



# CIRCUIT RIDER

VOLUME 54/ ISSUE 9  
SEPTEMBER 2023

CENTRAL'S SEASON OF  
PRAYER & HOW TO  
PARTICIPATE

## MEET THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

GRAVITY YOUTH FALL  
RETREAT AND SUNDAY  
NIGHT KICKOFF

ELEMENTARY BIBLE  
PRESENTATION AND  
EXPLORATION

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS  
OF CENTRAL

CENTRALROGERS.COM





**Rev. Rob Holifield**

Senior Pastor

Livin' on a Prayer, Humble and Kind, and Lean on Me - these were the first three songs in our current sermon series called "Mixtape"! Wait, it's called "Playlist"! We almost called it MixTape because that was the place we used to store our playlists before Spotify, Apple Music and even MP3 players. I used to wait for hours for that right song to come on the radio and I would hit record to add to my "mixtape" that held all my favorite music.

During this series we are looking at songs that God has used to touch our lives and pull us to Him. We started out with a song from my high school days called "Livin' On a Prayer" by Bon Jovi. As I said in the sermon that day it is a song that has always spoken to me because it repeats the phrase "livin' on a prayer" over and over. The song is not about living a deeper faith life or being a Christian. But God has used that line over the years with what I have learned about Him to say, "depend upon me. Live your life as a prayer to me". This echoes what Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians (5:17-18) - "Make your life a prayer, And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus."

During our first sermon in this series I began asking you to join me in a season of prayer. A lot is going on in the denomination and the country as we enter the last quarter of 2023. The church is still learning how to live in a new world after COVID. It seems we are getting back to normal but life still seems different. People are dealing with all kinds of difficulties at work, in their families and in their own personal lives. There seems to be a lot going on. So as a church, I believe, the most important thing we should be doing is uniting together around the means of grace.

The three main means of grace that John Wesley used to talk about are prayer, Bible reading, and Holy Communion. We already come together for Holy Communion weekly and monthly in Sunday morning worship. I will be talking with you next month about a way we can unite in studying God's word together. Two weeks ago I asked you to join me in prayer. I said I need 100 people but really I need as many of you who will join me as possible. The number one thing that will help our church continue to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ is to join together in prayer.

If you look at the great movements of God you will see they all began with people committing to each other to seek God through prayer. So as we have a desire to have an even bigger witness of the transformational power of Jesus and navigate well the challenges ahead I am calling us to a time of prayer. Below are the minimum requirements and how to sign up. After you sign up to be a part of this season of prayer you will receive additional information on how to sign up for a prayer slot and other commitments you can make to deepen your experience of the prayer season. Our prayer season will begin on Sunday September 10th.

[www.centralrogers.com/prayer](http://www.centralrogers.com/prayer)

What to do:

1. You will receive a prayer time sign up sheet. You will use this to communicate when you will pray for at least 30 minutes each week for the first Season of Prayer.
2. Come to the September prayer meeting in the chapel on September 29 at 5pm. This will be a time of focused prayer with other people in the church. There will be opportunities to lead prayer but you will not be asked directly to pray or put on the spot. Come and join others as we seek the Lord. (If there is a schedule conflict where you can not join us in person or online please reach out to Rob Holifield at [rolifield@centralrogers.com](mailto:rolifield@centralrogers.com).)

I look forward to the days ahead as we go to the Lord as one church. I believe we will be surprised and excited as God moves in our lives and through our church in the year to come.

Have a great month and don't forget..... You Matter to God

Rob Holifield

Connecting People to Christ

# WED. NITE LIVE

## THEME & MENU 5:30PM

### September 6

SPIRIT NIGHT - Nacho Bar

### September 13

PIRATE NIGHT - Peg Legs & Parrot Wings

### September 20

70's NIGHT - Pizza

### September 27

SPACE NIGHT - Crator Tator Bar

### October 4

PAJAMA NIGHT - Breakfast Stacks

### October 11

LITTLE ITALY NIGHT - Spaghetti

### October 18

BIRTHDAY NIGHT - Sloppy Joes

### October 25

HALLOWEEN - Frito Chili Pie

### November 1

FIESTA NIGHT - Taco Bar

### November 8

VETERANS NIGHT - Pulled Pork Sandwiches

### November 15

THANKSGIVING - Open Faced Turkey Sandwiches

## CLASSES & GROUPS 6:00PM

### Book of Acts

Facilitator: Rev. Rob Holifield & Katie Emery

### Disciple I

Facilitator: Carole Baker & Molly Pickering

### Disciple II

Facilitator: Randy Godsey

### Epic of Eden: Understanding the Old Testament

Facilitator: Clay Cutten

### The Chosen - Season 3

Facilitator: Amy Penny

### Grief Share

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)

## VOLUNTEER

We are always looking for people to volunteer - no matter the age! If you have a heart for hospitality, decorating, cooking, or serving - we have a spot for you! Please contact Carole Baker, Director of Connections, for all volunteer opportunities.

## WHAT IS WED. NITE LIVE?

It is our desire that the offerings on Wednesday night will give you a chance to refocus on Jesus. A meal is served to encourage you to form community with christian friends. We offer classes, choir practice, space for small groups to meet, as well as Teen and Kid programming.

# Gravity

## YOUTH MINISTRIES



School's back in session! We wrapped up our summer and prepared for a new school year with our annual Back to School Breakfast and Bo'Smo. We upped our game this year with a Pool Party + Bo'Smo combo; HUGE thank you to the Bakers and Pickerings for hosting such a fun night! That same night, we also bid our FAVORITE JD well on his last semester of school, and HUGE thanks of appreciation for ALL JD has done while an intern at Central. Don't be too sad; we will still be seeing his face on Wednesday nights as he will continue as a Gravity Leader for Gravity Midweek!

September is a BIG month for Gravity! We will head to New Life Ranch with fellow NWA Methodist churches for our Fall Retreat. This year's theme is "Slow and Steady" from Habakkuk; which in our world of fast food, cell phones, microwaves and instant gratification, it's hard to soak in "slow and steady." Looking forward to our time at New Life Ranch, but also to really marinate on the "slow and steady" as we begin a NEW year of Gravity Youth Ministries. We will officially kick off that new year on Sunday, Sept. 17 with a Gravity FAMILY Fall Kickoff. Would you join me in praying for Gravity Youth Ministries as we kick off? Pray for our AMAZING leaders who help pull off 3 programs a week and multiple events a year, pray for our AWESOME students and ALL students who will be a part of Gravity this year, and pray that we truly connect students AND THEIR FAMILIES to Christ.



@GravityYouthMinistries





Who was the smartest man in the Bible?

Abraham – he knew a lot



## ELEMENTARY BIBLE PRESENTATION & EXPLORATION

Each year in the fall we are able to present students with a Bible of their very own. All students in grades 3rd and above are eligible to receive a Bible during church services on Sunday, September 10. Registration details are available on our website, [www.centralrogers.com/kids](http://www.centralrogers.com/kids). After church services on the 10th, students and families are invited to join Mrs. Katie upstairs in Mr. Bob's Place for a time of Bible exploration. We will cover some Bible basics, how to find a verse and even find a cookie recipe hidden in both testaments!



This past month our very own Makesha Cornog celebrated 25 years as a nursery employee. During this time she has served our littlest loves in many different roles. If you see her around, thank her for her dedicated service!

## ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are rolling full steam ahead into our series from the Old Testament. The elementary classes upstairs are LOVING 3 separate classrooms. What a blessing from God that we have the space and the volunteers to make this happen! By splitting grades we are able to teach to a more specific developmental level and build better relationships between teachers and kids.

### ANIMATED: A 4-WEEK SERIES

#### FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT ON THE PROPHETS

If you've ever gotten a little emotional during your favorite Disney or Pixar movie, you know animation is a powerful tool to not only tell big stories, but to make us feel big feelings, too! In this four-week series, we'll look at some stories of the Old Testament prophets as we explore some of those feelings. These stories will remind kids that God cares about our big feelings. With God, we can all feel secure, comforted, valued, and loved, even when our emotions tell us otherwise.



# New Members



Nancy Hansen joined by transfer from Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo in Isle, MN. Nancy recently moved to Northwest Arkansas although she has been a frequent visitor to the area over many years. Nancy is retired from the airline industry (Delta Airlines) where she was part of the Information Technology division. Nancy lives in Rogers in the Arbors on New Hope.



Brien and Stephanie Jones joined by transfer from United Lutheran Church in Bella Vista, AR. Brien is a pilot for Wheels Up (a private jet charter company) and Stephanie is a teacher for the Bentonville Public Schools at Washington Junior High. Their children, Adalyn and Liam, will be joining as preparatory members. The Jones family lives in Bentonville.



Steve and Tania Walls joined by transfer from Monument Community Presbyterian Church in Monument Co. John is retired from the aerospace industry and Tania from Loyola Marymount University. They recently moved to the area and will be closer to family (Ron and Barbara Stone). The Walls' live in Bentonville.



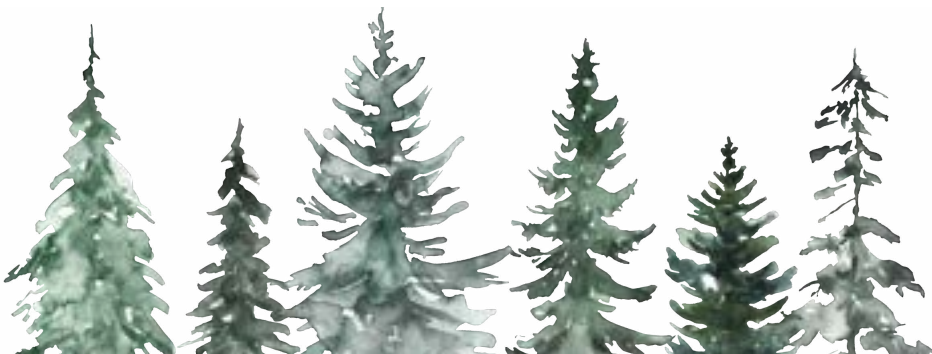
## A WORD FROM ANGEL

Central has a new church software system, SimpleChurch, that keeps membership records and attendance. As the churches Administrative Assistant, I want to thank everyone for helping us stay connected to our members, regular non-members, guests and visitors, by signing in on the Attendance Pads, or online, every Sunday! This is how we know who is here and who has been absent. If someone has been absent for several weeks we reach out to see if they need prayer or help, or maybe they're just on vacation! This is helpful for the Membership Secretary when reporting to the Conference. It is also very helpful for our new visitors when they fill out all their contact information, so we can enter them in the new system and contact them and offer a welcome and answer any questions they may have about Central. One more advantage is if members have any changes to their contact information, such as address, phone, email, status or other, this is a great place to notate it, so your profile is up to date, and you won't miss out on all the great things happening in our church! You can also call the church office if you need to update your church profile and speak with the Membership Secretary. Thank you again for helping us stay connected to each other and to Christ.

# Christmas

WITH THE  
CHANCEL CHOIR

Sing with the Chancel Choir this Christmas! Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights (Sunday morning music begins @ 6:15pm, and Christmas music begins @ 7:15). There are no auditions and childcare can be provided upon request. If you love to sing, then we would love for you to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!



## A NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION:

I HAVE BEEN CLEARED BY MY DOCTOR FROM THE KNEE REPLACEMENT SURGERY. THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION, PASTORS, AND CARE TEAMS FOR MY CARDS AND PRAYERS.

-SHEILA COUNIHAN



# WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship committee at Central works to promote our mission of connecting people to Christ by being sure everyone can Worship Fully.

The experience of worshiping, whether that is being in a quiet setting for prayer, joining others in worship on Sunday morning, or having a worship experience alone in your home through a digital platform, is an important part of faith formation and spiritual growth.

The worship committee at Central gathers monthly to plan and evaluate how to make worship experiences meaningful for all who might want to join with us. The team has been engaged in understanding how the space we worship in and the platforms we worship on can be more engaging and holy.

Our opportunities to worship are certainly not limited to Sunday morning. We have several worship experiences throughout the year that allow people in our community, as well as our church family, to gather for prayer, reflection, and celebration in the presence of the Holy One. All these experiences require quality sound and visual capabilities, state of the art software platforms, and faithful servants, staff and volunteers, to make it all come together.

We are grateful for all those who work diligently to allow others to Worship Fully and connect to our Lord Jesus.

CENTRAL WORSHIP COMMITTEE:  
MARK ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON  
REV. DAWN SPRAGG, STAFF REPRESENTATIVE  
REV. LES OLIVER  
DAVIS SPRAGG  
JOE LAMBERT  
LUKE GREENE





## SEPTEMBER

4th	Labor Day - Church Office Closed	
5th	Rummage Sale Donations	5:00- 7:00p, Bus Barn
6th	Sacred Thread Quilt Mission	9:00a - 2:00p, Rm 223/225
6th	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p - 4:00p, Rm 206
6th	Wed. Nite Live Dinner & Classes	5:30p, Atrium
8th - 10th	Gravity Youth Fall Retreat	New Life Ranch
9th	Rummage Sale Donations	9:00a - 12:00p, Bus Barn
10th	Operation Christmas Shoe Boxes Avail.	Atrium
10th	Snack Pack Event	Atrium
10th	Elementary Bible Presentation & Exploration	Services & Bob's Place
12th	Rummage Sale Donations	5:00- 7:00p, Bus Barn
13th	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p - 4:00p, Rm 206
13th	Wed. Nite Live Dinner & Classes	5:30p, Atrium
16th	Rummage Sale Donations	9:00a - 12:00p, Bus Barn
17th	Grace UMC Community Meal	4:00p, Grace UMC
17th	Gravity Youth Sunday Night Kickoff	6:00p, Gravity Youth Room
19th - 21st	New Room Conference	Houston, TX
19th	Rummage Sale Donations	5:00- 7:00p, Bus Barn
20th	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p - 4:00p, Rm 206
20th	Wed. Nite Live Dinner & Classes	5:30p, Atrium
23rd	Rummage Sale Donations	9:00a - 12:00p, Bus Barn
23rd	Bikes, Blues, and Blessings	11:00 - 2:00p, Front Lawn
24th	Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes Due	Atrium
24th	Church Wide Prayer	5:00p, Chapel
25th	Church Council Meeting	6:00p
26th - 29th	COR: Leadership Institute	Leawood, KS
26th	Rummage Sale Donations	5:00- 7:00p, Bus Barn
27th	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p - 4:00p, Rm 206
27th	Wed. Nite Live Dinner & Classes	5:30p, Atrium
30th	Rummage Sale Donations	9:00a - 12:00p, Bus Barn

