



# CIRCUIT RIDER

VOLUME 56 / ISSUE 8  
AUGUST 2025

HOW TO ... LINE DANCE  
AUG. 9

## THE JOURNEY'S OF PAUL

2026 TRIP ANNOUNCED!

PROMOTION SUNDAY  
AUG. 10

WED. NITE LIVE:  
DINNER, FELLOWSHIP,  
AND CLASSES

BACK TO SCHOOL  
EVENTS FOR KIDS  
& YOUTH

CENTRALROGERS.COM





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Senior Associate Pastor of  
Worship

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Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care

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Director of Communications

ANDREA PARK  
Executive Assistant to the  
Sr. Pastor and Clergy

ANGEL SHAW  
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Executive Director of Church  
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"Jay! Where are we? This street does not look familiar? And where did the sky go? How do we get back up to street level!?" This was me (see picture on right) talking to my friend, Rev. Jay Clark, somewhere in the middle of Old Jerusalem in 2012. We were on a church pilgrimage trip to the Holy Land and my childhood best friend and I decided to venture off and explore the Old City at night. We just started walking and the streets twist and turn to where it feels you are inside tunnels. Another thing that made the night tricky was it was Sabbath evening. The streets were abandoned at 8pm at night. There was hardly a person in sight. We finally found a teenage boy who we paid to lead us back to one of the gates into the city.

It was a bit scary but a night I will never forget. During our exploration of the Old City we came upon the Temple Mount. Even late evening on a Sabbath people were gathered to pray. Jay and I spent time praying over people's names and placing them in the cracks of the foundation of the temple of Jesus' time. That is one of the things people do at the temple mount in the area called the "wailing wall". People pray and place prayer requests in the cracks in the wall. I knew it would be special but I didn't realize it would be life transforming.



Our main trip next year will begin on June 20th where we will fly out of XNA airport and arrive in Greece on the 21st. Between the 22nd of June and the 27th we will see Amphipolis, Philippi, Thessaloniki, Berea, Delphi, Corinth and Athens to name a few of the sites. Our goal is to have at least 20 people on the trip which will allow us to plan our days so that we can teach and lean into some of the key formational spots on the trip.

During my first trip to Israel I was able to sit on a rock with my friend Jay and ponder John 21 where Peter jumps out of the boat to meet the resurrected Jesus. The rock we are sitting on in the picture attached is believed to mark the spot where Jesus and Peter had that famous fish fry where Jesus asked Peter, "Do you Love Me?" That spot meant a lot to me and because we had the freedom to plan our day, we were able to stop, read the scripture, and allow God to encounter us in unique and powerful ways.



I share that story with you to introduce a new ministry we are beginning at Central in the summer of 2026. We are beginning a spiritual pilgrimage ministry where leaders of our clergy and staff will take people to key Biblical and theological sites. This summer I will be leading a trip to Greece to explore the journeys of Paul. There will be a main trip to Greece with options to add on a trip to Rome and Turkey. This is not a new ministry to Central Rogers, as previous pastors and staff have taken trips to England and the Holy Land. A few years ago our New Horizons Sunday School class took a trip to the Holy Land and I was fortunate to go with them. So actually we are rebooting a churchwide spiritual pilgrimage ministry, that I hope will be a blessing to many of you.

That is my hope for this trip in June 2026. We will also be making available a pre tour to Rome that will leave on June 17 from XNA. We will spend two days there seeing ancient historical sites on one day and Christian Rome on the other. Those days will include the Coliseum, the Pantheon, the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica. After the main trip is over we will offer an add on cruise through the Greek Isles with stops to explore Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini and then another day in Athens.

If you are interested in this possibly life changing trip there are a couple ways to proceed. One is to email me at [Rholifield@centralrogers.com](mailto:Rholifield@centralrogers.com) to request the full itinerary and prices. The other is to join us for an informational meeting on Wednesday, August 13 at 6pm in room 104. We will have our tour director, Karen Clark, here to answer any questions and fill in all of the details.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us on this amazing trip to learn more about the Bible, Paul, the churches he ministered to, and experience God in a fresh exciting way. Let me know if you have any questions or want to talk about my past Church group pilgrimage trips. I love to tell people about them because God has used each one to energize my faith.





Our kids had an **AMAZING** time learning how to play pickleball with Molly Himmelberg (and her team of teachers: Cara Ulrich, Natalie Ivers, and Mark Himmelberg). Thanks to Molly and all the grownups who brought their inspiring pickleball ball pros out in July. Whether they were “Baby Gherkins” or “Big Dills”, **EVERONE** had a great time! This was a special **JUNIOR** How to Series. If you would like to get more involved with the **FUN** of Kids Ministry, please reach out to Katie Emery or contact the church office.



## How To...LINE DANCE

**SAVE THE DATE!** August 9th (7:00 – 9:30 PM)

Come learn line dancing with Salle-Anne Gilchrist! She will teach you all the steps to make you look like a pro! It will be a **SUPER FUN** evening where we will turn the Atrium into a dance hall and show off our best moves. Having a partner is **NOT** necessary. The only equipment you need is a smile and desire to have a great evening with new and old friends!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 10TH

**THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE HOLDING AN OPEN HOUSE FOLLOWING THE 8:15 COMMUNION SERVICE FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CLASS AND MEETING THE GROUP! THIS WILL BE A GREAT TIME TO MEET CLASS MEMBERS, ENJOY SOME SNACKS, AND LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT AND HOW THE GROUPS HOLD THEIR MANY STUDIES!**

**THERE IS A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR EVERYONE, SO PLAN ON VISITING ONE OR MORE!**

Community - Room 104  
 Cornerstone - Room 200  
 Gather & Grow - Room 223  
 New Horizons - Room 202  
 ROTC - Room 205  
 Scripture Seekers - Room 107  
 Soul Friends - Room 208  
 The Vine - Room 206  
 Willing Workers/New Life - Room 105  
 Women in the Word - Room 204





August is HERE; which means summer is quickly coming to a close! Gravity had an amazing summer between Vacation Bible School and Local Mission Project (LMP) in June and our Growing.Up Gravity series in July! A HUGE thank you to amazing leaders who lead the three weeks of Growing.Up Gravity – Career and Finance with Trey Carter and Tarris Wallace, Cooking with Kevin Szczepanek and Car Maintenance with Kyle Reynolds and to Carole Baker who led Gravity GrownUps in July.

Here's to ALL things August and the beginning of a new school year 😊

#### 6th GRADE BLAST OFF // AUGUST 3 / 6P

Incoming 6th graders & families, join us for an out of this world celebration as we welcome you to Gravity Youth Ministries! Registration is required. For more info and to register, please check out the QR on the image.

#### BACK TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST // AUGUST 10 / 9:30A

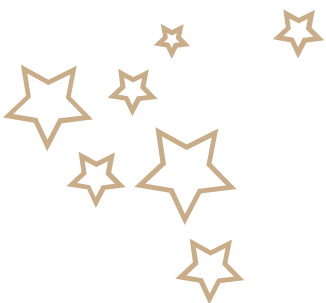
Gravity students, join us at the GRAVITY HOUSE (aka Youth Room) for our Back to School Breakfast - complete with a WAFFLE BAR and ICED COFFEE station. Take a chance to win BREAKFAST on your first day of school. And don't be sitting at the table that ends breakfast with the ROTTEN APPLE!

#### BO'SMO // AUGUST 10 / 6P

Gravity students and families, let's wrap up summer with our Annual Bo'Smo! This year, we are ramping up the antics - there will be yard games, pool party, craft area to make bracelets, Sally's Hydration Station will be available with your favorite dirty soda, and of course, a bonfire with the makings for s'mores! Some FUN Back to School giveaways too! Gravity Grownups will be having a BLAST as well! We will wrap up the evening in prayer for the school year ahead, and we'll also send you on your way with a Gravity Back to School kit to make sure your first day goes off without a hitch! THIS EVENT IS OFFSITE - located at 3301 W Seminole Dr in Rogers.

Don't forget to join us in AUGUST as we kick off GRAVITY MIDWEEK; our Wednesday offering!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! Sept. 5-7 GRAVITY FALL RETREAT at New Life Ranch. Registration will be opening at the beginning of August!



@GravityYouthMinistries





**KIDS**  
*Ministries*

# Promotion Sunday

Sunday August 10 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! We will continue our cereal bar upstairs for the elementary kids ~ so come hungry. We hope to see you there at 9:30!

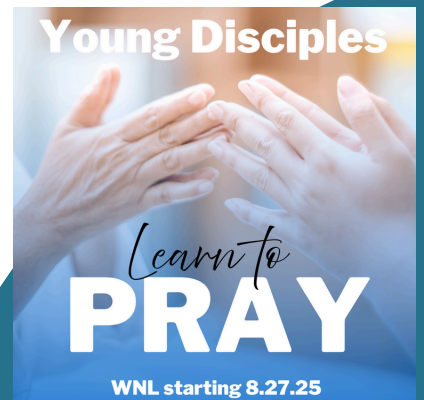


## BACKPACK BLESSING

The Central family would like to recognize the start of a new school year! 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 year. We invite you to bring your school bag to church on Sunday August 10 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.

## Young Disciples – Wed. Nite Live

Later this month our Wed Nite Live classes will kick back off. On August 20, we will have a party on the front lawn (weather permitting) and the following week we will start classes. This fall our focus will be PRAYER. Kids from birth through preschool will head to room 127 to start. They will have a short lesson with practice and then head to the playground (weather permitting). Elementary-aged kids will meet in the Atrium near the Chapel and we’ll start with a worship service before heading upstairs to room 211 for an art’s enhanced lesson on prayer.





# The Ministry of the Towel

## Highlighting: GriefShare & DivorceCare Groups

### Kerry L. Turnbow, D. Min.

In this month's newsletter I want to highlight two important ministries that are a part of congregational care. Two ministries that are vital to people who have experienced grief and loss due to either divorce or death of a loved one are GriefShare and DivorceCare.

The tragedy of the world we live in is that approximately 50% of all marriages end in divorce. Divorce is one of the most painful experiences you can face. There are so many emotions, so many challenges, so many hurdles to overcome not only with oneself but also with the other person and with children and extended family.



DivorceCare offers support, answers, and practical tools to help you manage the many stresses of separation and divorce and find healing. DivorceCare helps you process deep emotional hurt, anger, grief and depression, loneliness, fear, and anxiety. It will help you to overcome relational struggles with family and friends after divorce. It will give you tools to manage the conflict. It will offer suggestions for how to forgive when there is deep resentment and hurt and will also provide tools on how you might interact with your ex-spouse. DivorceCare also offers practical tips on living single, dealing with finance, legal issues, and moving forward.

Facing the journey of life following the loss of a loved one can be one of the most difficult challenges. It can feel like you're walking alone in the dark without a flashlight. It's easy to wonder if you're moving forward or simply wandering in circles. The disruption that comes from the personal loss of a loved one can leave one feeling alone, hopeless, desperate, and be left with unanswered questions as to why the person had to die.



GriefShare is a 13-week course that helps a person walk through the stages of the grief process and the enormity of the emotions that come with loss. It also addresses questions that death brings to the forefront such as why did God allow this to happen. In the GriefShare group you will find comfort from others who are also walking through the valley of grief. The group will give you tools to cope through the adjustment process, how to find acceptance, and how to deal with the multitude of emotions that a person experiences.

If you, or a person you know, has experienced a loss either through divorce or death, I hope you will consider either becoming a part of one of these groups or passing the information along to a friend. Both the GriefShare and DivorceCare will be offered beginning in August on Wednesday evenings. You can contact me, Kerry Turnbow, for more information. My phone number at the church is 479-636-1630 Ext.611.





## WED. NITE LIVE KICKOFF

Wednesday Night Live kicks back up with an incredible church picnic and fair! There will be fun and activities (including Pastor Rob in a dunk tank) on August 20st on the front lawn. We will have food, games, music, and a wonderful chance to fellowship! Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy all the fun as we kick off another amazing year of Wednesday Night Live activities and classes!

## FALL CLASSES 2025

NEW classes are being offered this fall starting on August 27th! Registration for the fall weekday classes is opening soon on the church website. There are many exciting studies available on Wednesday nights following the Wednesday Night Live (WNL) dinner. All are welcome!

To register online:  
Home page - click "Join a Class"

## WALK TO EMMAUS

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. —Luke 24:15

The Walk to Emmaus develops Christian disciples and leaders by inspiring, challenging, and equipping active adult church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. It also benefits less active members who are seeking to renew a relationship with God, grow spiritually, or discover firmer foundations for their lives. Through The Walk to Emmaus, as they seek to become healthy and vital congregations, local churches have both a means of growing disciples and a tool for developing leaders for their disciple-making systems. The program begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity that is wrapped in prayer and signs of sacrificial service. It continues for the rest of participants' lives with follow-up groups that, along with the local church's robust offerings, contribute to participants' ongoing growth in grace. Men's Walk #97 will be with Lay Director Pete Franks and Women's Walk #98 will be with Lay Director Beth Graves at Camp Siloam in Siloam Springs.

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rogers**

# GROW DEEPER

## 2025 FALL CLASSES

- DISCIPLE I
- DISCIPLE III
- DISCIPLE IV
- DIVORCE CARE
- GRAVITY MIDWEEK (FEAT. ROB HOLIFIELD)
- GRIEF SHARE
- LOVE DOES
- THE CHOSEN - SEASON 5
- YOUNG DISCIPLES

We have some wonderful classes being offered this fall! Register and learn more by going to [centralrogers.com/connect/join-a-group/](http://centralrogers.com/connect/join-a-group/)

**Men's Walk**  
October 2 - 5

**Women's Walk**  
October 9 - 12

**WALK TO EMMAUS**  
THE UPPER ROOM®

[www.upperroom.org/walktoemmaus](http://www.upperroom.org/walktoemmaus)

**CAMP SILOAM**  
3600 S Lincoln St,  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

\*Register in the Church Office





**Lean In.**  
Connecting People to Christ

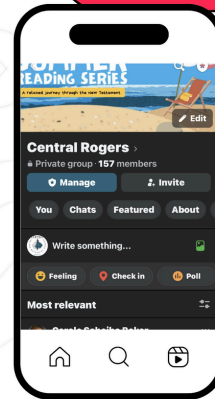
# August

- 3 Kindergarten Kickoff
- 3 Gravity Blast Off
- 4 Running/Walking Club
- 6 Sacred Thread Quilting Mission
- 6 Prayer Shawl Ministries
- 9 How to...Line Dance
- 10 Promotion Sunday
- 10 Adult Sunday School Open House
- 10 Gravity Back to School Breakfast
- 10 Backpack Blessing
- 10 Gravity Bo'Smo
- 13 Prayer Shawl Ministries
- 16 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 17 Grace Community Meal
- 18 Running/Walking Club
- 20 Prayer Shawl Ministries
- 20 WNL Kickoff: Carnival (Hotdogs, Chips, Watermelon)
- 24 Church Wide Prayer: Back to School
- 25 Church Council Meeting
- 26 Book Club: The Only Woman in the Room
- 27 Prayer Shawl Ministries
- 27 Wed. Nite Live: Birthday Celebration (Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Birthday Cake)
- 27 Fall Classes Begin

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

**FB GROUP**





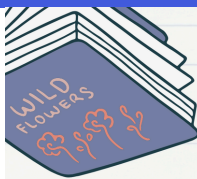
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[www.centralrogers.com](http://www.centralrogers.com)



## Connection Book Club

Last Tuesday of Each Month – 6:30p  
Contact: Molly Pickering  
**\*Group Meets off-campus**

**August Pick:**

