



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

April 2021



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:

During my last two years in college, I served as the President of the Environmental Awareness Club (EAC). This might not surprise you because I enjoy the feeling of “being in control” and I have a terrible case of what some might call FOMO, or fear of missing out. It might surprise you, however, because I know very little about the environment and I am not someone who chooses to spend her time outdoors, when spending time inside is an option.

Nevertheless, I decided to serve as the club president while learning all that I could about how to be more thoughtful about how I care for the environment.

*I soon learned how environmental care is a form of spiritual care. Caring for the environment is just one way we can live out our faith. According to Genesis, God created the beautiful earth and gifted humans with the duty of caring for God’s creation. Some theologians go as far as claiming that caring for the earth is like caring for the very *body of God*.¹*

Something essential I learned while serving on the Simpson EAC was the art and practice of composting. I’m not an expert in composting, but when we compost, we have the opportunity to witness rebirth. Soil is made up of decaying and decayed organic material. Compost organically illustrates this cyclical process from death to new life when we add dying plants to grass clippings, food scraps and soil. Egg shells, banana peels, corn husks, coffee grounds, & so much more might seem unusable to us, but they find new life in the bin of a compost pile. As the nutrients from each addition to the compost pile mix together, we have the opportunity to witness how death leads to new life as compost becomes a nutrient-rich addition to soil for plants and flowers.

Our soil needs this natural process of recycling organic matter. In other words, the life of soil depends on the decaying of living things. Similarly, so does resurrection.

There is no resurrection without first, the death and decaying that happens in the crucifixion. There is no Easter morning without Good Friday. There is no rebirth without death first in some form.

*On Ash Wednesday, we began the Lenten season with these words: **from dust we have come and to dust we shall return.***

And in the new life we celebrate on Easter morning, we are reminded once again of the beauty of dirt and dust. Like Christ's resurrection, the organic process of composting relies first on death in order to bring forth new, unimaginable life.

Perhaps there is nothing God can't use as an example of God's goodness. Even in the dirt, God gives us examples of God's power and new life. Even in the dirt, the earth teaches us lessons about God and about our very selves. I pray you and yours will have a blessed Easter, as you are reminded of the new life we find in God's green earth and in Christ himself.

For "He isn't here; he has been raised, just as he said." -Matthew 28:6

Love, Pastor Daní

¹ Sallie McFague, *The Body of God: An Ecological Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993).



Easter is not just one day, it's an entire season! During the season of Easter (April -May), we will explore the good news that Christ is risen both from the grave and in every aspect of our lives. We'll spend time living in awe of the mundane moments of our ordinary lives, because the presence of our Risen Lord makes all moments sacred and holy. Explore & journey with us every Sunday morning at 10:30am as we consider how we live in a post resurrection world as Easter people who live as extensions of Christ's hands and feet between Easter Sunday and Pentecost.

HOLY WEEK AT CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT IVY

Palm Sunday | March 28 | Worship at 10:30 a.m.

WOW | March 31 | 7 p.m. *Online Only*

Maundy Thursday | April 1 | 7 p.m.

Good Friday | April 2 | Prayer Vigil from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Please note: No Church-wide Easter Egg Hunt in 2021

Easter Sunday | April 4 | Youth Sunrise Service & Worship at 10:30 a.m.



JOIN US!

RISE & SHINE

March-April Missions Focus

Please donate breakfast food items
in March & April to support
Caring Hands Food Pantry



pancake mix
fruits
jelly
coffee
bread
muffins
& more



What a hard year it has been! Along with all of the unknowns of the last year, many around the world have worried about financial stability as well. Because of your faithful and generous continued giving, our church has continued to do the faithful ministries we believe God calls us to. We've been able to support the food pantry, deliver packages to one another, share in new opportunities for worship, and create inclusive community in person and online.

Even in the midst of financial anxiety, so many of you have chosen to continue giving, including giving that came from extra resources received from stimulus support over the last year.

So, THANK YOU for your faithfulness, your generous spirits, and your continued giving that has not gone unnoticed and is so incredibly appreciated.

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." -Proverbs 11:25



HYMN SING IS BACK! (SORT OF!)

Do you have favorite hymns you haven't sung in a year?

Write down your favorite hymns and put them in the "HYMN SING" basket in the church narthex.

Each week, Pastor Dani will randomly pick two hymns from the HYMN SING basket and include them the following week in our worship bulletin.

If you are unable to write down your favorite hymns, send them via mail and we'll add them to the basket for you.

Centennial UMC at Ivy PO Box 624 Altoona, IA 50009

We now offer worship inside our sanctuary with guidelines to help keep us safe. Please read below before attending worship in our sanctuary.

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Please read below before attending worship in our sanctuary.**



A caring family of disciples
who **know Christ** and
make Christ known in our
community and around the world.



In order to safely re-enter the building for worship, we have multiple regulations that we must all take seriously in an effort to keep us safe and healthy. See below for a list of regulations and restrictions as we begin indoor worship soon. We hope you'll join us with a mask & a willingness to experiment together.

INDOOR WORSHIP & SANCTUARY SEATING GUIDELINES:

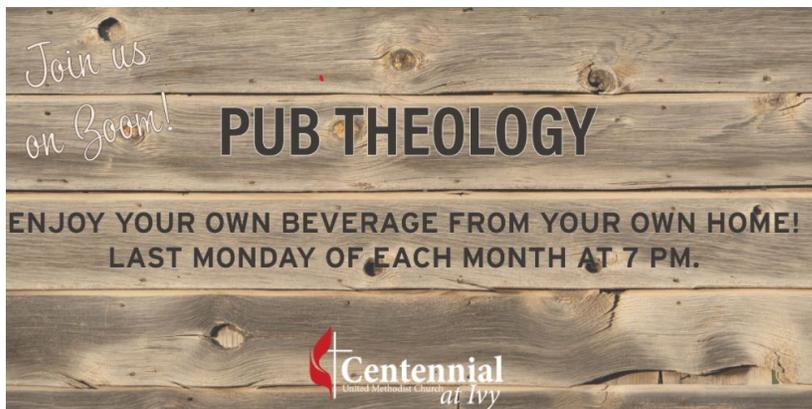
- Do not attend any in-person meeting or gathering if you do not feel well or have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Capacity for the sanctuary is set currently at 36 participants for safety reasons. This number is difficult to define and is somewhat flexible as families are welcome to sit together, but folks who are not related to each other must sit 6-feet apart.
- Like the rest of the building, masks are required in the sanctuary until further notice. Hand sanitizer will be made available for you before and after the service.
- Ushers will greet you at the door before you enter the church building. Ushers will hand you a bulletin and assist you in finding the best place to sit that is distanced from those you are not related to.
- If we reach capacity in the sanctuary, we will then seat folks distanced in the narthex. If the narthex reaches capacity, then we will use seating in the fellowship hall where folks can watch the service on the TV and hear it through the radio that we will provide. Folks are welcome to continue worshipping in their cars (tune your radio to 88.5 to worship along with us), or online.
- Every other pew is marked as not occupiable, beginning with the first row of each aisle. Please abide by these restrictions when you enter the sanctuary by sitting only in rows that are not marked off by tape or ribbon.
- Non-family members in the same pew need to sit physically distanced from the other. The CDC recommends 6 ft. Two or three individuals could sit distanced in the same pew. Again, an usher will assist you.
- Ushers will also dismiss families and individuals at the end of the service. Please do not get up to leave without an usher dismissing you. This helps us keep everyone moving safely and reminds us all that we cannot gather indoors for fellowship after service. Please feel free to chat with one another at a safe distance outdoors after the service.
- Online worship will continue to be made available every week. Our website, ivycentennial.org has all worship links in the "Sermon Videos" tab.
- We will also continue to worship through the radio. So, if you'd like to join us, while staying in the safety of your car, you can join us on Sunday mornings by parking in our parking lot by 10:30am and tuning your radio to 88.5 FM.

INDOOR MEETING GUIDELINES AT IVY:

- Do not attend any in-person meeting or gathering if you do not feel well or have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Masks are required at all gatherings at Ivy until further notice. Masks are located in the church narthex if you need one anytime that you are at the church.
- Check the church calendar before scheduling a meeting to ensure availability. Our church calendar can be found on our website: ivycentennial.org.
- To post your meeting on our church calendar, please email Jeff Freel or Pastor Dani.
 - jrajfreel@prairieinet.net
 - pastordanim@gmail.com
- Please provide an opportunity for meeting attendees to access your scheduled meeting via Zoom or another online meeting format even when meeting in-person at the church. Ask Pastor Dani if you need help setting up a Zoom meeting ahead of time.
- Write down names and contact information of each person who attends your in-person meeting or gathering in case someone from the meeting is later diagnosed with COVID 19 and all who attended need to be notified.
- Please do not share food or drinks in the church building. If you'd like to have food at your meeting, please encourage everyone to bring their own.
- Physical distancing is required at all gatherings and meetings.
- Please wipe down all objects (chairs, tables, etc.) after the conclusion of your meeting. Each meeting space has its own container of cleaning wipes for your use.
- Capacity limits have been identified for each room and meeting space at the church. The capacity limits are posted on the door of each room. Please abide by these capacity limits.
 - Fellowship Hall: 30 (no more than 3 chairs to a table)
 - Sanctuary: 36
 - Upstairs kitchen: 4
 - Library: 4
 - Downstairs kitchen: 4
 - Nursery: 10
 - Sunday School Room 1: 4
 - Sunday School Room 2: 12
 - Youth Room: 15
 - Narthex: 0. The narthex cannot be used for gathering until further notice.

Please only use the narthex as you are on your way to and from the sanctuary.

Thank you for your help & understanding in following these guidelines!



We'll have another **Virtual Pub Theology on Monday, April 26th at 7pm** and I hope y'all can join us! If you haven't joined us before, Virtual Pub Theology is a space where we gather on Zoom to discuss a current event (or multiple current events) and its connection to our Christian faith while enjoying an adult beverage from the safety of your home.

Join our Zoom conversation on Monday evening at 7pm. Link will be emailed by Dani the weekend before the event.

Feel free to forward this link or email on to others who might be interested in joining us, too. [And visit our website by clicking here if you want to read some of the articles we've read and discussed in the past few months.](#)



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK!

This is the time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers contributions and promote library use and support. The theme promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building and that everyone is welcome to use their services.

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable rolls libraries, librarians and library workers play in strengthening our communities. Plan to visit a public library, a school library, a church library, or a Little Free Library during this special week!

Fact: Where is the world's largest library?
Washington D.C., the Library of Congress

Fact: What country has the largest number of public libraries?
China with 51,311 libraries.

Fact: Who built the first library?
Benjamin Franklin in 1731.

Fact: What book is the most stolen from libraries?
The Guinness Book of World Records.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

BRYCEN WILLIAM CORBIN

March 9, 2021 - 8:00 pm - 7lb 10oz 20 inches long

Proud parents - Nick & Lindsey Corbin

*Proud Grandparents - Jason & Amy Ferguson
(Nick's parents)*

*Proud Great Grandparents - Bill & JoAnn Hansen
and Mike & Mary Ferguson*

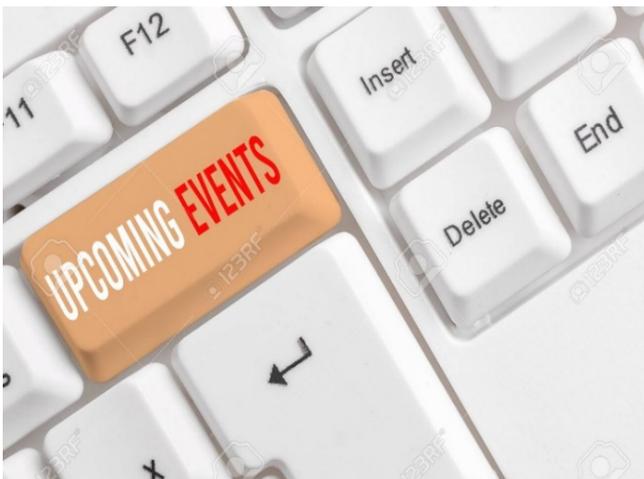
*Little hands and little feet, little toothless grins so
sweet, little eyes that shine so bright, little arms to*

hug you tight, everything's little except your joy when you have a new baby boy.



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 Long	10
11 Leslee Lynch Sue Tomlin	12	13	14	15	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 Dale & Irene Dewey	



Thursday, April 1st – UMW @ 1:00 pm
 Monday, April 12th – Admin Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm
 Tuesday, April 13th – Communications Meeting @ 6:30 pm
 Thursday, April 15th – UMW @ 12:00 pm
 Monday, April 26th – Pub Theology @ 7:00 pm

WoW (Virtual) – Every Wednesday during the month of April
 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm

**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
2021 ACTUAL GIVING VS 2020 ACTUAL GIVING**

	REQUIRED	SUNDAYS	TITHES	OTHER INC (Breeze Costs)	TOTAL	INCOME ONE YEAR AGO
JANUARY	\$12,369.00	5	\$ 12,636.87	\$ (19.95)	\$ 12,616.92	\$12,090.11
FEBRUARY	\$12,368.00	4	\$ 9,296.84	\$ (11.86)	\$ 9,284.98	\$11,750.17
MARCH	\$12,368.00	4				\$11,596.86
APRIL	\$12,368.00	4				\$ 7,389.67
MAY	\$12,369.00	5				\$30,158.83
JUNE	\$12,368.00	4				\$ 6,556.45
JULY	\$12,368.00	4				\$ 9,965.23
AUGUST	\$12,369.00	5				\$ 8,418.76
SEPTEMBER	\$12,368.00	4				\$ 8,658.93
OCTOBER	\$12,369.00	5				\$ 9,917.86
NOVEMBER	\$12,368.00	4				\$11,828.61
DECEMBER	\$12,368.00	4				\$10,999.76
2020 BUDGET	\$148,420.00		\$21,933.71	(\$31.81)	\$21,901.90	\$139,331.24
	52 Sundays in 2021				Actual:	14.76%
					Required to meet budget:	16.67%

As of March 15th, Centennial has collected \$450 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. Let's keep it up!!!!

Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary



Pastor: Dani Musselman pastordanim@gmail.com
Trustees: Ardean Williams 515-967-4189
Email Prayers Requests: Missy Shaver Mishaver2@gmail.com 515-967-6288
Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins): Amy Ferguson anbscorbin@gmail.com 515-402-6056
Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving): Gaylene Heaberlin 515-967-2016