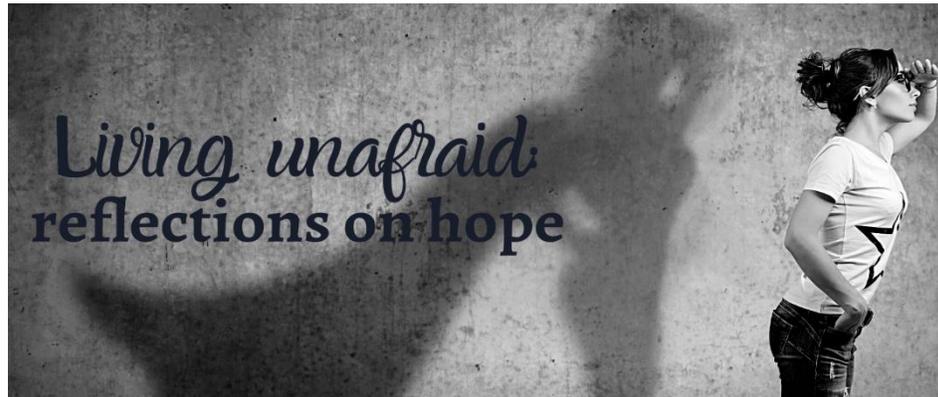




STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

July 2020



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:

Fear has always been prevalent in our lives and even more so in recent months. We're fearful of the virus, fearful of disagreement, fearful of our safety, and so on. While fear has the capacity to protect us from harm, fear can also prevent us from finding abundant life or hope in God. Fear can help us, yet it also has the power to harm us.

Luckily for us, fear makes itself known throughout the entire Bible. The Bible mentions fear more than 400 times in one form or another. In Luke 1, we find Mary *fearful* when God sends the angel, Gabriel, to meet her and declare that she will give birth to God's Son. In Genesis 3, we find Adam and Eve *afraid* when God finds them hiding because they disobeyed God's commandment in the garden. In 1 Kings 19, we find Elijah *terrified*, running for his life, *fearful* enough that he longed for his own death. In Psalm 27, the Psalmist wonders "whom shall I *fear*?" In John 20, we find the disciples hiding from the Jewish authorities, for they were *afraid* until their resurrected Christ appeared and offered peace.

Fear shows up in each one of these stories and yet so does God. While we often find fear throughout the Bible, we also find the declaration, "Do not be afraid!" more than 100 times. So for the next two months, we'll take a look at some of these passages where fear makes itself known, but doesn't make a home. This sermon series, "Living Unafraid: Reflections on Hope" will help us reflect on the fear we experience and begin to see how God's faithfulness helps us find hope in the midst of our current fears, anxieties, and concerns. We'll take a look at how these Bible characters faced fear and yet they still creatively found God more faithful. My hope in reflecting on these passages with one another is that we will see that while fear makes an appearance in our lives and in these stories, thankfully, *so does God*.

Pastor Dani Musselman
pastordanim@gmail.com

Join us online every Sunday at 10:30am in July & August for "Living Unafraid: Reflections on Hope."

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChqhf8kD0XICEBwONVXR-Ew?view_as=subscriber
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CentennialUMCatIvy>



Centennial UMC at Ivy:

It's been over three months since we gathered for an in-person worship service in our beautiful sanctuary. I grieve the time we've not spent in-person worshipping and I also celebrate how creatively we have felt called to be the church throughout these months. Thank you for your continued patience, prayers, and support!

On Monday evening, I met with the church committee chairs and we looked at plans of reopening. As time moves on and much of our city reopens, we still take seriously the guidance of our Bishop Laurie Haller who has committed to placing our Wesleyan values at the forefront of her guidance for the Annual Conference. All of that being said, we will continue to worship online until further notice. We will not host in-person indoor worship services in the month of July, however, the CDC determined outdoor gatherings are less risky. As a result, we hope to plan at least one outdoor gathering again in the month of July to encourage safe fellowship. We had an outstanding gathering over ice cream on Saturday, June 20 to celebrate the first day of summer and we look forward to hosting more similar events and gatherings.

[Click here for the CDC article on outdoor gatherings.](#)

I'll continue to meet regularly with the committee chairs to determine when the best time will be for us to return to in-person indoor worship. In our planning for reopening, we have and will continue to carefully consider the recommendations from health officials and the Iowa Annual Conference to determine how we can best safely gather. The Iowa Annual Conference recently created recommendations on phasing and the returning of worship and other gatherings. With the help of the communications committee, we are modifying these recommendations to a plan specifically for our community at Ivy. You will receive this document in the coming weeks to hopefully help you and your family consider how you plan to stay connected with our church in worship, small groups, events and gatherings, and more throughout this season.

I continue to be in prayer for you, your safety, and your health in this time. I truly believe we are all doing the best we can and I experience God's patience, support, and comfort in the moments where I witness the grace you generously pour out for one another. Thank you for offering this gift to each other, to our world, and to God.

"The love in you--which is the Spirit in you--always somehow says yes. Love is not something you do; love is something you are. It is your True Self. Love is where you came from and love is where you're going. It's not something you can buy. It's not something you can attain. It's the presence of God within you, called the Holy Spirit or what some theologians name uncreated grace."

-Richard Rohr

With peace,

Pastor Dani Musselman

pastordanim@gmail.com

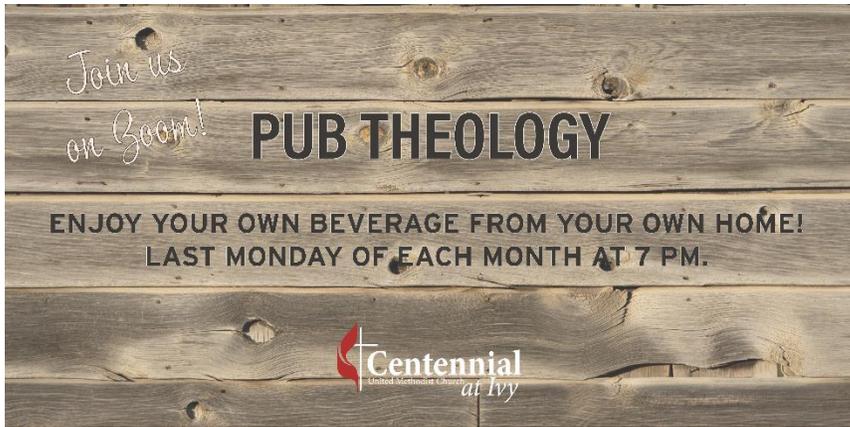
Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy



“Annual Pie & Cake Auction”
NEW DATE!!! Sunday, September 20th
at 11:45 am

Our Annual Pie and Cake Auction will be held Sunday, June 28th following fellowship time. Help us raise funds for church camp registrations, Sunday School, Youth and Vacation Bible School materials, etc. We would appreciate it if you would share your talents by donating pies or cakes to be auctioned. Please note that this fundraiser is also important to the committee as the donations also help them provide other events and items to the congregation

throughout the year. Some of these events are the Easter Egg Hunt that has been a staple in this church for years, Easter Breakfast, gifts to the graduating seniors along with the reception after the senior service in May, Christmas goodie bags and reception after the Christmas Program.



VIRTUAL PUB THEOLOGY

On the last Monday of each month at 7pm, we're gathering on Zoom for real & raw conversations about God & current events. Do you have questions about where you see God in the world right now? Do you ever wonder what it means to live Christ-like in modern day situations? Do you want to participate in authentic reflections & open dialogue? Then join us on the last Monday of the month at 7pm on Zoom!

Each week we'll discuss the relationship between our Christian faith and current events. While we cannot safely gather at a restaurant or bar, we'll gather on Zoom and it's Bring Your Own Beverage! Check your email or visit our website ivycentennial.org for Zoom links.



JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL DISTANCING BONFIRE AT THE CHURCH!

SUNDAY, JULY 19TH @ 7:30 PM

Feel free to bring a chair and if you would like to make Smore's, you will need to bring the ingredients with you. This will prevent the passing/sharing of food.

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAMED FOR ICE CREAM!!

Just a few photos from our ice cream truck social distancing event! Thank you to everyone who stopped to say hi and a big thank you to Marcy Bowie for arranging the event! We are thankful to have Marcy as a part of the Family Ministries Committee as it was this committee that sponsored the yummy event!



CHURCH LIBRARY

JULY READING CELEBRATIONS

July 30 - Paperback Book Day - You just can't get that old book smell from a Kindle or a tablet. There is something nostalgic about an old paperback. Plus, when comparing to a hardback cover, you are always going to get a better deal. Take this day to pick up a newly released paperback or maybe one of the classics. Either way, you know you'll enjoy!

Read an Almanac Month - For those unfamiliar with this term, an almanac is an "annual publication that includes information such as weather forecasts, farmers' planting dates, tide tables and tabular information. These underrated and sometimes forgotten gems can be extremely useful and interesting. So, go to your local library or bookstore and see what you are missing!

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. Through Little Free Library book exchanges, millions of books are exchanged each year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Little Free Library recently received the 2020 World Literacy Award for its significant contribution to global literacy. There are over 100,000+ libraries in 100+ countries where millions of books are exchanged annually. Each library has a Charter Number. Centennial's Little Free Library's Charter Number is 43308.

Some Little Free Library's have been converted to sharing boxes full of food and household supplies which has been particularly important during the pandemic. Stop by #43308 sometime when you are in the area! Remember the church library and the Little Free Library are always open even if the public libraries are still closed.

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Iowa Annual Conference, normally held in June, has been postponed. This decision was made by Bishop Laurie Haller with unanimous agreement of the district superintendents. The rescheduled session will be held electronically on July 18 from 9am to 5pm. The Legislative Session will be held using Zoom Webinar and will use the Voter system. This meeting complies with the requirements of the Discipline and the laws of the state of Iowa. The session will be limited to only the essential business for the 2020-2021 appointment year and the 2021 fiscal/calendar year.

The theme of the 2020 Conference is Creating Difference Makers: Global Health: Seeking Health and Wholeness for all. Town Hall meetings were held virtually June 13 and June 27 from 9 to 12. The purpose of these meetings was to have conversations regarding the 2020 Iowa Annual Conference legislation, finances and to practice the Voter system prior to the legislative system. Not included in this year's agenda will be potential resolutions for the postponed 2020 General Conference and other reports not deemed as essential business.

Two Ordering of Ministry services are being planned for those who will be ordained, commissioned and those recognized as Course of Study graduates at Cedar Falls and Council Bluffs. Pastor Dani will be commissioned for provisional membership at the Council Bluffs site on July 25. Both services will be livestreamed to the conference.

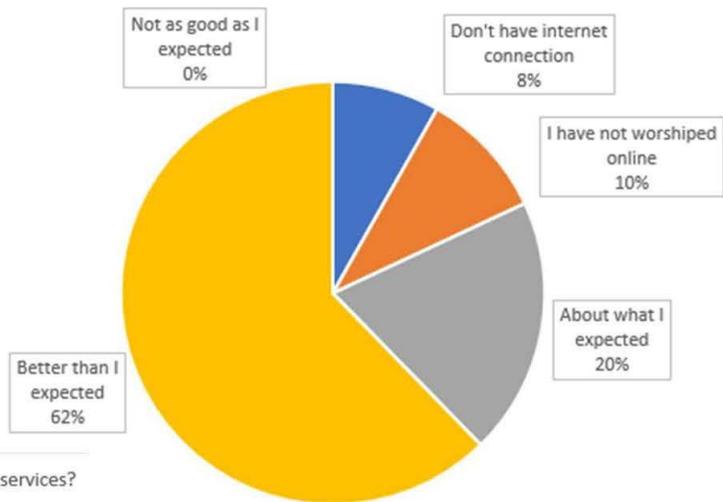
The Laity session will be held virtually August 2 at 2:00 p.m.
Libby Hiatt, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Congregation Shares Thoughts about Returning to In-Person Worship

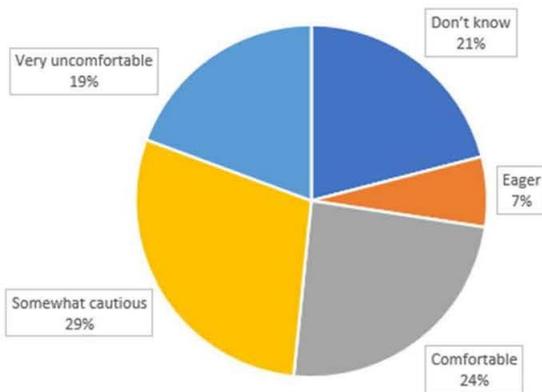
A wonderful response of 62 members of the Centennial congregation completed a survey in early June about resuming In-Person church activities during the Covid-19 outbreak. 44 questionnaires were completed online along with 18 paper surveys between June 6th and June 16th.

The study shows that while the congregation wishes they could be in church for live weekly services most realize there will be challenges.

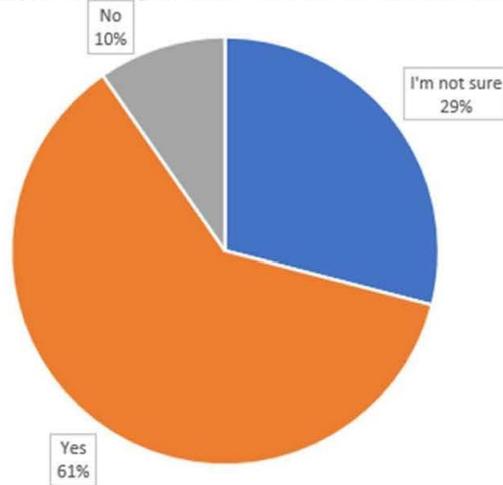
How do you describe your experience of worshipping online?



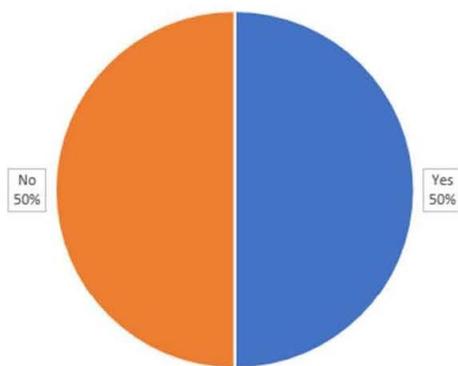
How comfortable do you think you will feel attending in-person services?



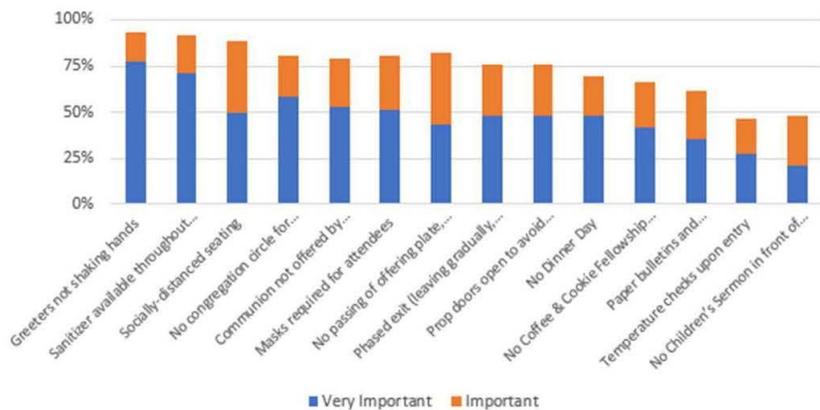
Would you be willing to attend a service at a different time?



Do you consider yourself to be in one of the "high-risk" categories for COVID-19?



How important to make you feel a sufficient comfort level for in-person worship services?



The results of the survey have been studied by Pastor Dani and committee chairs. If you are interested in seeing more of the data from this study check with Pastor Dani or Jeff Freil.

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Bob Johnston	3	4 Jeff Heaberlin
5 Sheryll Skidmore Grace Stout	6 Nancy Day Stan Mauritz Brad Morse	7 Gerry & Jo Ordway	8	9 Moe Gilkison	10	11 Holly Adey Mindy Britt Tyke Remster
12	13	14	15 Larry Palmer	16 Jeff & Rosemary Freel	17	18 Marci Martin
19 Rev. Bill Cotton Bill Hansen Kari Wilkins	20	21	22	23 Bonnie Altes Kensington Hermann	24 Josh Lampkin	25
26	27 Carol Visser	28	29 Pam Sanders Laura & Todd Hiatt	30	31	

**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
2020 ACTUAL GIVING VS 2020 BUDGET GOAL**

	REQUIRED	SUNDAYS	TITHES	OTHER INC (Breeze Costs)	TOTAL	INCOME ONE YEAR AGO
JANUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,640.11	\$450.00	\$12,090.11	\$ 7,058.33
FEBRUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,750.17		\$11,750.17	\$ 12,370.73
MARCH	\$12,477.50	5	\$11,605.44	(8.58)	\$11,596.86	\$ 19,623.40
APRIL	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 7,401.17	(11.50)	\$ 7,389.67	\$ 12,891.06
MAY	\$12,477.50	5	\$30,172.17	(13.34)	\$30,158.83	\$ 11,292.53
JUNE	\$12,477.50	4				
JULY	\$12,477.50	4				
AUGUST	\$12,477.50	5				
SEPTEMBER	\$12,477.50	4				
OCTOBER	\$12,477.50	4				
NOVEMBER	\$12,477.50	5				
DECEMBER	\$12,477.50	4				
2020 BUDGET	\$149,730.00		\$72,569.06	\$416.58	\$72,985.64	48.74%
					Required:	41.67%

As of June 14, our congregation has donated \$2,020.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry since the beginning of 2020. On the 5th of May we received \$20,232 from the Small Business Administration as part of the Covid-19 Stimulus Package. These funds were for the "Paycheck Protection Program" which helps keep us paying our Pastor, Organist, Custodian and Secretary. **Not counting the Stimulus Package our offering for May was \$9,926.83.** In order to meet our 2020 budget, we need to average about \$12,480.00 per month.

Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary



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