



# CIRCUIT RIDER

VOLUME 54/ ISSUE 6  
JUNE 2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THE GRADUATING CLASS  
OF 2023!

## SERMON SERIES: NEW HOPE CAMP MEETING

EVANGELISM MADE  
EASY

KIDSMIN PARTY  
AT THE PARK

WELCOME TO OUR NEW  
MEMBERS!

CENTRALROGERS.COM





**Rev. Rob Holifield**

Senior Pastor

I will never forget loading into a van and heading to my first church camp at Wayland Springs in Imboden, Arkansas. You have probably heard of Imboden because either you have spent some time in Northeast Arkansas, or you have heard Pastor Matthew talk about it. He grew up in Imboden. For me, Imboden will always be where I went to church camp as a kid. I can remember getting out of the van and seeing kids carrying pillows and sleeping bags. I will also think of the cabin that was basically a screened-in porch with several rows of bunk beds and we all wanted to be on top.

I was in a cabin with boys from my church and kids from Paragould. We hit it off immediately. Mainly because there was a kid named Omer who had been to a camp before, and he knew what to do. Our cabin kept people on edge with the pranks, tricks, and overall fun we provided. I still see a couple of the boys from that 5th grade camp week, and we re-tell some of the infamous stories about turning off the lights for the whole camp, swimming in the coldest pool known to humankind, and having holy moments around a campfire in the evening.

My first Wayland Springs camp was not just about our mischievous antics. It was also a time of seeing Jesus in a different setting. We had left our normal and we were better able to hear about what it meant to follow Jesus. That week was a holy week of getting closer to God. Plus, we made friendships with other United Methodist church kids that have lasted for years.

In the month of June, the pastors are going to be preaching a fun series called New Hope Camp Meeting. During this series, we are going to remember those holy moments of church camp, old-time revivals, and old Methodist Camp Meetings. Have you heard of a Camp Meeting? Camp Meetings were used to spread the message of Jesus across the frontier. Their biggest days were in the early 1800s. The year 1811 was one of the biggest years. During that year it is estimated that possibly 33 percent of Americans attended a Camp Meeting at least once.

Many different Christian groups used the camp meeting as a way to hold revival meetings but it was the Methodist circuit riders who were best known for the camp meeting. People would gather in an outside area usually under and around a large tent. The Methodist circuit riders and other evangelists would take turns preaching the gospel message. Christianity Today reports that it was the camp meeting that was one of the tools that began the 1st Great Awakening in America. During the Great Awakening, thousands of people became Christians or renewed their faith. The entire culture was changed to reflect Christian values during the movement of God.

During this series, we will remember the old Camp Meeting and Church Camp experiences that energized people's faith in God. We will sing old songs and preach sermon themes that we found in documents from a camp meeting in Georgia. Let's pray for God to energize our faith, and our church, as He did during the camp meeting days. When, Francis Asbury, the first Methodist Bishop in America, was used by God to grow the Methodist church from 600 to over 200,000. It is my hope to experience a fresh movement of God in our midst as we remember that what He has done in the past He can do again!

Rob Holifield  
Senior Pastor

# New Members



Ritchie Hunt joined from another denomination at the 10:20 service on May 7th. Ritchie is retired from Dillard's, where she was a Management Information Officer for the Arkansas Division Buying office. Ritchie is already leading worship as a part of the Chancel choir. She lives in Rogers.



Nick and Tiffany Quast joined from St. Andrews United Methodist church in Dallas TX. Nick is in sales for Pecan Nation and Tiffany is in the Marketing Division at Walmart. Their daughter, Sadie, will be joining as a preparatory member. The Quast family live in Rogers.



Beverly Horner joined from St. John's Episcopal Church in Helena AR. Beverly is a retired nurse who practiced clinically and, in the classroom, teaching and training nursing students. Beverly will be a familiar face to many and has been involved in several activities at Central. She lives in Rogers.



Pat and Ann Morrissey joined Central from FUMC in Bentonville. Pat is retired from a career in various retailers including Walmart and Ann is a retired teacher. Pat and Ann have two adult daughters and four grandchildren. The Morrisseys live in Bentonville.



Trent and Mikayla Garver joined on March 14th during the Traditional service. Trent is joining by transfer of membership from Trinity UMC in Albia, IA and Mikayla is joining from Trinity Lutheran in Shenandoah, IA. Trent is a Logistics Engineer with JB Hunt and Mikayla is an Interior Designer with BUF Studio. The Garvers were recently married and live in Rogers.



Sallie Warnecke has (re) joined Central by transfer of membership from Christ UMC in Salt Lake City, Utah. Sallie is the daughter of Bonnie Grimes and grew up in Rogers as part of the Central family. Sallie joins us through livestream worship each Sunday morning. She is employed with the Salt Lake City School District as a District Supervisor of Digital Learning.



## *Announcement & Invitation*

**George Rhoads and Pamela Cicioni announce they married on May 16, 2023. They warmly invite you to a drop-in celebration of their marriage on Sunday, June 4th, from 2:00 pm to 4:00pm in the Atrium.**

**Your presence is your present. Please no gifts.**





Heavenly Father, I pray that out of Your glorious riches You may strengthen our graduating seniors with power through Your Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. And I pray that they, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the church, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that they may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. AND MAY IT BE SO OF US AS WELL! Now to You who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to Your power that is at work within us, to You be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Amen

#### COLLEGE CONNECTION & IN-BETWEEN'ERS

If you or your student has recently graduated from college, Central's COLLEGE CONNECTION would LOVE to send him/her a GRADUATION CELEBRATION BOX! Please email [lswanson@centralrogers.com](mailto:lswanson@centralrogers.com) for more info! ALSO, if you have graduated high school and are under 30, and are in NWA this summer, text Lucy (816.728.1416) - JD and Lucy have a few things up their sleeves for you! PARENTS, don't hesitate to reach out as well and let us know!

# Gravity

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

#### GRADUATING SENIORS:

As we enter June, school is finished and our amazing seniors have graduated from high school. A HUGE THANK YOU to the congregation for not only loving our graduating high school seniors, but celebrating them as well! I have to ask, have you been praying for them? Have you been praying Ephesians 3:14-21 over them? Have any of you felt the nudge to be a prayer partner for one of our graduating seniors? If so, please email me (Lucy) at [lswanson@centralrogers.com](mailto:lswanson@centralrogers.com) or call the church (479.636.1630 x631).



CONGRATULATIONS to our Carol A. Mounts Scholarship recipients – Maddie Bashara, Tag McClure, Schuyler Hardin, and Hudson Sell.

Gravity took a break in May as students wrapped up their school year, but we will be back at it in June! We kick off our summer with students being Crew Leaders at Vacation Bible School; and they will feel right at home, it's space-themed! It will be a STELLAR time June 12-16, 9a-12noon. Great opportunity to get service hours as well as love on some kids! Interested as students wrapped up their school year, but we will be back at it in June! We will kick off our summer with students being Crew Leaders at Vacation Bible School; and they will feel right at home, it's space-themed! It will be a STELLAR time June 12-16, 9a-12noon. Great opportunity to get service hours as well as love on some kids! Interested in signing up, visit [centralrogers.com/kids](http://centralrogers.com/kids) to register as a Crew Leader for VBS!

At the end of the month, June 25-30, our students and leaders will be heading to West Memphis for our summer mission week with Ozark Mission Project! It's going to be a great week loving on and serving our neighbors in West Memphis. Don't forget to keep our students and leaders in your prayers that week! For more info, visit [centralrogers.com/youth](http://centralrogers.com/youth). In the coming weeks, be on the lookout for ALL Gravity's SUMMER HAPPENINGS in JULY!



@GravityYouthMinistries



How do you prevent a sin burn?

With Son screen!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Get ready for blastoff, because Stellar is just around the corner. The week of June 12-16 we will have kids, youth and adults in our building from 9am to 12pm embarking on an epic journey learning about shining the light of Jesus. Please join us in prayer that seeds will be planted in young hearts and that all will feel safe, loved and seen. Listed are our Bible points for each day, the ONE thing we hope the kids take away from the morning. Add these to your prayers each day!

### VBS BIBLE POINTS

- M – When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light!
- T – When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light!
- W - When good things happen, shine Jesus' light!
- T - When people are sad, shine Jesus' light!
- F - When people need help , shine Jesus' light!



### PARTY IN THE PARK

Congratulations to all of our kiddos who wrapped up another school year and also to all of our school staff for another year of shepherding the next generation. We are going to kick off summer vacation with a party at the park! This will be a very informal meet up with no agenda or schedule, just a time to hang out and PLAY. We would love to see you for any or all of it 😊

## SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 AM

MAKE IT OR BREAK IT: A 4-WEEK SERIES FROM GENESIS ON CREATION & EARLY HUMANITY

Whether it's with LEGO bricks, Minecraft, or Roblox, kids (and adults!) love to make things — and sometimes break them. In this four-week series from the very beginning of the Bible, we'll compare God's ability to make good things with our tendency to break them. Through the stories of creation, the fall, Cain and Abel, and the Tower of Babel, we'll see that God makes good things, unbreaks what's been broken, and made us different on purpose, so we should honor God with the things we make.





## Evangelism.

Did you make a face reading that word or think "no, not for me..."? What if we told you - it IS for you? Would you believe us? The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 states, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Christ gives a command to evangelize and to go forth and teach the world. This command is not strictly for the disciples that physically heard it, and it is not only for our pastors and deacons. This command applies to all those who make the claim to follow Christ. We ALL have a new responsibility.

When we become members of the church we profess and vow to uphold the United Methodist Church by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We believe in these vows so much, that we made those areas into Connection Points: Worship Fully, Grow Deeply, Give Freely, Love Unconditionally, and Share Passionately. They are 5 key behaviors that help us engage and accomplish our mission to "Connect People to Christ".



What may be interesting to know is that there are people in this church who live into these behaviors and want to help encourage others to live into them as well. These people are invited and brought together in committees that represent each connection point. The Share Passionately group (also known as the Evangelism Committee or the Invitation Committee) is a diverse group of people who meet monthly to plan, discuss, and help Central United Methodist Church find ways to bring the living word to people wherever they are. Evangelism doesn't have to be as scary as it sounds. In 2023 we have created TWO ways in which you can start Evangelizing right now.

1

**THE INVITATIONAL APPROACH:** The "You Matter to God" Lawn Signs. These were created with a purpose to help people discover that they do matter to God AND to help promote our worship service times. They are on sale in the church office for \$25 each. All you have to do is put this in your front lawn - and that's it! YOU DID IT!

2

**THE RELATIONAL APPROACH:** Last month the Committee left the building and hit the streets for the "Art on the Bricks" event in Downtown Rogers. We wore our "You Matter to God" shirts and simply walked around. We visited with local vendors, shops and performers. Everywhere we went we were stopped and asked about our shirts. People wanted to know - who were we, what that phrase meant, and how could they get a shirt! We had so much fun we are going back June 8th and want to extend the invitation to you!

This type of Evangelism takes time and commitment, and it is based on building relationships with our community. We invite you to come along side us on June 8th - be present with us as we invite the Holy Spirit to move within us. We will also join for dinner together. For more information please seek out an Evangelism Committee member or call the church office.



## 2023 Evangelism Committee Members

**Molly Pickering (Chair)**

**Amy Penny (Staff Liaison)**

**Susan Harp**

**Cathy McHaney**

**Karen Hembree**

**Darren Hillis**

**JR Shaw**

**Nick Flint**

**Linda Mayhew**

**Bob Mayhew**

**Ama Engmann**

**Lana Dinan**



# FRAILITY. VULNERABILITY. LIMITATION. DISABILITY. MORTALITY.

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ALYSE FULTON

Frailty. Vulnerability. Limitation. Disability. Mortality.

Next big trend in business management principles? Trending on TikTok, right? Um, no. And I don't know that I am likely to ignite the next social phenomena with that opener, either. Those are words that hurt. Just reading them can accelerate our heartbeats, shallow our breathing, even make us want to stop the article and skip to the next page. If you suddenly pay attention to your own body, did they for you?

These are words that we fear and avoid. For a fraction of a moment, they stop us in our tracks, knot our stomachs, and drop us from presumably competent, capable people into something simultaneously more honest and more afraid. They are too hard to ever be trend-setting words, not as long as there is any way humanly possible to avoid them.

But it's hard to avoid the fact that they can't be indefinitely avoided. I'm sorry to be the one to announce this to you, if you haven't gotten the memo yet, but you are incredibly vulnerable. You are made of the same stuff as everyone else—including those who are sick, who are disabled, who are depressed, whose age is limiting them—those whose frailties you see, and those you cannot.

Whether you know full well the ways that your body and heart can betray you, or whether you can only imagine (and probably don't want to) what other people may experience, this is the fact. As advocates will often say, "Disability is a human condition." You have been a small, incapable child; you are right now getting older; and you can't control what happens in the meantime.

But wait! Please don't stop reading yet!

Because this is often right where we check out. It hurts too much to dwell here any longer, and maybe we already know these truths far too well; whether we dull or distract or destroy, we do our very best to get out of this realization because of how badly it hurts. But this is actually the wrong time to leave the conversation. We already have all of the bad news—shouldn't we stay to see if there is any hope in this?

We just had Easter. We celebrate it every year. Sometimes it's easy for the resurrection of Jesus to be a calendar commitment, a season, a celebration. It's easy for me to forget, though, that before it is any of those things, the resurrection of the Son of God is, first and foremost, an insurrection. As Jesus rises from the dead, the words and realities that have bound us, that are far too big for us—big enough to tie us to a wheelchair, to keep us in a hospital bed, to leave us weak and stumbling, to make the surgery necessary, to take away the ones we love—the things that are, in our world, absolutely the most insurmountable—they are declared conquered. Suddenly we are proclaiming that there is a deeper, truer truth than even the things which without qualification conquer us: sickness, weakness, death. It's easy, in the thick of suffering, to answer honestly: "That's... interesting. Beautifully poetic." It's easy to bitterly add, aloud or in silence: "I hope it actually helps someday." and it is only honest to note that I can say all I want about how the darkness is conquered, but it is still here for now: people are still hurting and dying. There is a real and important "not yet fully" about Jesus' victory. But the fact that the fullness of freedom is still coming does not negate the fact that the war is won.

Believing generally in God, believing that Jesus rose from the dead, agreeing that the Bible is true or has truths or can be a great source of meaning for someone's personal life—those things are nice. They are how I feel about truly good poetry—it's moving, enlightening, even perspective-changing. And this experience of my faith will give inspiration and teach me to be a better person, and it can swell within me in emotional moments at church or at a baptism or funeral, or in a time of meaningful prayer.

But when I live my life with God as my highest poetry and inspiration, I still wind up feeling stuck and tired. Churning out my own good actions and motivation. Cranking through challenge after challenge after challenge. Rising to face yet another thing on my own, for my own, taking care of people and things that may or may not ever thank me back. (No matter how great your people are, this is still usually true. The cat will not thank you for the clean litter box. The car is not grateful for the gasoline. And though responsibility has its inherent delights, neither the cat nor the car will ever return the favor.)

If a physicist could develop a perpetual motion machine, one that could use its own action so efficiently that it fed its own motor and had some left over to give to the world, then our world would be transformed overnight—fossil fuels would be a thing of the past! The environment would be transformed! But that machine does not and will not exist—it violates the laws of thermodynamics. The closest thing to attempt it is the human will. People will keep going and giving through more than we can imagine, and will often do it with a smile glued to the face. "Just keep going!" We say. "God won't give you more than you can handle!" we grit. (P.S. This is not only not in the Bible, it is not biblical. Please, please don't say this. Please. Ever.)

Is this what our faith is supposed to be? A better, more efficient whip for morality and productivity? What if it isn't? What if the story of the Bible is actually true? If Scripture isn't something we pick encouragement or duties from but something which can pick up, examine, and rearrange us? What if God is actually bigger than we imagine and more real than we are? And what if God Almighty, all holy, all righteous, actually looks at us in our pitiful state and loves us, not because we are loveable enough to deserve His second look, but instead because He is altogether different than we are—because He is Love? If so, then we really are far worse off than we imagine, full of evil and failure, born into unavoidable pain, decay, and death; if so, the God that really is perfect and really did create the world in perfection and freedom is not just like a really big version of us. What if God is a perfect community, a holy Trinity?

What if that complete, perfect, altogether God offers forgiveness, restoration, healing, completion, and peace—what if God is so different than us that He would willingly die for us? If so, there is not a point where we are too far gone—because, if so, His forgiveness isn't defined by what we do but by Who He is.

What if He did not leave us alone like orphans? Instead, if so, it means He offered us His gift of forgiveness and the opportunity to give our topsy-turvy failures of lives to Him. If so, we can be radically reoriented under His altogether different Kingship, no longer leaving us as usurpers of the thrones of our own lives—instead, what if instead of casting us out as traitors, He died for our rebellion and joyously invites us to accept His welcome and His Kingship, to be adopted into His own royal family and installed freely, irrevocably, unconditionally as beloved children, firstborn heirs?

What if we have the opportunity to actually know God and be part of His Kingdom of rescued people? If so, we can live these days, these actual days, with the power of God at work in our hearts, our minds, our lives. What if our lives are not just making it through—instead, what if, right now, God is lovingly making us? What if all the things we see and experience here matter with the weight of eternity, because in them we can get a foretaste of God's new and whole Kingdom?

That would make everything different.

# Lean In.

## JUNE

4th	Rhoads Wedding Reception	2:00p - 4:00p, Atrium
7th	Sacred Thread Quilt Mission	9:00a, Rm 223-225
7th	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p - 4:00p, Rm 206
12th - 17th	Vacation Bible School	9:00a - 12:00p
14th	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p - 4:00p, Rm 206
18th	Fathers Day	
21st - 24th	Arkansas Annual Conference	
21st	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p - 4:00p, Rm 206
25th - 30th	Ozark Misson Project (Away)	
25th	Church Camp Fun Day	TBA
25th	Church Wide Prayer	5:00p, Chapel
26th	Church Council Meeting	6:00p
28th	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p - 4:00p, Rm 206



Connecting People to Christ