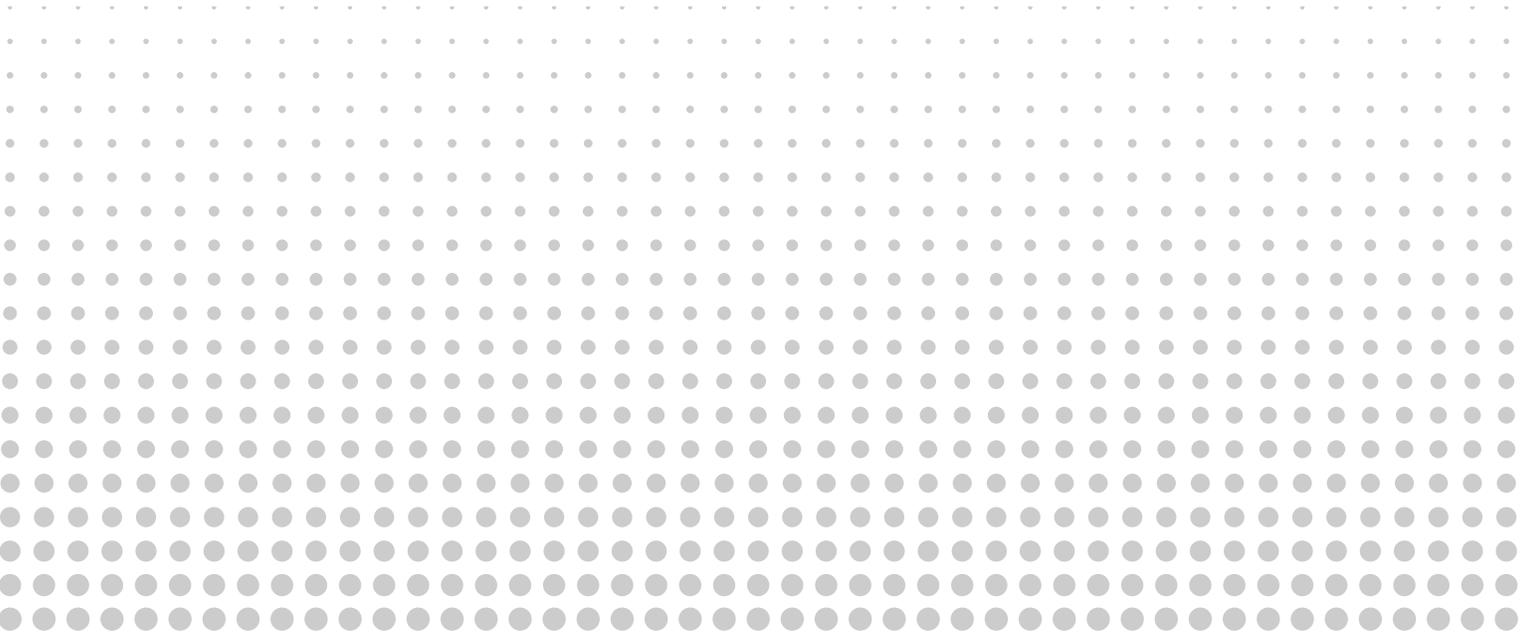


# THE CALLER

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





# MIND THE GAP

By Scott Layer

What a blessing it is to be at Central UMC! On behalf of my family, thanks for all those who have reached out to us to make us feel at home. We have enjoyed getting to know you and see how God is at work in and through Central. Thank you for your prayers, and I covet your prayers, as we discern next steps God has for us moving forward in ministry.

In London, England, if you go to the tube (the subway), you will see the words Mind the Gap. Mind the gap is a visual reminder of the distance

from where you are and getting to where you want to go. This simple phrase is helpful for us who are followers of Jesus. There is a gap between where we are and where we want to be. Even if you really want to follow Jesus, there seems to be a tremendous gap between the hope expressed in Jesus and where we actually are in terms of our day-to-day behavior, our attitudes and inner life, and our presence in the world. This can be extremely discouraging and exasperating. The question is, what do we do? In *The Great Omission*, Dallas Willard puts it this way,

“The Great issue facing the world today, with all its heart-breaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as ‘Christians’ will become disciples - students, apprentices, practitioners - of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.”

The challenge for us as followers of Jesus is to move beyond simply rule-keeping and sin management, to becoming students or apprentices of Jesus, allowing his life to enter into every nook and cranny of our lives. The word “Christian” only shows up three times in the New Testament; the word “Disciple” 269 times. The key is to start where we are, not where we think we should be. To live every moment, this moment right now, in the unmasked presence of Jesus, the one who loves us, died for us, rescues us and sent His Spirit to live among us.

As we continue in this sermon series SRSLY? this fall studying Jesus teachings from the Sermon on the Mount, I invite you to not only seek individually to be his apprentice, but as a whole body of faith as Central UMC, to be his apprentices together. Let us Mind the Gap together!

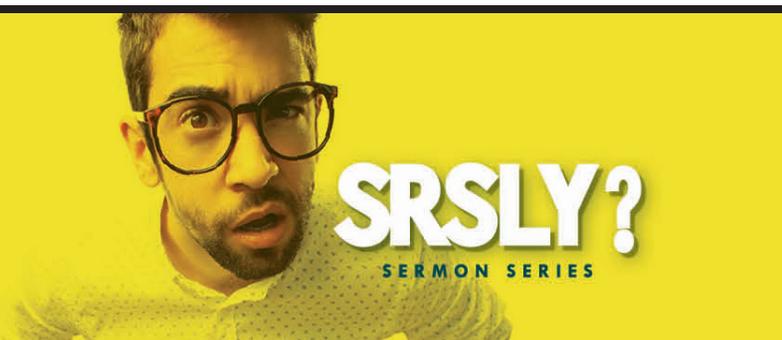




Photo by Rebecca Jones

## MEET LOGAN FRIZZELL

### CENTRAL'S NEW CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

**Name:** Logan Frizzell

**School:** Senior at Maryville College

**Studying:** Child Development and Learning with Teaching Licensure

**Background at Central:**

- Been at Central for six years
- Involved in the Children's Ministry for five years
- Volunteer for Children's Church for five years
- Served three years on VBS Leadership Team
- Small group leader for the youth for three years
- Involved with the AsOne College group

**What are you looking forward to most?**

I am looking forward to gaining closer relationships with students and parents. I am excited to see what God can do in the lives of the children and what He can do in this ministry.

**Why are you passionate about working with children?**

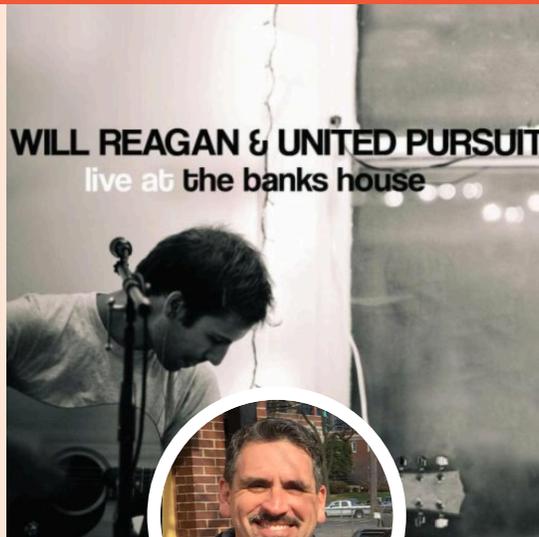
I love watching children grow in their knowledge and faith.

## STAFF PICKS: WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?



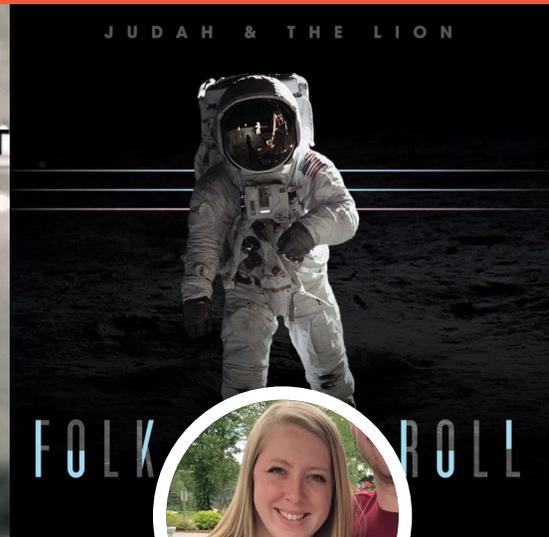
**NEEDTOBREATHE**  
*RIVERS IN THE WASTELAND*

"Needtobreathe captures the spirit of an earthy poet mixed with a folksy-rock sound that connects with me." - **Trevor**



**WILL REAGAN AND UNITED PURSUIT**  
*LIVE AT THE BANKS HOUSE*

"A friend of mine recommended this local band out of Knoxville to me. Their music was fresh, authentic, and simple. I love this song; it is a heart cry song in that I want to be more on fire for Christ each day." - **Scott**



**JUDAH & THE LION**  
*FOLK HOP N' ROLL*

"First time I ever heard them was in concert. I automatically fell in love with their energy & joyful spirit. Great music with subtle Christian references." - **Jackie**



*“IT IS WORSHIP  
THAT IS ABOUT  
EXPERIENCING  
GOD.”*

# CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

**Contemporary worship: What’s the purpose? What does contemporary mean to the United Methodist church? Why don’t some United Methodist churches have a service and why do some have more than one?**

## **STORY BY REBECCA JONES**

Contemporary worship plays an important part in Central’s worship experience. Our 8:45am service includes talented musicians who lead us with powerful, worshipful music. Songs from Christian artists, such as Chris Tomlin, Rend Collective and Hillsong United, help us to express to God how glorious and mighty we know He is.

The United Methodist Church defines contemporary worship as “worship that is appropriate and meaningful for people who are living now, rather than people who lived 100 years ago or who will live 100 years in the future.

In 1 Corinthians 16:23, Paul wrote that we should “sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.” He



doesn't tell us how to sing or what to sing, just that we should sing to glorify and praise God for all He is, all He has done, and all He is doing.

"Singing is mentioned over 100 times in the Bible, and it's not merely a suggestion... it's a command. When we sing we are not only glorifying God we are also building each other up and practicing for eternity. I hope that puts a song in your heart," said Lee McCurry, guitar and vocals.

At Central, the typical contemporary service includes music from the Central Praise Band. The band is made up of several voices, guitars, the piano, drums, and various other instruments. Those attending are encouraged to join the band in singing Christian songs frequently heard on the radio. The Technical Team makes joining along easy by providing the lyrics on two front screens. It is similar to the 11am traditional service because it maintains the offering, prayers, and sermon. Yet, it has some major differences.

"[Contemporary worship] is designed for those who have a desire to connect with God through a song of praise," said Dr. Trevor Smith, Director of Music and Worship.

Some who are used to a traditional church setting may be surprised to hear fast-paced music and see a more laid-back style in the contempo-

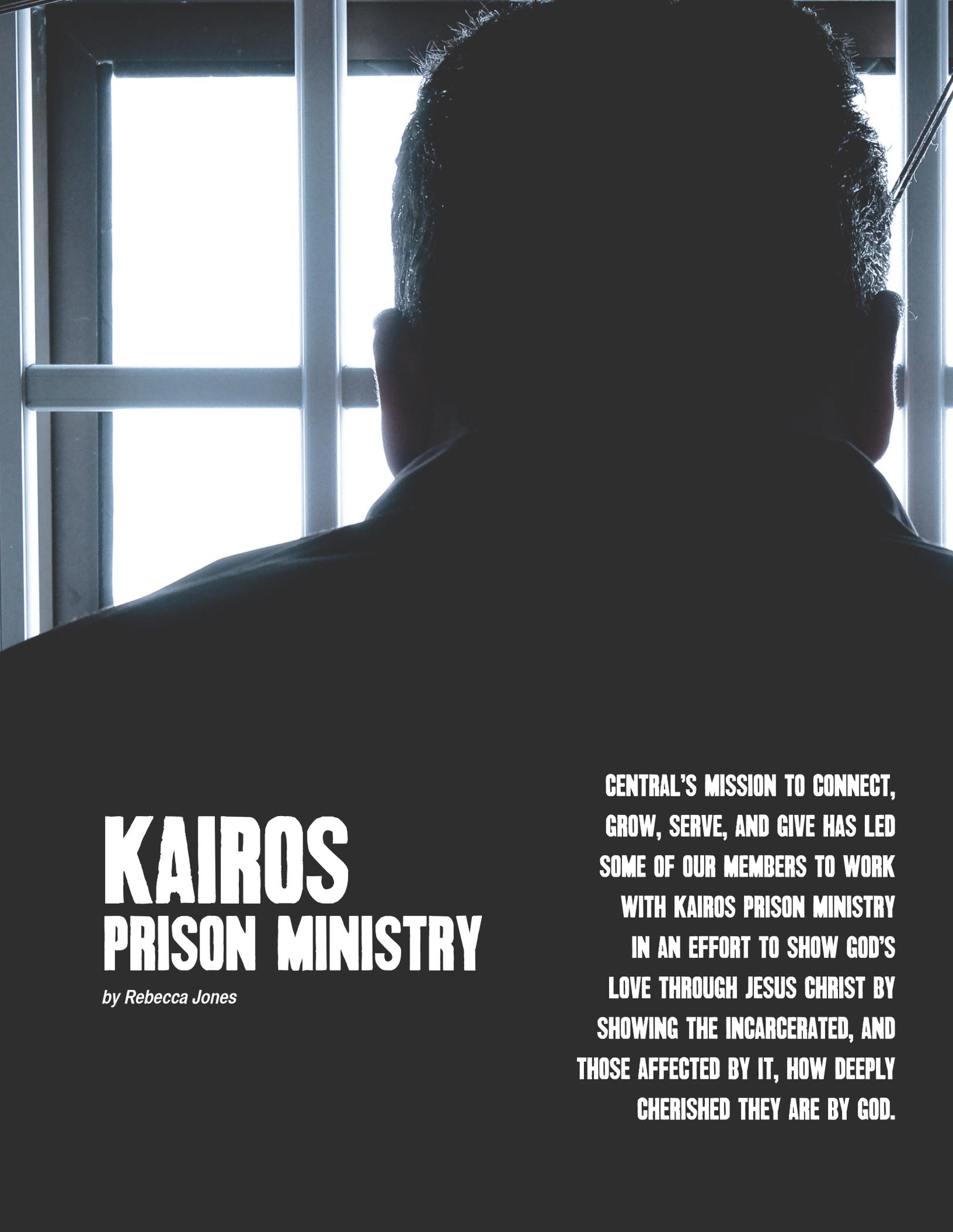
rary service. Robes are traded for slacks and hymnals for screens. But regardless of what everyone is wearing or singing, there is one main goal - to worship God in unity.

"I want everyone who enjoys other types of worship experiences to know that through our contemporary worship, we seek authenticity and sincerity, and we invite all to be a part of the collective worship experience. Contemporary worship at Central is not a loud, highly-produced concert -- it is worship that is about experiencing God," said Smith.

Not all United Methodist churches have contemporary services, though. Some offer only traditional services or combine contemporary and traditional elements into a combined worship experience. Some also live stream their services so that those who are at home and unable to come can be a part of the message and worship. Contemporary services provide a casual and relaxed atmosphere so everyone who comes can feel comfortable and welcome.

Central has a contemporary worship service on Sunday mornings at 8:45am.

**All are welcome.**



# **KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY**

*by Rebecca Jones*

**CENTRAL'S MISSION TO CONNECT,  
GROW, SERVE, AND GIVE HAS LED  
SOME OF OUR MEMBERS TO WORK  
WITH KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY  
IN AN EFFORT TO SHOW GOD'S  
LOVE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST BY  
SHOWING THE INCARCERATED, AND  
THOSE AFFECTED BY IT, HOW DEEPLY  
CHERISHED THEY ARE BY GOD.**

The New Testament is full of stories about broken and hurt people who come to know the love God has for them. Kairos Prison Ministry's purpose is to spread God's love and the truth of Jesus to people who truly need it.

It is important to remember those in prison and those affected by incarceration because, when asked what the greatest commandment is, Jesus told his disciples, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

During his three year ministry, Jesus spent his time preaching to criminals, the sick, sinners, and tax collectors, and loving them wholeheartedly. Through his actions, we are shown how we are to treat others through love. Prison ministries across the world help God's love reach into the darkest places of a person's life and be changed.

According to Kairos's website, Kairos Prison Ministry wants to "share in the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities."

Stephanie Frizzell, Central member and mother of two, recently became a part of *Kairos Outside*, just one of the ministries Kairos offers, after assisting a friend during a Fall Weekend Retreat.

According to Kairos website, *Kairos Outside* is a ministry designed to support the families of the incarcerated. They hold two annual weekend retreats in the spring and fall that consist of discussions and activities designed to encourage, support, love, and demonstrate the power of God. These retreats are open to women twenty-years-old and older whose life has been impacted by a loved one's incarceration or their own incarceration.

No men, not even team members, are permitted in the community room with the women during a retreat weekend. This support is first provided in a safe environment with Christian people during a *Kairos Outside* weekend. During the weekend, guests interact with other women in similar situations and learn how to form small groups to support and give them strength in their life's journey.

At the retreat, Frizzell picked up women from a home and brought them to the retreat center. However, she had no idea how much those car rides would touch her heart. After

picking the women up on the last day of the retreat, she was amazed to see how the women had changed.

"We don't know their situation before they come to the retreat. This was just one weekend - what would the impact be if we stayed connected with them? I'm reminded by Romans and the transformation that happens with God in our lives. We are given new life and that's what I saw in these women," said Frizzell.

Kairos has several other ministries including *Kairos Inside* and *Kairos Torch*.

- *Kairos Inside* focuses on men and women who are currently incarcerated and are in need of feeling safe, loved, and united.
- *Kairos Torch* is for youth offenders in need of strong mentorship and unconditional love.

People may look at a criminal and think they are terrible and deserve no sympathy for what they have done. However, Romans 12:20-21 tells us that "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Being a Christian is more than going to church, believing in Jesus Christ, and doing good deeds. It's about spreading that love that only God can provide to even the most broken person. Hebrews 13:3 says to "continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." The writer of Hebrews was reminding them to care for the weak as Jesus cared for them.

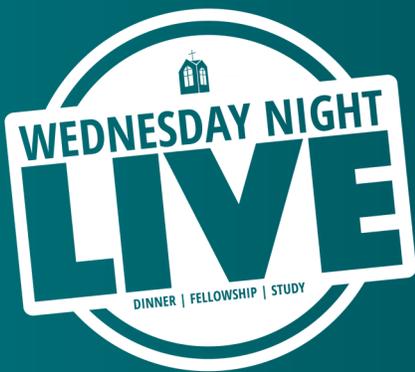
Those in prison cannot see loved ones often and have to deal with the realities of being in a cell for a long period of time. The families also cannot see their incarcerated loved ones, and children have to grow up without a parent being around to offer teaching and guidance.

Kairos provides a bit of relief by showing God's love to the incarcerated and their families. Christians are called by God to spread the Good News, and this includes those in prison.

If you would like to get involved with Kairos's Prison Ministry, please contact Central's church office at [cumc@centralmethodist.com](mailto:cumc@centralmethodist.com) or 865-986-7329.

Wednesday, November 15 @ 6pm

# Central's got Talent



August 30 - November 7  
5pm: Dinner 6pm: Study

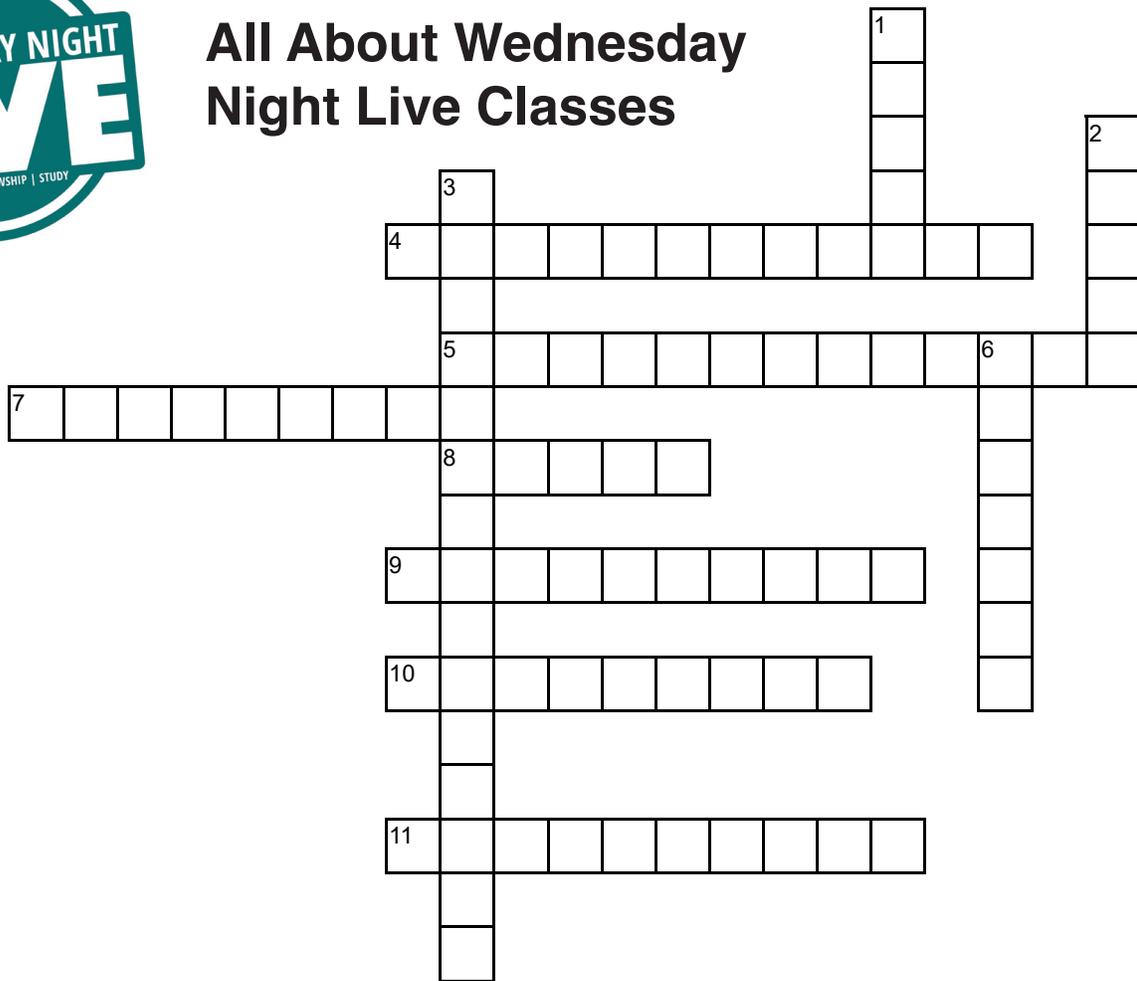


BIBLE  
*Journaling*  
a new way to  
study your Bible





# All About Wednesday Night Live Classes



### Across

- 4 Spiritual formation of Christ's followers
- 5 Competition of singing with no actual singing
- 7 God's Word
- 8 Messiah; Savior of the world
- 9 Raising money for youth group
- 10 Assigned responsibility by God
- 11 Spiritual growth with others

### Down

- 1 Who was swallowed by a whale while running away from God?
- 2 Another word for 'desire'
- 3 Creative way to engage in your Bible
- 6 Book of the Bible; 2 Books; Peter's student



# NEWCOMER RECEPTION

Are you new? Join us for our next Newcomer Reception!

**OCT. 8 OR NOV. 12 @ 10AM**

### Crossword Answers:

- 1. Jonah
- 2. Crave
- 3. Bible Journaling
- 4. Discipleship
- 5. Lip Sync Battle
- 6. Timothy
- 7. Scripture
- 8. Jesus
- 9. Fundraiser
- 10. Entrusted
- 11. Bible Study

# UNCHURCHED

## IN THE UNITED STATES

Based on data compiled by Warren Bird, Ph.D., from *American Religion: Contemporary Trends* by Mark Chaves, Ph.D.



Wes Good  
TN Tech | Junior



Lillie Weaver  
Hardin Valley | Senior



Logan Lins  
North Middle | 8th Grade



Cole Williams  
Homeschool | 6th Grade

## 125 MILLION AMERICANS ARE UNCHURCHED



The percent of people who say they "never" attend church has risen steadily over the last 30 years as people shift from infrequent attendance to nonattendance.



If this number were the population of an individual country, it would represent the 10th largest in the world.



Religious service attendance declined in the several decades leading up to 1990 and seems to have been essentially stable thereafter.

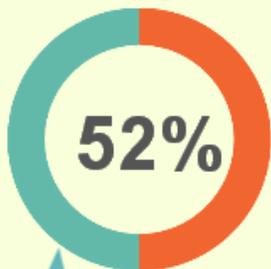
More than 1 in 3 adults



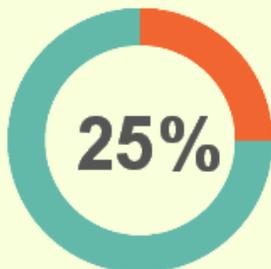
are unchurched

*"Unchurched means they haven't attended a religious service of any type during the past year."*

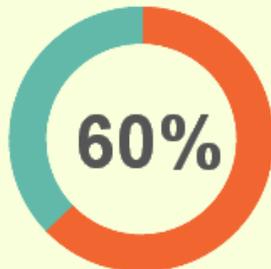
## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE IN THE U.S.



The Protestant portion of the U.S. population today. This number has declined from 62% in the early 1970s.



The percent of Americans who actually attend a worship service on a weekly basis.



The number of Americans who have attended a worship service in the past year.

# Q.A. with Christian Students

**Q.** During the formation of the first church in the New Testament, Christians were persecuted. How do you battle your own persecution?

**Cole:**

*I don't really feel persecuted that way, but when I hear certain bad songs on the radio and I ask my family to turn the channel because I don't want to hear that music, sometimes I feel like the person in the passenger seat has control and it doesn't keep my mind clean. It doesn't feel right or good. I feel like they should want to keep their mind clean too. I did have a friend that used foul language and I can't stand that either. I tried to tell him to not use it around me. Sometimes he'd use it purposefully to get back at me and I finally just stop hanging around him.*

**Logan:**

*I have never had anyone persecute me for my religion, so I have never had to deal with it. It is sad to think that people still can't worship freely.*

**Lillie:**

*It makes me feel safe knowing that I won't be hunted down for being a Christian; however, Christians are still made fun of at school, especially on social media. I usually just ignore any rude comment about my faith, unless it is also directed at someone else.*

**Wes:**

*Persecution is really a different animal today in the United States. With free speech anyone can say just about whatever they want without fearing death or jail time. I'm glad that we do have free speech so we can openly talk about our faith... With free speech people can tear you apart with their words and opinions...Christians experience this quite a bit and are often left out of things because of our faith...I personally try to ignore people who are attacking me and remember that God is always with me. In those situations it's best to leave or change the subject.*

**Q.** Before Jesus left earth, he told us to go and make disciples. Why do you think it's so important for us to do that? Why didn't he just tell us to love one another and be done?

**Cole:**

*Jesus wanted us to make disciples to share God's word and to receive the Holy Spirit. I think He did this because He's coming back one day and we need to know Him. We have to know Jesus died for us because we are sinners. We have to know that he died for us on the cross because He loved us. Without Jesus dying to cover our sins the love is just love. I love my mom, but she doesn't put the same kind of grace on my bad stuff that will get me into heaven.*

**Logan:**

*If we don't share God's love and word then there would never be any new disciples and nobody to continue to spread his word. God's word would fade away.*

**Lillie:**

*By making disciples, it causes a chain reaction. Those disciples can then go on and make other*

*disciples. Loving others is a significant part of being a Christian, but, by discipling others, that love can be spread even more. I think this is so important for us to do because everyone deserves to feel the love of God.*

**Wes:**

*...A disciple is someone who is completely devoted to a cause or belief. Love is among the qualities a disciple of Christ would have but there are many qualities they would possess. A desire to grow in their Faith, to truly know people and see God's purpose for them, to glorify God in everything they do. There are many more but just loving people isn't enough you have to be intentional.*

**Q.** What draws you closer to God more than anything else?

**Cole:**

*I feel most close to God when I am lighting the candles as the acolyte. Every time I get up there, right before I light the candles, I am supposed to pause. This is when I pray for it to be a good day in church and then I light the candles.*

**Logan:**

*[I am drawn closer to God] by participating in Youth and Sunday school.*

**Lillie:**

*I'm drawn to God by the security that He offers. Whenever I don't pray or if I stray from Him, I can feel my day worsen. Also, as a Senior, college is coming up, as well as all the stress that comes with it. God offers a comfort blanket too and I can just leave all my worries with him knowing that he holds my life in his hands.*

**Wes:**

*I'm closer to God during long car rides by myself. It's my best prayer time.*



**CENTRAL**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Visit our website at [centralmethodist.com](http://centralmethodist.com)**

301 Hickory Creek Road | Lenoir City, TN | 37771  
865-986-7329 [cumc@centralmethodist.com](mailto:cumc@centralmethodist.com)

**Services: 8:45am - Contemporary | 11:00am - Traditional**

*Would you like to help with the Caller? Writers, editors, designers, and all creative minds are always needed!  
Contact Jackie Wiggins in the church office at [cumc@centralmethodist.com](mailto:cumc@centralmethodist.com)*