



# The Center Chronicles

February 2025



Some may remember a machine set up in arcades and carnivals where couples could pay a quarter each to test their love for one another. In 1969, up and coming Nintendo created its own Love Tester. For a moment, let me share with you the story behind these love testing machines.



In her article, “Inside a Decades-Long Quest to Measure Love,” April White writes that in the fall of 1937, Ed Keefer was a senior in the school of engineering at the University of Toledo in Ohio. Tall, slender, and bespectacled, Keefer was the president of the calculus club, the vice-president of the engineering club, and a member of the school’s exclusive all-male honor society. He also invented the **Cupidoscope**.

The electrical device could not have been more perfectly designed to bring campus-wide fame to its creators, Keefer and his less sociable classmate John Hawley. It promised to reveal, with scientific precision, if a couple was truly in love. As the inventors explained to a United Press reporter as news of their innovation spread, the Cupidoscope delivered on its promise “in terms called ‘amorcycles,’ the affection that the college girl has for her boyfriend.”

Built in the school’s physics laboratory, the Cupidoscope was fashioned from an old radio cabinet, a motor spark coil, and an electrical resistor. To test their bond, a man and a woman would grip electrodes on either side of the Cupidoscope and move them toward one another until the woman felt a spark—not of attraction, but of electricity. The higher her tolerance for this mild current, the more of a love signal the meter registered. A needle decorated with hearts purported to show her devotion on a scale that ranged from “Blah/ No hope” to “Uncontrolable/ See preacher!”

It all sounds like a slightly painful party game—but the Cupidoscope was one experiment in a serious, decades-long quest to quantify love. This undertaking garnered the attention of leading scientists across the United States and in Europe in the early years of the 20th century, and it is memorialized most prominently in the penny arcade mainstay known as the Love Tester.

True love, however, is not measured by how long you can hold a handle on a arcade game, or purchasing the most expensive Valentines card you can find. True love is shown when our love for one another is giving and unconditional. It is a love that is defined in John 3:16,

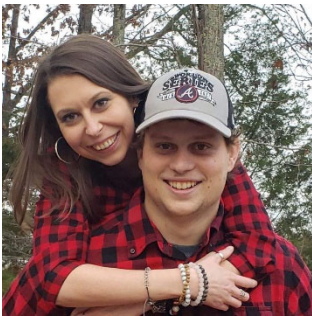
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” And I John 3: 16, which says, “1 John 3:16 “By this we know what love is: Jesus laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” This love is amplified by Paul when he writes in Ephesians 3:17-19, ““Then you, being rooted and grounded in love, will have power, together with all the saints, to comprehend the length and width and height and depth of the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge” As believers, we can truly learn to love others because we know how much God loves us.

Happy Valentines Day,  
Jon



### Valentines Dinner Date

The Center Youth invites couples to a night of fellowship, food, and fun on Saturday, February 8 @4pm in the fellowship hall.



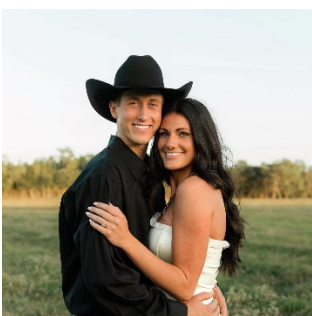
### Wedding Shower

Josh and Nakienya invites everyone to their wedding shower after worship in the fellowship hall on **February 16**. They are registered at Amazon and Walmart.



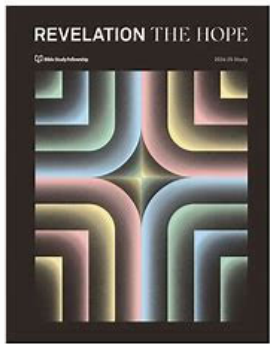
### Brooklyn Bivens to be Baptized

On **February 23** during worship, we will join Will and Kelli Bivens in the celebration of God's gift of love, Brooklyn Bivens, in her baptism.



### Bridal Shower

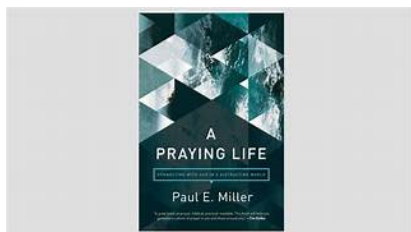
**March 9**, everyone is invited to join Kori Hamilton and Levi Kearney at the Lodge at Tellico at 2pm for a Bridal Shower. Their wedding will be Saturday, March 29 in Baker, FL.



## Men's Bible Study on Revelations

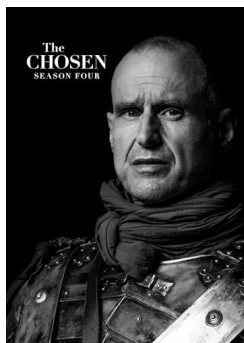
### Saturday's at 9am

Have you ever wondered about the end times, God's judgement, or how Jesus Christ will come to judge the "quick and the dead"? You are invited to join us for a study in the hope of Revelation as we use BSF's study guide to help us process John's visions recorded in Revelation.



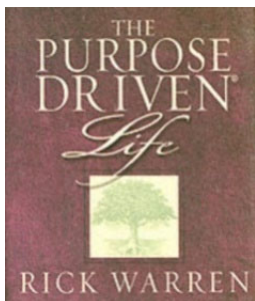
## Wednesday Night Bible Study @ 6pm

We invite you to join us on Wednesday night at 6pm as we study how to develop a praying life using the book, The Praying Life, by Paul Miller.



## Youth Group on Sunday at 4:00pm

Both youth and anyone else who might be interested are invited to come and watch and discuss each episode of the Chosen, Season 4. We will meet in the fellowship hall. There are 8 episodes. Season 5, which covers holy week, will come out at the end of March.



## Adult Sunday School Update

Donald Bivens continues his class studies on Rick Warren's classic, The Purpose Driven Life. Adult Sunday Class meets at 9:15am on Sunday morning.



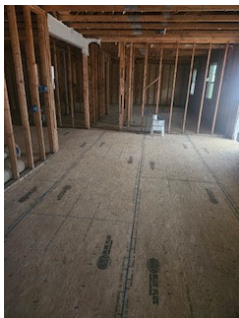
## Dorcas Ministry meets every first and third Wednesday at 9:30am

The Dorcas Ministry is a vital ministry of Center Church. What a blessing! If you want to get involved, please contact Sandra Black at 423-253-3876



## Session will meet February 20 @ 6pm

## Mission trip February 27- March 1



I visited and met with Samantha Hurst to get an update on how things are going with her home renovations. One individual and a group called Samaritan Helpers of Vermont have come in to replace exterior walls, windows and cover them with tyvek. This group also replaced the subfloor in the house. The individual from KY. has communicated he will pay for material.

With all that said, before a large group can go and hang sheetrock in March or April, there is a need to rewire and insulate the exterior walls. Therefore, I have put together a small mission team (3-4 individuals) to go up **February 27- March 1**. Instead of staying at the Gatlinburg Church, the pastor may pull his camper to the Newport KOA and if more than four people want to go, we can rent a cabin.

If interested, please contact me at either 423-253-2303, 270-705-2914 or email at [jfaraone@bellsouth.net](mailto:jfaraone@bellsouth.net)



### Children's Bell Practice

Children's Bell choir practices every other **Wednesday at 6pm**. February 5 and 19 are the practice dates. We appreciate Becky Stone and other volunteers who make this children's ministry opportunity possible.



### **Explore, Learn, and Serve at John Knox Center!**

John Knox Center is your destination for faith forming experiences with church retreats, Summer Camp and environmental education programs. Surrounded by the beauty of East TN and Watts Barr Lake, we provide a thin space where faith development, fellowship with others and fun happens.

The Outdoor Ministries Team (OMT) and Transitional Director Penny Babelay, invite you to explore all the opportunities John Knox Center has to offer. Whether you're interested in planning a church retreat, registering your kids for summer camp or learning more about our environmental education program, we are here to help you.

If you have a heart for service and a love for the outdoors, we would love to have you on our team as a staff member or volunteer! Contact Penny today to learn more or to join our incredible community. Call (865-376-2236) or email us at [admin@johnknoxcenter.org](mailto:admin@johnknoxcenter.org) Together, we can create a love for God and creation in the hearts of all who visit!