

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, July 17, 2022**

**Minister**

Kerry Clark

(903) 804-0559

**Sundays:** Bible Class **9:00 am**  
Worship **10:00 am**  
Worship **4:00 pm** (On the last Sunday of each month, we have potluck followed by a 12:30 afternoon worship and no evening services).

**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, July 17, 2022**

**Morning Worship**

Welcome/Announcements: Larry Merrifield  
Scripture: **Esther 4:12-17**  
Song Leader: Britt Price  
Opening Prayer: Carroll Dyson  
Communion:

Allen Benge, Bob Hadley, Jerry Kidd

Sermon: **QUEEN ESTHER**  
Closing Prayer: Bob Hadley

**Afternoon Worship 4:00 pm**

Welcome/Announcements: Larry Merrifield  
Scripture: **Titus 2:11-15**  
Song Leader: Allen Benge  
Opening Prayer: Bob Vie  
Sermon: **GOD'S AMAZING GRACE**  
Communion: Bob Hadley  
Closing Prayer: Britt Price

**Wednesday (6:00pm)**

Song Leader: Alan Hill  
Opening Prayer: Kerry Clark  
Closing Prayer: David Adkins

**QUEEN ESTHER: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!**  
**(Esther 4:12-17)**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Read: Esther 4:12-17
2. The book of Esther is set in the Persian Empire and occurs between the years of 483-473 B.C, roughly 80+ years after the beginning of the Babylonian captivity.
3. The Jewish people in the book are those who remained behind in the Persian Empire while Nehemiah returned.
4. The main characters of the book are Esther and her cousin, Mordecai, the King of Persia, Ahasuerus (Xerxes), and Haman.
5. The purpose of the book of Esther is to explain the background and purpose to the feast of Purim (8:26-28).
6. There is no mention of God in the book; God worked “behind the scenes” to accomplish His will.

**DISCUSSION:**

**1. VASHTI REFUSES THE KING’S COMMAND.**

1. Ahasuerus, also known as Artaxerxes, commanded his wife to appear before a crowd of drunken men (1:10).
2. She refused and was removed from being queen (1:11-12).

**2. ESTHER IS CHOSEN TO BE THE NEW QUEEN.**

1. Hadassah, which means myrtle tree, is chosen. She is given a different name reflecting the pagan influence of Persia which is Esther (star), a shortened form of Ishtar, a pagan goddess.
2. She was chosen for her beauty (2:7).
3. Her cousin, who apparently adopted her Mordecai, checked on her daily (2:11). He overhears a plot to assassinate Xerxes, and made the plot known through Esther (2:21-23).

**3. HAMAN’S HATRED.**

1. We don’t know the reason for Haman’s hatred.
2. It is possible there was still animosity between the Jews and the remaining Amalekites (1 Samuel 15).

**4. SALVATION OF THE JEWS THROUGH ESTHER.**

1. God used Mordecai and Esther to bring salvation.
2. The courage of Esther (4:13-14).
3. God’s enemies were destroyed (8:17-10:3).

**Attendance: 7-10-22**

**AM: 56 PM: 35 Wednesday: 41**

**Contribution: \$3,295**

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

**Elouise Moore** asked for prayers. She went to the doctor Friday.

**Cathy Garrett** continues improving at home.

**Continue Praying for The Following:**

Anna Thiede; June Cobb; Lisa & Lloyd Flud; Doyle & Laura Avant; Debra Benge; David Cox; Cheryl Jennings; Don Gilmore; Brenda Tolbert; Nancy Townsend; David Tyree; Mary Lou Betts; Diane Harris; Bob Nowlin; Luke Ayars; Sandra Tankersley; Raymond Jones; Martha Sullivan; Wade Hampton; Dana & Paula Bell; Michelle Wright; Joe and Rebecca Glen; Ginger Tavenner and family; Marsha Stephens; Nicole Kirkpatrick

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

7/20 – Summer Series Continues with Ken Hope – The Church

7/27 – Russ Tracy – Eternity

7/31 – Potluck Luncheon

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!**



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