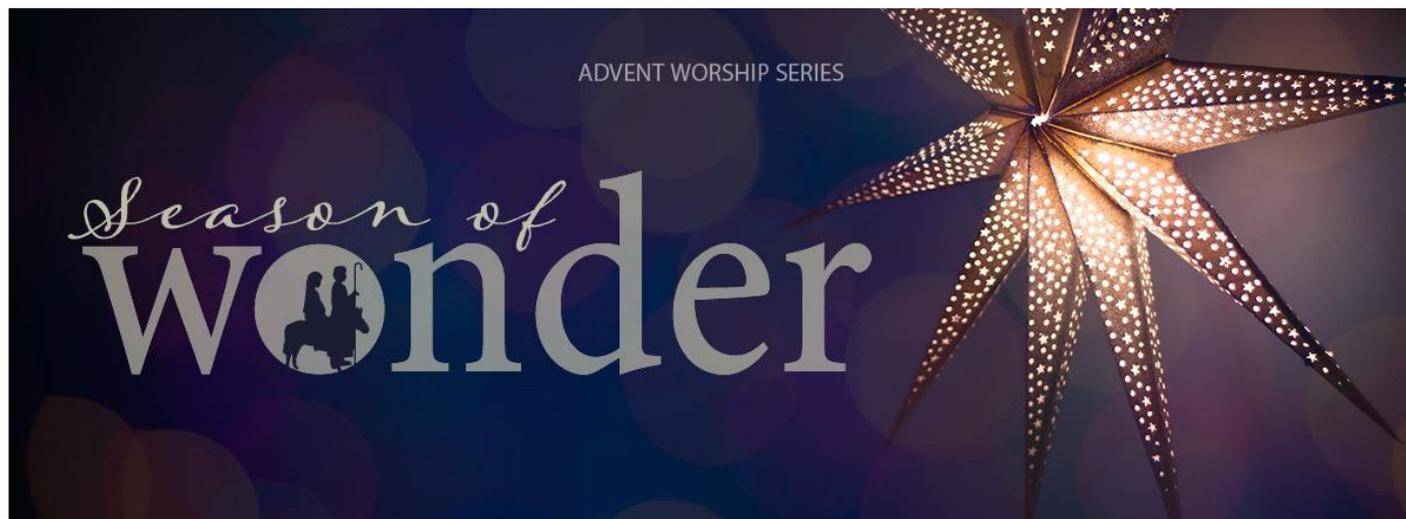




# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

December 2018



## *A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WENDY:*

Christmas is the season when we give ourselves a little more permission to wonder. We savor the delight in the eyes of a child as she gazes upon the wonder of a dazzling display of Christmas lights in the neighborhood. We adore the excitement of a child as he wakes with expectancy and rushes to behold the wonders which await under the tree on Christmas morning.

This season I invite you to join us as we cherish the wonder of a holy child, wrapped in swaddling clothing and lying in a manger, announced to the world through the wonder of a star. We remember with gratitude the wonder of a loving God who put on flesh as to come to us in our deepest human need. Join us in December as we slow down amidst the hustle and bustle of the season and renew our spirits in the presence of God. Let us embrace the wonder of this season in expectation of the hope, peace, joy, and love that only our Emmanuel can bring.

God bless you and keep you this holy season,  
Pastor Wendy

## OUTDOOR LIVE NATIVITY SCENE

Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 pm



## CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir rehearsal will be Tuesday December 4, 2018, 7:00 PM. At that time, we will work on the anthems for December. We encourage anyone who would like to join us for our Christmas choir to be there on the 4th. We also practice each Sunday morning at 9:45. Hope to have large choir during this Merry Christmas time of year. There are also opportunities for small groups and solos. Play an instrument, let Linda or Maggie know. Love to have a huge choir rejoicing.



# STEALING CHRISTMAS! FROM HERE TO ETERNITY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> – 6:30 PM**

Actors of all ages present a lighthearted play about the night Jesus was born in Bethlehem  
<https://www.cemlife.com/products/stealing-christmas>

## USHERS

### DECEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mike, Mary Ferguson, Ladonna

9<sup>th</sup>: Tim, Marcy Campbell, Isha Martin

16<sup>th</sup>: Jim, Rita Denhart, Don Hiatt

23<sup>rd</sup>: Mike, Mary Ferguson, Nancy Day

30<sup>th</sup>: Jonathan, Allison, Jeff Freel

### JANUARY

6<sup>th</sup>: Brooke, Brandi, Brock

13<sup>th</sup>: Amy Corbin, Jason Ferguson, Verna Bowie

20<sup>th</sup>: Mark, Kristi, Jerry Olgren

27<sup>th</sup>: Helen Freeman, Dean, Judy Fiene

## FOOD PANTRY

Beginning this month and following months, there will be information about the Food Pantry that our church so faithfully supports.

Caring Hands Outreach Center is a faith-based nonprofit organization which has been serving the Southeast Polk community for over 11 years.

With support from local businesses, area churches and community leaders, Caring Hands has provided low-income families with food, clothing and financial-aid assistance. Ministries designed to help economically challenged individuals and their families acquire the resources needed to move forward.

In November, Centennial's Food Pantry collection totaled 127 items. The annual donation from Simpson College students totaled 482 for a grand total of 609 items along with a \$5 donation! Thank you, thank you!

There is an ongoing need for cans of cream of mushroom and cream of chicken soup for the Food Pantry clients.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**WoW (Worship on Wednesday) will not meet Wednesday, December 26th and January 2<sup>nd</sup> due to Christmas and New Year's holidays. (No Wednesday activities as well)**

Saturday – December 1<sup>st</sup> – Live Nativity @ 6:00 pm

Tuesday – December 4<sup>th</sup> – Choir Practice @ 7:00 pm

Wednesday – December 5<sup>th</sup> – Nominations Meeting @ 7:30 pm

Thursday – December 6<sup>th</sup> – UMW @ 1:00 pm

Saturday – December 8<sup>th</sup> – Men's Group @ 9:00 am

Monday – December 10<sup>th</sup> – Ad Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Sunday – December 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Christmas Program @ 6:30 pm

Monday – December 17<sup>th</sup> – Pub Theology @ 7:00 pm

Thursday – December 20<sup>th</sup> – Steeple News Due to Amy

Monday – December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00 & 11:00 pm

Every Wednesday – 5:30 pm – Dinner  
6:00 – 7:00 pm Kids, Youth & Adult Study  
7:00 – 7:30 pm Worship

### UMW

Another successful soup supper/bazaar is in the books! We couldn't successfully continue our yearly event without all of the help and support of the congregation.  
**THANK YOU!**

Our missions, Bidwell Riverside Center, Hawthorn Hill and Shesler Hall will benefit greatly from everyone's hard work and generosity.

Our last meeting of 2018 will be Dec. 6 at noon with a potluck hosted by the officers. Gifts and gift cards will be brought for Bidwell's Christmas party in December and there will be a cookie exchange to enjoy.

## Women Before Work

When: Every Tuesday during the month of June.

Time: 6:30 – 7:15 am

Where: Church

Please feel free to join us anytime!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Josey Fry Butch Griffel Hannah Griffiths
3	Charles Southcott
4	Diane Griffel Brili Jackson
5	Terry Reynolds
6	Linda Howard
7	Jacquelyn Purcell Jamie Remster
8	Marc Dorris
9	Dean Fiene
10	Paul Quick Beth Shipley
11	Gerry Ordway
12	Laney Seaman
13	Laila Walker
14	Larry Heaberlin Torie Hermann Mark Olgren
17	Dick Dolash Paige Geisenhoff Laura Hiatt Jane Wendel
18	Sharon Dolash
19	Brenda Cox Jen Griffiths
20	Brent Scheel
24	Kay Bullard
28	Jo Ordway
29	Abby Glann
30	Karla Heaberlin

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2	Ken & Barb Sharp
4	Mike & Mary Ferguson
13	Tom & Gail Gish
23	Marc & Penny Dorris
27	Scott & Andrea Hackett Bob & Sherry Lamb

### LIBRARY

If the busyness of the Christmas season tends to wear you out, take a break and settle down with a book from the church library OR the Little Free Library outside.

Both libraries offer good books to read!

# Special Session of the General Conference

## February 23-26, 2019

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

## Conversations on the Way Forward

### Central District 2018 Fall Gathering • December 2, Ankeny First Christian Life Center 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Bishop Laurie along with General Conference Delegates will be visiting each district beginning in September. They will be present to worship, answer questions, and be in dialogue together around the pros and cons of each of the three COWF plans. All are invited to attend.

## Commission on a Way Forward Three Plans

The Council of Bishops considered three plans developed by the Commission on a Way Forward. The Council of Bishops has indicated its majority recommendation for the One Church Plan, which could allow for different approaches in different places. Their report to the special called 2019 General Conference will also include information about the other two plans.

1. **One Church Plan (recommended):** The one-church model would allow different United Methodists in different places to make different decisions regarding ministry with or by LGBTQ persons rather than maintaining a single standard that operates everywhere throughout the worldwide church. This plan would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline and give conferences, churches and pastors the flexibility to “uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.”

United Methodists in central conferences in Africa, Asia and Europe would retain the authority to adapt the Book of Discipline and could continue to include their traditional language and values.

This plan would also protect the rights of United Methodists whose theological convictions will not allow them to perform same-sex weddings or ordain LGBTQ people.

2. **Traditionalist Plan:** This plan would affirm the current language about homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and seek to strengthen enforcement for violations of church law.
3. **Connectional-Conference Plan:** This plan would create three connectional conferences based on theology or perspective, each having clearly defined values (accountability, contextualization and justice). The three connectional conferences would function throughout the worldwide church and the five existing U.S. jurisdictions would be abolished.

Adaptations to the Book of Discipline would be allowed by each connectional conference. Annual conferences would determine their affiliation with a connectional conference. Local churches who choose a branch other than the one chosen by their annual conference could vote to join another conference. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination’s constitution.

Click [Here](#) to view the final report of the Commission on a Way Forward.

# NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

## FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2018 Actual Giving vs. 2018 Budget Goal

	Required		Tithes	Other Inc	Total	Cumulative Difference
January	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 6,665.75	\$ 350.00	\$ 7,015.75	\$ 105.75
February	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 6,012.00		\$ 6,012.00	\$ (792.25)
March	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 5,893.50		\$ 5,893.50	\$ (1,808.75)
April	\$ 8,640.00	5 Sundays	\$ 8,833.50	\$ 100.00	\$ 8,933.50	\$ (1,515.25)
May	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 7,448.25	\$ 80.00	\$ 7,528.25	\$ (897.00)
June	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 10,287.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 10,437.00	\$ 2,630.00
July	\$ 13,888.00	5 Sundays	\$ 8,576.33		\$ 8,576.33	\$ (2,681.67)
August	\$ 11,110.00	4 Sundays	\$ 10,225.33	\$ 140.00	\$ 10,365.33	\$ (3,426.34)
September	\$ 13,888.00	5 Sundays	\$ 14,013.00		\$ 14,013.00	\$ (3,301.34)
October	\$ 11,110.00	4 Sundays	\$ 9,191.97	\$ 403.00	\$ 9,594.97	\$ (4,816.37)
November	\$ 11,110.00	4 Sundays			\$ -	
December	\$ 13,888.00	5 Sundays			\$ -	
	Commitments paid in 2017		\$ 3,100.00			
2018 Budget	\$ 118,184.00		\$ 90,246.63	\$ 1,223.00	\$ 91,469.63	77.40%

52 Sundays in 2018

**Required = 82.7%**  
Of Annual Budget

As of October, we are behind our 2018 Budget Goal by \$4,816.37.

**Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary**

### ATTENTION!!

\*If you would like to provide or update your email for our database, please reach out to Jeff Freel or email the church at [ivycentennialumc@gmail.com](mailto:ivycentennialumc@gmail.com)

\*For those of you that need to know the remaining balance of your 2018 Commitment, please check with Gaylen as he will have that information as of the past week.



Centennial United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 624

Altoona, IA 50009

## CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



**Visit our website at [ivycentennial.org](http://ivycentennial.org) to see  
Pastor Wendy's  
Sermons, Committee and Event information  
and Church updates.**

Contact us at:

Visit us on Facebook at Centennial at Ivy United Methodist Church

Visit us on Instagram at [centennial\\_ivy](https://www.instagram.com/centennial_ivy)

Or on our website at [IvyCentennial.org](http://IvyCentennial.org)