sat. 03/07	Noon-5pm	Austin Creative Alliance Open House
Sun. 03/08	9:30-10:30 am	Breakfast and Bible with Pastor Layne
Sun. 03/08	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 03/09	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Mon. 03/09	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting
Tues. 03/10	Noon	Capital Clergy Meeting
Tues. 03/10	2:00 pm	Christian Women's Fellowship (Via Zoom)
Tues. 03/10	7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting (Via Zoom)
Wed. 03/11	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 03/11	6:00 pm	Lent Study & Meager Meal (In-person & Zoom)
Sun. 03/15		NO BREAKFAST AND BIBLE THIS WEEK
Sun. 03/15	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Sun. 03/15	Noon	Church Luncheon
Mon. 03/16		NO PASTORS' PORCH TODAY
Mon. 03/16	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting
Tues. 03/17	7:00 pm	Administrative Council Meeting (Via Zoom)
Wed. 03/18	6:00 pm	Lent Study & Meager Meal (In-person & Zoom)
Sun. 03/22	9:30-10:30 am	Breakfast and Bible with Pastor Layne
Sun. 03/22	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 03/23	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Mon. 03/23	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting
Wed. 03/25	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 03/25	6:00 pm	Lent Study & Meager Meal (In-person & Zoom)
Sun. 03/29	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 03/30	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Mon. 03/30	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting

****Pastor Layne will be on vacation March 12th—16th.
Please contact Pastor Heidi for any pastoral needs****

Dear Sisters and Brothers.....

Thoughts from Pastor Layne

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. – (Proverbs 17:17)

Just because they showed up doesn't mean they've got your back. Judas attended every prayer meeting. – (Anonymous/
Pinterest)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I recently had the pleasure of giving a Keynote Address to a Men's Retreat at our Church Camp in Gonzales. The theme for the weekend was **Christian Friends: Wanted, Needed, Valued**. In a nutshell, I shared how much I value my deep friendship with my buddy Rick; and how our friendship has its roots in a period of my life when I very much *needed* a Christian friend. Because of the way that Rick was then, and has faithfully continued to be, a source of strength and mutual accountability, I now *value* our friendship deeply.

In our fast-paced, digital world, it is easy to be "connected" to hundreds of people while remaining deeply alone. We can, for example, be lulled into a false sense of security because we have hundreds of "friends" on Facebook. However, as followers of Christ, we are called to a much different standard of relationship. Christ-like friendship is more than just shared interests or casual acquaintance; it is a sacred partnership designed by God to sharpen us, sustain us, and reflect His love to the world.

At the heart of every Christian friendship is the Great Commandment: to love God with all our heart and our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus took this a step further in John 13:34, giving us a "new commandment": *"As I have loved you, so you must love one another."* This sacrificial, selfless love should always be bedrock on which our church community is built.

The Book of Proverbs offers much timeless wisdom on the power of our inner circle of friendship in Christ. Proverbs 27:17 reminds us that *"as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* True friends don't just tell us what we want to hear; they push us toward holiness. Because we become like those we spend time with, Proverbs 13:20 urges to *"walk with the wise and become wise."* A true, Christian friend loves at all times, and their reliability is a *"stick-closer-than-a-brother"* kind of bond (Proverbs 18:24). Life is often heavy, and we weren't meant to carry our burdens all by ourselves. The Apostle Paul instructs us in Galatians 6:1-2 to restore one another gently if someone stumbles and is caught in sin, adding: *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

This "burden-bearing" takes many forms:

Encouragement: *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up"* (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Forgiveness: We must *"bear with each other and forgive one another"* just as the Lord forgave us (Colossians 3:13).

Vulnerability: There is healing when we *"confess your sins to each other and pray for each other"* (James 5:16).

As we continue to do the discerning work of Lent, let's ask ourselves: Are we being the kind of friend these Bible verses describe? Are we offering the "iron-sharpening" truth, the "burden-bearing" shoulder, mutual accountability and vulnerability, and the "Christ-like" forgiveness that our brothers and sisters need? Let us commit to moving beyond the surface and investing in the deep, transformative friendships that God has intended for His Church.

Loving God, we thank you for the example of Jesus and for the gift of Christian Friendship that he inspires. Help us to be friends who sharpen, encourage, and forgive. May our love for one another be a testimony of your grace to the world. May we love one another as you and your Son love us. Amen.

Bound by Faith

A WORD FROM
PASTOR HEIDI

Although Ash Wednesday was a week and a half ago, the Lenten journey is still unfolding before us. In the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we understand Lent not as a single day of ashes, but as a sacred season — forty days set aside to return, to reflect, and to be renewed.

Many of us remember the feel of ashes pressed gently onto our foreheads — a cross traced in dust, a reminder of our humanity and our hope. We are formed from the earth and sustained by God’s breath. Yet even now, days later, that mark continues to shape us. Lent is not about a moment; it is about a movement of the heart. It is about turning again toward the One who has never turned away from us.

As Disciples, we often speak of being a “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.” Lent gives us space to practice that wholeness. Through prayer, fasting, generosity, and honest reflection, we allow God to search us — not to shame us, but to restore us. We ask ourselves: What needs tending in my spirit? Where is Christ inviting me to grow? What habits or hurts need releasing?

Our life together centers at the Lord’s Table. Each week we gather to receive the bread and cup — visible signs of invisible grace. During Lent, that Table feels especially tender. We come not because we have everything figured out, but because we are hungry for mercy and courage. At this open Table, Christ meets us again and again, reminding us that love poured out is stronger than fear held tight.

Lent also turns our gaze outward. Repentance is not simply personal; it reshapes how we live in community. We consider how we embody compassion, how we pursue justice, how we practice hospitality. In a world that moves quickly past pain, Lent invites us to slow down and stand alongside those who are weary, grieving, or overlooked. It makes us into people who carry resurrection hope even in the wilderness.

If the busyness of life has already tugged your focus elsewhere, take heart — there is still time. The Lenten road is long enough for all of us to rejoin it intentionally. Begin today. Pause for prayer. Read a Psalm. Reach out to someone in need. Come to worship ready to listen for the Spirit’s gentle leading.

Easter will come in its fullness and joy. But first, we walk this sacred path — learning humility, deepening trust, and remembering who we are: a people shaped by grace, gathered at the Table, and sent into the world in Christ’s love.

The journey continues. And we walk it together.

Shalom,

Pastor Heidi



A Note from our Music Minister Mark Kuroski

Hello Central Christian Church!

As we continue our way through Lent, I often look for more somber songs that talk about a journey or finding our way through struggles while still holding onto hope. One of the songs that we sing this time of year is *Poor Wayfaring Stranger*. For my newsletter article this month I thought it would be interesting to take a deeper look at this song and its connection to the Lenten journey. Though it comes from a different time and context, its message resonates deeply with the spirit of Lent.

In the song, the singer describes themselves as “just a poor wayfaring stranger, traveling through this world below.” There is an honesty in these words that feels especially appropriate for this season. The world is not romanticized. It is a place marked by toil, sorrow, and weariness. Yet the song does not dwell in despair. Instead, it frames life as a passage rather than a destination. The traveler moves through hardship with the quiet assurance that there is “a bright land” ahead — a promise of healing, rest, and reunion beyond the struggles of the present.

Lent invites us into this same perspective. It gently loosens our grip on comfort and certainty and reminds us that we are still on the way. We are not yet whole. We are not yet home. Like the wayfaring stranger, we walk through a world that is beautiful yet broken, carrying both grief and hope. This season encourages us to acknowledge the reality of suffering — both in the world and within ourselves — while also trusting that God is leading us toward restoration.

There is also something deeply communal in the song's vision of the journey. The traveler looks ahead to reunion — to seeing loved ones again, to belonging in a place prepared for them. Lent similarly reminds us that faith is never a solitary endeavor. We walk this road together, and ultimately, we walk it with Christ, who Himself became the ultimate pilgrim. Jesus left the fullness of heaven to enter our fragile world, walking a road marked by rejection, sorrow, and ultimately the Cross. In doing so, He transformed the journey of suffering into a path that leads toward resurrection.

Poor Wayfaring Stranger gives voice to the holy longing that sits at the heart of Lent. It teaches us to live honestly within the tension of being people who are still traveling — people who know hardship yet cling to hope. As we move through these forty days, may we hear in its melody a quiet reminder: we are pilgrims on the way, sustained by grace, walking toward the dawn of Easter.

Peace,

Mark



Yo howdy All Y'all! It is a beautiful day! We are in the season of Lent, of preparing for Easter, preparing for Spring. Our gardens are a testament, affirmation, demonstration and metaphor of the Resurrection.

"In faith: unity; in opinion: liberty; In all things: Love." As Disciples of Christ, we each discern what the Resurrection of Christ means for each of us.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -their good, pleasing and perfect will."
Romans 12:2

Wildflower seedlings have and continue to sprout. The debris of winter is becoming compost structured into terraced soil. Frozen stalks of perennials are trimmed and from the strength of roots begin again to bud. Vegetable seeds have sprouted, have been thinned and transplanted into larger pots in preparation for placement into soil along the edges of our campus. Our iris were hard bit by summer heat and winter's freeze just as there were beginning to bud and likely will not bloom as prolifically this year. Time will reveal.

Saturdays during March will be designated work days; all are welcome to help or learn more about our gardens. Our collective of artists in tenancy will be hosting an "Open House at the Sanctuary" on Saturday, March 7. That day will also be a garden work day, and a wonderful opportunity to explore the many ways our Church provides Sanctuary for our neighbors and engages with community. We have some very interesting and creative tenants.

Please join us for our St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on Sunday, March 15th! One of the "green" food dishes will be collard greens fresh from our garden enhanced with sausage from Franklin's BBQ! Remember to bring something for our Petite Pantry if you can - it's been an active pantry, even a handful of nutrient bars are very welcome.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17

Be well share joy.
Phil



The Sanctuary
1110 Guadalupe St

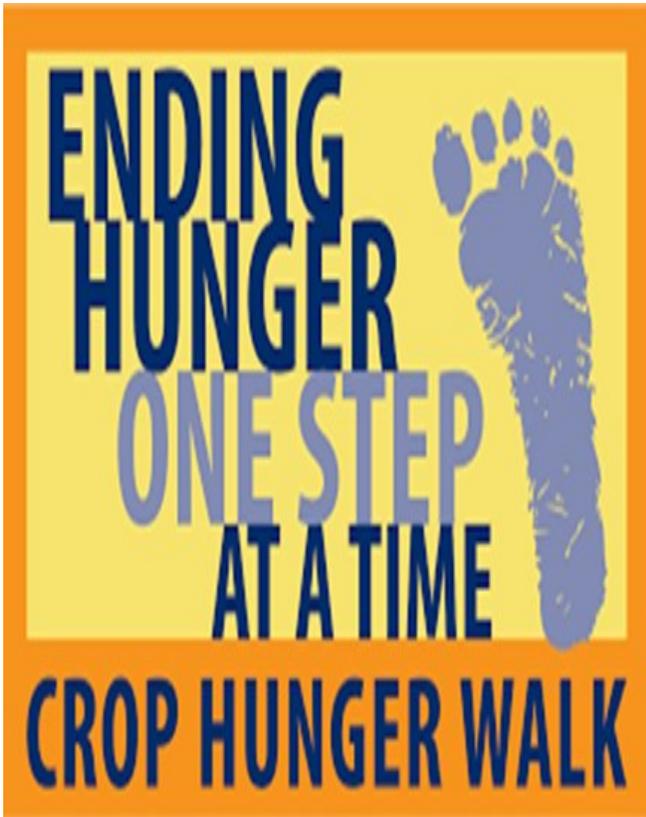
OPEN HOUSE

open studios
arts activities
performances

Saturday
March 7
12pm-5pm

All are invited!

Come check out our newest tenants—
see live performances in the sanctuary
and in the community room.
And then visit the various artists
on the second and third floors!



CROP WALK

March 1st 2pm
Camp Mabry

Join us as we walk to end hunger both locally and across the world.

See Pastor Heidi or Pastor Layne to join the walk.



Scholarship Applications Now Available

CCC offers both undergraduate and divinity scholarships.

Applications are available from the church office.

Deadline for all applications is June 1st.



Don't Forget to Spring Forward

Before you go to bed **Saturday, March 7th**, be sure to change those clocks!



Breakfast & Bible Study

Join Pastor Layne for his six-week presentation/discussion "How I Read My Bible". Get here by 9:30 to make a plate and fill your coffee cup. Discussion will begin promptly at 9:45 and end at 10:30.

Old-timers and newbies welcome!



Christian Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, March 10th at 2pm

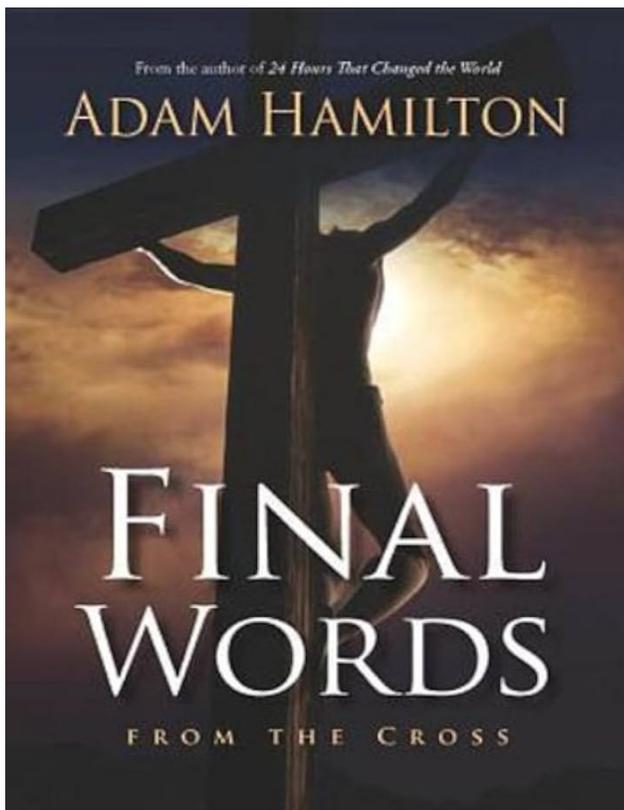
Via Zoom

Lesson: Understanding the Loaves

Scripture: Mark 6:6-52

Please read scripture prior to meeting for lesson preparation.

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



Lenten Meager Meals and Book Study

Join us Wednesday evenings until April 1st.

We'll share bread and soup at 6pm in person and then begin prayer and book study at 7pm online for those who would like to join via Zoom.

We will be discussing Adam Hamilton's book, *Final Words from the Cross*.



THANK YOU!

**Thank you Church family!
Souper Bowl Sunday lunch was so great because of you. I am so glad you were willing to share your soup, salad and dessert talents with one another!**

Much Love,

**Michyl-Shannon
2026 Social & Fellowship Chair**



MARCH LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 15th

Get ready for St. Patty's day by staying after church for a luncheon on March 15th.

We will provide Ham and Potatoes. Can you bring something **Green?**

**Please text Michyl-Shannon to say what you will provide.
(818-415-7359)**



Easter Lilies

Please help make the church and sanctuary beautiful and festive
when we celebrate the Risen Christ.

Order Easter Lilies now to honor and/or remember loved ones.

Please return this form with a check or Venmo to the church office by March 29th.

We ask for a donation of \$15 per plant.

Given By: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

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 March

Elders for March

March 1st

Larrie Gaylord—Communion

Linda Gaylord —Offertory

March 8th

Russell Ward —Communion

Brad Bounds —Offertory

March 15th

Linda Gaylord —Communion

Maxine Jenks — Offertory

March 22nd

Brad Bounds—Communion

Nancy Goodman-Gill —Offertory

March 29th (Palm Sunday)

Linda Gaylord—Communion

Larrie Gaylord—Offertory

Deacons for March

March 1st

Phil Conard and Whitney Williams

March 8th

Ashley Monroy and Barbara Sabo

March 15th

David Ward and Julie Fox

March 22nd

Preston James and Will Monroy

March 29th

Whitney Williams and Preston James

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 March! CCC wishes you a safe and blessed day!

March 9th—Rob Gill
March 27th—James Meeks

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

Pastor Layne Beamer
pastorlayne@ccaustin.org
or 818-384-5956

Pastor Heidi Bounds
hbounds@ccaustin.org
or 512.940.2322

Mark Kuroski mark@ccaustin.org

Monica Ross staff@ccaustin.org
Office Phone # 512.476.6941