



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

February 2023



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:

Occasionally, when I type out the word “United” as in United Methodist Church, I transpose a couple of the letters and it comes out “untied.” United and untied mean two entirely different things. Some, but not all are aware that we presently live in a time of deep division in the United Methodist Church. The main disagreement is over the issue of same sex marriage and the appointment of gay clergy in United Methodist Churches. A few churches have decided to disaffiliate or leave the denomination. We’re in a time when the church feels more “untied” than “united.”

In Ephesians 4, Paul writes to a congregation also dealing with some internal struggles. In his letter he urges them, *live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

His big message is one of unity in the church. Why? Because in our calling to follow Jesus, we are called to be part of something greater than ourselves. Greater than our opinions, our politics, our scriptural interpretations, or our need to be right. A former pastor of mine had a small wooden plaque on his desk that read “It’s about Jesus, stupid!” It was a reminder that he shouldn’t think of himself so highly that he lost sight of what was most important, serving Jesus.

The truth is that we will always see some things differently, but our unity, our oneness comes from Jesus and following Jesus. This is a great message for the United Methodist Church today as we deal with our differences.

In the next several weeks, we’ll be sharing more information regarding the issues at hand and give some opportunities to ask questions. Until then, let’s be mindful of the One who calls us and strive to be united not untied.

Blessings,
Pastor Joyce

SOUPER BOWL

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 12th

Be sure and join us on Super Bowl Sunday as we close out our Souper Bowl Challenge. You're invited to wear your favorite team colors to church on Sunday. After church we'll enjoy a soup lunch. A free offering will be taken to benefit mission projects.



Youth Sunday, February 19th

On the 19th, Centennial's youth will lead us in worship. Come and support the kids and then stay for a taco bar lunch. A free will offering will be taken to benefit our youth program. Worship, food, and fellowship...what could be better!



Summer Church Camp

The church will be offering scholarships to children and youth who want to attend church camp this summer. The church will pay half of the cost, using funds from the Pie and Cake auction and some designated memorial funds. If needed, additional funds are available from the Iowa Methodist Conference Camping program. If you know a child who might enjoy going to camp, please pick up a brochure and scholarship application. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ferguson (515) 975-0586 or Pastor Joyce (515) 480-8457.

Something New for the Kids!

We have established a hand bell choir for the kids. They have already had a chance to play for their families and the congregation. The bell choir is open to any child who wants to join in the fun. Notes correspond to the color of the bell, so no need to read music. If you have questions about the bells, please contact Mary Ferguson



2022 Centennial Mitten Tree Report



167 Items Collected



WINTER CLOTHING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who brought in warm winter clothing for the kids and for Caring Hands Ministries. We collected 167 mittens, hats, socks, and gloves for kids that went to Altoona Elementary, Runnells Elementary, and Mitchellville Elementary. There were 22 adult sized items to the Caring Hands Pantry (14 pairs of socks, 6 sets of gloves and 2 pairs of mittens).



Thank you so much for the Christmas cards and gifts!

I am truly blessed to serve the Centennial congregation and look forward to what God has in store for 2023.

Pastor Joyce



Souper Bowl Challenge!

We will be collecting cans of soup until Sunday, February 12th to benefit the Caring Hands Food Pantry. Last year we collected 48 cans of soup, so we're hoping to at least double that amount this year. We have a good number already, so we're off to a great start.

Save
the
Date

Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 pm Worship on Wednesday (WOW)

Thursday 2/2 @ 1:00 pm - Ivy Women's Fellowship – They will continue to meet the first Thursday of each month through June and then pick back up again September – December.

Sunday 2/5 @ 11:30 am - Dinner Day

Saturday 2/11 @ 9:00 am - Centennial Men's Group

Sunday 2/12 @ 10:30 am - Souper Bowl Challenge Sunday

Sunday 2/12 @ 11:30 am - Soup Lunch

Sunday 2/19 @ 10:30 am - Youth Sunday

Sunday 2/19 @ 11:30 am - Taco Bar

Sunday 2/19 @ 3:00 pm - Installation Service for Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai Ames Collegiate UMC (all are welcome)

Wednesday 2/22 @ 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday 2/22 @ 7:45 pm - SPRC Meeting (after WOW)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1.	2. Aidan Craven Wendy Musgrave	3.	4.
5. Bev McGriff	6. Dave Warner	7. Bob Dice Anne Owens	8. Marissa Haley Larry McCrory	9. Rev. Bob Cook	10. Nathan Griffel John & Verna Bowie	11. Tim Fritz Missy & Steve Shaver
12. Aleka Fischer Raleigh Hiatt Afton Maxwell Matthew Myers	13.	14. Owen Fischer	15. Mary Lu Mauritz	16. Amy Ferguson Amos & Jacquelyn Purcell	17. Jason Hermann	18.
19. Harry & Sandra Clark	20. Butch & Diane Griffel	21.	22.	23.	24. Terry Britt	25. Helen Freeman Grant Warner
26.	27.	28. Cody Tingley Kevin & Lisa Day				



**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME**

	Offerings 2022	Offerings 2021	Offerings 2020	Offerings 2019
January	\$11,240.28	\$11,270.04	\$11,273.44	\$6,141.66
February	\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01	\$10,933.50	\$11,454.06
March	\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01	\$10,780.19	\$19,206.73
April	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01	\$6,573.00	\$11,974.39
May	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05	\$9,110.16	\$10,375.86
June	\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89	\$5,739.78	\$9,505.66
July	\$8,636.81	\$6,295.75	\$9,248.40	\$6,855.50
August	\$7,081.26	\$7,919.24	\$7,701.93	\$11,013.50
September	\$5,610.25	\$9,763.24	\$7,942.10	\$12,809.25
October	\$12,111.46	\$12,038.34	\$9,201.03	\$6,737.50
November	\$8,679.97	\$10,568.68	\$11,111.78	\$8,324.50
December	\$7,552.26	\$10,477.42	\$10,282.93	\$12,235.67
Total Offerings	\$110,724.03	\$118,346.68	\$109,898.24	\$126,634.28
Government Paycheck Protection Program		\$20,177.00	\$20,232.00	
Iowa Conference Assistance Program		\$4,300.98	\$9,201.00	\$10,400.04
Total Offerings & Programs	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66	\$139,331.24	\$137,034.32

2022 Average Monthly Offerings \$9,227.00
 2022 Average Required Monthly for Budget (Revised) \$10,736.25
 2022 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget (\$1,509.25)

We collected \$2,593.04 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry in 2022. This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, Caring Hands or mission project donations.

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



Centennial United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 624
Altoona, IA 50009

CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



Visit our website at ivycentennial.org to see Pastor Joyce's Sermons, Committee and Event information and Church updates.