

The Window

September 2023



Central Christian Church

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sun. 9/03	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 9/04		Church Offices Closed for Holiday
Wed. 9/06	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 9/06	10:30 am	Church Staff Meeting
Wed. 9/06	7-8:00 pm	Book Study (In-person & via Zoom)
Sun. 9/10	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 9/11	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Tues. 9/12	2:00 pm	Christian Women's Fellowship (Via Zoom)
Tues. 9/12	7:00 pm	Trustee Meeting (Via Zoom)
Wed. 9/13	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 9/13	10:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed. 9/13	7-8:00 pm	Book Study (In-person & via Zoom)
Sun. 9/17	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 9/18	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Tues. 9/19	7:00 pm	Administrative Council Meeting (Via Zoom)
Wed. 9/20	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 9/20	10:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed. 9/20	7-8:00 pm	Book Study (In-person & via Zoom)
Sun. 9/24	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 9/25	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 9/27	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 9/27	10:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wed. 9/27	7-8:00 pm	Book Study (In-person & via Zoom)

ELDERS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 3:
Nancy Goodman-Gill, Communion
Pastor Heidi Bounds, Offering

September 17:
Barbara Sabo, Communion
Russell Ward, Offering

September 10:
Jolie Johnson, Communion
Tom Maser, Offering

September 24:
Maxine Jenks, Communion
Brad Bounds, Offering



Dear Sisters and Brothers.....

Thoughts from Pastor Layne

The Gift of Your Presence

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.
And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do,
but encourage one another. - Hebrews 10:24-25

Showing up is essential. Showing up consistently is powerful. Showing up consistently with a positive outlook is even more powerful. – Jeff Olson

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The numbers are in; more and more congregants are staying at home and taking part in worship virtually in some way. Professional studies and anecdotal conversations with other pastors tell me that the Covid Pandemic left behind a sea change in Sunday Morning attendance for the majority of churches.

We have done a pretty good job, I think, of bringing our Sunday morning service to your living room couches and kitchen tables each week. We know that a fair number of home-bound members and distant friends are able to join us virtually, and we should rightly rejoice that we are able to include them in this way; keeping them “with us” even at a distance.

We are also nearly exclusively holding our meetings online. Zoom is a great tool for many of the meetings that would otherwise necessitate long drives for most participants, and many of you who hold a leadership position within the church are rightly glad that you can log on and take part without the hour-long round-trip commute downtown.

BUT...

Continued on page 4,

Continued from page 3,

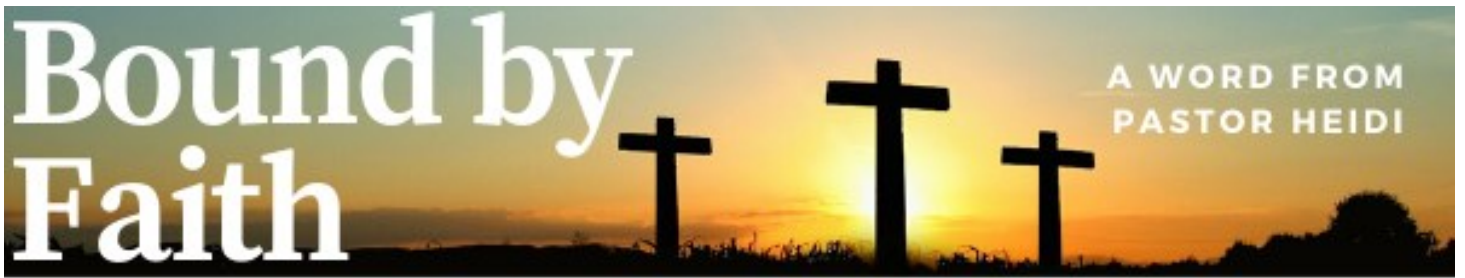
When we are greeting visitors here at the corner of 12th and Guadalupe, and they seat themselves in our 400-seat sanctuary with only 20 other bodies, the impression they receive is not helped by an assurance that there are possibly another 20 or so of us worshipping via Facebook Live. While it is true that even if we all showed up our sanctuary would still be sparsely filled, but the difference between the presence of 20 bodies and that of 40 or 50 is real and palpable.

I know that the reasons that some might opt to worship from home are very real and compelling. But I ask you each to factor into your decision each and every Sunday morning another trend that Professional Studies and anecdotal conversations show. Churches are closing their doors at a higher rate than ever. We are rowing upstream, it seems, and now more than ever we need as many hands on the oars every possible time.

You know yourself how much you look forward to having others here to greet you and to join you in worship; please make every effort to give that same gift to your church family and the visitors that we so eagerly await.

Peace,

Pastor Layne



The -ber months are upon us – September, October, November, and December! And for those that don't know, Fall is my absolutely most favorite season of all! I realize that I probably live in the wrong area of the country to truly experience Fall as we have about 5.8 days of Fall-ish type weather, but I love the cooler temperatures, nonetheless. For me, Fall is a gentle reminder that change is a beautiful thing!

As we make our way into the last quarter of 2023 and before we dive into the holiday season, I invite you to take a moment to reflect. As you look back over the previous months of 2023, what stands out for you? Personally? Professionally? Spiritually? What are you most proud of? What do you want to accomplish in the remainder of 2023? The year is not over and there is still ample opportunity to do it! Go for it. Run, don't walk!

As a community of faith, we have accomplished much thus far this year! We have worshipped together 35 times. We have shared several fellowship meals with one another including light bites and assembling sunshine baskets for our beloved members. We have worked together to serve others beyond our walls through Souper Bowl of Caring, CROP Walk, Hands on Housing, Mission Trip to Southwest Good Samaritan Center, Bethany Food Pantry, Kite Festival, and school supplies for Smith Elementary. We have added new staff to our roster with Monica Ross joining us in February as our Office Administrator and Mikhail (Misha) most recently joined us as our new organist and pianist. We've hosted multiple events and groups throughout the year; NAMI's monthly support group, Iftar dinner with Dialogue of Austin, Mental Health Sunday with NAMI, Leading Out of Drama workshop, and numerous weddings with many more to come. I'm certain I'm missing many things, but you get the idea. We are doing great things! And each and every one of you is needed!

Wherever you find yourself this season, I hope you will join in all the ways that this community of faith continues to worship, fellowship, and serve our neighbors. Your presence is important. Your presence is powerful. Your presence matters in all things we do as church.

Shalom,

Pastor Heidi



A Note from our Music Minister Mark Kuroski

Hello Central Christian Church!

It's hard to believe with the heat of summer at the moment, but before we know it winter will be here, and we'll be in the Christmas season! I was hoping we could get started super early this year with the handbell choir and practicing one song in preparation for the Christmas Eve service...what a great way to get into the Christmas spirit!

If we begin rehearsing every other Sunday after the church service for about 30 minutes, I think we can put something really special together and have enough time to feel extra confident about the music. Maybe we could even play it during a Sunday in Advent as a sort of dress rehearsal for the Christmas Eve service!

I'm thinking of starting with the first rehearsal on September 10th, and then do every other Sunday from there. The service usually ends around noon, so if we plan to practice from 12:30pm-1pm maybe that would be a convenient time for everyone?

Please feel free to reach out, especially if you've been enjoying the bells at the start of each service and thought you might be interested in ringing them as well! It's a lot of fun, and there's no previous musical experience needed.

Thank you all and have a wonderful day!

All the best,

Mark

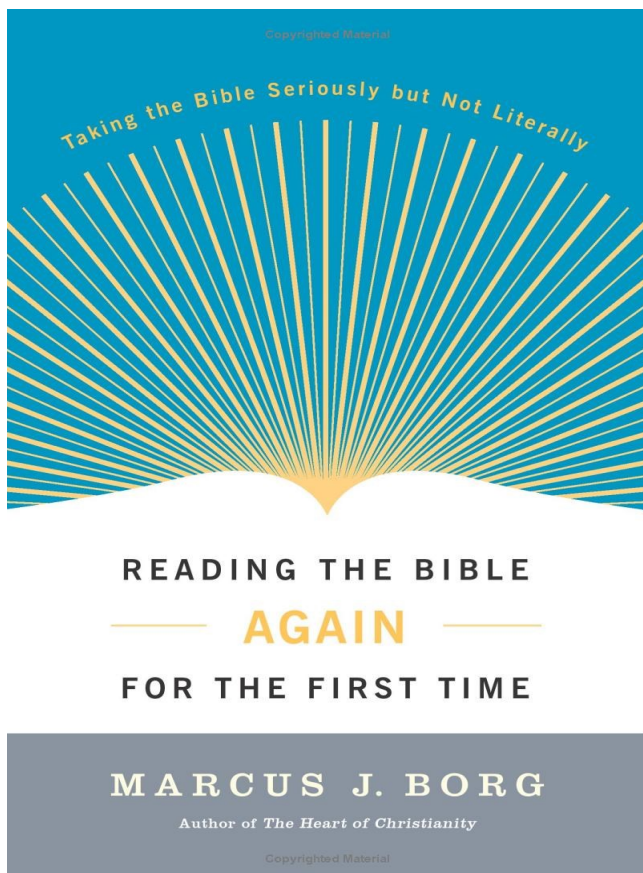




Open Sanctuary

The sanctuary will be open
for a time of
meditation and reflection on
Monday and Wednesday
from 8 -9 a.m.

Drop by the Pastor's Porch
to say hello too!



Book Study Wednesday at 7pm

Join Pastor Layne each
Wednesday evening at 7pm
Either in-person or via Zoom
as he leads us through
Marcus J. Borg's book,
*Reading the Bible Again
for the First Time.*



Christian Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, September 12th

2pm via Zoom

Lesson #10: Relationships That
Encourage

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-12

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

Remember to write "CWF"
in memo line.



Administrative Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 19th

7pm

Via Zoom

SUNSHINE BASKETS

Thank you to everyone who donated yellow items and helped assemble the Sunshine Baskets! It was so much fun to see the variety of items brought in! We had yellow TicTacs, yellow Post It notes, yellow Farmer's Almanac, yellow seek & find books, yellow highlighter pens, yellow teddy bears, yellow bubbles, yellow hand towels, a yellow smiley face spatula, yellow boxes of Crunch n' Munch, packs of lemonade, yellow stress balls, and so much more! The baskets of sunshine were a hit! Each and every recipient was just thrilled to receive them and to dig in to see all the goodies! Here are few things they said:

- I feels like Christmas morning!!
- Yellow is such a cheerful color and it certainly cheered me up!
- Special thanks to Hugo & Zoey for painting the pretty yellow sunflower!
- I have put the sunflower on the door of my balcony!



Pastor Layne with Bonnie Bounds
and her roommate, Sue.



Pat Jackson with her basket of yellow goodies!

SUNSHINE BASKETS



Pastor Heidi & Zoey delivered a basket of sunshine to Evelyn Johnson



Pastor Heidi & Zoey delivered a basket of goodies to Carey Taylor



Trip to Smithville to visit these two rays of sunshine.

Thank you for the hospitality , Sharron Vaughn & for the hike around your beautiful property , Jan McLendon.

Outreach Opportunities



Petite Pantry

Our petite pantry is in need of donations.

You may either fill the pantry or drop donations off in the kitchen on the shelf labeled

Petite Pantry.

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

See Russell Ward or Pastor Heidi for a list of items needed most.



To each of you celebrating a birthday in September!
CCC wishes you a safe and blessed day!

September 10—Patrick Davis
September 16—Jim Whitten
September 19—Dallas Heenan
September 21—Verna Lee Carr
September 24—Jan McLendon

About Central Christian Church

OUR MISSION

To support all people in their journey to explore, expand, and experience their truth with God to better connect with Christ and others.

OUR VISION

To be a Christ-centered church that supports family, community, and global transformation through worship, education, and outreach.

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister: Layne Beamer

Executive Pastor: Heidi Bounds

Music Minister: Mark Kuroski

Administrator: Monica Ross

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

CONTACT US

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

Pastor Heidi Bounds
hbounds@cccaustin.org
or 512.940.2322

Mark Kuroski
mark@cccaustin.org

Monica Ross
staff@cccaustin.org