



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

APRIL 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:



There's an old saying that you might hear this time of the year...April showers bring May flowers. It reminds us that while we might have rainy days (or sometimes even snow, since this is Iowa after all), there will be brighter days ahead. The rain storms of April will give way to the beautiful flowers in May.

In some ways this is a metaphor for life. If you live long enough, you will experience some storms in life – the death of someone you love, a serious illness, a broken relationship, or some other unwanted and unexpected challenge in life. Storms are hardest when we're going through them and it's easy to think the storm will never end. The beauty of our faith is that we can have hope, even when we're in the middle of the storm. Why? Because in Jesus, we have a God who knows what it's like to experience the struggles of life. And we have a God who promises to walk with us through our storms.

Just like a rain storm eventually gives way to sunny days, our faith reminds us that the storms of life will give way to brighter days.

Romans 8:28 is a favorite passage of mine. The apostle Paul writes ²⁸ *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

This reminds us that the worst thing is never the last thing, and that God can redeem even the hardest moments in our lives into something for our good. Look for the good God is working in your life.

Shalom,
Pastor Joyce



Pastor Is On Vacation

Pastor Joyce will be taking some time off April 1st – 7th. However, she will be in town and is available to handle pastoral care emergencies. If you have an emergency need, please contact her on her cell phone (515) 480-8457.



New Senior Fellowship Small Group

Doris Heaberlin will host a SENIOR FELLOWSHIP TIME at the Church beginning Tuesday, April 16th. We will meet at 9:30 am until whenever folks wish to leave.

We are hoping this will become a monthly gathering of many of our congregation that are not burdened by a day job. Doris will have snacks and games for people to enjoy in addition to good fellowship time.

If you have questions, please contact Doris at 515-967-2016.



Council on Ministries Notes

The Council on Ministries (COM) which is made up of representatives from the Communication, Education, Mission, and Worship committees, met on March 18th to finalize Easter worship plans and to begin creating a vision for a Congregational Care ministry, which is one of the priorities for 2024.

While we are still in the initial planning stages, it was clear that one of the biggest opportunities for the church is to find ways to increase the number of contacts to church members who aren't able to attend church on a regular basis. Contacts could include personal visits, phone calls, and in the case of our young adult members, text messages.

We talked about things like sending care packages and putting together a small team of people to take communion to members who are home bound or in care facilities. We also discussed planning fun activities to engage the congregation, and ways to better communicate upcoming events for people who are new to the church.

We'll meet again in April to continue our planning. If you would like to be part of the conversation or have ideas to share, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Jeff Freel, Bobbi Meister, or Pastor Joyce.



2024 Summer Church Camp Registration is now open

Registration materials are available on the table as you go into the fellowship hall. There are several different camps to choose from at either Wesley Woods in Indianola, or at Lake Okoboji. There are overnight camps, as well as day camps. There are even camps for grandparents and grandchildren. If cost is a concern, there are scholarship funds available. We want to make sure any child who wants to go to camp can go.

If you would like to make a donation to the Iowa UM Camping program, there are some blue envelopes on the table. Your donations help pay for programs and camp scholarships.

If you have any questions, need help registering or applying for scholarship funds, please get in touch with Pastor Joyce at (515) 480-8457 or email her at revjlwebb76@gmail.com.

**THANK
YOU!**

Thank you to the Ivy Centennial Youth!

We were blessed to have the youth lead our Easter Sunrise Service. They also helped fill Easter eggs and serve the breakfast.



Caring Hands Current Needs:

- Chunky Soups
- SpaghettiOs with Meat
- Egg Noodles
- Pancake Syrup
- Toilet Paper



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to be added to our prayer list, please let Pastor Joyce know by calling or texting (515) 480-8457 or emailing revjlwebb76@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST

Barb Bolt, Bob Johnston, Dee Johnston, Ardean Williams and Brayden Harmon



Thursday	4/4	Ivy's Women's Fellowship	1:00 pm
Sunday	4/7	Dinner Day Potluck	11:30 am
Wednesday	4/10	Ad Council Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday	4/15	Council of Ministries	6:30 pm
Sunday	5/12	Mother's Day Breakfast	9:00 am
Wednesday	5/15	Last Day of WOW	
Sunday	5/19	Graduate Recognition Sunday	10:30 am
Wednesday	6/5	Summer Worship Begins	5:30 pm

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1. Andrea Hackett Amanda Tam	2.	3.	4.	5. Charlie Harmon	6.
7.	8. April King	9. Whitney Long	10.	11. Leslee Lynch Sue Tomlin	12.	13. Katelyn & Zach Deutmeyer
14.	15.	16. Gail Gish	17.	18. Jerry Mellor Butch Weeks	19.	20.
21. Adeline Lehn	22.	23.	24.	25. Justin Shaver	26.	27.
28.	29. Janice Williams	30. Macy Craven Mary Ferguson Dale & Irene Dewey				

FINANCE COMMITTEE COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME

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	Offerings 2024	Offerings 2023	Offerings 2022	Offerings 2021
January	\$9,670.48	\$17,243.17	\$11,240.28	\$11,270.04
February	\$9,829.06	\$7,101.46	\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01
March		\$5,903.26	\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01
April		\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01
May		\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05
June		\$7,021.56	\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89
July		\$9,413.26	\$8,636.81	\$6,295.75
August		\$5,192.26	\$7,081.26	\$7,919.24
September		\$7,791.06	\$5,610.25	\$9,763.24
October		\$9,101.26	\$12,111.46	\$12,038.34
November		\$8,401.26	\$8,679.97	\$10,568.68
December		\$11,510.84	\$7,552.26	\$10,477.42
Total Offerings	\$19,499.54	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03	\$118,346.68
Government Paycheck Protection Program				\$20,177.00
Iowa Conference Assistance Program				\$4,300.98
Total Offerings & Programs	\$19,499.54	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66

2024 Average Monthly Offerings \$9,749.77

2024 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,945.33

2024 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget \$804.44

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, food pantry or mission project donations. As of February 29th, we have collected \$75.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. Joy Warner, Financial Secretary



Pastor: Joyce Webb revjlwebb76@gmail.com

(515) 480-8457

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): Joy Warner voj8893@gmail.com