



CIRCUIT RIDER

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DECEMBER 2024

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

LESSONS & CAROLS
DEC. 12TH & 13TH

CENTRAL WOMEN
BRUNCH & CHRISTMAS
TOUR OF HOMES
DEC. 12TH

CHRISTMAS
COMMUNITY MEAL
DEC. 25TH

CENTRALROGERS.COM



Rev. Rob Holifield

Senior Pastor

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1-5, 14 NRSV

This passage of scripture is one of my favorites to read during Advent. It is perfect to read at the beginning because it reminds me of what Advent and Christmas are all about. Jesus, the Word, has always been. He is one with the Father and the Spirit. He was active at the creation of the world and throughout the days of the Old Testament. And when the appointed time finally came, He entered the world as a human baby. “And the Word became flesh and lived among us”

What does it mean that the Son of God entered into the world and dwelt among us? During Advent we reflect on how He was the fulfillment of prophecy and the object of the waiting Jewish nation. We talk about the example He was of perfect love and truth. We also talk about how He would grow up to live out being “Messiah” differently than expected. It was a different fulfillment but brought a much bigger outcome. The Father’s plan for a Messiah would end in resurrection from the grave, bringing about victory over death. We celebrate Advent as God breaking through to bring about the solution of the human condition. This Word that became flesh and lived among us would make it possible for all humanity to be connected to God, be free from sin and live forever.

Those are the big themes of Advent. But what I want to encourage you to do is answer the question above personally. What does it mean that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us? How does this truth bring hope to your life?

For me, Advent is the story of God encountering the world. We see in the stories leading up to Christmas, God encountering people to bring about His purpose and plan. God did it then and God does it now. Advent encourages me to recall the ways that God has encountered me and gives me hope of more that God wants to do. So I enter the season of Advent with anticipation for how God wants to move in my life.

God wants to encounter you as well. So, think through the questions above. Let your answers lead you in prayer about the season of Advent. I pray that God will encounter all of our lives in a fresh renewing way, so that we will walk into 2025 with the bar raised in our lives in the areas of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Those are the beautiful benefits of a relationship with Christ. And I believe God wants to encounter us every day to develop those blessings in our lives. That is the beautiful thing about Advent, it is the season of wonder, reflection and anticipation of what God can do.

I look forward to journey with you this Advent season. I am praying for you and the entire church to be renewed and invigorated as you prepare your hearts for Christmas!

God bless you and Merry Christmas!

And don’t forget in the busyness of the season, You Matter to God.

Rev. Rob Holifield

Welcome New Central Members!



Vicki Myers joined Central from Countryside Community Church in Esparto, CA. Vicki is retired from a variety of roles in the hospitality and casino industry. Vicki has relocated to NW Arkansas to be closer to her daughter's family (David and Wendi Buss and grandkids). Vicki lives in Rogers.



Sam and Melissa Gibby joined Central from Grace Hills Church in Bentonville AR. Sam serves on the church staff as our Audiovisual Director and is also employed at the University of Arkansas as a Broadcast Engineer. Melissa is a Real Estate Estimator with Walmart Inc. Sam and Melissa have two children, Evan and Abigail (pictured). Evan was confirmed and joined Central this spring. Abigail joins her parents as a preparatory member of Central. The Gibby family live in Centerton.



Philip and Michelle Roszel joined from First United Methodist in Bentonville. Philip works at the Mercy Rehab Hospital in Rogers and Michelle works as the Pharmaceutical Buyer for Sam's Club. The Roszels have three children, Bonnie, Daisy, and Emmett (pictured). Emmett was baptized at the same service and joins with his sisters as preparatory members of Central.



Katherine Eddins joined by transfer of membership from Katy United Methodist Church in Katy, TX. Katherine graduated from Baylor University and is a Financial Analyst for Walmart Inc. Katherine lives in Bentonville.



Larry and Katherine Theleman joined by transfer of membership from Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, NJ where they were members for over 25 years and served in many capacities. Larry and Katherine are both retired from AT&T. The Thelemans live in Rogers.



Beth Young joined by transfer of membership from First United Methodist Church in Rogers, AR. Beth is retired from a career in Mortgage Lending. She attends the Traditional service most often with Mike Necessary. Beth lives in Rogers.



John and Megan Kennedy joined Central from Christ the King Catholic Church in Little Rock, AR. John is an attorney with Walmart, Inc. and Megan teaches in the Bentonville School system. John and Megan's children, Eleanor and Joseph Hayes (pictured) joined their parents as preparatory members of Central. The Kennedy family lives in Cave Springs.



Greg and Darlene Humphries joined by transfer of membership from Elm Springs United Methodist Church in Elm Springs, AR. Greg is retired from a career in Finance and Administration. Darlene is retired as a Reading Specialist. The Humphries live in Tontitown.

INTERESTED IN JOINING CENTRAL?

If you would like to learn more about membership in this AMAZING faith family, please contact Carole Baker at cbaker@centralrogers.com or 636-1630 (ext 610).



WED. NITE LIVE IS BACK ON JANUARY 8TH

Wednesday Night Live will "Ring in the New Year" on January 8, 2025 with plenty of fun and food! The Young Disciples, Gravity Midweek, choir, and adult classes/groups will be offered again this spring. It won't be the same without you! More information on classes and groups will be available soon.



It can't be possible that we are already in the final month of 2024!! What a year Gravity has had?!? BUT, it's not over with yet 😊

In November, we had our annual Turkey Bowl, but this year, switched it up and partnered with First Springdale. The weekend started with pizza, trivia, worship and a bonfire at Central on Saturday night. Continued into Sunday morning with our Breakfast of Champions during the Sunday School hour. Then the main event – Turkey Bowl – was hosted at AAO Athletic Facility in Rogers, where we had a delicious tailgate, friendly competitions in pep-rally format, inflatables, high school girls powder puff game, Sally's Hydration Station (the BEST! soda truck in NWA) and a highly anticipated, flag football game between the high school boys. However, in spite of the FUN! that was had, the main goal was to collect A LOT of food items. Between the two churches, we were able to collect 3,967 food items for Grace Food Pantry and Bread of Life. We kept the fun rolling, and thanks to Richard, was able to deliver and sort all our food donations at Grace Food Pantry and hear more about the work they are doing for our neighbors in need. Turkey Bowl 2024 goes down as ONE OF THE BEST YET!

Lots still happening as we move into December:

Dec. 1 – Missions Meeting // 5:30p in the Youth Room

Gravity students and families, join us in the Youth Room to learn more about our Gravity mission opportunities – from Sr High Guatemala trip over Spring Break to our NEW! exciting partnership with LMP!

Dec 1 – Gravity's Tracy Trot // 6-8p in Youth Room

It's Gravity's 2nd Annual Tracy Trot, where we take a night and spread God's love, just as Tracy would've done. Each Life Group designs a mission, and then goes out and continues the legacy of Tracy by spreading love through NWA.

Dec. 8 – Thriftmas Party // 6-8:30p in Youth Room

Gravity students and families, join us for our annual Christmas party, Gravity THRIFTMAS. Bring a thrifted WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT, and dress in your BEST THRIFTED CHEER and enjoy an AMAZING SCAVENGER HUNT!

Dec. 15 – Gravity Leader Christmas Party // 6-8p

Gravity leaders are having their ANNUAL Christmas Party and all it's SHENANIGANS!

COMING UP // Jan. 4 – Girls Night In



@GravityYouthMinistries



YEAR IN REVIEW

Wed. Nite Live – Young Disciples

Our Young Disciples have learned disciple's traits and habits this year and are working on their second annual Hanging of the Greens service ~ a worship service led entirely by kids!

NEW PROGRAMS

This year we were honored to be able to offer two brand new, intergenerational events. In February, the Women's Board hosted a Galantines Tea and this fall the newly formed Men's Group hosted a Fishers of Men event, complete with live bait! We cannot wait to see how these grow next year.

OUTREACH

Our three outreach events were bigger and better than ever this year, and the farm animals have simply become a given 😊 The Egg Hunt on the front lawn, VBS on the entire property and Trunk or Treat "up top" were all smashing successes.

SERVICE

We cheered for runners at the Bentonville Half Marathon in our onesies, handed out food and cold waters to those working after the tornado in May, and packed snack bags for kids experiencing food insecurity.

WORSHIP

We helped impart ashes, shared our VBS songs (remember the Fruit of the Spirit hand jive???), prayed over backpacks and our pastors.

YOU

None of these things would happen without the support and dedication of YOU, the church being the church. Whether you brought a bag of candy or your grandmother's china, whether you volunteered at a station or to help clean up, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!





Christmas

EVE SERVICES

CONTEMPORARY - Tuesday, December 24th 2:00PM

Join us in the Sanctuary for the contemporary candle light service with our praise band as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Nursery available for ages 6 weeks – 3 years.

TRADITIONAL - Tuesday, December 24th 5:00p

We welcome you to our traditional candle light service in the Sanctuary with traditional Christmas hymns as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Nursery available for ages 6 weeks – 3 years.

CHAPEL - Tuesday, December 24th 11:00p

In the final hours of Christmas Eve, join us in the Chapel for our candle light service as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

It was LOST and is now FOUND! Please come to the office to identify.

- an earring
- a gift card
- a child's shoe



From Angel's Pen

If you are reading this Thanksgiving is a distant memory and a few leftovers. We are heading into the season of Advent but I want to take a moment to share my Thanks from November. On November 12th I experienced a medical emergency in the front office. I am **THANKFUL** that our Facilities Director, Brian Carroll, was in the room and sprang into "Crisis Management Mode", calling 911 and alerting our Administrator, Tami Stewart, all at the same time! Tami came out to comfort me and called my precious husband J.R. (who I believe broke a few traffic laws to get here before the ambulance took me away). Someone alerted our own Katie Emery (who, like me, is a nurse) and she risked life and limb running down the stairs to get to me. She put on her "Nurses hat" and monitored my vitals until the EMT's arrived. I am **THANKFUL** for the quick arrival of the paramedics and Fire Department personnel who were here in under 3 minutes!! Their care and concern for me were evident in their treatment and assessment of my condition. I am **THANKFUL** for the ER Doctor, nurses and techs that cared for me at the hospital and for Katie Emery for visiting and praying for me. I am **THANKFUL** for J.R.'s co-worker Katie Burns who came at once to the ER, and all his co-workers who sent me flowers and a handmade card. I am **THANKFUL** for all my co-workers who I am certain were praying for me, as well as the Tuesday Life Group who were meeting and saw the ambulance. I am **THANKFUL** for all the members of the congregation who continue to ask how I am feeling and I know are praying for me. Most of all I am **THANKFUL** that God decided He wasn't ready for me in heaven and that I still have work to do for Him here on earth. I have much for which to be **THANKFUL**.



GRACE UMC COMMUNITY

MEAL

EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH
3PM – 5:30PM



A dinner is prepared and served at Grace UMC for approximately 200+ people by drive-thru. Teams will prepare food, pack for distribution, and deliver to vehicles. If interested in joining a group, please call the church office.



Fri, December 6th
6:30pm – 8pm

Central is excited to be part of this great Rogers tradition. Bring the whole family to be part of the parade on December 6th and wear your "You Matter to God" Shirts! The parade begins in downtown Rogers at 6:30pm.



CENTRAL WOMEN'S

TOUR OF HOMES DECEMBER 12TH & BRUNCH

TICKETS ON SALE - SUNDAYS IN THE ATRIUM NOVEMBER 17 - 8



How Great Our Joy!

A FESTIVAL
OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 12 & 13, 6:30P - CHAPEL



CENTRAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rogers

11:30a - 1:30p

Christmas Day Meal

- ✓ Dine In
- ✓ Delivery
- ✓ To-Go

Call 479.636.1630

2535 W New Hope Rd. Rogers, AR 75758

Looking for the Church Staff?



The Church
Office is CLOSED
December 25th &
26th and January
1st!

Read with Us

Lean In.

Connecting People to Christ



December

- 1 Gravity Leadership Monthly Meeting - 11:30a
- 1 "What Now?" Course Begins - 4:00p
- 1 Gravity Mission Info Meeting - 5:30p
- 1 Gravity's Tracy Trot - 7:00p
- 4 Sacred Threat Quilt Mission - 9:00a
- 4 Prayer Shaw Ministry - 3:00p
- 6 Rogers Christmas Parade - 6:30p
- 8 Charge Conference - 3:00p
- 8 Gravity Worship & Thrift-mas Party - 6:00p
- 12 Central Women's Brunch & Tour of Homes - 9:30a
- 12 Lessons & Carols presented by the Chancel Choir - 6:30p
- 13 Lessons & Carols presented by the Chancel Choir - 6:30p
- 15 Grace Community Meal - 3:00p
- 15 Gravity Leader Christmas Party - 6:00p
- 24 Contemporary Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 2:00p
- 24 Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5:00p
- 24 Chapel Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 11:00p
- 25 Community Christmas Meal - 11:00a
- 25 - 26 Church Office Closed
- 29 One Combined Worship Service - 10:30a



Thank you for joining us this year as we read through the entire BIBLE!

We are so proud of each and everyone of you - no matter when you joined, how long you stayed, or if you jumped in and out throughout the year. We all have grown closer to God by reading His word.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1-Dec Advent Begins 1 Corinthians 9-11 Day 336	2-Dec 1 Corinthians 12-14 Day 337	3-Dec 1 Corinthians 15-16 Day 338	4-Dec 2 Corinthians 1-4 Day 339	5-Dec 2 Corinthians 5-9 Day 340	6-Dec 2 Corinthians 10-13 Day 341	7-Dec Romans 1-3 Day 342
8-Dec Romans 4-7 Day 343	9-Dec Romans 8-10 Day 344	10-Dec Romans 11-13 Day 345	11-Dec Romans 14-16 Day 346	12-Dec Acts 20-23 Day 347	13-Dec Acts 24-26 Day 348	14-Dec Acts 27-28 Day 349
15-Dec Colossians 1-4 Philemon 1 Day 350	16-Dec Ephesians 1-6 Day 351	17-Dec Philippians 1-4 Day 352	18-Dec 1 Timothy 1-6 Day 353	19-Dec Titus 1-3 Day 354	20-Dec 1 Peter 1-5 Day 355	21-Dec Hebrews 1-6 Day 356
22-Dec Hebrews 7-10 Day 357	23-Dec Hebrews 11-13 Day 358	24-Dec 2 Timothy 1-4 Day 359	25-Dec Christmas Day 2 Peter 1-3 Jude 1 Day 360	26-Dec 1 John 1-5 Day 361	27-Dec 2 John 1 3 John 1 Day 362	28-Dec Revelation 1-5 Day 363
29-Dec Revelation 6-11 Day 364	30-Dec Revelation 12-18 Day 365	31-Dec Revelation 19-22 Day 366				