



CIRCUIT RIDER

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CONFIRMATION
BEGINS SOON!

COME READ
WITH US IN
2024

STEPPING INTO HOPE
WITH ALYSE FULTON

YOU'RE INVITED :
COME SING WITH THE
CHANCEL CHOIR

MEET OUR
NEW MEMBERS

CENTRALROGERS.COM



Rev. Rob Holifield

Senior Pastor

Come Read With Us!

Dear Church Family,

Happy 2024! The new year has finally begun. The transition between one year to the next is always my favorite part of the holidays. Don't get me wrong I am a huge Thanksgiving and Christmas guy, but there is something refreshing about being able to move from one year to a brand new one. This idea was echoing in my mind as we held Isaiah 43:19 as our theme verse for Advent. Here the prophet speaks for God saying, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. "

This passage is one of my favorites because it speaks of one of the consistent things about being in a relationship with God. God continues to bring fresh new opportunities in our lives for growth and to build the Kingdom of God. If we choose to lean into His Word and how He leads us daily, we will experience God moving in our lives, families, and world.

This year we have the opportunity as the year changes from one to another to choose to lean into Jesus and all He has for us in a fresh way. I know some of us may be tired of New Year's resolutions and such. But the reason that they are so popular is that it does feel like the beginning of a new journey as the calendar turns. So, first of all I want to encourage you to embrace the new year and the way Christ is constantly wanting to work a New Thing in our lives.

The second thing I want to do is invite you to a new thing here at Central Rogers. "Come Read With Us!" is our invitation of the year. On January 1st we will begin reading the Bible together using the Bible Recap as our curriculum. You can read about all of the ways you can participate in this full church study www.centralrogers.com/tbr . We have a very specific "why" for this program this year. As the website says, "One of our defining values here at Central is that we are grounded in prayer and Scripture. We believe these things are foundational to our lives. Reading through the Bible together, as a church family, is an opportunity to live out this value. When we spend time in God's word, we are in His presence, and this is one of John Wesley's means of grace – spending time in the presence of God. It will also help to unite us as a church family as we all read and study and discuss the same passages each week."

Basically, we are uniting in scripture just as we have been uniting in praying together. It is our desire to see God move in consistent powerful ways among all people of Central Rogers and the communities of Northwest Arkansas. Church history tells us that the number one way of experiencing more of God is to lean into Jesus through prayer, scripture and worship. These by the way, are the Means of Grace that the founders of the Methodist movement held up in Britain and later in America, which led to two world changing revivals.

My friends, God is wanting to do a new thing in our midst. God is wanting to bring our church community peace, joy, direction, purpose and life transforming grace. Let's put ourselves into position for God to work. Come Read With Us!

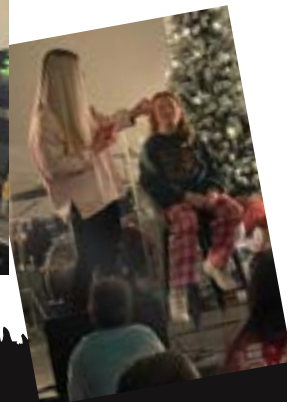
And Don't Forget..... You Matter To God

Pastor Rob



Gravity

YOUTH MINISTRIES



December was JAM-PACKED with ALL things Gravity! We kicked off the month with our Chili Dinner and the ever popular, Santa Shop, benefiting our summer mission trip. Thank you for your continual generosity for youth missions! Following the holidays, if you have any gift bags, tags or little gifts, trinkets, etc. that you would like to donate to next year's Santa Shop, please drop off in church office.

Our December continued with Gravity's Christmas Party, complete with an amazing spread of food, fun Christmas games, creative gingerbread competition (see pics below), and wrapped it up with cookies (lots of them!) and milk, along with the reading of the Christmas story. HUGE thank you to SWIG, who donated coupons for all of our students!

We didn't stop celebrating there; Gravity's Girls Night In happened Saturday, December 16. We had sessions on makeup, organization, hosting and being creative – all the while eating DELICIOUS food, sipping on Sonya's famous punch and wearing our comfy pajamas. Thank you to our amazing Table Queens for making the evening amazing for our youth girls, for our Falalas, who were busy delivering all the fun surprises throughout the night, our Food Queen, Mary Kutz, who made sure we were always stocked with food and it looked beautiful and for the Queen, herself, Carole Baker for being an amazing emcee and truly making the night amazing! This year was another Girls Night In for the books and we are so grateful for the many hands that make it possible!

With December packed full, Gravity will resume Sunday nights on January 14.

In January, we will be kicking off Confirmation 2024. If you have a student in 8th grade or older, and would like more info on Confirmation experience at Central, please contact Lucy at lswanson@centralrogers.com



@GravityYouthMinistries



KIDS

Ministries

Where do snowmen do their shopping?

On the Winter-net!

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/10 WED. NITE LIVE BEGINS

2/10 GALENTINE'S TEA

2/14 ASH WEDNESDAY

3/30 EASTER EGG HUNT

6/17-6/21 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Advent Celebration

On December 3 we kicked off our Advent season with our annual Advent Celebration event. We began a new tradition by opening with a child-led Hanging of the Greens service in our Chapel. It also featured members of our congregation, a live baby lamb, and music from our Chancel Choir and Contemporary Praise Team. It was amazing to see our Young Disciples leading us in worship. After the service, the children were able to make a gift for homebound members of our church. Gravity Youth also hosted their infamous Santa Shop where kiddos could buy gifts for friends and family. The big hit of the night was the live nativity petting zoo and pony rides. We can't wait to see how this service grows.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: WHAT CAN I DO?

A 4-Week Series from the Gospels on Jesus' Early Life & Ministry.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

What's your dream job? Do you want to be a pilot or astronaut? A teacher or musician? There are so many incredible jobs for us to pick from! God has given each of us special talents and skills that can help us discover what we want to do. But God gives us another job, too. It's the chance for us to follow God right now! In this four-week series from the Gospels, we'll read about Jesus starting out his ministry and how he invited his followers — and us — to listen to God's voice, trust Jesus knows us, trust God's plans for us, and include people who aren't like us.



NEW MEMBERS



Sarah Holifield joined during the Contemporary service on November 19th by transfer of membership from Central UMC in Fayetteville, AR. Sarah along with her husband, Rev. Tony Holifield (a retired elder and member of the Arkansas Conference) have served in ministry together in many locations and capacities. Sarah is a retired English teacher. If the name sounds familiar, Tony and Sarah are parents of Rev. Rob Holifield. The Holifields live in Fayetteville.



Dickie Thomasson joined during the Communion service on November 26th by transfer of membership from First UMC in Little Rock, AR. Dickie is a teacher at Founders Classical Academy in Rogers. Dickie is a familiar face to many as he often serves as an usher at the 8:15 Communion service. Dickie lives in Fayetteville, AR.



Christie Walton joined during the Traditional service on November 19th from another denomination. Christie is married to Gene Walton (already a member) and serves and helps in many capacities with our KidsMin programming and events. Christie is a retired elementary school teacher. She and Gene live in Rogers.



David and Mary Bristow joined during the Contemporary service on November 19th by transfer of membership from First UMC in Dunedin, FL (David) and from another denomination (Mary). David is retired from American Airlines (Envoy Air). Mary is retired from Hotel Management. The Bristows live in Bentonville, AR.

HAVE FAITH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The "Have Faith" Conference from Extraordinary Women will be taking place on March 1-2 in Tulsa Oklahoma (at the Mabree Center). If you are interested in joining a group of women from Central UMC, please contact Carole Baker or register using the group name: Central Rogers and the passcode: Central. Speakers this year include Tim Tebow, Chonda Pierce, Joni Lamb and music by Casting Crowns! More information about the conference and additional speakers can be found on <https://www.ewomen.net/tulsa-ok-2024/>



The Chancel Choir



Easter is early this year and we're getting a head start on our Easter Music. Our Easter Choir Kickoff will be Saturday, January 20th, 9am - 2pm, [Choir Rm]. All interested singers are welcome to attend! Lunch will be provided, so please let us know you'll be attending. We are a non-audition choir and childcare can be arranged.

For more information, please contact the church office at (479) 636-1630



Would you like to help breast cancer patients? You can, by attending Priscilla Circle January 25th at 9:30 A.M. -11 A.M. room 205. For years women have been gathering and making pillows for mastectomy patients. You can either stuff pillows or sew them. You will be blessed by this time of fellowship and service.



STEPPING INTO HOPE

Have you ever played with a dollhouse? As a child or as a caregiver, have you ever moved tiny figures from one space to another, going through the little, mundane motions that make up our days? Whether your dolls were Barbies in pageant regalia, detailed figures that sat at piano benches and washed tiny dishes, or GI Joes destined for joyous, repeated, fiery collisions, they mostly do the same thing each day. In some ways, we mostly play dollhouse, don't we? We waken and step, step, step to each new task, none of them particularly different than the day before. And that is not a bad thing. We flourish in routine; in it, we find fertile ground to grow disciplines and relationships and skills and hobbies, and even in our routine there are always variances large or small.

Until suddenly the dollhouse is sent careening. With the loss of a loved one or another major change—suddenly, everything falls apart, and we are left wondering where we are step-step-stepping to. Sometimes, when we let the full force of life hit us, we wonder if we have the strength to keep step-step-stepping on. What do we do? Sometimes, it looks easiest to try to just keep going as though nothing ever happened. It isn't easiest, though, is it? When the house is turned sideways and the dolls are tossed across the rug, it really isn't very easy or fun to keep pretending. It is okay until it isn't. And it is so hard, and no one seems to understand. And, also, God didn't ever mean for us to just keep pretending anyway.

We aren't made to hold it all inside. The grief has nowhere to go. Like a pressure cooker building steam, the pain has to escape, either through healthy ways or unhealthy ones. We can become angry and blaming, afraid and hopeless, depressed or anxious. We can become caught up in perfectionism or work or self-care or running or eating or a limitless number of good things that we can use to try to hide. And everyone who is suffering does, sometimes, to be honest. But we do not have to stay stuck. This is not the end of the road. It is the stage set for hope in God's rescue. And you are not alone—No one else's story is exactly like yours, but others know the sharp pain of suffering, too, and can walk with you through these shadows.

If you are suffering from the death of a loved one, you are invited to GriefShare. You don't have to go through your story alone. We have a safe, healthy place to learn to let off some of the pressure with others who will understand and encourage you, and it will make the step-step-stepping a little easier, a little stronger, a little more hopeful one step at a time. If you are finding yourself stuck with your pain about something else in life, please reach out. Life is complicated. Wounding happens. But you are not made to live this way forever. Sorrow may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning.



Lean In.

Connecting People to Christ

January

1st	Bible Reading Plan BEGINS	Day 1
1st	Church Office Closed	
10th	Wed. Nite Live BEGINS	5:30p, Atrium
17th	Wed. Nite Live	5:30p, Atrium
21st	Next Connections	11:30a, Chapel
22nd	Church Council	6:00p, Room 202
24th	Wed. Nite Live	5:30p, Atrium
28th	Church Wide Prayer	5:00p, Chapel
31st	Wed. Nite Live	5:30p, Atrium

Read with Us



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1-Jan Genesis 1-3 Day 1	2-Jan Genesis 4-7 Day 2	3-Jan Genesis 8-11 Day 3	4-Jan Job 1-5 Day 4	5-Jan Job 6-9 Day 5	6-Jan Epiphany Job 10-13 Day 6
7-Jan Job 14-16 Day 7	8-Jan Job 17-20 Day 8	9-Jan Job 21-23 Day 9	10-Jan Job 24-28 Day 10	11-Jan Job 29-31 Day 11	12-Jan Job 32-34 Day 12	13-Jan Job 35-37 Day 13
14-Jan Job 38-39 Day 14	15-Jan Job 40-42 Day 15	16-Jan Genesis 12-15 Day 16	17-Jan Genesis 16-18 Day 17	18-Jan Genesis 19-21 Day 18	19-Jan Genesis 22-24 Day 19	20-Jan Genesis 25-26 Day 20
21-Jan Genesis 27-29 Day 21	22-Jan Genesis 30-31 Day 22	23-Jan Genesis 32-34 Day 23	24-Jan Genesis 35-37 Day 24	25-Jan Genesis 38-40 Day 25	26-Jan Genesis 41-42 Day 26	27-Jan Genesis 43-45 Day 27
28-Jan Genesis 46-47 Day 28	29-Jan Genesis 48-50 Day 29	30-Jan Exodus 1-3 Day 30	31-Jan Exodus 4-6 Day 31			