



# CIRCUIT RIDER

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FROM ANGEL'S PEN AND  
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PALM SUNDAY  
& COMMUNITY  
EGG HUNT  
MARCH 29**

WALKING THROUGH  
LENT WITH CHARLES  
WESLEY

HOW TO SERIES: TO  
CREATE AND  
CONNECT

PRAY.GRAVITY  
UPDATE

CENTRALROGERS.COM



**Rev. Rob Holifield**

Senior Pastor

REV. DAWN SPRAGG  
Senior Associate Pastor of Worship

REV. KERRY TURNBOW  
Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care

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Director of Communications

ANDREA PARK  
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Sr. Pastor and Clergy

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Membership Secretary

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Church Pianist

CAROLE BAKER  
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SAM GIBBY  
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Executive Director of Church  
Administration

## Easter Is Coming

As you read this article, we have entered the heart of the season of Lent. Lent is an interesting and important season in the life of the church. On the one hand, it is a time of humility, confession, and repentance. It is a somber and reflective season. I sometimes describe Lent as the minor chord season of the church year.

I am not a musician, and I do not pretend to be one. But I love worship. I love planning worship services, suggesting songs, and participating in the gathered worship of God's people. Like most of you, I know what resonates deeply with my spirit, and I know what is more difficult for me. One thing I often struggle with—whether in traditional or contemporary worship—is music written in minor keys. Minor chord songs carry a weight to them. They make us feel something deeper, something more reflective, sometimes even sorrowful. Lent is the season when those minor chord songs are sung, and when we sing them, we feel their depth.

Yet just as there are moments for joyful, energetic songs, there are also moments for songs in the minor key. Lent is that moment.

Lent is the season when we allow ourselves to grieve the things that need grieving. It is the season when we confess honestly and repent sincerely. I have often said that the modern church has, in many ways, lost the ability to lament. We want to move quickly past sorrow. We want to get to healing, victory, and momentum as soon as possible. But Lent is intentionally built into the church year to slow us down. It invites us to sit with our brokenness, our need for grace, and our deep dependence on God.

We see something like this in the life of Peter. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to many people. Peter saw Him. Yet Jesus did not immediately single Peter out for reconciliation after Peter's three denials. It was not until later, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, that Jesus and Peter had their restoring conversation (John 21).

It seems that Jesus gave Peter time. Time to reflect. Time to grieve. Time to repent. And when the moment of restoration came, Peter was ready. In John 21:4–7, we see Peter's eagerness to get to Jesus. His heart was prepared.

This is why Lent matters for us as well. We need this minor chord season so that our hearts will be ready for what God wants to do in us during Holy Week, on Easter Sunday, and throughout the Easter season that follows.

The good news—the great news—is that Lent is not the end of the story.

Easter is coming.

Resurrection is coming.

Life and renewal are coming.

So embrace the season. Allow God to search your heart. Walk fully through confession, repentance, and reflection. And as you do, prepare yourself for the joy that is ahead.

Pastor Rob



## How To Thank You – AI is for Everyone

Thank you Trey Carter for leading the informative session on Artificial Intelligence. We all learned about large language moduals and mastering prompts to inhance projects and presentations.

## How To Series – Create and Connect

March 28th (10:00 – 11:30am)

Join us for a hands-on creative experience where style meets self-expression. Choose from beautiful beads, ribbons, cords, and charms to design a custom bag charm or keychain and matching beaded pen or pencil. With plenty of whimsical materials and guided inspiration, you'll leave with one-of-a-kind pieces that add personality to purses, backpacks, keys, or desks in a relaxed and social atmosphere. FAMILY FRIENDLY - GREAT FOR ALL AGES!



### NEW MEMBERS

Zach Murray joined by transfer of membership from Lonoke First UMC. Zach is in sales for Olympia Tools and recently married (fall of 2025) to member Maddi (McKinney) Murray (pictured). Zach and Maddi live in Gravette AR.

## Interested in Joining Central?

In April there will be two dates to join our amazing church family. We will be inviting in new members on April 4 at the Saturday evening Easter Vigil AND on April 19 at all three Sunday morning services. If you are interested in more information on next steps for joining, please contact Carole Baker at the church office.

### IT'S NOT A SCAM!

You may have received an email asking for information on your baptism date and/or confirmation date. If you did, that means you are a church member without these dates in our system. What do you do? If you have been baptized and/or confirmed, PLEASE use the link the in email to give the church approximate dates. If you haven't been baptized and would like to be, please reach out to the church office to arrange a time to discuss with a pastor.

# Gravity

YOUTH MINISTRIES



February was Pray.Gravity, our month-long prayer movement, where individuals in the congregation prayed for each individual student in Gravity. We kicked it off with a powerful worship and prayer service on Sunday, February 1. THANK YOU to each and every person who attended that service supporting our youth, as well as those who picked up a bracelet and prayed for individual students throughout February! I continuously heard from students about notes they received or ways God showed up for them that week, that day, etc. Don't forget to share how God worked in and through you during Pray.Gravity – email me at [lswanson@centralrogers.com](mailto:lswanson@centralrogers.com); I want to celebrate with YOU!

During February, we also celebrated Graventines; a night devoted to making sure each and every student felt loved. We had a BLAST having a progressive dinner with stops for appetizers and a main course, followed up by a whole spread of desserts back at church. Thank you to the following families for making the night so FUN – Phillips, Hillis, Zenner, Becholdt, Msall, Carter and Johnson!

Thank you for your continual support of Youth Missions – specifically with the Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner! All monies raised that evening go towards our summer mission with Local Mission Project! We are pumped for June and SO thankful for you!

As we head right into March, here are a few dates to keep in mind –

March 22 – NO Confirmation or Youth due to Spring Break

March 29 – Gravity Two-Step – put your boots on, and join us for a night full of FUN and LINE DANCING! 6-8p in Youth Room



@GravityYouthMinistries



Ministries

# Galentine's Tea

On February 14 the Central Women's Board hosted our third annual Galentines Tea. We had a lovely tea service with live music and special devotional from Pastor Dawn. It was amazing to see all the generations of ladies in our church family able to spend some time together in precious fellowship.



VBS Save the Date: June 8-11  
Registration coming soon!

# EASTER EGG HUNT

This year we are hosting our Community Easter Egg Hunt the weekend before Easter. Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 29 from 2pm – 4pm. We will have games, hot dogs, live animals, and of course an EGG HUNT on the front lawn.

If you are able to help with this church-wide community outreach event, roles & registration can be found here:

<https://centralrogers.com/event/24275929-2026-03-29-community-easter-egg-hunt/>

# SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30am

YOU'RE INVITED: A 5-Week Series from the Gospels on Jesus' Ministry

SERIES OVERVIEW: Getting invited to a party is one of the best feelings, and being left out is one of the worst. But there's good news—Jesus never leaves anyone out! He invites everyone to spend time with him, experience his love, and share it with others. This series will remind kids that Jesus' invitation is always open, and we're never too far away to join the party! In this 5-week series, kids will learn that I'm invited to believe in Jesus, love like Jesus does, experience Jesus' miracles, ask Jesus for help, and worship Jesus.

DOWNLOAD THIS MONTH'S PARENT DEVOTIONAL



Dear Church Family,

It is with a mix of gratitude and mixed emotions that I share that our wonderful Church Administrative Assistant and Membership Secretary, Angel, has made the difficult decision to retire after several years of faithful service. It is time for her to focus on her health, wellness, and of course husband JR! Her last day will be March 20th.

Angel has been the heart of our office, handling every task with a smile and a servant's heart. We are so thankful for her dedication to this ministry and her love for this congregation.

Please join us for a drop-in reception on Sunday, March 22, in the atrium at 9:20am to celebrate Angel and wish her well in this next chapter of life.

With abundant thanks,

Tami Stewart  
Church Administrator



## From Angel's Pen



Farewell message... Many of you may know, but some may not, that my last day as Administrative Assistant here at Central will be March 20, 2026. It was a difficult decision but after much discernment, prayer and soul-searching I decided it was time to retire. I can truly say this has been one of my favorite jobs, and in truth it was more of a calling than a job. It has been my honor and privilege to have served the many people who call Central home: members, regular non-members, guests, visitors, service and delivery people, young and old, and anyone who comes through the doors and through my office. I hope I have been a help, encouragement, listening ear and welcoming presence to all. To say I will miss my job would be a gross understatement. Thank you for allowing me to be your Administrative Assistant and serving Central as a Light of Christ.

Blessings and Grace,  
Angel Shaw



**NEW: We are hiring!** Be on the look out for more information on this position soon!



# MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE: WALKING THROUGH THE SEASON OF LENT WITH CHARLES WESLEY By Kerry L. Turnbow, D. Min.

The season of Lent invites us to slow our pace, examine our hearts, and return to the saving love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Kelli and I shaped this devotional journey using the hymns of Charles Wesley – a pastor, poet, and theologian whose life was transformed by grace and whose words continue to shape the faith of the church.

Charles Wesley lived much of his early life striving for holiness through discipline and effort, yet he struggled with assurance and peace. Like many of us, he knew the language of faith before he truly rested in grace. It was through a profound encounter with the love of Christ on Pentecost Sunday, May 21, 1738, that Wesley came to understand salvation not as something earned, but as a gift freely given.

Out of Charles Wesley's personal awakening flowed thousands of hymns – songs of repentance, redemption, assurance, and joyful surrender.

His hymns preach the gospel. They give voice to doubt and hope, to sorrow and praise, and to the redeeming work of Christ on the cross. His lyrics invite us to stand in awe of grace, to trust the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice, and to allow God's love to continue shaping us into holy lives.

As you walk through these forty days, from ashes to the threshold of resurrection, you are invited to linger with Wesley's words, the reflection, and adjoining prayer. Read slowly. Pray honestly. Allow the poetry of faith to open space for reflection, repentance, and renewal. It is our prayer these devotionals will guide you into deeper awareness of God's presence and mercy.



# March

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- 4 Sacred Thread Quilt Missions
- 4 Prayer Shawl Ministries
- 4 WNL: Dinner Spring Roll in a Bowl
- 8 Easter Lilies for Sale BEGINS
- 11 Prayer Shawl Ministries
- 11 WNL: Dinner Pizza
- 18 Prayer Shawl Ministries
- 18 WNL: Dinner Potato Bar
- 21 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 22 Angel Shaw's Retirement Reception
- 22 Church Wide Prayer
- 25 Prayer Shawl Ministries
- 29 Palm Sunday
- 29 Easter Lilies Sale ENDS
- 29 Coffee and Cookies Fundraiser for Guatemala Mission Trip
- 29 Community Easter Egg Hunt
- 31 Book Club: Theo of Golden