



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

APRIL 2026

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Dear Centennial Church Family,

For me, April always feels like a hopeful month. When we can finally shed our winter coats. I love that the daylight lingers a little longer, and the world seems to whisper the Easter message of new life.

As I think about this, I'm reminded that Easter is more than a date on the calendar. It's a way of living. The early Christians often called believers *Easter people*. They were talking about men and women

who carried resurrection hope into their ordinary walking around lives. People who didn't wait for perfect circumstances to rejoice. They didn't need everything in their world to be calm before they trusted God's promises. They lived with a quiet confidence that the risen Christ was already at work, even in times and places that still looked like Good Friday. Easter people are hopeful people!

As we move through this month, I want to invite you to practice living as *Easter people*. First, by looking for signs of new life. In your home, your relationships, your work, even in your church, where do you see God stirring something fresh?

Second, let resurrection shape your perspective and your attitudes.

For many, we live in discouraging times where it's hard to reconcile the teachings of Jesus with the things happening in the world today. For others, you might just be going through a difficult time in your life. Friends, when you feel discouragement creeping in, remember that the tomb was empty and that darkness never gets the final word.

Finally, remember that we're in this together. When you see others who might be struggling through a difficult time, remember that you can be a bearer of hope to others.

Something as simple as a kind or encouraging word or a simple act of generosity can become a small resurrection moment for someone who needs it.

As we look forward to the month of April may we not only celebrate the empty tomb but also live out its message. My prayer is that our church becomes a community where people can breathe again, where grace is abundant, and where the hope and love of Christ is unmistakably alive.

May the peace of the risen Lord fill your hearts and homes.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Joyce



Maundy Thursday Service	4/2	5:30 pm
Good Friday Service	4/3	5:30 pm
Easter Celebration Service	4/5	8:00 am
Easter Breakfast	4/5	9:00 am

You are invited to join us for our Holy Week Services. These special services are offered as part of our journey to the cross and as a way to help us remember the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

Thursday's service will include communion, as we remember the Last Supper in the Upper Room.

Friday's service will include the passion story and a short 3-person drama.

On April 5th, join us at 8:00 for the Easter Service as we celebrate the Risen Christ!.

Be sure and invite family and friends to come too!

PLEASE NOTE: We WILL NOT have our regular service at 10:30.



150th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

We are getting closer to our 150th Anniversary Celebration on July 12th. Mark your calendars for what is coming up next!

Sunday, May 3rd Church Cookbook Recipe Dinner Day

Do you have an old Centennial UMC cookbook? Choose a recipe out of the church cookbook to bring for Dinner Day. It's a great way to remember the outstanding Centennial cooks from the past.

Sunday, June 21st Ice Cream Social and Time Capsule Reveal

It's also Father's Day. Grab your family and come enjoy some Picket Fence Creamery Ice Cream during our fellowship time. We'll also be looking for help to provide cookies, bars and ice cream toppings. Watch for the sign-up Sheet.

We'll also open the time capsule and take a peek into Centennial UMC's past.

Sunday, July 12th 150th Anniversary Celebration Worship and Dinner

We're still working out all of the details, so be on the look-out for more information on the celebration and ways you can help.

Video Interviews

We thought it might be kind of fun to ask some of you to do video interviews. Inquiring minds want to know...what brought you to Ivy Centennial and how the church has made a difference in your life. We may even ask you to share a fun memory from the past. If we ask you do an interview, please say YES!

Invite Cards

We hope to make invitation cards available soon. Our hope is that you would use these to invite family and friends to help us celebrate our big day!



Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for Easter by ordering an Easter Lily. Please remember to take your flowers home after the Easter Service.

MISSION NEWS



LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

Ronald McDonald House of Central Iowa

There are two Ronald McDonald Houses in Des Moines – one at Unity Point Hospital and one at Mercy One Hospital. These houses provide a place for families to stay, when they have a child needing long term care.

During the season of Lent, the church is collecting individually packaged food items such as:

Single Serving Bags of Chips
Single Serving Cracker/Cookie Packs
Single Serving Trail Mix
Granola Bars
Apple Sauce Cups or Pouches
Juice Boxes
Single Serving Microwaveable Soup Cups
Single Serving Microwaveable Mac and Cheese Cups

Cash donations are also welcome. You can use the envelopes on the table in the narthex or if you mail a check, please write Ronald McDonald House in the memo section. Checks can be mailed to: Centennial United Methodist Church, PO Box 624, Altoona, IA 50009.

The organization also collects pop tabs. Save the tabs and bring them to the church. There is a container on the table in the Narthex. We will collect donations through Easter Sunday, April 5th.



SPRING 2026 MISSION PROJECT

Beginning Sunday, April 12th, we will begin a mission campaign to benefit Heifer International. This mission is a Centennial UMC favorite. Heifer International is an organization that provides families in need with the means to produce their own food and to earn income for their families. The list below will give you some gift options the cost to purchase an animal (or a share in an animal). Look for the giving envelopes on the table in the narthex, beginning on April 12th.

Gift Ark	\$5,000	Honey Bees	\$ 30
Heifer	\$ 500 (1 share is \$50)	Flock of Chicks	\$ 20
Fish	\$ 300 (1 share is \$30)	Clean Water	\$ 300
Water Buffalo	\$ 250 (1 share is \$25)	Send a Girl to School	\$ 275
Goat	\$ 120 (1 share is \$10)	Garden Seeds	\$ 60
Sheep	\$ 120 (1 share is \$10)		
Pig	\$ 120 (1 share is \$10)		



SMALL GROUPS AT CENTENNIAL UMC

Next Meeting is Thursday, April 2nd @ 11:30 am

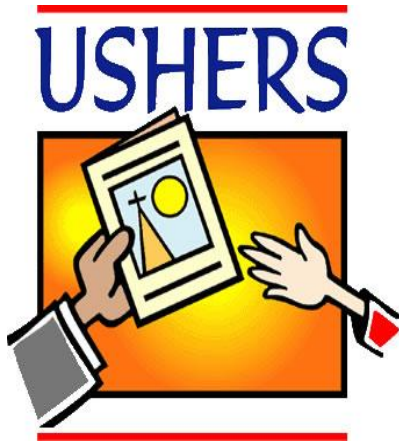
The women's group will meet on April 1st to share a light lunch and put together Easter baskets as part of the church's congregational care program. All women are invited to come. If you want, invite a friend to come along with you. The more the merrier!



The Men's Group met on March 21st for breakfast, followed by some clean-up tasks around the church.

Thank you to the men's group and others who came to help spruce up the church as we prepare for Easter and Centennial's Anniversary celebration in July.

All men are invited to be part of the group. If you would like to know more or would like to be included in email and text communications about meetings and activities, please contact Jonathan Freel at 515-771-9687.



USHERS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

April 5th Missy Shaver and Gaylen Heaberlin
April 12th Bobbi and Simon Meister
April 19th Jill Craven and Joy Warner
April 26th Gaylen Heaberlin and Ken Sharp

If you aren't able to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please see if you can trade with someone, or let Evan Fischer know so he can find a substitute (515) 494-5432.

Thank you for volunteering to be part of the church's hospitality team.

If you would like to be part of our hospitality crew and included in the rotation, please let Evan know. Training is provided as needed.



2026 SUMMER CHURCH CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Scholarships Are Available Through the NOW Committee (from the Pie and Cake Auction)

Registration materials are available on the sign-up table in back of the sanctuary. 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 call or text Pastor Joyce at (515) 480-8457 or email her at revjlwebb76@gmail.com.



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

David Burrier	Sue Jones
Matthew Myers	Gayle Jordan
Bob Bowers	John Bowie
Jeff Olgren	Nancy Day
Barb Bolt	Tim Miller
Donna Gustafson and La Casa de Esperanza	
Caring Hands Food Pantry	



Save
the
Date

Thursday	4/2	11:30 am	Ivy Women's Fellowship
Thursday	4/2	5:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	4/3	5:30 pm	Good Friday Service
Sunday	4/5	8:00 am	Easter Service
Sunday	4/5	9:00 am	Easter Breakfast
Sunday	4/12	11:30 am	Dinner Day Potluck
Wednesday	4/15	6:30 pm	Council on Administration
Sunday	7/12		150 th Anniversary

CENTENNIAL UMC FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Income January & February 2026

General Fund Giving (Offerings) **\$13,384**

Expenses January & February 2026

Payroll / Payroll Taxes \$ 8,406
 Utilities (electric, propane) \$ 1,260
 Communications (phone, internet) \$ 392
 Church Maintenance (lawn, snow, repairs) \$ 300
 Insurance (worker's comp) \$ 390 (annual expense)
 Administrative (accounting, postage, office) \$ 151
 Ministry Expenses (educ, worship, outreach) \$ 922 (includes \$665 for Easter ad in Altoona Living)
 Apportionments (Iowa UM Conference giving) \$ 2,614

Total Operating Expenses \$14,435

Over / Short \$ 1,051

Thank you for your generous support of the mission and ministry of Ivy Centennial. Your giving makes a difference!

Please Note: the numbers above only represent general offerings received and general operating expenses. The snapshot does not include mission giving and mission pass-through expenses (e.g. food pantry), nor does it include income raised through church events (e.g. spaghetti dinner and pancake supper).

	April Birthday's		April Anniversaries
1	Amanda Tam	13	Zach & Katelyn Deutmeyer
1	Andrea Hackett	30	Dale & Irene Dewey
5	Charlie Harmon		
8	April King		
9	Whitney Long		
11	Leslee Lynch		
16	Gail Gish		
18	Butch Weeks		
18	Jerry Mellor		
21	Adeline Lehn		
25	Justin Shaver		
29	Janice Williams		
30	Macy Craven		
30	Mary Ferguson		

FINANCE COMMITTEE COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME

	Offerings 2026	Offerings 2025	Offerings 2024	Offerings 2023
January	\$10,076.48	\$7,813.01	\$9,670.48	\$17,243.17
February	\$5,510.00	\$6,021.92	\$9,829.06	\$7,101.46
March		\$6,740.00	\$10,748.26	\$5,903.26
April		\$6,484.00	\$6,768.06	\$10,174.26
May		\$4,400.10	\$5,321.26	\$6,837.26
June		\$14,026.75	\$9,196.26	\$7,021.56
July		\$5,222.00	\$7,083.86	\$9,413.26
August		\$5,811.60	\$6,342.26	\$5,192.26
September		\$4,527.80	\$7,991.31	\$7,791.06
October		\$5,054.96	\$4,765.26	\$9,101.26
November		\$10,162.00	\$10,238.00	\$8,401.26
December		\$5,795.36	\$7,479.63	\$11,510.84
Total Offerings	\$15,586.48	\$82,059.50	\$95,433.70	\$105,690.91

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of February 28th, we collected \$200.00 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