



CIRCUIT RIDER

VOLUME 54 / ISSUE 3
MARCH 2023

PRAY.GRAVITY: HOW TO
GET INVOLVED

**LAY SERVANT
ACADEMY:
GOING BEYOND
SUNDAY
MORNING**

GRAVITY YOUTH MISSION
TRIP TO GUATEMALA

WED. NITE LIVE : MARCH
THEMES AND DINNER
MENU

MEET OUR NEW BISHOP
LAURA MERRILL

CENTRALROGERS.COM



Rev. Rob Holifield
Senior Pastor

Trusting God

On January 22nd I preached a sermon that God really spoke to me during my preparation. That is one of the things I learned early on about sermon preparation. Every week God has work to do on my heart and in my life as I prepare to preach. The week before the 22nd was no exception. As I was working on it God caught my attention dramatically with a key statement. I repeated the statement during my sermon. It is the truth that, "God cares about what we do and where we go but God cares the most about the person, He wants us to become." This is clear throughout scripture.

It is definitely clear in the story of the disciples. The journey they were on with Jesus was a time of preparation and formation. They learned a lot but as they spent time with Jesus most of them were changed from the inside out. They were transformed by what they saw, heard, and experienced by letting Jesus lead them. That may have been the difference between Judas and the rest of the disciples. He didn't trust Jesus enough when Jesus' actions didn't make sense. If we are to become the people that God sees we can be we have to choose to trust Him when things look dark, difficult, and hard.

Experiencing God move powerfully in our life requires a response. Maybe what is required for a significant move of God is a choice to believe, a choice to follow, or a choice to obey. But always it requires us to choose to trust Him. That is always the first step in being able to do the other actions that God calls upon us to do. Peter had some moments of not understanding what in the world Jesus was doing. He shared the expectation with Judas and the others that Jesus would be an earthly King. But when He saw Jesus going in a different way, after pushing back, his final action was to trust God.

Friends, as we continue in the early months of 2023. I want to encourage you to choose to trust God every day. Choose to trust Him in your personal faith to see Him move with power in your life. I also, encourage you to trust Him as a member of Central Rogers United Methodist Church. Trust that God is moving and leading us to become a greater and greater light and witness of Jesus Christ. Let's all put our lives in the hands of the destiny maker who has a plan for us. A plan to give us a future with hope as the prophet writes in Jeremiah 29:11.

One of the things that has given me a lot of hope for the future of Central UMC is the leadership of our Church Council. Below is a list of all of our 2023 Church Council. With their titles beside their names. These women and men love Jesus and love Central Rogers. They are committed to oversee the business of the church but also to come alongside the staff of our church. I would like to ask you to pray for each one of them as they lead in their different areas. I also want to encourage you to thank them if you get the chance. They each put in a lot of time and energy to help lead Central Rogers to be the Church God envisions us to be for Rogers and all of NWA.

Have a great March. March madness and spring breaks are on their way!

But no matter what happens don't forget – you matter to God!

-- Rob

2023 Church Council

Mark Secker (Church Council Chair)
Tracy Hillis (Church Council Vice Chair)
Greg Spragg (Lay Leader),
George Rhoads (Lay Member of Annual Conference)
Cathy Blackwood (Church Secretary)
Mark Anderson (Worship Fully Chair)
Clay Cutten (Grow Deeply Chair)
Spencer Booz (Love Unconditionally Chair)
Molly Pickering (Share Passionately Chair)
Alex Lake (Community Formation Chair)

SPRC: Jayne Kuhn, Shawn Burrow, Tracy Hillis, Anita Turner (Chair), Tom Ginn

Finance Committee: Julie Barber (Chair), Kevin Sell, Joey Msall

Trustees Committee: Trey Carter (Chair), Emily Reynolds McCord, Kyle Reynolds

At-Large Members: Liz Lusk, Diane Callahan, Sam Evans, Shawn Burrow, Tearris Wallace, Olivia Dinan

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!

Gravity

YOUTH MINISTRIES

I remember as a child in elementary school, hearing that March comes in like a lion, and leaves like a lamb. I'm not quite sure about the leaving part, but March for Gravity is, most definitely coming in like a lion! I'm definitely praying that March comes in like a lion in regards to PRAY.GRAVITY, a month-long prayer movement, for the entire month of March, where we, the community of Central, are committed to intentionally be in prayer daily for our students. Swing by the stand in the Atrium, pick up a prayer guide, with daily prompts for our students, and a bracelet with a specific name of a student from Gravity that you can be intentionally praying for. Please join me in praying with the tenaciousness of a lion for the amazing students within our midst as the family of Central and let's be waiting with expectancy to see what God does in and through the teens and US!

The first weekend of March, March 3-5, Gravity students will be joining 1,000 fellow United Methodist students and adults from around the state of Arkansas for a weekend of powerful worship, awesome bands, and great teaching, all happening right here in Rogers! We will be staying at Central with a few other churches, eating at FUMC's fundraiser dinner, and even having lunch together with other youth ministries in the Northwest District. Praying that we will leave the weekend WIDE AWAKE, and having experienced God in a powerful way.



After an amazing retreat to kick off Confirmation, we are well on our way, building great relationships between Confirmand and mentor, having great discussions led by our amazing pastoral staff and other lay members, and truly digging in to the basics of the Christian faith. Continue to uphold our Confirmands and mentors as we continue through the Confirmation experience:

Willa Tate and Lana Dinan
Kate McCord and Patti McGill
Ben Kearbey and J.R. Shaw
Paisley Swanson and Debbie Allard
Lily Thompson and Emily McCord
Andrew Hopkins and Robbie Lusk
Sadie Le and June Misenheimer
Marlowe McClung and Hannah Carter

We will wrap up our month with our Spring Break High School Mission Trip to Guatemala. Please be praying for our adults and high school students who will be serving alongside GRACES (Guatemalan Relief Assistance for Children's Education Services) in Antigua, Guatemala. Our team will be building relationships with students at Escuela Integrada (the school), visiting families and local homes, installing eco-stoves and water filters for families, and delivering food bags as well. Pray for our team, and don't forget to follow along on social media (@GravityYouthMinistries) March 19-25:

Jaden Flake
Hayden Swanson
Maddie Bashara
Abby Dinan
Amy Brooks
Jacob Rogers
Olivia Dinan
David Dinan
Rob Holifield
Lucy Swanson



@GravityYouthMinistries

Why didn't Pharaoh let the Israelites go into the wilderness after the first six plagues?

When He was in deNile



KIDS

PALM SUNDAY

Join us on Palm Sunday to wave palms and help celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry on April 2nd. Kiddos will wave palm branches in both the Traditional and Late Contemporary services. Ms. Mollie will "rehearse" with the kiddos during the Sunday School hour and bring them into the services as one big group. Your young disciple will join you in service following the waving of the palms.

Save the Dates:

EGG HUNT: Saturday, April 8

VBS: June 12-16, 9am -12pm

VBS

Save the date for 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.



EASTER EGG HUNT

This year's EEH is going to be bigger and better than ever! Central is teaming up with our neighboring United Methodist Churches to host the biggest hunt EVER. Bring your basket and hop on over to join us on April 8th from 2-4. We can't wait to see you there!



SUNDAY SCHOOL - SUNDAYS 9:30AM

CHANGING GEARS: A 4-WEEK SERIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT ON JESUS' MINISTRY Clank! Beep! Clunk! Kids love robots, especially ones that can transform into something new or have really cool abilities. In this four-week series from Jesus' ministry on earth, you'll introduce kids to a different story each week that shows us how God's truths never change, but Jesus changes everything—including us! We'll see that we change when we know who God is, our past doesn't change God's love for us, and that Jesus changes how we see things because Jesus can change anything!

Meet Bishop Laura Merrill



March 5, 2023
Springdale First UMC
Springdale, AR
2 pm - 4 pm



FIRST TIME GUEST BAGS

Central is blessed each Sunday with new people coming to connect with Christ! We want to make sure our first-time guests (both adults and children) are welcomed. At any of the three information stations located by the main entrances and the atrium you can find bags filled with goodies and information. The greeters or ushers will be happy to help you or help yourself to make someone you have met feel welcomed.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRY ACADEMY APRIL 14TH AND 15TH TRINITY UMC – FAYETTEVILLE AR



What is a Lay Servant? A Lay Servant is an active, supportive member of a United Methodist congregation who is eager to be in ministry through the church. Teaching, serving, training, leading, participating, caring, loving and communicating are integral parts of Lay Servant Ministries. Want to learn more about Lay Servant Ministries? Watch this video featuring Karen Anderson, the Northwest District Director of Lay Servant Ministries and a member of Central.

<https://youtu.be/s1a8OzjyL-Y>

INTERESTED? Below are the one-day classes being offered! If you haven't done any of the classes from the LSM studies, the Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries Class (offered April 15th) is the best place to start. Other (advanced) classes are also being offered if you are already a Certified Lay Servant or if you are just interested in a specific topic. The registration link is available at <https://form.jotform.com/230454279368161>

Friday (April 14th)

Leading Worship with Rev. Lindsey Russell
Congregational Care with Alyse Fulton

The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation with Brenda Gullett (offered Friday OR Saturday)
Living our Beliefs (UM Heritage) with Rev. Ron Hayes

Saturday (April 15th)

Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries with Carole Baker
The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation with Brenda Gullett (offered Friday OR Saturday)
Preaching with Rev. Michael and Teresa Bolin
Spiritual Gifts with Kevin Krest

TENEBRAE

A SERVICE OF SHADOWS



Featuring...

The Chancel Choir

Good Friday, April 7th

7pm [Chapel]



Easter Choir

It's not too late to join choir for the Tenebrae Service. We would love for you to sing with us! Rehearsals are on Monday nights 6:15-7:15 and Wednesdays 7-8pm, please note: you'll need to start rehearsing with us no later than Wednesday, March 15.

This is a non-audition choir, and childcare can be pre-arranged, if needed. Join the choir as we present Tenebrae: a service of shadows.

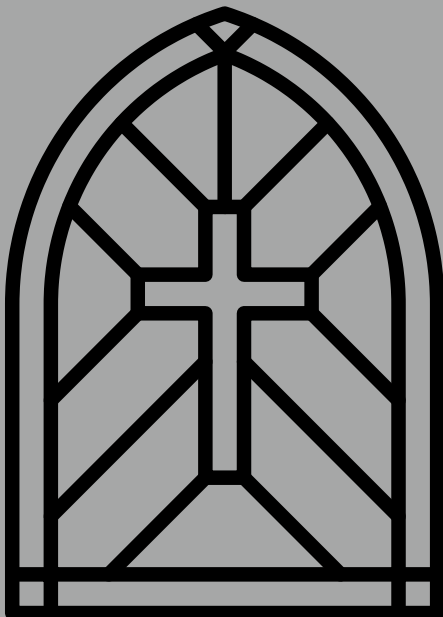


choral EVENSONG

Sunday: February 26, 2023

4pm Organ Recital with Scott Montgomery	4:30pm Choral Evensong featuring The Chancel Choir
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Scott Montgomery



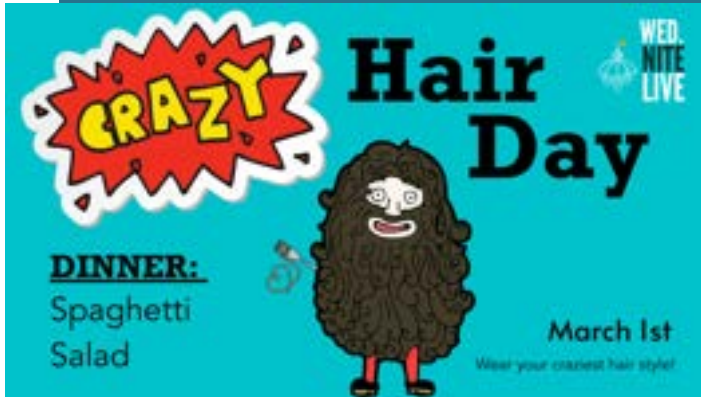
Joined the Church Triumphant

- Nancy Williams Froman, mother of Robin Green.
- Jason Papageorge, son of Dean and Betsy Papageorge.

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

WED. NITE LIVE

THEME & MENU



CLASSES & GROUPS

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

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.



Lean In.

March

1st	Sacred Thread Quilting Mission	9:00a
1st	Prayer Shawl	
1st	Wed. Nite Live	5:00p, Atrium
3rd - 4th	Women of Excellence	Tulsa, OK
3rd - 5th	Veritas (Gravity Youth Event)	Rogers, AR
5th	Church Council Retreat	
5th	Meet Bishop Laura Merrill	2-4p, Springdale First UMC
7th	GriefShare Begins	6:00p, Tuesday Nights
8th	Prayer Shawl	
8th	Wed. Nite Live	5:00p, Atrium
11th	Run for Tracy Hillis - Irish 5k/10k Race	Bentonville, AR
12th	Daylight Savings Time	
15th	Prayer Shawl	
15th	Wed. Nite Live	5:00p, Atrium
17th	St. Patrick's Day	
20th -25th	Gravity Youth Spring Break Mission Trip	Guatemala
22nd	Prayer Shawl	
26th	Churchwide Prayer	5:00p, Chapel
27th	Church Council	6:00p
29th	April Circuit Rider Published	



Connecting People to Christ