



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

April 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:

Gratitude. It's not something I've thought a lot about in recent days.

I have not felt as cheery as usual since I learned we had to cancel all in-person worship and events. And that's likely because I'm mostly extroverted. I love being, talking, and laughing with people, which is no surprise to you! But right now, I've struggled to find gratitude in the midst of finding out why we have to keep social distance from one another, why we can't gather with more than ten people at a time, and why we simply can't physically be with each other. So, while I've been spending my time being frustrated with the current state of the pandemic spread, **I've challenged myself to find gratitude in simplicity.**

I've invited myself to think back to simpler times-- times before I had long to-do lists, places and meetings to be--and I've tried to imagine what brought me meaning and purpose during those times. Recently, a friend invited me to be grateful for the simple relationship between my feet and the earth. This relationship, between my feet and the earth, is about balance. The earth and my body are in relationship partially because my feet find grounding in the earth--it's where my feet and the earth meet.

As I was invited to think about the simple nature of standing up and having my feet touch the ground, I thought about how throughout my whole life, I've loved walking around without shoes. I grew up in a household that took off our shoes when we entered our house, and I took that instruction literally as I moved from my childhood home. When I went to college, the chapel became my home. I spent most of my free time there: working as an intern, writing papers for class, and simply being around people. Soon after I became comfortable with the space, I started taking off my shoes when I entered the chapel office. Now that I think about it, my peers probably didn't love that I did this, but I was comfortable-- I felt at home. And I was grateful to have a home.

I did this again when I moved to Texas and found a home in the basement of one of my seminary buildings. I would study there during the late hours of the night and almost always, the security guard who came to lock up the door would find me without my shoes on. I was comfortable; I was home. I was grateful for having a space to call home and a space to feel comfortable. I showed my gratitude by taking off my shoes and feeling the ground underneath my feet. I expressed my thanksgiving for having a space to be myself by liberating my feet from the suffocation of my shoes. I found gratitude in simplicity.

So, these past few days, I'm thinking more about how my feet share my gratitude. It's kind of silly and fairly simple, but it's what brings me joy during these isolating times. What's bringing you joy? Where are you finding gratitude in simplicity? Send me an email, a Facebook message, or a text to let me know where you are finding joy these days. I want to offer you a prayer that helps me find gratitude in simplicity while holding hope that when we leave this time of uncertainty, we will do so as better and more equipped people who do justice, practice loving-kindness, and walk humbly with God:

God of grace,

"When this [time] is over, may we never again take for granted

A handshake with a stranger, full shelves at the store, conversations with neighbors, a crowded theatre, a Friday night out.

The taste of communion, a routine check-up. The school rush each morning, coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring.

Each deep breath. A boring Tuesday. Life itself.

When this [time] ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be, we were called to be, we hoped to be.

And may we stay that way better for each other because of the worst."*

May it be so. Amen.

With love for you and for the time we'll spend together again soon,
Pastor Dani

*prayer written by Laura Kelly Fanucci



“Annual Pie & Cake Auction”

NEW DATE!!! Sunday, June 28th

11:45 am

Our Annual Pie and Cake Auction will be held Sunday, June 28th following fellowship time. Help us raise funds for church camp registrations, Sunday School, Youth and Vacation Bible School materials, etc. We would appreciate it if you would share your talents by donating pies or cakes to be auctioned. Please note that this fundraiser is also important to the committee as the donations also help them provide other events and items to the congregation throughout the year. Some of these events are the Easter Egg

Hunt that has been a staple in this church for years, Easter Breakfast, gifts to the graduating seniors along with the reception after the senior service in May, Christmas goodie bags and reception after the Christmas Program.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 11th – 11:00 am

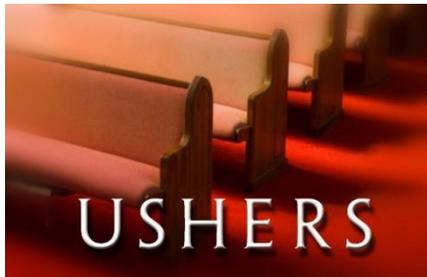
Come have fun at our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Open to the community, age 6th grade and younger



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, April 12th – 7:00 am

Breakfast provided by the Education Committee



5th: Brooke Person, Brandi & Brock Jackson

12th: Mark, Kristi & Kaylee Olgren

19th: Leslee Lynch, Addie Redman & Maggie Stout

26th: Erik Hall, Dean & Judy Fiene



Thursday, April 2nd – UMW @ 1:00 pm

Saturday, April 4th – Men’s Group @ 9:00 am

Monday, April 6th - Administrative Council @ 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 16th – Community Potluck @ 1:00 pm

Friday, April 17th – Church & Community Game Night @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 22nd – Education Committee – 7:30 pm

ALL APRIL DATES & ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

CHURCH LIBRARY

APRIL READING CELEBRATIONS

CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY: In celebration of Hans Christian Andersen's birthday on April 2, Children's Book Day has events worldwide with writing competitions and speaking engagements with famous authors and illustrators. This is a chance to find out about the great works of some unknown children's authors as well.

NATIONAL BOOKMOBILE DAY: Bookmobiles have been instrumental in getting books to people who would otherwise have no way of receiving them. National Bookmobile Day, April 16, is an opportunity for fans of bookmobiles to show their appreciation -- through thanking bookmobile staff, writing a letter or e-mail to their libraries, or voicing their support to community leaders.

CELEBRATE TEEN LITERATURE DAY: Started in 2007 and celebrated on April 16, this holiday sets out to show that young adult literature is a "vibrant, growing genre with much to offer today's teens". It also showcases award-winning authors and books in the genre and highlights librarian's expertise in connecting teens with books and other reading materials.

TELL A STORY DAY: Stories do not always come in book form. They can be movies, tall tales, or an old folk lore. Maybe you have a family story that has been passed down generation to generation. Take this day, April 27, to tell that story to your kids or grandkids! Embrace words in all story forms.

GREAT POETRY READING DAY: Most of us have had the not-so-great pleasure of coming across really bad poetry, but today is the day to embrace those really moving verses that inspire us. Celebrate April 28 by having your own poetry reading party, listening to a reading at a local coffee shop, or maybe try writing your own!

LIBRARY WEEK: National Library Week, 5-11, encourages communities to share how their local libraries and librarians have affected them. Each year is themed with a honorary chairman.

D.E.A.R. Month: D.E.A.R. stands for Drop Everything and Read. It kicks off on April 12, birthday of beloved children's author Beverly Cleary. Many literary organizations and publishing companies encourage and remind parents to treat reading as a family affair. Use D.E.A.R as a motivation to get your kids or grandkids together and enjoy some good books!

FOOD PANTRY

The March Caring Hands Food Pantry count was 96 items.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

If we are able to meet in April, Centennial United Methodist Women will meet April 2 in the fellowship hall. Leslee Lynch will present the program and Janice Williams will serve as hostess. The group will serve the Caring Hands Simple Supper on April 27 at the Adventure-Life Reformed Church in Altoona. This will be their 5th time to serve this supper.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Amanda Tam Andrea Hackett	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 April King	9 Whitney Warner	10	11 Leslee Lynch Sue Tomlin
12	13	14 Gary Roberts	15 Jim Denhart	16 Gail Gish	17	18 Butch Weeks
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Justin Shaver
26	27	28	29 Janice Williams	30 Macy Craven Mary Ferguson Happy Anniversary Dale & Irene Dewey		

**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
2020 ACTUAL GIVING VS 2020 BUDGET GOAL**

	REQUIRED	SUNDAYS	TITHES	OTHER INC	TOTAL	INCOME ONE YEAR AGO
JANUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,597.11	\$450.00	\$12,047.11	\$ 7,058.33
FEBRUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,793.16		\$11,793.16	\$ 12,370.73
MARCH	\$12,477.50	5				
APRIL	\$12,477.50	4				
MAY	\$12,477.50	5				
JUNE	\$12,477.50	4				
JULY	\$12,477.50	4				
AUGUST	\$12,477.50	5				
SEPTEMBER	\$12,477.50	4				
OCTOBER	\$12,477.50	4				
NOVEMBER	\$12,477.50	5				
DECEMBER	\$12,477.50	4				
2020 BUDGET	\$149,730.00		\$23,390.27	\$450.00	\$23,840.27	15.92%
					Required:	16.67%

Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary



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