



# CIRCUIT RIDER

VOLUME 55 / ISSUE 8  
AUGUST 2024

PROMOTION SUNDAY

**WED.  
NITE LIVE**

6TH GRADE BLAST OFF  
& BO'SMO FOR  
GRAVITY YOUTH  
STUDENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL  
SUPPLY DRIVE

2024 FALL CLASS  
LINE UP

CENTRALROGERS.COM



**Rev. Rob Holifield**

Senior Pastor

Greetings Church Family. I hope you are enjoying Summer and all the fun it brings. "Fun" is a wonderful and interesting word isn't it. I mean if we really enjoy an activity, event, program or even a full day then "fun" is a word that encapsulates enjoyment. If someone says, "it's fun" then they had a good experience. Mary Poppins told us in that classic children's story that in every job that must be done there is an element of fun, so find the fun and the job becomes a game. Therefore "fun" is a goal for most of us. If what we are doing is not fun then we probably do not want to be doing it, right?

Well, I have been one who took the words of Mary Poppins seriously from an early age. Those words come to me whenever I find myself having to do something that seems like drudgery. Mowing grass was that for me as a kid. It was summer and I was supposed to be having fun. Instead, I was stuck mowing in the hot sun. My mowing work did not bring smiles to my dad's eyes either. But he was determined I was going to mow. Or maybe he was determined not to mow because it wasn't fun!

Whatever the reason, mowing was something I didn't want to do as a junior high boy. It was like that until I started to make a game out of it. I would set a goal of finishing in a certain time or making fewer mistakes. Then I purchased a "walk man" and my mowing time became a time of listening to my music. Do you remember the "walk-man"? That is showing my age a bit. But I discovered mowing can be fun and now it is the 2 and half hours a week I look forward to the most.

So, what does this have to do with church or spiritual formation? OK, I will get to the point. One thing that surprised me in my high school years is how people told me church wasn't supposed to be fun. Church, worship, devotionals, sermons, and anything that had to do with God wasn't fun.... it was serious business. This way of looking at things pushed me away a bit from my faith. Because to my 9th grade brain, anything worth my time had to be fun. In other words, it had to be enjoyable and something I looked forward to if it was going to matter to me. And then I went to a youth group in my new church in Heber Springs, AR. On the first Sunday night we went to the lake, which was fun and had a great devotional about following Jesus. The rest of the summer and year I had fun at church. This was a new experience. And it was a life changing experience.

Since that first year of the fun Heber youth group, I have not listened to those who say faith, worship, and church cannot be fun. Worshipping and walking with Jesus is the most fun I have ever had in my life. It is fun to follow a God that is living, active and cares deeply for me. And it is fun to be surprised by the joy and presence of God even during hard times. Therefore, I believe God wants me to bring in the fun that gives me life like running, biking, board games, ice cream, laughter, and hot dogs on rollers in the church (IYKYK). These fun activities build relationships with other Christians to help each other know God better.

I am writing all of this to invite you into the fun of faith and church. Here is the good news about following Jesus. A) He Loves us, and we matter to Him. B) He wants us to enjoy life. He wants to help us find the fun in the mundane. C) The goals God has for us are things God wants to do.

Therefore, we just keep saying yes and let God work. When we realize that all those "yesses" to God has produced maturity in us like forgiving someone or no longer tempted by a certain sin, we realize that the victory we find in Jesus is the most fun we have ever had.

Have a fun August on the lake, golf course, beach, starting school and most of all living for Jesus! I'll see you on Sunday and don't forget you matter to God.

Pastor Rob

A Word from Pastoral Care and the ministry of the towel:

Today I sit in my office taking a break from being a greeter at the front door, using the big leaf blower to blow away all the June bugs from the church entrances, and helping Lucy hang a shade in the youth room. We are all scrambling throughout the building finishing up the last-minute things as the UMC jurisdictional conference prepares to convene. When I first started in pastoral ministry, I didn't really realize how many non-ministry tasks I would be called on to perform. I was trained in preaching, teaching and ministering to people but I quickly realized that most of ministry takes place outside the pulpit.

I recently spoke with a colleague of mine about her first week of ministry at her new appointment. She said her first act of ministry was to clean out the church refrigerator and freezer that needed cleansing. I told her that pastoral work needs to come with both a toilet brush and a plunger and probably a mop and mop bucket too.

While we would probably say the work of a pastor is primarily preaching, teaching, baptizing, and praying for the sick and suffering, that is not all it entails. The ministry of the towel requires us to do "other duties as assigned." This afternoon I am scheduled to transport some of the bishops back to their hotels. Maybe it isn't one of the most glamorous moments of ministry, but as a servant of Christ's kingdom it is a Godly moment!

A lot of Jesus' ministry here on earth was filled with ordinary moments that were transformed into extraordinary moments through the act of Jesus' divine nature. As ministers of Jesus, we need to realize that any ordinary moment can be transformed into an extraordinary moment through the gift of grace working in us.

How you might ask can an act of cleaning a toilet be a divine act of grace? Have you ever walked into a gas station bathroom, really needing to use the toilet, only to find it a disgusting mess?! Imagine walking into our church, bathroom only to find it appalling? For me, simple acts of courtesy are a part of the ministry Jesus demonstrated by washing the disciples' feet with a towel.

While ministry is fun and exciting during those moments of high-profile exposure, it is in those ordinary moments that the kingdom of God is truly enlightened like a city set on a hill. Never overlook those ordinary moments of the ministry of the towel to see how God transforms those small acts of grace and love into extraordinary acts of kindness. And please, please, always remember to flush the toilet!

Kerry Turnbow, Associate Pastor of Pastoral & Congregational Care



**Mike and Jenny Rudolph** joined from Cross Church Rogers. Mike is a Fuel Inventory Manager at the Sam's Home Office. Jenny is an internal investigator at the Walmart Home Office. The Rudolphs live in Rogers.



**Doug Wheeler** joined by transfer of membership from St. Luke's Methodist in Indianapolis, IN. Doug is in sales with Rusco Packaging and lives in Rogers, AR.



**Robert and Andrea Park** joined by transfer of membership from a different denomination. Robert is a manager with Walmart, Inc and Andrea is an Operations Manager with McCormick. The Parks have three children: Pyper, Peyton, and Payge. The Park family live in Bentonville, AR.



# Gravity

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Gravity has had an awesome summer! June was BUSY with Vacation Bible School and Ozark Mission Project Mission Trip in West Memphis. July kicked off our Gravity Student Leadership Team, and we had a BLAST at Guys Night, High School Girls Night and our 6-8th Grade Girls Night.. This AMAZING summer was possible because of two OUT OF THIS WORLD youth summer interns – Amy Brooks and Abby Foster. As we bid them farewell (and with their own pickleball sets – shh!!!) to head off for another school year, we want to IMMENSELY THANK THEM for their endless hard work, creative ideas, smiling faces (in spite of the pics) and most importantly, for helping connect our students to Christ! We love you, are so grateful for you, and will miss you TREMENDOUSLY!



It is hard to believe we are already shifting to fall programming in Gravity! We will welcome our incoming 6th graders into Gravity the first week of August, and don't forget to check out our upcoming events that will help kick start your new school year – Back to School Breakfast and Bo'Smo.

And speaking of FALL, please add these events to your calendar -  
Sept 6-8 FALL RETREAT at NEW LIFE RANCH  
Sept 15 Gravity Family Fall Kickoff – 6p



**GRAVITY  
BACK  
TO  
SCHOOL  
BREAKFAST**

Sun. Aug. 11  
9:30a - Youth Room



JOIN US FOR

**GRAVITY'S  
BACK TO SCHOOL  
BO'SMO**

BONFIRE, S'MORES, POOL PARTY, & MORE...

**SUN. AUG 11  
6-8P**

3301 W Seminole Dr. Rogers

Join us as we officially wrap up summer & send you into a new school year!



@GravityYouthMinistries



# KIDS

## Ministries



### PROMOTION SUNDAY

Sunday August 11th will be Promotion Sunday where kids “move up” to their next Sunday school class. Preschoolers meet downstairs in room 121 and elementary aged kids meet upstairs in Mr. Bob’s Place (middle hallway). This is an especially big day for our rising kindergartners as they get to come upstairs! Last year our cereal bar for the elementary kids was such a hit, we are doing it again this year. We hope to see you there at 9:30!

### BACKPACK BLESSING

On Sunday August 11th we will be blessing all backpacks, school bags, and teacher bags during our worship services. If you go to a school each day for any reason (to work or learn), or if you do school at your kitchen table, we would like to pray a blessing over your school year. Please bring your bag and place it on the steps of the Chancel before the service you attend. We will pray a blessing as a congregation, and you may collect your bag at the end of the service.

### WED NITE LIVE: YOUNG DISCIPLES

We are so excited to kick off another great session of Wednesday Nite Live classes for our Young Disciples later this month. This year our Young Disciples (kindergarten – 5th grade) will work as a team to deepen their understanding of scripture and worship. Each Wednesday they will gather for worship and music and then head off to life groups. In their life groups, our Young Disciples will have lots of opportunity for fellowship and play while also exploring the lesson of the week through creative learning strategies.

Our Contemporary Praise Team will start off the Fall session with a special night of worship and praise for the whole family on Wednesday, August 21st with dinner on the front lawn. To end the Fall session of WNL, our Young Disciples will lead our congregation in a special worship service as part of our Advent Celebration. We have a BIG need for life group leaders and classroom buddies for our kiddos. Contact Ms. Mollie ([marmour@centralrogers.com](mailto:marmour@centralrogers.com)) for more info on how to get involved or if you would like to lead a life group! Class registration will be open soon! Students must be registered to participate.

### GAME PLAN: A 4-Week Series from 1 & 2 Samuel on David SERIES OVERVIEW:

On your mark, get set, go! When a shepherd named David became king, it was a whole new ballgame! He had some big wins and some big losses, too, but he also had a great plan for how to overcome his challenges. In this 4-week series, kids will team up with David and learn that making peace, following God, showing kindness, and forgiveness are all part of God's game plan for us!



**COLLEGE STUDENTS-**  
COLLEGE CONNECTION NEEDS YOUR  
ADDRESS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!  
SEND IT TO LUCY AT 816.728.1416 OR  
LSWANSON@CENTRALROGERS.COM



Bonnie Grimes Elementary School

## BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

July 28 - August 6

We are collecting the following school supplies for our community partner, Bonnie Grimes Elementary School: Black dry erase markers, earbuds, plastic or paper pocket folders with brads, pencil boxes, 5" pointed and blunt scissors, 24 pack of crayons, and kleenex. Donations can be dropped off in the Atrium. Cash donations are also welcome, just note "School Supplies" in your gift.

### LOST & FOUND

In the words of that famous hymn, "I once was lost but now I'm found", we have many Lost Items that need to find their owner. We will have a rolling rack in the atrium, or just outside the office, for you to retrieve lost items during the month of August. Anything left on the rack at the end of the month will be donated to the Women's Rummage Sale. Maybe you'll find your special lost cup, glasses, umbrella, cake pan or Bible!

### COLLEGE CONNECIS LOOKING FOR COOKIE BAKERS



WE ARE GEARING UP TO SEND OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS A DOZEN COOKIES TO KICK OFF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR - WHICH REQUIRES OVER 50 DOZEN COOKIES. WOULD YOU HELP US BY BAKING A DOZEN OR MORE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES IN SEPTEMBER? SIGN UP BY EMAILING LSWANSON@CENTRALROGERS.COM





## August

27- 3	Guatemala Mission Trip	
4	Gravity 6th Grade Blast Off	6:00p
7	Sacred Thread Quilt Mission	9:00a, Atrium
7	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p, Room 206
7	Bible Recap Discussion Group	6:00p, Room 204
11	Backpack Blessing	All Sunday Services
11	Adult Sunday School Open House	9:00a, Adult Sunday School Classes
11	Promotion Sunday	9:30a, Children & Teen Classes
11	Bo'Smo	6:00p, Gravity Youth Room
14	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p, Room 206
14	Bible Recap Discussion Group	6:00p, Room 204
18	Grace Community Dinner	3:00p, Grace United Methodist Church
21	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p, Room 206
21	Wed. Nite Live Kick-Off	5:00p, Front Lawn
21	Bible Recap Discussion Group	6:00p
25	Church Wide Prayer	5:00p, Chapel
26	Church Council Meeting	6:00p, Conference Room
28	Prayer Shawl Ministry	3:00p, Room 206
28	Wed. Nite Live	5:00p, Atrium & Class Rooms

## AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1-Aug</b> 2 Kings 20-21 Day 214	<b>2-Aug</b> 2 Chronicles 32-33 Day 215	<b>3-Aug</b> Nahum 1-3 Day 216
<b>4-Aug</b> 2 Kings 22-23 2 Chronicles 34-35 Day 217	<b>5-Aug</b> Zephaniah 1-3 Day 218	<b>6-Aug</b> Jeremiah 1-3 Day 219	<b>7-Aug</b> Jeremiah 4-6 Day 220	<b>8-Aug</b> Jeremiah 7-9 Day 221	<b>9-Aug</b> Jeremiah 10-13 Day 222	<b>10-Aug</b> Jeremiah 14-17 Day 223
<b>11-Aug</b> Jeremiah 18-22 Day 224	<b>12-Aug</b> Jeremiah 23-25 Day 225	<b>13-Aug</b> Jeremiah 26-29 Day 226	<b>14-Aug</b> Jeremiah 30-31 Day 227	<b>15-Aug</b> Jeremiah 32-34 Day 228	<b>16-Aug</b> Jeremiah 35-37 Day 229	<b>17-Aug</b> Jeremiah 38-40 Psalm 74, 79 Day 230
<b>18-Aug</b> 2 Kings 24-25 2 Chronicles 36 Day 231	<b>19-Aug</b> Habbakuk 1-3 Day 232	<b>20-Aug</b> Jeremiah 41-45 Day 233	<b>21-Aug</b> Jeremiah 46-48 Day 234	<b>22-Aug</b> Jeremiah 49-50 Day 235	<b>23-Aug</b> Jeremiah 51-52 Day 236	<b>24-Aug</b> Lamentations 1-2 Day 237
<b>25-Aug</b> Lamentations 3-5 Day 238	<b>26-Aug</b> Ezekiel 1-4 Day 239	<b>27-Aug</b> Ezekiel 5-8 Day 240	<b>28-Aug</b> Ezekiel 9-12 Day 241	<b>29-Aug</b> Ezekiel 13-15 Day 242	<b>30-Aug</b> Ezekiel 16-17 Day 243	<b>31-Aug</b> Ezekiel 18-20 Day 244