

The Window

SEPTEMBER 2026



Central Christian Church

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sun. 09/06	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 09/07		Church Office Closed for Labor Day
Tues. 09/08	Noon	Capital Clergy Minister's Meeting
Tues. 09/08	2:00 pm	Christian Women's Fellowship (Via Zoom)
Sat. 09/12	10:00 am	Presentation by Regional Minister
Sun. 09/13	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Sun. 09/13	Noon	Outreach Opportunity
Mon. 09/14	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Mon. 09/14	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting
Tues. 09/15	7:00 pm	Administrative Council Meeting (Via Zoom)
Wed. 09/16	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 09/16	7:00 pm	Book Study (Via Zoom)
Sun. 09/20	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Sun. 09/20	Noon	CCC Out to Lunch and Movie
Mon. 09/21	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Mon. 09/21	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting
Wed. 09/23	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 09/23	7:00 pm	Book Study (Via Zoom)
Fri. 09/25-Sun. 09/27		Women's Retreat in Gonzales
Sun. 09/27	11:00 am	Sunday Worship (In-person & FB Live)
Mon. 09/28	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Mon. 09/28	11:00 am	Church Staff Meeting
Tues. 09/29	7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting (Via Zoom)
Wed. 09/30	8-9:00 am	Open Sanctuary
Wed. 09/30	7:00 pm	Book Study (Via Zoom)

**** Pastor Layne will be on vacation August 31st until September 11th ****

Dear Sisters and Brothers.....

Thoughts from Pastor Layne

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This week Michyl-Shannon and I will pack our bags and head out to celebrate the wedding of a nephew. It will be one of those weekends we have been looking forward to for months.

There is something incredibly special about family weddings, and we can't wait to catch up with relatives we haven't seen, swapping old stories and laughing. But just as exciting is the anticipation of meeting new family members. Thinking about walking into that room knowing that our family circle will be expanding, and that we will be welcoming new faces into our lives by virtue of this beautiful union, fills us both with so much joy.

Anticipating the celebration got me thinking about how much God loves a good party.

If you flip through the pages of our Scriptures, you will find that when the prophets and gospel writers wanted to give us a glimpse of heaven—of God's ultimate dream for this world—they didn't point to clouds, harps, or endless, quiet church services. Instead, they pointed to a wedding feast.

Think about the last great wedding you attended. Think of the baseline hum of laughter in the room, the tables packed with incredible food, the music that gets everyone on their feet, and that specific, infectious joy that fills the air. A wedding is a moment where time slows down, worries fade, and all that matters is celebration, connection, and love.

That is exactly the imagery Jesus uses to describe the Kingdom of God.

In the ancient world, a wedding feast wasn't just a two-hour reception; it was a weeklong community celebration. To run out of food or wine was a social disaster. It is no accident that Jesus performed his very first miracle at a wedding in Cana, turning ordinary water into the absolute best wine. He wasn't just saving the hosts from embarrassment. He was making a theological statement: My Kingdom is about abundance, joy, and deep satisfaction.

Later, Jesus told parables about a king throwing a massive wedding banquet for his son. When the original guest list fell through, the king didn't cancel the party. He sent his servants out into the streets to gather everyone they could find—the outsiders, the overlooked, the ordinary people walking the dirt roads.

That is the heart of God's desired "heaven on earth." It's a place of radical hospitality. It's a table where the guest list keeps expanding, where barriers are broken down, where families are blended, and where there is always room for one more. It's a vision of a world where no one goes hungry, no one sits alone, and everyone is covered in the garments of grace.

In the book of Revelation, the entire human story ends not with destruction, but with a celebration called the "marriage supper of the Lamb." History ends with a wedding feast.

As a church, this imagery should challenge us. If the ultimate destination of our faith looks like a joyful, inclusive, abundant wedding feast; then our life together today should look like dress rehearsals for that party.

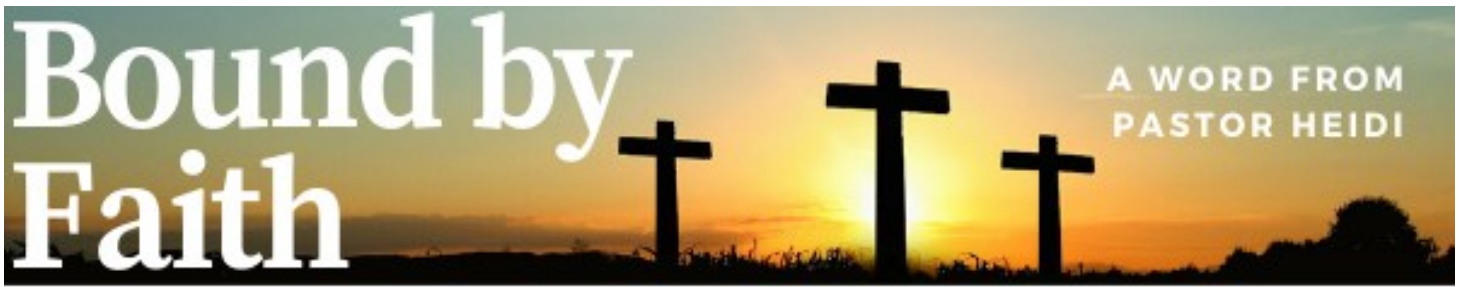
At the corner of 12th and Guadalupe, we say that our entire campus is Sanctuary. Sacred space doesn't stop at the doors of our worship space—it extends to our hallways, our parking lot, our gardens, our classrooms, and our common spaces. Every single square inch of our property is a holy place of safety, rest, and connection. Because of that, we have a beautiful opportunity to practice this heavenly hospitality every time we gather.

Let's make sure that our entire Sanctuary community reflects the warmth of that wedding feast. Let's look out for the "old family"—those familiar faces we love dearly—and use our spaces to deepen those bonds. At the very same time, let's keep our eyes wide open for the new guests God sends our way. Let's welcome them into the full feast of our fellowship from the moment they step onto our campus, making sure no one feels like an outsider.

Let's keep the party going. Let's keep setting the table. Let's keep inviting our neighbors. And let's live with the joy of people who know that the best is yet to come.

Peace,

Pastor Layne



As I reflect on this year so far, I am filled with gratitude and joy at how God has moved through our church to touch lives beyond our walls. Our mission to "love God, love people, and serve the world" has been lived out in real and powerful ways. From local neighborhoods to global communities, we've stepped out in faith and compassion—and what a year it's been!

Here are just a few highlights of how our church family has been reaching out:

Community Food Drives & Food Support

In January, we assembled 75 blessing bags to be shared with those in need.

In February, we collected 335 pounds of non-perishable food items for families in need for Bethany Food Pantry.

We have an ongoing collection for our Petite Pantry which serves many folks who need a small meal or snack. We also stock feminine hygiene kits as well as personal hygiene kits in the pantry.

In March, Pastor Layne, Michyl-Shannon and Leonard participated in the Austin CROP Walk. CCC collected and donated \$400 to help with both local and global food insecurity.

Clothing Donations

We have an ongoing clothing donation bin for gently used clothing and shoes. We sort the donations to be used in our Pastor's Closet for those who come to our doors seeking clothing and then we pass along other items to various other ministries around Austin such as Fig Leaf Ministries, Casa Marinella, Posada Esperanza, Dress for Success and Better ATX Thrift Store. Together we save hundreds of pounds of clothing from going to the landfill.

In July, we collected men's boxers to support Central Presbyterian's Clothing Ministry. We delivered 60 pairs of men's underwear.

In conjunction with the Women's Valentine Event, we collected 27 purses for Dress for Success.

Local School Partnerships

This summer we partnered with Pleasant Hill Elementary in South Austin to help redo their teacher's lounge! They did the hard work of clearing it out and giving it a fresh coat of paint. We purchased some new furniture, artwork, meditation station items, a puzzle table with new puzzles and snacks, lots and lots of snacks!

In July, we hosted our annual School Supply Drive. We collected school supplies and assembled 96 back packs to be distributed to local school children. 30 back packs were delivered to Pleasant Hill Elementary, 30 back packs were delivered to Smith Elementary and 15 back packs were delivered to Interfaith Action of Central Texas.

Global Partnerships

In May, we assembled 50 hygiene kits to be distributed through Church World Services around the country and world following natural disasters.

We collected and sanitized over 300+ medicine bottles to be used through a global medical mission team. This is an ongoing project so bring your label free medicine bottles and we will sanitize them and ship them.

We collected and delivered 11 pairs of eyeglasses to Lion's Club to be distributed through their Recycle for Sight program. This is an ongoing partnership so feel free to bring your glasses anytime.

But wait, we aren't done yet. We still have four months and some wonderful opportunities for each of you to plug into over the remainder of the year!

On September 13th, we will host a medicine bottle match up where we will match lids to medicine bottles.

On October 25th, we will host our annual Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat.

In November, we will provide pumpkin pies and sugar to Bethany Food Pantry's Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes.

And to wrap up the year, we make blessing bags in December to share with those in need and adopt families through a local organization to provide some Christmas cheer.

For those events without specific dates, stay tuned. For the other events, mark your calendars now and plan to be the hands and feet to assist with those opportunities to serve.

Shalom,
Pastor Heidi



A Note from our Music Minister Mark Kuroski

A Song for Every Season

There is something sacred about the changing of the seasons. As summer begins to loosen its grip and the first signs of autumn appear, the world around us seems to invite us to notice—to pay attention to the changing light, the cooler mornings, the leaves beginning to turn, and the quiet rhythm of creation moving into something new.

Autumn has always felt especially meaningful to me because it reminds us that change can be beautiful.

The Christian story is, in many ways, a story of seasons. There are times of waiting and preparation, times of celebration and new life, times of growth, and times when we are called to let go.

Autumn gives us a particularly beautiful picture of what it means to release. Trees do not cling forever to their leaves. They let them go—not because life is ending, but because another season is coming. Beneath what appears quiet or bare, new life is already being prepared.

Our faith teaches us something similar. Again and again, the story of Christianity reminds us that endings are rarely only endings. The cross leads to resurrection. Grief can exist alongside hope. Times of uncertainty can become places where new faith begins to grow. We are continually being invited to release what has passed and trust that God is still at work in what comes next.

Music has seasons, too.

One of the things I love most about serving in music ministry is hearing how the music of the church changes throughout the year. There are joyful songs filled with celebration, quiet songs of reflection, hymns that carry the weight of generations before us, and new songs that help us find fresh language for our faith.

Sometimes our music is an exuberant “Alleluia!” Other times it is barely more than a prayer.

And we need both.

Just as creation would feel incomplete if every day were summer, our spiritual lives would be incomplete if we only sang songs of celebration. Some of the most meaningful music of our faith comes from places of longing, uncertainty, remembrance, and hope. Those songs remind us that God is present not only in the bright and joyful seasons, but also in the quieter ones.

There is something beautiful about creating music together. Each person brings a different voice, a different instrument, a different sound—and somehow those individual parts become something larger than any of us could create alone.

Perhaps that is another lesson the changing seasons can teach us.

We do not experience the seasons of life by ourselves. We walk through them together. When one person is celebrating, we sing with them. When another is grieving, we help carry the song. When someone cannot find the words to pray, sometimes the music of the community becomes their prayer for them.

So as the leaves begin to change this autumn, I hope we will allow the season to remind us that change does not mean God has left us. Sometimes change is simply part of the beautiful rhythm of creation.

There will be seasons of planting and seasons of harvest. Seasons of singing loudly and seasons of listening closely. Seasons of holding on and seasons of letting go.

Through all of them, the song of faith continues.

And thankfully, we never have to sing it alone.

Yours in song,
Mark Kuroski



Christian Women's Fellowship

Will resume their monthly meeting on
Tuesday, September 8th
At 2pm
Via Zoom

All ladies are invited as we will be discussing how best to move forward without our study leader. If you are interested in attending but not available during this time, please speak with Linda Gaylord

FOOD INSECURITY
Tuesday — September — 8th
7:30 pm ET on Zoom

Andrea Abel
Executive Director of Farmshare

Rev. Dr. Heber Brown
Executive Director, Black Church Food Security

Edwin Marty
Food Policy Manager, City of Austin's Office of Climate Action and Resilience

Disciples in Mission
Everyplace. Everywhen. Every Need.

Disciples Mission Week

Disciples Mission Week

Tuesday, September 8th
6:30pm
University Christian Church
or via Zoom

To register for online access, visit disciplesmissionhub.org.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES of CHRIST) in the
SOUTHWEST

Regional Minister Meeting

Saturday, September 12th
10am

Regional Minister Andy Mangum will give an in-person presentation of the proposed revision to the CCSW Design that will be brought for approval at the CCSW Assembly in Fort Worth in November. Join us for the 30 minute presentation followed by questions and then join us at Phobe's Diner for lunch afterwards.

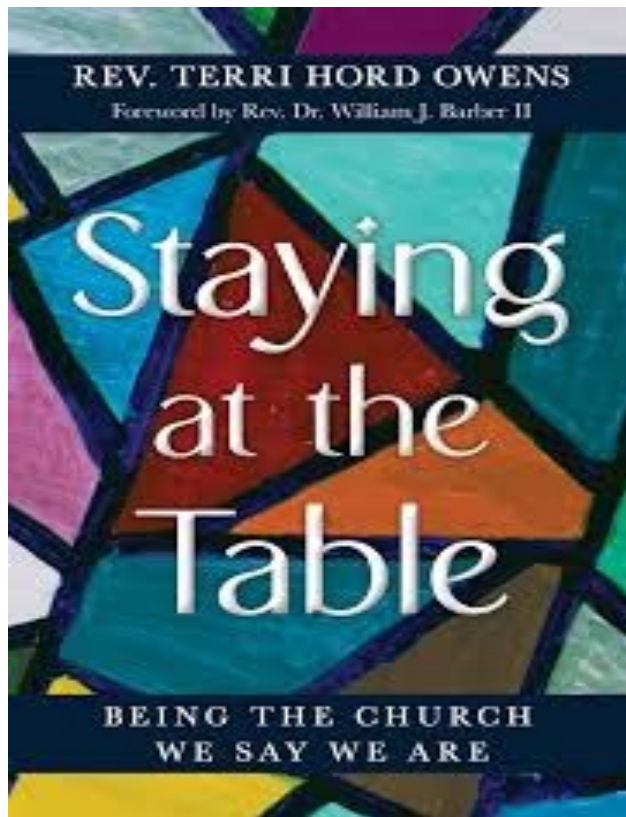


Outreach Opportunity

Sunday, September 13th

Join us in the community room for our bi-annual medicine bottle match up!

Hundreds of medicine bottles have been collected, sanitized and now we need your help to match the lids to the correct bottles!



Book Study

Our next book study will begin on
Wednesday, September 16th
at 7pm via Zoom.

See Pastor Layne or Pastor Heidi
for a copy of the Fall Study Book,
Staying at the Table by our
General Minister and President
Terri Hord Owens



Social & Fellowship

Sunday, September 20th
Lunch and Movie Day

Location: Barton Creek Square Mall
There's something for everyone
at the food court

Then we'll see *Not My Dog* at AMC
14. Price for movie ticket: \$12-15

Michyl-Shannon will iron out the
details for us, so STAY TUNED!

BLUEBONNET AND COASTAL PLAINS AREAS

DISCIPLES WOMEN MINISTRY RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 – SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
DISCIPLES OAKS CAMP & RETREAT: 673 PRIVATE RD. 3381,
GONZALES, TEXAS 78629

OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS FROM PHILIPPIANS 4:13



OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REV. HEIDI BOUNDS
MAKE PLANS NOW TO JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF WORSHIPFUL
RENEWAL, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER : www.ccsww.org/women



CCSW Men's Retreat 2026

Join us on September 18-20, 2026

Location: Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat, 9030 Retreat Rd, Brownwood, TX 76801

Theme: "How Does God Want Us to Grow?"

Keynoters:

Rev. Doug Roysden, Pastor - Wylie Christian Church, Abilene, Texas

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

Pre-Retreat Golf Tournament:

The Hideout Golf Club & Resort, Tee off at 11:30, Cost \$84.00 for seniors

Contact Bob Williams; Email: bwilliams024@att.net

Registration:

Early Bird Cost:

\$120 per person, full weekend (until Sept. 8, 2026)

\$95 per person, one night stay (until Sept. 8, 2026)

\$90 per person, off-site housing (until Sept. 8, 2026)

\$80 per person, Saturday only (until Sept. 8, 2026)

After Sept. 8, Cost:

\$130 per person, full weekend

\$105 per person, one night stay

\$100 per person, off-site housing

\$90 per person, Saturday only

Register at ccsw.org

CCSW Reading Group

Fall 2026 Reading Schedule

Join the CCSW Reading Group as we gather online for thoughtful conversation, theological reflection, and meaningful community. Together we'll read books that challenge, inspire, and deepen our understanding of faith, ministry, and the world around us.

Whether you're clergy or laity, a longtime participant or joining us for the first time, you're invited to be part of the conversation.

When: Thursdays (see schedule below)

Location: Online via Zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87843659605?pwd=nFSzQNfGJo0v3bMnjOg0rUIQ119MzH.1>

August: *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story* by Bono

August 27

Discussion of *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story*

September: *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong* by Karen González

September 3

Chapters 1–3

September 10

Chapters 4–6

September 17

Chapters 7–9

September 24

Chapters 10–11

October: *Thriving Church* by Erin Cash & Kory Wilcoxson

October 1

Are Rooted in Scripture

Know Their Mission & Vision

October 8

Understand Community & Rest

Reject a Fear Mentality

October 15

Are Collaborative

Are Generous

October 22

Are Flexible

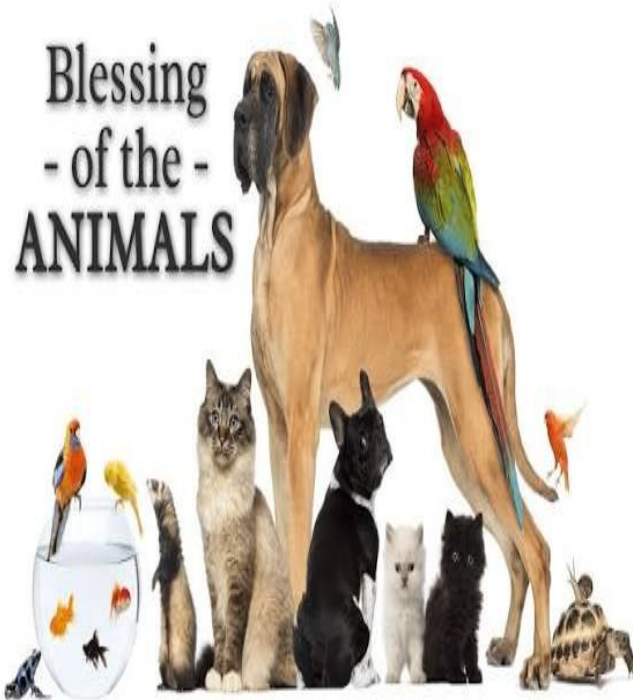
Are Willing to Take Risks

October 29

Are Forward Thinkers

Refuse to Be Stagnant

Pet Blessing



Save the Date

Sunday, October 4th

More details soon



Trunk or Treat

Save the Date

Sunday, October 25th

See Pastor Layne to
sign up to host a trunk
or volunteer!



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 September

Elders for September

September 6th

Larrie Gaylord—Communion
Linda Gaylord —Offering

September 13th

Nancy Goodman Gill—Communion
Brad Bounds —Offering

September 20th

Nancy Goodman Gill —Communion
Russell Ward — Offering

September 27th

David Fox —Communion
Russell Ward —Offering

Deacons for September

September 6th

David Ward and Preston James

September 13th

Barbara Sabo and Phil Conard

September 20th

Julie Fox and Will Monroy

September 27th

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 September!

September 10– Patrick Davis

September 24—Jan McLendon

September 16—Jim Whitten

September 26—Terrell Franklin

September 19—Dallas Heenan

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