



CIRCUIT RIDER

VOLUME 55/ ISSUE 11
NOVEMBER 2024

SNACKPACKS - NOV. 3

HANGING OF THE GREENS & ADVENT WORKSHOP

SERVICE OF COMFORT
& HOPE - NOV. 17

WEAR YOUR "YOU
MATTER TO GOD" GEAR
ON ELECTION DAY!

GRAVITY YOUTH:
TURKEY BOWL

CENTRALROGERS.COM



Rev. Rob Holifield

Senior Pastor

“Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.”

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NRSV

There was a period in my life that I ran marathons. My first one was in 2012.

I got a plan, changed my routines, watched my diet, and ran the first of many. Those were great days. I challenged myself, learned how to listen to my body, and thoroughly enjoyed the runner's high when I finished one.

My last marathon came in the spring of 2018. Transition and busyness in life took marathon training out of my routine. Following 2018, not only did marathon training fall out of my life, but running basically did as well. I would go out and run some, but gradually a routine of running slipped away. I felt it when my sons would visit. They had picked up running like their old man. It was exciting, but I started to realize I was struggling. I could not do the small runs I had done. Many times I would get as far away as the run took us and have to walk back.

But the funny thing is that when the topic of running came up, I still claimed to be a committed runner. I knew all the jargon. I could talk about old races. When we discussed the latest runs, I had all kinds of excuses. But, was I still a runner? I believe anyone who laces up their shoes and gets out on the pavement is a runner. What I had lost were the benefits I used to enjoy from a consistent running program. I felt more stress, gained weight, and experienced some confusing medical numbers. My doctor even asked, “Do you still run?”

The passage above stuck out to me. It is when Paul uses running a race as a comparison to the Christian race. After the doctor's appointment, I asked myself his question. Of course, in the office, I had answered, “Sure, I am running.” But I had quietly added: “not like I used to.” As I traveled home, I was thinking about those times in my life that my lifestyle and daily reactions made people ask, “Are you still a believer in Jesus?” I thought about how in those moments I had drifted far from who Jesus had called me to be. Was I still a Christian? If I had died, would I have gone to Heaven? Absolutely. But was I experiencing the blessings and the “fruit of the Spirit” the way God intended me to? During the time I was thinking about, I was not.

But over the past ten years, I have experienced a revival in my life. God confronted me just like my doctor confronted me about my running. I started to make the changes I needed to make to allow God to start working in my life. It was a slow process at first. But eventually it became like a snowball gaining speed coming down the mountain. Steps of trust and spiritual victories caused me to lean in more until I now feel as close to God as I ever have in my life. And it is my prayer that no one questions me about my faith like my doctor questioned me about my running. So as Paul talks about above, faith in Jesus is a lot like running. Train, focus, and prioritize your faith just like a runner trying to reach a goal or win a race. It is slow going at first. It is a grind with defeats and disappointments. But eventually, just like your body gets used to the routine and experiences success, so it goes with our walk with Jesus. Take it from me. If we lean into Jesus, He is already leaning in, ready to grow our faith and bless our life.

The running? Yes, I'm running consistently, and my doctors have noticed. One even asked the other day, “Are you a runner?” But my prayer is that after every personal interaction, people will notice a difference that points them to Christ. So, hopefully I'll hear someone ask, “What's the difference in your life?” I encourage you to do the same. Run the race God has put before you, focusing on making Jesus Lord and number one in your life. Lean into the means of grace (Bible Study, Prayer, and Holy Communion) so that you will be well equipped for whatever course you find yourself on.

God bless you this November. Don't forget as you run this race... You Matter to God.

Pastor Rob

NOVEMBER 3

DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK.

SEE YOU SUNDAY.



SnackPacks

SAMARITAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Join us as we pack thousands of SnackPacks for school children in our area who experience food insecurity!



Sunday, November 3rd - Atrium

THIS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SEASON

REMEBER... YOU MATTER TO GOD

JOIN US AS WE WEAR OUR
"YOU MATTER TO GOD" SHIRTS ON SUNDAYS AND
ON ELECTION DAY. SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE IN THE ATRIUM AND CHURCH OFFICE.



2024 FALL CLASSES

GROW DEEPER

"What Now?"

SUNDAY | 4:00 - 8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

December 1st, 4th, & 11th

In-Person ONLY (Room 202)

Facilitator: Carole Baker

Have you been asked to serve at Central, volunteered at church and would like to know more, or would like to volunteer but not sure where to start? In this fun and interactive class, participants will discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership!

(This class will qualify as a LSM Basics Course)



THANKS GIVING

"LET US THANK HIM.."

*The Church Office will be closed
November 28th & 29th.*





A poster for the Turkey Bowl. At the top, there are two football helmets, one yellow and one red. Below them, the text "TURKEY BOWL" is written in large, bold, orange letters, and "NOV. 16-17" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a blue banner contains the text "JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND FULL OF ACTIVITIES AS WE TAKE PART IN THE LARGEST UMC STUDENT-LED FOOD DRIVE IN ARKANSAS!". At the bottom, there is a large green hand pointing up with the number "1" on it, and a blue banner with the text "FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER" and a QR code. To the left of the hand are several cans of food, including corn, tomato soup, spaghetti, and quinoa.

October has blown by and Gravity is gearing up for November! We had an awesome Brinner (Breakfast for Dinner)! The High School Girls had the most parents attending that night and received an Ice-cream party from Andy's Custard! As we look to November, it's all about thankfulness and sharing our resources. On Nov. 10th we invite parents and students to join us in the Chapel for Worship at 6p then we ALL go upstairs to the Youth Room for dinner. We also are gearing up for our 13th year of Turkey Bowl, the largest student-led food drive in the Arkansas Conference. We encourage you to join us as we collect food items. We will wrap up November with our Hanging of the Greens & Advent Celebration (chili fundraiser and Santa Shop), Nov. 24.

As we look toward Advent, if you have anything (trinkets, unused gifts, books) to donate to Gravity's Santa Shop, please email lswanson@centralrogers.com or drop them off in church office (labeled Santa Shop).

A poster for Gravity's Second Sunday. It has a blue background with white stars and wavy lines. The word "GRAVITY" is written in small, white, all-caps letters at the top. Below it, "SECOND SUNDAY" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, "NOV 10 / 6P / CHAPEL" is written in white, all-caps letters.



@GravityYouthMinistries



KIDS *Ministries*

What kind of key will not open a door?

A tur-key!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Last fall we re-ignited our KidsMin Advisory Board. Our board supports KidsMin with their **ADVOCACY** (telling others about KidsMin opportunities, sharing names, and making Jesus & Central accessible to all), their **ATTENDANCE** (WNL, Sundays, special services, and outreach events), and their **ANALYSIS** (feedback on programs & events, ideas for future growth). We have met monthly-ish over the past year and their input and feedback have made a lasting impact on our ministry.

We would like to shout a HUGE thank you to:

AC Curtis
Mark Himmelberg
Gini Hudson
Carrie Johnson
Elise Lake
Andrea Park
Misty Smith

WNL – YOUNG DISCIPLES

It's not too late to join the Young Disciples for WNL! In the month of November, they will begin preparation for Hanging of the Greens worship service for Advent Celebration. The WNL kiddos will lead worship and share a nativity presentation for our congregation on November 24th.



UNSUNG HEROES: A 4-Week Series from the Old Testament on Ruth
Superheroes aren't heroic only when they feel like it— they're brave each and every day. The best heroes can even inspire the people around them to be brave, faithful, and hopeful in their own lives, too. In this 4-week series, kids will learn more about what it looks like to see God as the hero of our story as they hear the story of Ruth and Naomi. They'll see how God gives them companions, opportunities, boldness, and hope so they can be heroes, too!

DOWNLOAD THIS MONTH'S PARENT DEVOTIONAL

http://sycu.org/UnsungHeroes_PDevo_V8

When you think of congregational care, what ministries come to mind? I imagine not too many of you came up with the one on my mind today as I write this. I have been parking my car in the parking area in the front of the church facing New Hope Road. This has given me the opportunity to notice the beautiful Fall decorations that adorn the front of our church building on that side of the church.

It occurred to me the other day that this is also a ministry of care. Maybe the beautiful Fall decorations don't directly impact people but in an indirect way it impacts all of us to notice the labor of those who keep the outside of our church looking beautiful season after season. It also reminds me of God's amazing creation of this world. What an impressive planet we live on. God gave to Adam and eventually his wife Eve, the task of caring for the world they were placed.

A question came to my mind as I contemplated the beautiful front of our church, "Just how concerned should we be with the condition of the earth?" What responsibility do we have to preserve the earth's resources and seek to maintain it's natural beauty? I believe we were given the responsibility to not only minister to people in need but also to care for the world we live. Too often the history of humankind has been to plunder earth's resources in some cases to extinction. One example of continuing to plunder earth's resource is found during the time when whales were harvested for their oil. We harvested whales for their oil almost to extinction. History tells us that when the whalers couldn't find whales, they started harvesting walrus. There were so many walruses taken that many of the native people living along the coast in Russia and Alaska died of starvation.

The ministry of care doesn't start or stop with people. I believe God calls us to a greater sense of ourselves to care for the world around us. Heaven and earth may one day pass away to God's eternal home, but until then, let's be reminded to care for earth by valuing its gift of beauty and resource for all of us. To all of you that keep our grounds looking festive and beautiful, thank you for your commitment to an often-forgotten component of congregational care. Your ministry is appreciated!

Kerry, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care



It was LOST and is now FOUND!
Please see Angel in the office to identify.

- clip-on earring
- gift card

NOVEMBER 17TH
6:00 PM, CHAPEL

Service of Comfort & Hope

WHATEVER THE STRUGGLE, GRIEF OR NEED



Central Rogers Presents

HANGING OF THE GREENS & ADVENT WORKSHOP

November 24th
5:00pm - 7:00pm

2024



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ROGERS

NOVEMBER 12TH (5:00 – 7:00PM)

Build Night, in the Bus Barn

NOVEMBER 19TH (5:00 – 7:00PM)

Build Night, in the Bus Barn

DECEMBER 6TH - CHRISTMAS PARADE

Beginning at 6:30p

Central is excited to be part of this great Rogers tradition. Please plan on joining us to build our float on two different nights in November (prior float building experience is NOT necessary – ha)! Bring the whole family to be part of the parade on December 6th. It will be BIG FUN!

Read with Us

Lean In.

Connecting People to Christ



November

- 3 Daylight Savings Time (Fall Back!)
- 3 SnackPack Event, Atrium
- 5 Election Day
- 6 WNL: Favorite Decade Night (Timeless Pizza & Chocolate Chip Cookies)
- 10 Gravity Worship & Sunday Nights, Chapel & Gravity Youth Room
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 13 WNL: Veterans Night (Sloppy G.I. Joes, Cake)
- 16 - 17 Gravity Youth Turkey Bowl
- 17 Service of Comfort & Hope, Chapel
- 20 WNL: Thanksgiving Night (Turkey Sandwiches, Apple Pie)
- 24 Hanging of the Greens & Advent Workshop
- 25 Church Council Meeting, Conference Room
- 28 Thanksgiving
- 28 - 29 Thanksgiving - Church Office is Closed

It's a great time to jump into The Bible Recap! Central has begun reading the New Testament! Whether you got lost in Leviticus, exited in Ezekiel, or never got started at all, now is the perfect time to join the entire church as we close out the year with our "Read with Us" focus on the Scriptures. If you need technical help, please swing by the information station in the Atrium this Sunday.



NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1-Nov Matthew 20-21 Day 306	2-Nov Luke 19 Day 307
3-Nov Mark 11 John 12 Day 308	4-Nov Matthew 22 Mark 12 Day 309	5-Nov Matthew 23 Luke 20-21 Day 310	6-Nov Mark 13 Day 311	7-Nov Matthew 24 Day 312	8-Nov Matthew 25 Day 313	9-Nov Matthew 26 Mark 14 Day 314
10-Nov Luke 22 John 13 Day 315	11-Nov John 14-17 Day 316	12-Nov Matthew 27 Mark 15 Day 317	13-Nov Luke 23 John 18-19 Day 318	14-Nov Matthew 28 Mark 16 Day 319	15-Nov Luke 24 John 20-21 Day 320	16-Nov Acts 1-3 Day 321
17-Nov Acts 4-6 Day 322	18-Nov Acts 7-8 Day 323	19-Nov Acts 9-10 Day 324	20-Nov Acts 11-12 Day 325	21-Nov Acts 13-14 Day 326	22-Nov James 1-5 Day 327	23-Nov Acts 15-16 Day 328
*Nov 24 Christ the King Galatians 1-3 Day 329	25-Nov Galatians 4-6 Day 330	26-Nov Acts 17 Day 331	27-Nov 1 Thessalonians 1-5 2 Thessalonians 1-3 Day 332	*Nov 28 Thanksgiving Acts 18-19 Day 333	29-Nov 1 Corinthians 1-4 Day 334	30-Nov 1 Corinthians 5-8 Day 335