



CIRCUIT RIDER

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ETERNAL WEIGHT OF
GLORY BY ALYSE FULTON

GRAVITY VALENTINE'S DINNER FUNDRAISER

MEET THE NEW
NURSERY DIRECTOR:
MISTY SMITH

WED. NITE LIVE :
FEBRUARY THEMES AND
DINNER MENU

YOU ARE SOMEBODY'S
SOMEBODY BY CAROLE
BAKER



Rev. Rob Holifield
Senior Pastor

A Super Celebration

This past Church Council meeting I was excited to hear our Finance chair, Julie Barber, announce that our capital debt has gone under a million dollars. You, Central Rogers church family, have been faithfully giving since the initial campaign where people sacrificially gave to move us to this location. We thank and remember the visionaries who saw what God could do if we asked the question "What If". Subsequent campaigns have added a sanctuary, youth room, children's space, Childcare area and additional areas to do ministry.

We have reached the goal of the final campaign that was entitled "What If." You asked yourself the question what if the debt could be so small that you could roll it into the budget? What if it was so small more of our resources could be invested in children, youth, discipleship of adults, music ministry, technology to expand our worship, and helping the needs of our surrounding community.

Well, we are about to start seeing many of those "what if"s come true.

Join me on February 12th, Super Bowl Sunday, for a Super Celebration that we have dropped a digit. Or you will see it around church as #droppedadigit! We will have a breakfast in the atrium from 9:15am to 10:30am. This is the way the people called Methodists celebrate – we eat! We will eat and celebrate this blessing and all that God is doing among us. We will have cards available at the celebration if you would like to help us drop another digit soon!

All praise and glory to God for the way He is blessing us. Let's keep praying and seeking Him to move in our midst and let all of NWA know People Matter to God!

Never forget, not even for a second, that You Matter to God!

-Rob



YOU ARE SOMEBODY'S SOMEBODY


By: Carole Baker, Director of Connections

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! (Romans 10:14-15)

Have you ever felt like something needed to be done at the church and "no one was doing it"? You saw a new face walking in the door, but "no one was there". You noticed an area of the building was needing a little clean-up and "no one was doing it". You noticed a person sitting in worship or at an event and "no one was going over to sit by them".

Central has always been a church that counted on everyone being in ministry together. As members of this community of believers, we are gifted with various gifts to do God's ministry in the world. Not everyone has the same gifts, and talents, and interests. That is a very good thing, because (as the Apostle Paul relates) our spiritual gifts are like parts of the human body. Without all the parts, the body does not function well. And without the ministry of all of us, the church fails to function well.

The next time you think "someone should be doing something", remember you may be at the very place and time to be SOMEBODY'S SOMEBODY. If you would like to learn more about the ways you can join in the amazing ministries of Central and didn't have a chance to attend the Connection Fair last fall, you can still be a vital and needed part of the ministry and mission of Central. Go to <https://centralrogers.com/2023myministry> to learn more.



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER YOU HAVE
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.

Gravity

YOUTH MINISTRIES

We kicked off 2023 with a BANG; jumped right back into our AWESOME Gravity Sunday nights! At the beginning of January, thanks to the Methodist Foundation, JD, two leaders and myself, went to Perkins School of Youth Ministry in Dallas. We gained lots of awesome insight and are excited to begin to implement a few things to improve our ministry to youth and families.

In February, we will be kicking off our 2023 Confirmation Class. We are excited to kick it off with a fun retreat and cannot wait for the year ahead for our Confirmands and mentors. Also this month, Rev. Dawn Spragg will be leading a Gravity Parent Class on Sunday evenings. We will be sending out all the specifics related to that class in the coming week. We will also, once again, be having our Gravity Valentine's Dinner, with all proceeds benefitting our Spring Break Mission Trip to Guatemala. The meal will be pick-up only, with DELICIOUS food and FUN Valentine's activities to enjoy while eating the meal! We are so thankful for your continual support of our youth, and especially as we love our neighbors in Guatemala!

We will kick off Pray.Gravity in March, and look forward to inviting the WHOLE congregation to a Pray.Gravity Kickoff on Sunday, February 26 at 5:30p up in the Youth Room. More details to come, but join us for a meal, pick up your prayer bracelet and booklet prior to March 1!

GRAVITY VALENTINE'S DINNER

SATURDAY, FEB. 11

1/\$25 OR 2/\$40

Support our Youth Mission Trip to Guatemala by purchasing a Valentine's Meal. Enjoy the 3-course meal, along with appetizers & some fun Valentine goodies!

Pray.Gravity

"WHEN YOU CALL ON ME, WHEN YOU COME AND PRAY TO ME, I'LL LISTEN."
JEREMIAH 29:12

Join us in March for a 31-day prayer movement, where we, the community of Central, are committed to intentionally pray for Gravity students throughout the entire month!



@GravityYouthMinistries

When was the first tennis match in the Bible?
When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.



KIDS

WED. NITE LIVE

Young Disciples is off to a great start! We are already having a blast. Each week we join together in our life groups to learn a new Disciple's Trait through storytelling, games, and crafts. You don't want to miss the fun! PreK-K is downstairs with Mrs. Misty in room 120 and 1st-5th is upstairs with Ms. Mollie in room 211 (meet in the Atrium at 5:55). See you there!

Save the Dates:

EGG HUNT: *update* this year's Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 8. More details coming soon!

VBS: Stellar! June 12-16, 9am -12pm. Registration will go live soon, so stay tuned! There will be many ways to support this exciting event.

PENNIES FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

We are once again teaming up with FUMC Rogers to raise money for Grace Food Pantry. Join us in our effort by donating your change in our annual Pennies for the Pantry event. Each church will try to raise as much as they can and host a big celebration at the close of our event. Our donation jugs will be located in the atrium for month of February. Help us reach our goal!



THE NEW NURSERY DIRECTOR

Central Rogers KidsMin is thrilled to announce that we have hired a Nursery Director. Misty Smith has been here at Central for the past six years and is engaged with KidsMin in several different ways. She is a faithful volunteer in our preschool Sunday school class and has rocked Imagination Station at VBS the past few summers. She is married to Tim, and together they have Maddie (14) and Nathan (11) who serves as an acolyte in the 10:20 traditional service. Misty also volunteers on the PTO boards for both of her kids' schools! Please join us in welcoming her in this new role.



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

HOW TO...: A 4-WEEK SERIES FROM MATTHEW ON JESUS' TEACHINGS The internet helps us learn how to do so many things! From new skate tricks and viral recipes to helpful hacks, there's a "how-to" for almost everything. But is there a tutorial video for how to follow God? This four-week series is kind of like that — thanks to some tutorials from Jesus! Each week, we'll focus on one of Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount as we learn "how to" make a difference, love our enemies, share with others, and pray.

Dinner 5:00p Classes & Groups 6:00p

WED. NITE LIVE

THEME & MENU

February 1

Groundhog's Day

Wear what you wore yesterday!

- Beef burritos, chili beans, buttered carrots, salad



February 8

Game Night

Wear your favorite TEAM jersey.

- Pizza, salad



February 15

Valentine's Day

Wear your valentines day color- Pink, or Red, Purple.

- Lasagna, salad, bread sticks



February 22

Ash Wednesday

Come join us as we begin LENT 2023!

- Pancakes and other breakfast favorites.



CLASSES & GROUPS

Disciple 1 Bible Study: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study
Facilitator: Randy Godsey

CLASS IS FULL

Gospel of Luke
Facilitator: Rev. Rob Holifield

The Chosen - Movie Series
Facilitator: Amy Penny

The Practice of Prayer
Facilitator: Rev. Matthew Johnson

Epic of Eden: Understanding the Old Testament
Facilitator: Carole Baker

I'm Fine.
Facilitator: Alyse Fulton

Chancel Choir
Director: John W. Beall

Gravity Midweek (6th-8th) & The Chosen (9th-12th)
With Lucy Swanson and JD Halstead

Young Disciples (Preschool - Elementary)
With Mollie Armour

Nursery (6 weeks - 2 years)

AM I TOO LATE?

Heavens, no! We encourage everyone to join us on Wednesday Nights no matter when they can come! We have places for the kiddos, teens and plenty of groups for Adults where you can jump in at any time during the semester!

WHAT IS WNL?

Wednesday Night Live (WNL) is a mid-week breath of fresh air, its a moment to breathe deep the breath of God. It is our desire that the offerings on Wednesday night will give you a chance to focus on Jesus and put whatever is going on in your life in His hands. We offer a meal to allow you to form community with Christian friends. We offer classes, space for small groups to meet, as well as, Teen and Kid programming.



WED.
NITE
LIVE

WRITER: ALYSE FULTON

ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY

"...struck down but not destroyed."

I have been reflecting a lot on 2 Corinthians 4 lately.

I always love Paul's two letters to the Corinthians.

If you thought church was the place to be (or pretend to be) perfect, the Christians of the ancient city of Corinth cordially invite you to reconsider—the apostle Paul has to address their idolatry, their sexual sins, their favoritism for the wealthy, their attempts to divide the church by choosing favorite teachers, their arrogance, their abuse of Communion, and their self-righteousness, among other issues. With the Corinthians, Paul really has to put the hay down where the goats can get to it. Which is good. Because sometimes we are all pretty goat-y in a very much not "Greatest Of All Time" sort of way.

After Paul communicates his displeasure very, very clearly in 1 Corinthians, he uses 2 Corinthians to comfort the church in Corinth and to help them refocus their eyes on Jesus instead of the many things that had dragged them from their faith before.

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul is reminding them of what a genuine life of faith looks like, and he writes these words: "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."

That famous "coffee cup" verse, as Pastor Matthew puts it, goes on to describe what that looks like: afflicted but not crushed; perplexed but not despairing; "struck down but not destroyed."

Paul says that living in Jesus means that he simultaneously carries around Jesus's death and Jesus's resurrection within his own body. He says that the suffering, death, and life of Jesus that he carries around within himself spills out to create life and hope in others.

He explains that knowing this gives him the courage to speak about God, because he knows that no matter what happens to him, Jesus will be faithful and will bring him into completion and new life through Jesus's own resurrection.

This wasn't theoretical for Paul, because he really was being crushed, beaten, and imprisoned. Though there is no clear biblical account, he is widely believed to have been martyred for the faith under Rome.

Given his immense suffering, then, we know that he has every right to speak honestly about suffering. And this is what he says: "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory... for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Cor 4:16).



There are plenty of people who know plenty about suffering right now. School, financial, and job stresses, post-COVID anxiety and depression, health problems, family conflict and difficulties, isolation, and geopolitical and environmental issues are all coming to bear on all of us. We are all struggling. And there are lots of ways to cope with that—prayer, counseling, developing emotional health, good community, good routines, and hydration, level blood sugar, and a solid night of sleep. And we need to pursue all of those things at turns! But we can't miss the fact that these aren't detours from our life of faith with God. They are our life of faith with God.

Whether we are living our best life or hanging on for dear life, we are called to the deeper reality—this is not our truest life. When we live as Jesus' own, we carry around His death and His life within us. And that life is going to come to fruition in ways this life can't. This seed that falls to the ground and dies will bear fruit so real, so dense, so heavy and dripping with tangible life that it is more than we could imagine now. What we suffer in Jesus prepares us for the "eternal weight of glory."

Lean In.

February

1st	Sacred Thread Quilting Mission	9:00a
1st	Wed. Nite Live	5:00p, Atrium
3rd	Gravity Guy's Night	6:00p
8th	Wed. Nite Live	5:00p, Atrium
11th	Gravity Valentines Dinner Fundraiser	
12th	New Member Sunday	
15th	Wed. Nite Live	5:00p, Atrium
18th	Numbering Our Days: A practical guide to living and dying well	8:00a
22nd	Wed. Nite Live	5:00p, Atrium
26th	Churchwide Prayer	5:00p
27th	Church Council	6:00p



Connecting People to Christ