

CIRCULT RIDER

VOLUME 56/ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2025

HOW TO SERIES...MAKE A CHRISTMAS WREATH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 2P CONTEMPORARY 5P TRADITIONAL 11P CHAPEL

50TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY MEAL

GRAVITY YOUTH:
CHRISTMAS PARTY &
TURKEY BOWL RECAP

INVITATION: JOIN US AT THE CITY OF ROGERS CHRISTMAS PARADE!

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

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

There are a lot of things I could write about in our newsletter regarding Advent and the Christmas season. It's one of my favorite times of the year. And I have a lot of great Christmas season stories I could share with you. But as I approached this newsletter the story that is bouncing around in my head is a recent worship team conversation.

I asked our worship leaders and clergy what their main goal for Advent and Christmas Eve is for this year. Overwhelmingly, each one said for people to encounter Christ in a significant way. That thrilled my heart. I had my answer written down and it was exactly the same thing. Here is the thing, and a bit of a warning, I am about to give you another sports analogy. Advent and Christmas Eve are like our playoffs and Super Bowl. This is the biggest time of year for the church. Lent and Easter is the victory season. But Advent and Christmas is a time that the entire culture turns toward the mystery that we celebrate every week.

As I write this article a week before Thanksgiving, Christmas decorations are already up. I am not talking about just the stores but also the neighborhoods. Our culture loves Christmas and everything that comes with it. And because of that people's hearts are softer and more open to the calling of the Spirit.... Come and see! Therefore I am blessed to work with a group of worship folks whose main goal is for people to encounter the living and loving God of the universe during Advent and Christmas.

What can you do as we approach the season? Well, for one, prepare your heart. If you are reading this newsletter you are probably a dialed in, committed member of Central Rogers. Many times you hear the type of thing I just shared and you start thinking about the unchurched people and those on the fringe that God wants to encounter. But God also wants to encounter you. God wants to draw you closer and deeper in relationship with Jesus. So prepare your hearts. Start asking God how He wants to work in your life this Advent season. You will be amazed at how God loves to answer that prayer.

The other thing is to invite others. The Advent season is a time of energy and excitement. We will be offering five different "Come sit with me" opportunities during Advent. The first one is the first Sunday of Advent, which is November 30th. The next ones will be our Lessons and Carols on December 11th and 12th, which is a Thursday and Friday night. Our next "Come Sit with Me Sunday" will be the Sunday before Christmas, December 21st and on our Christmas Eve Services on Wednesday, December 24th at 2:00p, 5:00p, and 11:00p.

Lastly, pray. Pray that people will be encountered by God's grace and truth. As we have been saying lately, these are God's main expressions of His love. God wants to encounter each person where they are. Some are in need of a better understanding and even conviction to follow God's truth. Some just need to be wrapped in the grace of God this holiday season. So, join me in praying that each of our Advent services will encounter people in such a way that we all feel renewed, refreshed and emboldened to lift high the light of Christ in the new year to come.

Have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season!

And never forget, You Matter to God.

Pastor Rob



HOW TO... MAKE A CHRISTMAS WREATH

A CHRISTMAS WRE December 6th, 10:00am



Registration will be opening soon for December 's How To session! Just in time for Christmas decorating, Kelli Turnbow will be showing us how to make a beautiful Christmas wreath! All supplies will be provided. This is a great time to invite a friend and meet new friends! Be sure and mark your calendars. You won't want to miss it!



thank you SAVE THE DA Community Form for an Apprecia

SAVE THE DATE and join the Community Formation Committee for an Appreciation Lunch and Update for Greeters and Ushers. We couldn't do the ministry of hospitality without you.

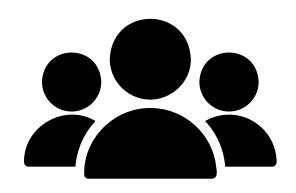
December 7th, 2025 11:30am - 1:00 pm



A huge thank you to all that participated in the 2025 Connection Fair! The ministry team at Central hopes you were able to learn something new and step up your involvement in serving and building community in the coming year! If you didn't get the opportunity to pick up a Ministry Guide and Ministry Opportunities sign up tri-fold, they are still available at the church office and information station.

BECOME A MEMBER OF CENTRAL

Have you been considering joining this amazing and vital church family? If you are interested in learning more about membership at Central, Carole Baker would love to discuss next steps with you. On December 14th, Central will be welcoming new members at all three services. We would be thrilled to have you be part of this celebration!







Wow! What a November we had in Gravity!!! We kicked off the month celebrating our 15th year of Turkey Bowl, the largest student-led food drive in the Arkansas conference! It is a weekend of FUN, and a SPRINKLING of some friendly competition in our food drive and flag football games with First Springdale. Saturday night was hosted at Central and was a night of fellowship through dinner, games, and worship. Sunday was STEEP in COMPETITION – from Gravity's life groups competing to see who could collect the most to heading to HarBer fieldhouse for flag football games between the two churches. The true win of the weekend was that between the two groups, we collected over 5,000 items with Central bringing in 3,008 items to benefit Grace Food Pantry. The food and items we collected were items that Grace couldn't currently get from the Food Bank, and would normally be spending money purchasing. Our High School Boys Group took home the win for the most items per individual with the group averaging over 100 items per student – and some of which came from the their very own bank account. The Wednesday following, we were able to deliver our items, and restock Grace's shelves. Now, Gravity students have CHALLENGED the congregation to match their collection over the next few weeks. In order for the donations to be counted, they MUST be placed in the black wire basket in the Atrium

The fun and excitement didn't stop there; we switched it up the following week with a LARGE family table and celebrated Gravi-ends-giving as a whole student ministry. Then we rounded up the month with our 3rd annual Tracy Trot. Tracy is a DEARLY MISSED presence in Gravity, and as we continue to celebrate her role in Gravity and how she impacted each of our lives, each of the life groups were challenged to spread Tracy JOY in NW Arkansas through a mission project dear to their hearts. Lots of FUN, lots of MEMORIES shared, and of course, spreading God's love to our neighbors around us, through the example of Tracy!

Coming up in December -

Sunday, December 7th at 6-8:30P - Students in 6th-12th grade, join us for Gravity Christmas Party! Bring a WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT, wear your CHRISTMAS CHEER, and join us for a night of FESTIVITIES! Gravity Grownups, don't forget to join in for your own CHRISTMAS CHEER!



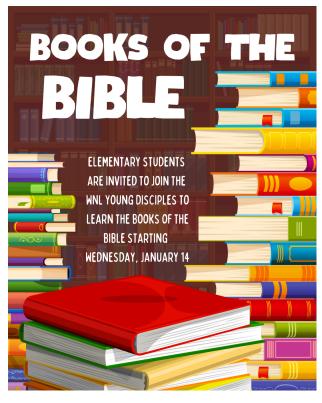


Ministries

What God is calling us to do with and for our kids...

I would like to share a story of encouragement with you as we end 2025 and a prayer heading into 2026. Recently one of my kids did something that really hurt my feelings. Like, called-my-mom-cryingfrom-the-car kind of hurt my feelings. Even the next morning I had a hard time making eye contact and conversation. I know you know the kind of sting I am talking about. In an effort to carry on with our week, I stuffed it down and tried to forget about it. But as the Holy Spirit will do, I kept feeling a nudge simply to share that what they had done had hurt my feelings. Eventually I did, but it was a solid ten days later. There was an attempt to justify said behavior, which is natural for all of us. After a second statement of, "when you did this, it made me feel this way", there was a heartfelt, "I'm sorry mom". What there was not, was a Hallmark worthy moment of reconciliation complete with a big hug and sappy music. Our night simply went on. And as I pouted about that to God later, I heard, "you did your part, now let me do mine". That brought to mind a prayer Pastor Rob shared a few months ago, "God do what I can't do, be where I can be, move where I can't move". I think as our kids grow up, more and more we have to be obedient to what God is calling us to do with and for our kids, and then get out of the way to let God do what only God can do. That, my friends, is a challenge for me. So as we head into a new year, my prayer is for God to do what we can't do, be where we can't be, and move where we can't move. May it be so.













DECEMBER 11 & 12 6:30P, CHAPEL



**CHRISTMAS
Sat. Dec. 20th - 2:00p



YOU'RE INVITED TO





One Combined Worship Service

Sunday, December 28

10:30a - Sanctuary

DECEMBER 21 &



A Message of Hope and Care for the Holiday Season

Kerry L. Turnbow, D. Min

Associate Pastor of Congregational Care

Psalm 37:3-8 Trust in the Lord, and do good;

Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,

And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the Lord,

Trust also in Him.

And He shall bring it to pass.

6He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,

And your justice as the noonday.

7Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him;

Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,

Because of the person who brings wicked schemes to pass.

8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath;

Do not fret—it only causes harm.



As we enter into the Christmas season, I know that most of you have already decorated your home for the holidays. And probably somewhere in the mix is a nativity scene. And in your nativity scene I'm sure you have included a camel because according to scripture the three wise men that came to see Jesus we're riding on camels. Camels are a staple part of the nativity scene.

In the above Psalm there is a wonderful analogy to the way that someone would mount a camel. I personally have never ridden a camel, but I have seen pictures of people mounting a camel. The way that it's done is the camel kneels its front legs forward and down and then kneels completely down to the ground so that the rider can mount the camel's back. Also, if you are packing a load on the camel's back the same procedure would be done. The camel would lower itself down to the ground so that the items could be loaded on to the back of the camel.

Psalm 37 gives us that same sort of analogy when it comes to us committing our way to the Lord. The literal meaning of this particular Psalm is illustrated through the movement of a camel representing God coming down to our level so that when we have burdens of our own, we can literally roll them on to the back of the God who has come down to our level. This Psalm is not telling us we can have anything we want. What it is telling us is that if we trust in the Lord and roll all our ways and our plans on to the back of God that we can cease to fret and find rest and peace in God.

Jesus coming to this earth illustrates in the same metaphoric way that as the camel bends down to receive its load, Jesus came down to help us bare our burdens. He walked among us to understand all our needs. Jesus understands all we go through so we can roll all our burdens, all of our trials, all of our needs upon Him.

During this holiday season when you put up your camel or you look at your camel in the nativity scene, think about this Psalm and what it means for us to literally roll all our burdens upon Jesus who has the capacity and power to be able to carry that load for us.

"Dear Lord, no matter what valley I am walking through, I am not alone. God is with me, holding me, carrying me, and promising me a future filled with hope."



DECEMBER

- 1st Running/Walking Club
- 3rd Sacred Thread Quilt Mission
- 3rd Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 5th City of Rogers Christmas Parade
- 6th How to Series... Make a Christmas Wreath
- 7th Acolyte Training
- 7th Greeter and Usher Appreciation and Training
- 7th Gravity Youth Christmas Party
- 8th Church Council Meeting
- 11th Christmas Tour of Homes & Brunch
- 11th & 12th Come Sit With Me Services
- 11^{th} & 12^{th} Lessons & Carols presented by the Chancel Choir
- 14th Welcome Back College Student Breakfast
- 15th Running/Walking Club
- 16th Book Club Christmas Party and Book Exchange
- 20th Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 20th Christmas Caroling
- 24th Come Sit with Me Services
- 24th Christmas Eve Services (2P Contemporary, 5P Traditional, 11P Chapel)
- 25th 50th Annual Community Christmas Meal
- 25th & 26th Church Office Closed for Christmas
- 28th One Combined Worship Service 10:30a, Sanctuary
- 31st New Years Eve