



# CIRCUIT RIDER

VOLUME 57 / ISSUE 5  
MAY 2026

VBS: RAINFOREST FALLS -  
VOLUNTEER & REGISTER

**EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION  
SUNDAY - MAY 17**

NEW STAFF UPDATE!  
SAM GIBBY - DIRECTOR  
OF DIGITAL MINISTRIES &  
WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY

HOW TO ...  
MAKE PIE DOUGH  
-REGISTER NOW-

PENTECOST & MEMORIAL  
WEEKEND WORSHIP -  
8:15 & 10:30, CHAPEL

CENTRALROGERS.COM



**Rev. Rob Holifield**

Senior Pastor

REV. DAWN SPRAGG  
Senior Associate Pastor of Worship

REV. KERRY TURNBOW  
Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care

AMY GIUNTO  
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

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" — Philippians 4:4

As we enter May, my heart is full of gratitude for all God has done through this Lent and Easter season at Central Rogers. It was a powerful and blessed time, reminding us that it is the Spirit of God dwelling within us that shapes our faith, deepens our prayer lives, and empowers us to live as people who shine the light of Christ.

Thank you to all who journeyed through Romans 8 with Pastor Dawn and me. Many of you read and reflected on this chapter multiple times, and I pray you encountered God in a meaningful way. One verse that continues to stir my heart is Romans 8:11—the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us. What an incredible truth.

I'm also reminded of Romans 8:14—those led by the Spirit are children of God. We rejoice because we belong to God's family and share in His promises.

Holy Week was especially meaningful. Our Tenebrae service, led by the Chancel Choir, powerfully walked us through Good Friday. The Holy Saturday service, led by our praise team, was a true mountaintop moment as we celebrated 1 baptism and 15 confirmations or re-confirmations. And the 24 hours of prayer in the chapel was deeply impactful—I continue to hear stories of how God met so many of you in that sacred space.

Central family, God is moving among us, and we have so much to be thankful for. I am excited for what lies ahead as we continue to seek Him together.

So once again, I rejoice and give God praise for a powerful Lent and Easter. And I give thanks for you. Let's move forward with expectation and hope for all that God will do next.

Pastor Rob

**Current  
Sermon  
Series:**



# Celebrating our Church Family



Peggy Henry joined Central during the Easter Vigil on April 4th. Peggy is a retired accountant. Her family (Nathan and Jennifer White and children) are already members at Central. Peggy was involved in the Re-Confirmed Peggy lives in Gentry AR.



Beth Whittredge joined Central from another denomination during the Easter Vigil on April 4th. Beth is retired from Hutchinson KS CPA Firm. Beth lives in Rogers, AR.



Sharon Ledbetter joined Central during the Easter Vigil on April 4th by transfer of membership from First UMC, Clarksville AR. Sharon is the Director of Business Development for Mercy Rehabilitation. Sharon lives in Rogers, AR.



Scott and Courtney Bayerl joined April 19th from another denomination. Scott is the owner of BTI, LLC (Construction) and Courtney is in sales for Nestle Health Sciences. Their son, Thomas, (pictured) will join as a preparatory member. The Bayerl family lives in Rogers, AR



Matt and Courtney Johnson joined April 19th from another denomination. Matt is in sales for Prestige Consumer Healthcare and Courtney is with Sargento Foods in sales. Their daughters, Sydney and Tori are pictured. Sydney was confirmed and joined the church on April 12th. Tori will join as a preparatory member. The Johnson family lives in Bentonville, AR

Confirmation deepens and strengthens the grace received at baptism, sealing the believer with the Holy Spirit to act as a mature witness for Christ. The following folks confirmed their baptisms or re-confirmed their baptisms at the Easter Vigil on April 4th: Karen Brown, Beth Crosley, Hannah Crutcher, Sally Crutcher, Lana Dinan, Gina Hardin, Peggy Henry, Sharon Ledbetter, Mike Necessary, Martha Sell, JR Shaw, Misty Smith, Stacey Westbrook, Beth Whittredge

We also celebrate the confirmands who joined Central following their baptisms or confirmation of their baptisms on April 12th: Phillip Bailey, Mason Carter, Naomi Emery, Logan Hoyle, Sydney Johnson, Ethan Msall, Rylan Sams, Kinley Zenner, Aidan White

We also closed out this wonderful month on the 19th with an Infant Baptism, Genevieve Martha Lake, and the Adult Baptism of Chris Wages.



*thank you*

How To Series – Container Gardening for Beginners

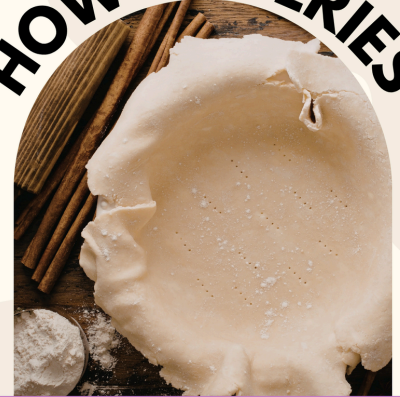
Thank you to Sabrina Doss from Lavender & Sage Homestead for leading an amazing workshop on container gardening for beginners. Everyone had a great time learning how to grow flowers and vegetables for inside pots, patios, porches and other small spaces!

Sat. May 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30 - 11:30a

## HOW TO SERIES



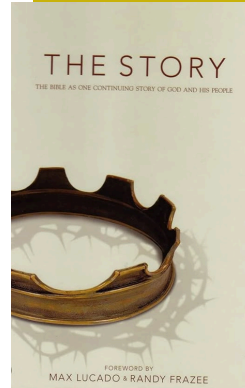
Seating is Limited \$5



### MAKE PIE DOUGH

with Vicki Mansker

Get ready for the fresh fruit harvests this summer by learning how to make the perfect pie dough. This class led by our own expert Vicki Mansker will make sure you are the talk of every picnic and social this year! Seating is very limited, so please register early. Cost for supplies is \$5 (this will include a take-home pie plate and your homemade ready to fill crust).



### JOIN THE WOMEN IN THE WORD SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Women in the Word Sunday school class would like to invite you to join us as we read and discuss together "The Story." This is a fun and dynamic group for women of all ages. If you are not already connected with a Sunday school class, please consider joining us in room 204 at 9:30.

### FIVE WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

**IS BACK THIS JULY!**



Stay tuned for more information about all the fun and fellowship that will happen on the five Wednesday evenings in July.





# Easter Egg Hunt Recap *Ministries*



Boy oh boy, did God show up and show out for our Community Easter Egg Hunt again this year! On Sunday March 29 we had perfect weather and an abundance of Christ's love. We hosted this event on the front lawn and had a live broadcast from KLRC (Robert is SO amazing), an inflatable bounce house & slide & games, a petting zoo, and pony rides. Our sensory friendly area expanded this year and had their own egg hunt space. The missions committee cooked and served over 350 hot dogs along with chips and drinks that were so appreciated.

Perhaps most impressive, was the number of people who volunteered to make this community event possible. When polled afterwards and asked where they saw God, the most common answer was, "I saw God in the way everyone worked together for this event". It is amazing what we can accomplish as the body of Christ!

## VBS

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.

Registration for kids, youth and adults found here: [vbspro.events/p/22a65f](https://vbspro.events/p/22a65f)

Each day we have a Bible verse that is our focus, and a Bible Point – this is the main idea that we hope kids take home with them. Would you join us praying over these?

June 8: God is our Creator (Psalm 103:22)

June 9: God knows everything (Psalm 139:1)

June 10: God is love (Psalm 136:1)

June 11: God is forever (Psalm 115:18)



# Staff Update



We are happy to announce Sam Gibby, currently our part time Director of Technology Ministries, will move into a full time role as Director of Digital Ministries & Worship Technology beginning June 8th!

Sam will oversee all aspects of Central's audio/visual and technical productions while also guiding the strategy, branding and digital communications. He brings a wealth of knowledge with him having served in churches plus from his current position with the University of Arkansas as the Student Media Broadcast Engineer.

Sam, his wife Melissa, son Evan and daughter Abby are already members of Central and involved in many ministries.

We look forward to what the future holds under his guidance.

Please be in prayer for the Gibby family during this transition time and welcome him into this next chapter of service at Central.

May 17

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SUNDAY**

NEW STUDY STARTING!

The New Horizons Sunday School class will be starting a new study on May 17th. The class meets in room 202 at 9:30am and would love to have you join them as they grow deeper in their understanding of some unlikely heroes!

**Running & Walking Club**  
6:00p

Next Meeting: **May 4th**  
Interested?  
Contact: Andrea Park  
apark@centralrogers.com

**PENTECOST & MEMORIAL WEEKEND WORSHIP**  
SUNDAY, MAY 24  
8:15a & 10:30a  
Chapel

**SAME SERVICE, TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP**

May 24  
Sunday, 5pm

**CHORAL EVENSONG**

**Connection Book Club**  
May 26- 6:30p  
Contact: Molly Pickering  
**Monthly Pick**

# MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE: SHATTERED ASSUMPTIONS

By Kerry L. Turnbow, D. Min.

**Psalm 10: 1**

*Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?*

**Psalm 13: 1**

*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?*

One of the books that was required reading in my Crises Intervention class in seminary was a book called, *Shattered Assumptions*. The book looks at the psychology of how each of us carry basic assumptions about the way the world should and/or does operate. The book's author, Ronnie Janoff-Bulman, describes how we attribute meaning, fairness, and justice to the world we live in and what happens to us when traumatic events shatter our beliefs about the world.

My work as the Pastor of Congregational Care at Central United Methodist has brought me face to face with many in our congregation who have experienced traumatic events that caused them to wrestle with their belief about the world, God, and themselves. Traumatic events such as being diagnosed with cancer, an accident that renders the person disabled, loss of a spouse or loved one, dementia, or a host of other diagnoses can rock our world, shattering our assumptions.

When these unexpected events occur, people react in different ways. Some with shock and dismay, some ask, "What is God trying to teach me?" and others grapple with their faith and trust in God's providence.

Regardless of our response, it is good to know we can find support, comfort, and care from our faith community. We can also find strength from reading through the Psalms of lament. The faith community surrounds us with love and support while the Psalms of lament allow us to voice our deepest heartfelt pain that we experience from whatever shattering news we receive.

The ministry of congregational care is adding a new ministry to help support people from our church that have experienced a traumatic event. We will begin to offer a care package of items that are specifically chosen to provide comfort during a person's time of distress. The comfort and care bag will also include a 30-day devotional of scripturally based devotions entitled, *Beside Still Waters*, designed to minister God's peace, strength, and hope.

The message of the comfort and care bag is based on Psalm 23: 2 "...he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul." We want the person who is walking through a dark valley to experience the Lord's care through simple acts of kindness. The comfort and care bag's contents will not contain elements of healing or deliverance from the shattering news but will provide knowledge that both God and others walk beside them to offer a quiet place for the person's burdened soul.

I hope and pray this new ministry of comfort and care will bless people with encouragement to know they are not alone in their crises. I pray the *Beside Still Waters* devotional will offer sustaining strength as a person reads through the each of the devotions.

# May

- 1 Inspirational Women's Gala
- TBD GRACES Book Fair
- 3 Lay Servant Ministry Sunday
- 3 -24 UMCOR Kits Fundraiser
- 4 Running Club
- 6 Sacred Thread Quilt Mission
- 6 Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 10 Mother's Day
- 10 Highschool Gravity Youth Bible Study Begins
- 13 Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 16 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 16 How To...make Pie Dough
- 17 Early Childhood Education Sunday
- 18 Running Club
- 18 Church Council Meeting
- 20 Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 23-30 Guatemala Mission Trip
- 24 Pentecost & Memorial Weekend Worship Services
- 24 Pentecost Evensong
- 25 Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)
- 26 Book Club
- 27 Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 28 Priscilla Circle
- 29 KidsMin Popsicles in the Park



Dear Church Family, I wanted to say a special thank you to the congregation and the staff for the lovely Retirement reception in my honor! I was very humbled and touched at the outpouring of love and thoughts, cards and gifts, expressed by my church family. I have not worked at Central for a long time but my time here was very special and I have loved the work I was blessed to do on behalf of all of you. You all are also in MY thoughts and prayers as well. I will see you at church! FYI I am still working on completing the new church directory, with Amy and Tami's help and we should be able to send off SOON to have them assembled and then we will proof and have them printed. Thank you for your patience in this endeavor.

*Angel Shaw*