

WELCOME TO CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

We exist here as a simple New Testament church, pointing people to the Christ and God of the Bible. The doors are open to those who from the quiet depths of their hearts, would reach out to God in simple worship and obedient living. It is not our aim to amuse or entertain those who attend. It is not our purpose to feed vanity or pride. It is our intent to worship the sovereign God in spirit and truth. If you enjoy meditating on God's Word and sincerely want to know more about it, appreciate honoring Him through spiritual worship, and want warm, genuine love and fellowship, you will be pleased with the services of the Central Church of Christ.



# Central Church of Christ

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*...Encourage one another daily... Hebrews 3:13*

**Sunday, December 18, 2022**

**Minister**

Kerry Clark

(903) 804-0559

**Sundays:** Bible Class **9:00 am**  
Worship **10:00 am**  
Worship **4:00 pm** (This month there will be no potluck. We will follow our regular schedule on the 25<sup>th</sup>).

**Wednesdays:**

Bible Class **6:00 pm**

**Special Studies:**

**Tuesdays:**

Men's Bible Study **4:00 pm**

**Thursdays:**

Ladies Bible Study **10:00 am**

**Men to Serve:**

**Sunday, December 18, 2022**

**Morning Worship**

Welcome/Announcements: Larry Merrifield  
Scripture: TBA  
Song Leader: Britt Price  
Opening Prayer: Allen Bengé  
Communion: Bob Hadley, Michael Berry, Bob Vie

Sermon: **Cole Sumrall will be preaching**  
Closing Prayer: Carroll Dyson

**Afternoon Worship 4:00 pm**

Welcome/Announcements: Larry Merrifield  
Scripture: **1 John 1:1-4**  
Song Leader: Britt Price  
Opening Prayer: Rodney Holton  
Sermon: **THE WORD OF LIFE**  
Communion: Michael Berry  
Closing Prayer: John Goodroe

**Wednesday (6:00pm)**

Song Leader: Britt Price  
Opening Prayer: TBA  
Closing Prayer: Larry Merrifield

## MARRIAGE

Jesus taught, “**But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder**” (Mark 10:6-9).

On December 13, 2022, President Biden signed what is called the “Respect for Marriage Act.” While claiming to respect and protect marriage, this act actually makes a mockery of what Jesus said about marriage. The act repealed a former act called the “Defense of Marriage Act” signed into law by President Bill Clinton. This act, although challenged repeatedly, withstood most, if not all, of the lawsuits filed against. The “Defense of Marriage Act” banned federal recognition of same-sex marriage by limiting the definition of marriage to the union of one man and one woman, and it further allowed states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages granted under the laws of other states.

We know however that times have changed. Even those who once supported the “Defense of Marriage Act” changed their minds. It seems to me that many did so for political purposes.

The Bible has not changed. Jesus taught that marriage is between a man (biologically a male) and a woman (biologically a female) for life. That has been God’s design since the creation. This article and a few subsequent articles will explore the Bible’s teaching on marriage.

### Key Principles and Scriptures

- God’s Law for Marriage (Genesis 2:15-25),
- Marriage is Permanent (Romans 7:1-3),
- God Hates Divorce (Malachi 2:16),
- Fornication is the Only Reason for Divorce (Matthew 19:9),
- The High Cost of Divorce (1 Timothy 5:8),
- Protecting Your Marriage (Hebrew 13:4).

***God’s Law for Marriage.*** In the beginning, God created one male and one female. Their names were Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:15-25). God’s plan was for one man to marry one woman and they would be married to each other for their entire lives. **Death was to be the only occurrence that would sever this permanent bond (Rom. 7:1-3).**

To be continued, Kerry Clark

**Attendance: 12-11-22**

**AM: 55 PM: 37 Wednesday: 25**

**Contribution: \$1,965**

**Weekly Budget: \$2,455**

**Don Bentley** had successful surgery. He is still in hospital.

**Britt Price** had surgery Wednesday. He is home and doing as well as can be expected.

**Denise Fuentes**, the step-mother of Cathy Garrett’s friend is in the final stages of COPD. They have asked for prayers.

**Janet Skipworth**, Judy Vie’s sister, took the first chemo treatment and has decided not to continue with chemo. Judy and Bob will be staying with her through Christmas. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Continue Praying for The Following:

Anna Thiede; Don Bentley; Britt Price; Cathy Garrett; Lisa & Lloyd Flud; Nelda Danforth; Doyle & Laura Avant; Cheryl Jennings; Pat & Brenda Tolbert; Sandra Tankersley; Martha Sullivan; Tavenner Family; Janet Skipworth; Gail Kirchling; Dude Hemphill

**Service Members:** Reece Hudson; Kris Fleming; Casey Clark; Trevor Garcia; Ryan Dallas; Adam Dallas; Alexandria Dallas; Colby Kelley; Gabe Baker

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**TODAY – Review of Men’s Business Meeting – 5 pm**

12/18 – Review of Men’s Business Meeting – 5 pm

**NO POTLUCK LUNCHEON THIS MONTH!**

12/21 – New Year’s Eve Party – 6 p.m. at the building

Services are now available online: Please take advantage of our online services. <https://www.youtube.com>  
(Search for Central church of Christ Athens, TX).

**Visitors Welcomed, Members Expected,  
Everyone Loved!**

