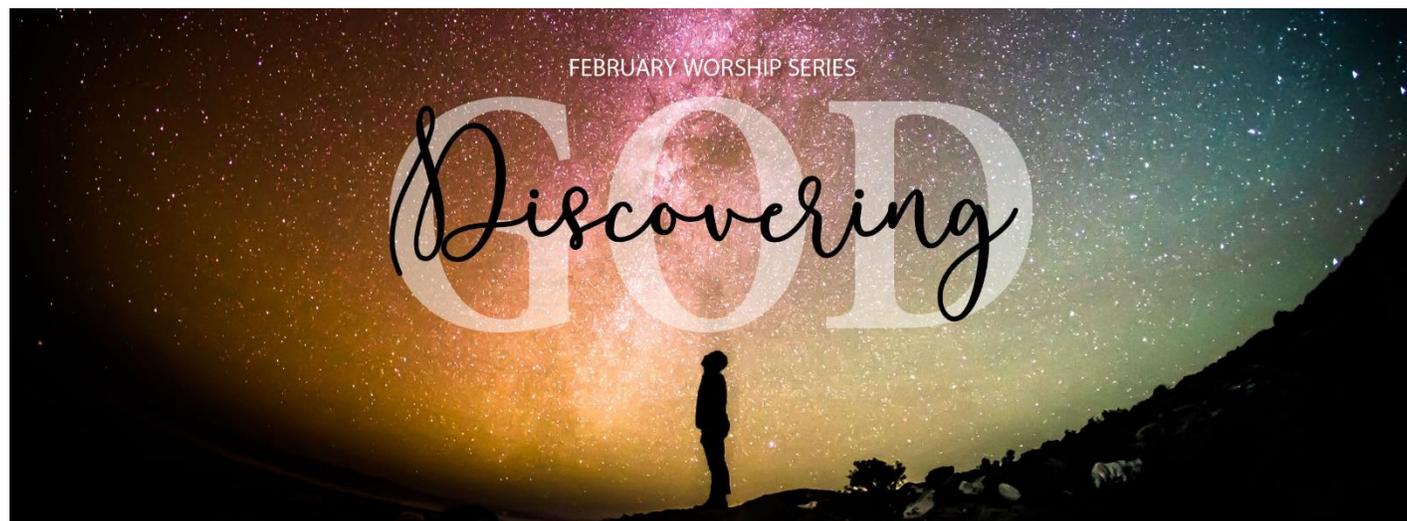




STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

February 2019



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WENDY:

What if we discovered that God is bigger than we had ever imagined? What if we discovered God's love is so radically inclusive that it shatters our preconceived notions of insiders and outsiders? How would these discoveries change our lives and our faith? These are precisely the kind of discoveries about God Saul made in his dramatic encounter with the risen Christ which changed his name to Paul and changed his understanding of God to the very core.

During February, we will look to Paul's letter to the Galatians to explore how God is revealed in and through our tradition as well in ways expansive enough to embrace the new context emerging around us in an age of great change. Even in times of change and uncertainty about the future, we can be confident that the Holy Spirit is moving among the changes in our context and that God in Christ is making all things new. What a challenging time to be the church and yet what an exciting time to experience God's grace moving us to fresh expressions of our faith that invite and welcome us to experience God's love anew.

Join us in February as we Discover God, even in the most unexpected ways.

Blessings on the Journey,
Pastor Wendy

FOOD PANTRY

Continuing from the January newsletter with the history of the Caring Hands Food Pantry history:

2008: The Caring Hands ministry of the Food Pantry explores sharing space with another local resource for families in need, the Clothes Hanger (a program of Central Place, the local school district's family resource center), which provides gently used clothing and small household goods for all ages. The goal of sharing space is to make it easier for families to access both programs at the same time.

2009: With this new partnership comes growth in the numbers of people served and it is quickly apparent the Food Pantry and Clothes Hanger need larger and permanent space. After an extensive search, the Caring Hands Board purchases property in the northeast area of Altoona in a homey brick house that was previously the site of a gift shop. Local volunteers oversee extensive remodeling and the doors open in October to a location that easily serves both programs and offers room to grow.

2011: Changes with Central Place result in Caring Hands taking ownership of the Clothes Hanger in July and both programs continue to thrive. Donations consistently increase to meet the demand for clothes, food, and rent/utility assistance and the food pantry expands its space for food storage. The programs now serve up to 260 families each month and the numbers grow significantly every year. Centennial's food pantry donation for January was 171 items.

Another place to donate nonperishable food items is to drop them off at the Little Free Pantry at the Altoona Public Library. It is based on the same concept as Little Free Libraries except there is food instead of books. Altoona Girl Scouts Troop 296 created the pantry to help with the growing need of food in the area. There are about 2 dozen similar pantries in the Des Moines area, 12 locations in the Ankeny area and Drake, Grandview and Norwalk areas.

UMW

There was no regular meeting of Centennial United Methodist Women in January. We enjoyed a luncheon gathering on January 11 at Now or Later Restaurant to honor Brenda Person with a Special Mission Recognition Award. Twenty-two guests were present to share in this special recognition.

Our next regular meeting will be Feb. 7 at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Janice Williams will present the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program and Dee Johnston will serve as hostess. Don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. All women of the church are welcome to join us!

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be added to the prayer chain email list, please contact Missy Shaver at mishaver2@gmail.com and she will get you added.

February

3rd – Tim & Marcy Campbell, Nancy Day
10th – Jim & Rita Denhart, Missy Shaver
17th – Youth Group
24th – Jeff, Allison & Jonathan Freel

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Aidan Craven
Wendy Musgrave
5 Bev McGreff
6 Dave Warner
7 Bob Dice
Anne Owens
8 Marissa Haley
Larry McCrory
9 Rev Bob Cook
10 Nathan Griffel
11 Tim Fritz
12 Aleka Fischer
Rileigh Hiatt
Matthew Myers
Larissa Walker
14 Owen Fischer
15 Mary Lu Mauritz
16 Amy Ferguson
17 Jason Hermann
18 Sherry Lamb
24 Terry Britt
25 Helen Freeman
Grant Warner
28 Cody Tingley

February Anniversaries

9 Bob & Kay Bullard
10 Verna & John Bowie
11 Missy & Steve Shaver
16 Amos & Jacquelyn Purcell
19 Harry & Sandra Clark
20 Butch & Diane Griffel
21 Dick & Sharon Dolash
28 Kevin & Lisa Day

LIBRARY

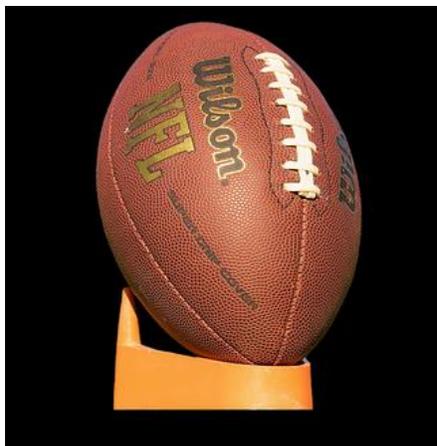
Too cold to take time to select books from the Little Free Library?

Visit the church library in the lower level! It's a warm, comfortable area to take time to look at books and find something to check out and take home.

USHERS

March

3rd - Butch & Judy Weeks, Helen Freeman
10th – Don & Libby Hiatt, Mike Ferguson
17th – Dean & Judy Fiene, Mary Ferguson
24th – Allison, Jonathan Freel, Vera Bowie
31st – Mark & Kristi Olgren, Jerry Olgren



Souper Bowl Sunday is a super simple way to celebrate the big game while helping struggling individuals and families! Simply collect cans of soup on game day (Sunday, February 3rd) or in the weeks leading up to the game for Hope Ministries. This year, we're collecting **Beef Stew & Chili!** All soup donations will be used by Hope Ministries to feed homeless and hungry men, women and children in Central Iowa. No matter who you're cheering for, we're all on the same team when it comes to helping out our neighbors in need.

Learn more about Hope Ministries' programs and services for men, women and children who are homeless, hungry, abused or addicted at <https://www.hopeiowa.org/>



Please join the youth on Sunday, February 17th for Youth Sunday. A taco bar will follow service with a free will offering. Please spread the word and plan to stay to help support our youth!



“Annual Soup and Dessert Contest” Saturday, February 23, 2019 5:30 pm.

We need lots of soups, desserts and of course judges! Everyone is welcome and it is a great event to invite your friends. Come for the good eats and fellowship! Hosted by Family Ministry, Fellowship and Evangelism Committee. Signup Sheet is located in the Narthex. Prizes will be awarded.

2019 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The 2019 Special Session of the General Conference will be held **Feb. 23-26, 2019** in St. Louis, Missouri, USA at The Dome, part of the America's Center Convention Complex. The purpose of the Special General Conference is to address the church's position on human sexuality. If you are interested in learning more about the Special Session of General Conference, United Methodist Communications has provided a helpful online resource. **Q&A: 2019 Special Session of the General Conference** <http://www.umcom.org/news/q-a-2019-special-session-of-the-general-conference>

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2018 Actual Giving vs. 2018 Budget Goal

	Required		Tithes	Other Inc	Total	Cumulative Difference
January	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 6,665.75	\$ 350.00	\$ 7,015.75	\$ 105.75
February	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 6,012.00		\$ 6,012.00	\$ (792.25)
March	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 5,893.50		\$ 5,893.50	\$ (1,808.75)
April	\$ 8,640.00	5 Sundays	\$ 8,833.50	\$ 100.00	\$ 8,933.50	\$ (1,515.25)
May	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 7,448.25	\$ 80.00	\$ 7,528.25	\$ (897.00)
June	\$ 6,910.00	4 Sundays	\$ 10,287.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 10,437.00	\$ 2,630.00
July	\$ 13,888.00	5 Sundays	\$ 8,576.33		\$ 8,576.33	\$ (2,681.67)
August	\$ 11,110.00	4 Sundays	\$ 10,225.33	\$ 140.00	\$ 10,365.33	\$ (3,426.34)
September	\$ 13,888.00	5 Sundays	\$ 14,013.00		\$ 14,013.00	\$ (3,301.34)
October	\$ 11,110.00	4 Sundays	\$ 9,191.97	\$ 403.00	\$ 9,594.97	\$ (4,816.37)
November	\$ 11,110.00	4 Sundays	\$ 9,430.68		\$ 9,430.68	\$ (6,495.69)
December	\$ 13,888.00	5 Sundays	\$ 20,145.83	\$ 406.00	\$ 20,551.83	\$ 168.14
	Commitments paid in 2017		\$ 3,100.00		\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,268.14
2018 Budget	\$ 118,184.00		\$ 119,823.14	\$ 1,629.00	\$ 121,452.14	102.77%

52 Sundays in 2018

Required = 100%
Of Annual Budget

As of the end of 2018 we at Centennial exceeded our Budget Goal by \$3,268.14

Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary

ATTENTION!!

*If you would like to provide or update your email for our database, please reach out to Jeff Freel or email the church at ivycentennialumc@gmail.com