



CIRCUIT RIDER

VOLUME 57 / ISSUE 4
APRIL 2026

VBS: RAINFOREST FALLS -
VOLUNTEER & REGISTER

**HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE -
HOW TO
PARTICIPATE!**

MEET YOUR
MINISTRY COUNCIL
MEMBERS

HOW TO SERIES:
CONTAINER
GARDENING

CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY - APRIL 12

CENTRALROGERS.COM



Rev. Rob Holifield

Senior Pastor

REV. DAWN SPRAGG
Senior Associate Pastor of Worship

REV. KERRY TURNBOW
Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care

AMY PENNY
Director of Communications

ANDREA PARK
Executive Assistant to the
Sr. Pastor and Clergy

ANGEL SHAW
Administrative Assistant &
Membership Secretary

BRIAN CARROLL
Director of Facilities

BROC HITE
Church Pianist

CAROLE BAKER
Executive Director of Programming

CATHY BLACKWOOD
Bookkeeper

JENNIFER SINGH
Director of Central Child Care

JOHN W. BEALL
Director of Traditional Music &
Worship; Church Organist

KATIE EMERY
Director of Children's Ministries

KRIS MICKNA
Executive Director of Child
Development

LUCY SWANSON
Director of Youth Ministries

MISTY REVOIR
Director of Tiny Tots Preschool

MISTY SMITH
Nursery Supervisor

MOLLIE ARMOUR
Director of Contemporary Worship &
Accessibility

SAM GIBBY
Director of Tech Ministries

TAMI STEWART
Executive Director of Church
Administration

Paul writes in Epistle to the Ephesians 5:14, "Awake, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!"

As you read this, we are coming up in Holy Week 2026. During the third week of Lent, I realized that when Paul writes about being focused on the Spirit versus the flesh, he is making a similar point to what he says in Ephesians—though in this letter he is even more direct. In verses 13–14 of chapter 5 he writes:

"But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

'Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.'"

As I have been thinking about Lent and Holy Week, it seems that we can hear the Spirit speaking these exact words to us: Wake up, sleeper. Rise and live into the inheritance you have as a child of God.

In fact, next year I may incorporate this theme into what I say on Ash Wednesday, because Lent is a season meant to awaken our souls. It is a time to become intentional again about living life in the Spirit of God. Throughout the season we humble ourselves, deny ourselves, rediscover practices that connect us to God, and renew our commitment to allow the Holy Spirit to transform us.

Have you ever been woken up suddenly from a nap? That can be rough—especially if you have slept too long.

I recently got a new Garmin Forerunner 265 watch that I am still learning how to use. One of its features grades my sleep. Each morning I wake up, and the watch cheerfully says, "Good morning," and then promptly tells me how poorly I slept the night before. Even if I feel pretty good about my sleep, I can count on my Garmin to humble me with the score.

The other day I had the rare opportunity to take a Sunday afternoon nap after a morning of preaching and church activities. I slept for quite a while and was excited to see my watch congratulate me on a deep, relaxing nap. Instead, it informed me that I had slept too long, which would leave me groggy and struggling to stay awake.

Sadly, my watch was right. I felt groggy the rest of the evening.

As I reflect on Paul's words, I realize that this is sometimes how many of us live our faith. We are not completely asleep—like someone unaware of the Spirit moving and working. But we may have drifted into a kind of spiritual nap. And sometimes we have napped long enough that the drowsiness keeps us from fully living into the inheritance that Christ has given us.

Now, if you are reading this newsletter article, chances are you are already awake in the light. You take church and faith seriously. Perhaps you opened this newsletter simply to make sure you knew when all the Holy Week services are taking place.

But even faithful people can grow drowsy. You might feel like I do when the clock hits 10 p.m. and your eyes start to close.

So Paul's words from Ephesians are for you—and for me:

Awake, O sleeper. Wake fully up. Christ is shining on you.

This week, as we remember the sacred moments of Holy Week, pray that God will brush away the sleepy seeds from your eyes. Pray that the heaviness of spirit will lift and that the power of the Holy Spirit will surge through your soul. Then on Sunday morning, arise and praise the living Christ—fully awake and ready to live life deeply connected to Him. For the Spirit of Christ, who raised Jesus from the dead, is also at work in us—giving life to our mortal bodies and calling us to live as heirs of King Jesus, who reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

Pastor Rob



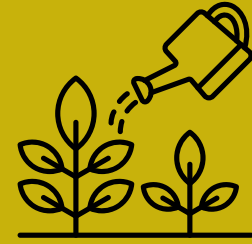
If you would like to have a conversation with Rob Holifield about being baptized, confirmed, re-confirmed, or remembering your baptism, use the QR CODE to request a meeting. Andrea Park will be reaching out to you.



How To Series – Container Gardening for Beginners

Join Lavender & Sage Homestead for Container Gardening for Beginners, a practical and beginner-friendly workshop designed to help you grow confidently in pots, patios, porches, and small spaces. In this class, you'll learn:

- How to choose the right containers and soil
- What plants thrive best in pots
- Simple container layouts that work
- Easy themed gardens like herb pots and salad bowls
- Companion planting and care tips for healthy growth



Whether you're brand new to gardening or looking to simplify how you grow, this class will give you practical tools and inspiration to get started right away.

Thank you

A huge thank you to Karena and Nikki Kent for a fun morning creating and connecting! This was such a fun time for all ages, and we all made such cute keepsakes that reflect our interests and favorite activities!



Reconfirmed Class – Spring 2026

Thank you to all who attended the latest reconfirmed class! This was a wonderful opportunity to grow in the knowledge of what we believe as United Methodists and why we believe it! 21 folks attended this 5 week class to grow deeper in their knowledge of the denomination and what makes it so special.

MINISTRY COUNCIL 2026

Did you know at Central there are committees of wonderful leaders who work to promote and expand the impact of ministries in all Connection Point areas, so people will mature in their faith? Below are the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each Connect Point Committee. Thank you for your leadership and for all who serve on the committees.

Worship Fully: Tony McCullough - Chair, Diane White - V Chair, Mark Hauser - V Chair

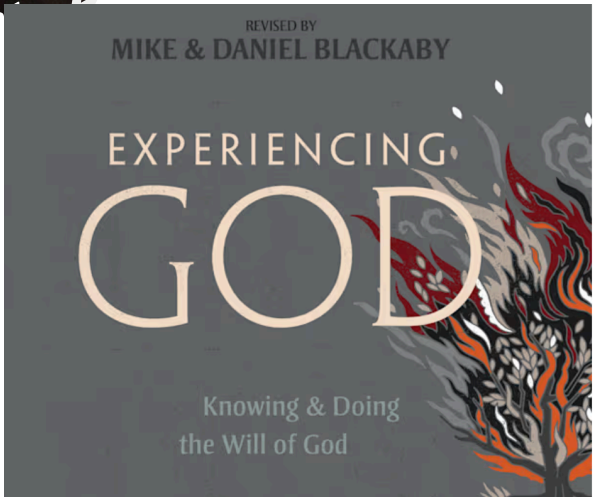
Give Freely: Sara Bechdoldt - Chair, Mike Necessary - V Chair

Grow Deeply: Kevin Szczpanek - Chair, Linda Switzer - V Chair

Love Unconditionally: Karen Anderson - Chair, Spencer Booz - V. Chair

Share Passionately: JR Shaw - Chair, Brad Parker - V. Chair

Build Community: Barbara Jones - Chair, Diane Callahan - V. Chair



EXPERIENCING GOD:
 How do we listen for God? How do we pray? Does God even hear our prayers? Students in 6 - 12th grade, join us on Wednesday nights, 7 - 8p, as we tackle those questions and continue to experience God through Pete Greig's method of prayer - PRAY

JOIN US AS WE WELCOME OUR 2026 YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

C O N F I R M A T I O N

SUNDAY, APRIL 12
 10:30A SANCTUARY
 ONE SERVICE





Vacation Bible School



I know we just wrapped up our Community Easter Egg Hunt, but we've already done a TON of work getting ready for VBS: Rainforest Falls! Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. Our Bible points for each day are listed below, and we'd love to have you join us praying over them!

- June 8: God is our Creator.
- June 9: God knows everything.
- June 10: God is love.
- June 11: God is forever.

Kids, Youth and Adult registration can be found here:

<https://centralrogers.com/event/24283766-2026-06-08-vbs/>

If you would like to support VBS by purchasing supplies for the 300 kids we will serve, you can use this link (this purchase is in the form of a gift card, which we will turn in for the supplies you select):

<https://giftregistry.group.com/?mrsearch=&mrrid=5350949>

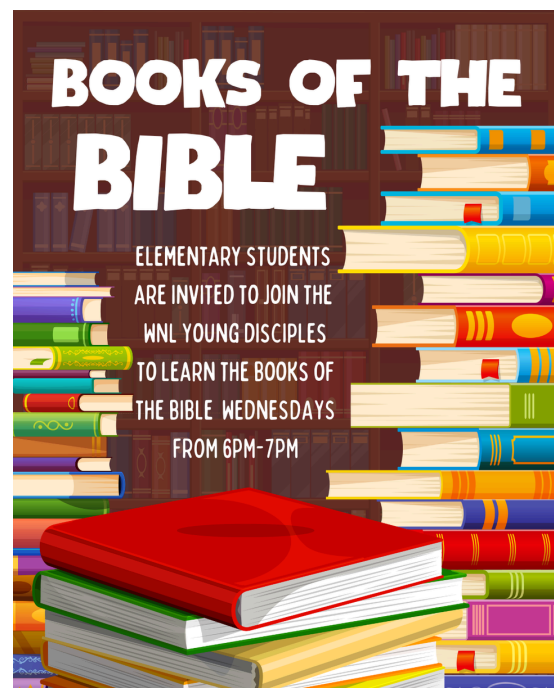
We thank you for your prayers and support!

Young Disciples

We are wrapping up our spring semester of Young Disciples and by the end we will have learned all 66 books of the Bible! Our worship time each week has included this super fun song to help us learn the names and order: <https://youtu.be/g8ePUCMTr1c?feature=shared>

It's not too late to join us, we meet from 6pm to 7pm each Wednesday and start in the Chapel. Here is our schedule for April:

- 4/1 – NT Letter from Paul
- 4/8 – NT General Letters
- 4/15 – NT Prophecy
- 4/22 – Celebration of all 66 books!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

4/2 Maundy Thursday 24 Hour Prayer Watch

in the Chapel

(Sign ups for a time slot and more information can be found on our website.)

4/3 Tenebrae Service

7:00 – 8:00pm in the Chapel

Tenebrae (Latin for “shadows” or “darkness”) is one of the most powerful liturgies of Holy Week. Through the gradual extinguishing of candles, the service invites worshipers to enter the deepening darkness surrounding Christ’s betrayal, suffering, and death. Scripture, music, and silence work together to create a space for reflection on human brokenness and the cost of redemption.

As the light fades, Tenebrae reminds us that the world once seemed overcome by darkness, but it also prepares our hearts for the hope of resurrection. By lingering in the shadow of the cross, the church more fully experiences the joy of Easter morning.

4/4 The Great Easter Vigil Candlelight Service

7:30 – 8:30pm in the Chapel

The Great Easter Vigil is the most ancient and profound liturgy of the Christian year.

Beginning in darkness, the service traces the story of God’s saving work from creation, through the covenant with Israel, to the promise of redemption fulfilled in Christ. Through Scripture, prayer, and song, the church keeps watch at the tomb, waiting for the light of resurrection.

When the new fire is kindled and the first proclamation of “Christ is risen!” breaks the silence, the Vigil marks the turning point from death to life. By walking through the long story of salvation before celebrating the resurrection, the church remembers that Easter is not only a single morning of joy, but the culmination of God’s faithful work throughout history and the beginning of new life for the whole world.

Easter Sunday Services

8:15AM Traditional

9:00AM Contemporary

11:00AM Traditional

MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE: GERMINATION (THE WAKE-UP CALL) By Kerry L. Turnbow, D. Min.

John 12:23,24

Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."

When it comes to the word germination, we don't usually think of the resurrection of Jesus. Yet, Jesus in this passage in John uses an example of germination from nature to illustrate the implications of his death and resurrection.

For a plant to grow, the process of germination must take place. Germination requires specific environmental triggers for the cycle of life to happen from a seed.

Specific environmental triggers must include water, oxygen, and warmth. The seed needs water to cause the outer shell to swell and soften. It needs oxygen from the chemicals in the soil to create energy for growth. And the seed needs warmth from the soil to allow the sprout inside the seed to begin to grow.

I believe Jesus uses the illustration of wheat being placed into the ground to demonstrate the power of His death in giving birth and life to His church. The church, through the power of Jesus' death and resurrection was triggered to life through the spiritual germination process.

There are five essential needs for the seed to spring forth into life: light, water, air, nutrients, and space. There must be a continual abundance of these five elements for healthy seed development.

To exemplify each of these in the life of the developing church, let's look at each one separately.

Light is essential for photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the necessary energy source producing nourishment to the plant. In the same way, Jesus as the Light and Word, is the life-giving nourishment we need to sustain us.

Water as a reflection of our baptism signifies God's mercy poured out on us through the redeeming work of Jesus. Baptism is important to the structural integrity of grace poured out upon us.

I can't help but equate the power of the Holy Spirit metaphorically as air. The sound of the rushing mighty wind that came on Pentecost symbolizes the power of life in the Spirit that came upon the believers in Acts 2.

Just as plants need nutrients, so we followers of Christ need to be fed by God's word. As the Psalmist says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." We grow as believers through the study of God's word.

The last essential need for seed growth is space. As I contemplated the idea of space, I kept thinking we must give "space" to attending worship, prayer, study, and fellowshiping with other believers.

While germination is not a word you will find in your Bible, the implication of it in the life of a believer you will find all throughout the Old and New Testament. Jesus knew the importance of the seed being buried because that begins the process of growth. We too must be buried to die to self to truly live in newness of life in Christ.

April

Lean In.
Connecting People to Christ



- 1 Sacred Thread Quilt Mission
- 1 WNL - Dinner: Taco Bar
- 1 411: Who is John Wesley Class begins
- 2 Maundy Thursday: 24 Hour Prayer Watch
- 3 Good Friday: Tenebrae Service
- 4 Holy Saturday: The Great Easter Vigil
- 5 Easter Sunday (Services 8:15, 9:00, 11:00)
- 6 Church Office Closed
- 8 WNL - Dinner: Wings
- 12 Confirmation Service - 10:30a (ONE SERVICE)
- 15 WNL - Dinner: Ramen
- 17 Micah 6:8 Fundraiser Breakfast
- 18 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 18 How To...Container Garden
- 19 Grace Community Meal
- 22 LAST WNL - Dinner: Wraps
- 23 Priscilla Circle
- 26 Senior Sunday
- 26 Church Wide Prayer Service
- 27 Church Council Meeting
- 28 Book Club