



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

August 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DUANE:

A talent was an ancient unit of weight and value in Greece, Rome, and the Middle East. In the Old Testament, a talent was a unit of measurement for weighing precious metals, usually gold and silver.

Matthew 15:14-19 is the story of three servants who were given bags of gold by their rich powerful master. To the first he gave five talents of gold. To the second he gave two talents and to the third he gave one talent of gold. Then he asked them to invest it and make it grow while he was away on business. The first two servants did exactly that, while the third servant buried his bag in the ground, for fear of losing it.

When the master returned, he was very pleased with the first two servants and said well done, good and faithful servants. You have been faithful in a few things, so now I will give you many more. But he was very unhappy with the third servant, because he buried his talent out of fear.

Have you ever unearthed something that has been buried in the ground for a long time? **Some things buried in the ground rot, some rust, some just return to the dust.** The servant in the story mistakenly thought by burying his talent it would be preserved. He was wrong. The moral of the story is this; **if you don't use it, you lose it.**

So, here's a question for you. What do you have buried in your back yard? Whatever it is you had better dig it up and dust it off now. Have you buried your desire to study the Bible? Maybe you've wanted to teach a Sunday School class but haven't had the nerve to volunteer. Could it be that you used to sing in the choir and long to do so again? These desires are gifts that were given by the giver of every good gift. I urge you to invest them now before they disappear altogether. Your gift is unique and only you can invest it. And there's no time like the present to invest, because the longer you keep your talent buried, the less there will be to invest.

By the way, plenty of investment opportunities exist during Sunday morning worship and also W.O.W. Remember, if you don't use it, you lose it. But if you use your gift, or talent, it will grow and so will the church.

Grace and Peace to you
Pastor Duane

A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Over the past several years our congregation has accumulated a surplus in the treasury. In the interest of good stewardship, the Finance committee after several meetings along with the approval of the Administrative Board, we have invested some of these reserves with the Iowa Methodist Church Foundation. This is a business that loans money to other Methodist churches for building and improvements, under the guidelines of the United Methodist Church. With interest rates at an all-time low on our savings accounts, we felt that we were not getting an acceptable rate of return for our money. Our investments are in one- and three-year building certificates, which do not carry any charges for investing or any other hidden charges. The percentage rate of the one-year certificate is 2.17% and the percentage rate of the three-year certificate is 2.35%. These are very low risk investment with a modest rate of return but will increase our interest income tenfold. We invested 100% of the building fund in a three-year certificate, 100% of the rainy-day fund, one half in a one-year certificate, and one half in a three-year certificate, and 40% of the memorial fund in a three-year certificate. These are all separated and named accordingly. The Iowa Methodist Church Foundation also accepts private money which may appeal to some of our members who are looking for a better rate of return on their savings. If there are any questions, please contact any of the finance committee members.

FOOD PANTRY

Caring Hands Food Pantry is now offering Online Sales. Their inventory could include collectibles, antiques, art, furniture, etc. It's a perfect opportunity for those downsizing, moving, or having estate sales. Pickup is available. The sales will benefit those in need just as the food pantry helps those in need. The phone number for Online Sales is 515-635-0249 and the online address is caringhands.sales@gmail.com. To purchase or donate: www.caringhandsiowa.org or caringhands.sales@gmail.com. You can also drop items off at 301 Ninth St. NE, Altoona.

Centennial's donation for the food pantry for July was 50 items.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

A new book has been given to our church library by Gary and Leslee Lynch. *Seasons Under Heaven-A Legacy of Faith* was written by Julia Moore Wideman, Gary's first cousin's daughter. "In this heart-rendering memoir, the author lays bare her heart—her hopes and dreams, her fears and frailties, and her faith in God's mercy and goodness. It is a story of young love, lost love, new love, and most importantly, God's love." A recipe for Julia Wideman's Fancy Cinnamon Rolls is included with the book.

Other "local" author books in the library are Carol Bodensteiner (Pleasant Hill), Bill Cotton, (Des Moines), Linda Howard (Runnells), Amanda Brink Hull (Altoona), Fred Ridgway (Mitchellville), Pam Wilson (Altoona) and Bob Bowers (Lacey, Washington).

Look for these author's books on display in the library!



MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH SOMETHING SMALL

The Missions Committee is once again collecting personal hygiene items to be donated to Bidwell or the Homeless Shelter. There is a basket in the Narthex to place the items in. Any donation you can provide is appreciated!



August 3rd – 9:00 am – Meals From the Heartland
August 4th – Dinner Day
August 5th – 7:00 pm – Admin Council Meeting
August 15th – 12:00 pm – Community Potluck
August 21st – 7:00 pm – WoW Prep Meeting



Pastor: Duane Skidmore

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Trustees: Ardean Williams 515-967-4189

Email Prayers Requests: Missy Shaver

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515-967-6288

Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins): Amy Corbin

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515-402-6056

Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving): Gaylen Heaberlin

515-967-2016

VBS – 2019









AND.....THAT'S A WRAP!!

Thank you to all of the volunteers and families that came out to help make "To Mars and Beyond" VBS 2019 a SUCCESS!



AUGUST

- 2 Marcy Bowie
- 2 Jo Ann Hansen
- 2 Gabe Remster
- 2 Richard Wehde
- 10 Kristi Olgren
- 13 Sandra Clark
- 13 Brock Jackson
- 14 Tim Campbell
- 14 Midge Haws
- 15 Jolynn Fetters
- 16 Susie Fischer
- 17 Karen Heaberlin
- 17 Lee Ann Martin
- 18 Gayle Jordan
- 19 Sarah Hermann
- 19 Valerie Hermann
- 22 James Maxwell
- 25 Nick Corbin
- 26 Brenda Person
- 27 Linda Carnahan
- 27 Ted Cox
- 27 Chris Demoss
- 27 Mason Morgan
- 29 Angela Shanks
- 30 Jonathan Freel
- 30 Phyllis Kujac
- 31 Aaron Jackson



AUGUST

- 3 Pastor Duane & Sheryll Skidmore
- 12 Gordon & Peg Atzen
- 13 Lois & Richard Wehde
- 14 Brandi & Aaron Jackson
- 15 Pastor Gary & Margaret Forster
- 15 Bev & Chuck McGriff
- 17 Mel & Carol Visser
- 18 Don & Libby Hiatt
- 28 Byron & Judy Hemingson

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2019 Actual Giving vs. 2019 Budget Goal

	Required		Tithes	Other Inc	Total	Cumulative Difference
January	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays	\$ 5,878.33	\$ 1,180.00	\$ 7,058.33	\$ (4,398.67)
February	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays	\$12,370.73		\$ 12,370.73	\$ (3,484.94)
March	\$ 14,320.00	5 Sundays	\$19,623.40	\$ 500.00	\$ 20,123.40	\$ 2,318.46
April	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays	\$12,891.06		\$ 12,891.06	\$ 3,752.52
May	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays	\$10,332.53	\$ 960.00	\$ 11,292.53	\$ 3,588.05
June	\$ 14,320.00	5 Sundays	\$10,272.33	\$ 150.00	\$ 10,422.33	\$ (309.62)
July	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays			\$ -	
August	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays			\$ -	
September	\$ 14,320.00	5 Sundays			\$ -	
October	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays			\$ -	
November	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays			\$ -	
December	\$ 14,320.00	5 Sundays			\$ -	
2019 Budget	\$148,936.00		\$ 61,096.05	\$ 2,790.00	\$ 74,158.38	49.79%

52 Sundays in 2019

Required = 50.00%
Of Annual Budget

As of June, we are behind our 2019 Budget Goal \$309.62

Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary