



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

June 2020

## ***A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:***

# *glory sightings*

FINDING GOD IN EVERYDAY PLACES

It is timely that our church experiences so much change as we enter a new season in our church calendar. On May 31st, we celebrate Pentecost, the birth of the church. As we remember the birth of the church, our current church-- local and global--is undergoing dramatic changes and transformations. In some ways, we're being asked to invent new ways of being the church (gathering in spirit for worship, service, prayer, giving, and study), but in other ways, we're being asked to return to that which our church ancestors did. Luke, the writer of Acts, recalls the beginnings of the church in Acts 2:

“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

-Acts 2:46-47

The first Christians did not only worship when they gathered in the temple, but they continued their worship in their homes as well. The work of the early church was not confined only to their gatherings in one space, but instead church and worship happened wherever they were: in their homes, around the dinner table, with their families, where they broke bread together, and in sharing the body of Christ with those present with them. So as we reinvent what we as the church does in this time, we are also remembering how the first Christians worshipped in small groups and in one another's homes. Like those who created the first church, we too are worshipping in our homes-- alone and with our family-- online or with a physical copy of the service manuscript-- inside our homes or outside on a deck or in the grass. May we find hope that the challenges we face on how to be the church in this time, are not an entirely foreign concept to the history of the church.

John Wesley similarly gathered in small groups and worshipped with others outside. His ministries were not confined to a building, but instead he led a new denomination centered on finding God in all places: not just in a church building, but in prisons and hospitals; in schools and open fields; in small groups worshipping and in individual's homes.

So, we remember back to our Christian and Methodist ancestors, while also creatively imagining what else we can do in our world as God's people. By choosing to worship online instead of gathering before

we believe it is appropriate to do so, we are striving to continue to do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. We are committing to these simple rules by worshipping in our homes, by gathering online for Zoom meetings, by calling one another and sending cards to each other, and perhaps soon, even in gathering with a few others outside in a physically distanced setting, maybe at a cookout, on your deck, or in your driveway.

As we celebrate the birth of the church and in the season following Pentecost, our worship services for June will focus on a series called *Glory Sightings*, a series inviting us to find God in everyday places. When we gather physically for church, we almost always guarantee we will find God in our shared gathering and in our worship. We call the church a “sacred place,” partially for this reason. Yet when we are not gathering physically for worship in the church building, when we are creatively trying new and reusing ancient practices of what it means to be the church in physically distanced ways, it can be more difficult to identify where we find God. This sermon series for June will help us creatively look for and reflect on God’s gracious self-offered to us in the simple and celebratory activities we do each day. May we learn how to see more than a building as God’s sacred space. Let us look for the sacred in our homes and in the meals we share; in the unexpected thank you care or phone call. And as we look more closely for these glory sightings in the everyday, hopefully we will grow in our faithful discipleship and love in Christ.

With peace & prayers for you,  
Pastor Dani



We have released a new update concerning the status of our church building for the month of June. After prayer and reflection with church leadership, all in-person gatherings or worship services are postponed or cancelled through June. Please find the full email regarding this decision on our website ([ivycentennial.org](http://ivycentennial.org)) or at the end of this newsletter.

I hope you will join me each Sunday morning at 10:30am for worship on Facebook or YouTube. Find worship links on our website: [ivycentennial.org](http://ivycentennial.org) on the Sermon Videos tab.

We have also continued to stay updated with one another on Facebook and on our website every Tuesday with “Tell a Friend Tuesdays.” You can see what your friends at Ivy are up to by seeing the posts every Tuesday. Find a new recipe, check out what others are reading, and stay up to date with each other by visiting the Tell a Friend Tuesday webpage under the “Ministries” tab on our website. Send us your updates for your friends at Ivy by emailing [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)

Read a new bedtime story with us each Thursday at 7pm. The videos are on our YouTube and Facebook pages. And if you would like to read a story to our church, please send your video to [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)

Church YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChqhf8kD0XICEBwONVXR-Ew>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CentennialUMCatIvy/>

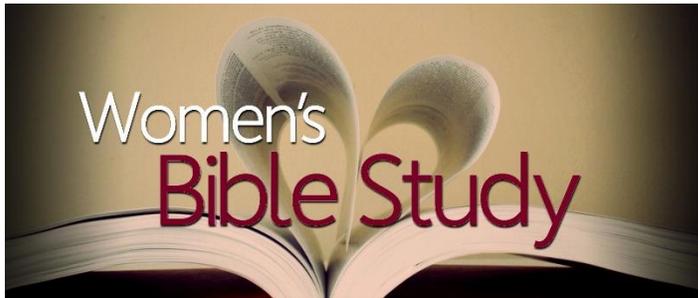


## “Annual Pie & Cake Auction”

**NEW DATE!!! Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**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.



Women of Centennial- We would love for you to be a part of a Bible Study! Centennial will be offering a 12 week Zoom Women's Bible Study titled "Personal and Powerful". We will be meeting online for this study. Below is a synopsis of the Bible Study. Please sign up if you are interested.

Does life sometimes feel impersonal? With all of our profiles, passwords, selfies, and computerized customer service, we can easily feel that we are “known” without really being known. We often wonder if God really sees what is going on in our lives. Is He capable of answering our prayers? Will He actually stop for us? This beautifully designed, colorful, 12-part Bible study explores the way Jesus collided with two individuals in **Mark 5:21-43** and reminds us that God is able to intersect with our lives in both personal and powerful ways. While on His way to heal a dying 12-year old girl, Jesus stops for one woman who had been hemorrhaging for twelve long years, a woman who dared to believe a new outcome was possible for her if she would simply reach out and touch the hem of Jesus’ garment. Jesus is not content to solely allow His power to heal this woman, He wants to know her, and he wants to know you too. As you engage Scripture, read personal stories, and reflect on questions that invite you to new places, you will be challenged, encouraged, and inspired by this study.

This is a great way to stay connected to one another even when we cannot see each other in person! **Please email Allison by June 10 ([allison.freel6@gmail.com](mailto:allison.freel6@gmail.com)) if you're interested. After June 10, the group will find a day/time that works best for the majority of those signed up.**



# CHURCH LIBRARY

## JUNE READING CELEBRATIONS

Audiobook Appreciation Month - June is all about generating excitement and enthusiasm for audio books. An underrated commodity, audio books are great for car rides, long trips, and those days when the reading glasses just don't cut it. June is the time for beach trips and travel adventures, so don't forget to bring along your favorite audio book!

June 27 - National Columnists Day - Created by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, it was established on April 18 in memory of the day columnist, and Pulitzer Prize winner, Ernie Pyle was, killed in World War II. Whether it be the quirky "how-to" lady or the environmental contributor, read your favorite column and then give the writers feedback. They like to know you are interested in their work!.

## 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!

## FOOD PANTRY/CARING HANDS

During this time of uncertainty, we as Methodists even from afar, have the need to help and serve our community. Dean and Judy Fiene so graciously reached out to Caring Hands Food Pantry to see what was needed during this time. After speaking with them, Caring hands said that money would be the best option as they can buy in bulk and get discounts when they are able to buy that way. If anyone would like to donate, we have two ways to do this.

1. You can mail a check to church- PO box 103, Altoona, IA 50009
2. If you are wanting to go for a drive, there will be a basket in the Narthex of the church.
3. Final option would be to drop it off at the Heaberlin's

Please consider helping Caring Hands as they expressed with the layoffs and loss of jobs, they are looking at a long-term problem. Remember, any little bit can help! I got this from Caring Hands website which sums it up perfectly.

### **Everyone has a part to play. (1 Corinthians 12:27)**

- God gives everyone gifts to use for serving others and we are better when we work together.

**ZOOM WITH IVY** – Click on the photo below to open the link to take you to the website to find step by step directions on how to zoom for Sunday morning services!



Please see the announcements below on how to stay connected with our church as we continue worshipping, gathering, and being the church together online. Find all links, updates, & more at our website: [ivycentennial.org](http://ivycentennial.org)

**Worship:** Please join us for worship tonight (Wednesday) at 7pm for our last WOW (Worship on Wednesday) until the end of summer. Visit [ivycentennial.org](http://ivycentennial.org) for links to worship services.

This Sunday we will worship live on Zoom! You can join us on Zoom to see others who will be worshipping with you and to join us in a live worship service. We will join for singing, prayer, a reflection, and live communion. Please come with your own gifts of bread and juice.

[You can join the live worship service on Zoom on Sunday at 10:30am by clicking on this link](#)

Or, if you do not have the Zoom application, you can join the worship service by phone. Call this number at the time of worship: 312-626-6799. The Meeting ID # is 878 6950 6044. You will be prompted to click the # button twice and then you will join the worship service! I hope you will join us!

[Click this link to learn how to download and use Zoom on your computer, phone, or tablet.](#)

**Small Groups:** Since the pandemic began, we have continued to prioritize small group ministry opportunities, such as hosting game nights and Youth Group on Zoom, offering a Pie Baking Class on Zoom with the Education Committee, and more. We will continue prioritizing small group meetings online over the summer and new groups will be emerging soon. Keep on the lookout for new ways to get involved with a virtual small group or group event at Centennial UMC at Ivy.

**Supporting our ministries:** As you consider how you would like to continue financially supporting the ministries of our church and our community at this time, you are invited to send your gifts in the mail or to donate through our online giving page. You can also donate financial gifts to support Caring Hands Food Pantry in Altoona by sending your gifts to our church (with a note designating the gift for the Food Pantry) and we will forward your gifts to the food pantry each month. Your gifts to the church and the food pantry will show up on your giving statements. You can drop your gifts off in a basket in the narthex of the church or you can mail them to:

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy  
9150 NE University Ave PO Box 624  
Altoona, IA 50009 or by dropping the gift off in a basket in the narthex of the church.

Again, I thank you for the love, support, and compassion you have shared with the church in new ways. Please know I am praying for you and your families and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

With love & grace,  
**Pastor Dani Musselman**  
[pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)  
515-447-0497

# *JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Sara Barnes Benjamin Mauritz Jon Musgrave Lindsey Poutre  Dani Musselman & Erik Hall	<b>2</b> Jana Lewis  Beth & Travis Shipley	<b>3</b> Alexa Goforth Anderson King Deb LaGrange	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Judy Fiene	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Rex Adair	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Brenda & Ted Cox Dave & Joy Warner	<b>13</b>  Taylor Bowie
<b>14</b>  Byron Hemingson  Gayle & Larry Jordan	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Sydney Corbin Lila Morgan Judy Weeks	<b>17</b>  Colton Hiatt	<b>18</b>  Amy & John Ferguson	<b>19</b>  Douglas Olgren	<b>20</b>  Scott Hackett Brandi Jackson
<b>21</b>  Gail Long Shawna Peterson Rev.David Wendel	<b>22</b>  Larry Jordan	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  James & Shay Maxwell	<b>25</b>  Michelle Goforth	<b>26</b>  Helen Six  Lloyd & Peggy Hennigar	<b>27</b>  Brooke Person
<b>28</b>  Jason Ferguson  Dean & Judy Fiene	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Dennis Bishop				

**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				
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		\$42,396.89	\$492.92	\$42,826.81	28.60%
					Required:	33.33%

As of May 17<sup>th</sup>, Centennial has received \$1,625.00 for Caring Hands Food Pantry since the beginning of 2020. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, we received \$20,032 from the Small Business Administration as part of the Covid-19 Stimulus Package. These funds were for the “Paycheck Protection Program” which helps us keep paying our Pastor, Organist, Custodian and Secretary.

**Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary**



**Pastor:** Dani Musselman [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)  
**Trustees:** Ardean Williams 515-967-4189  
**Email Prayers Requests:** Missy Shaver [Mishaver2@gmail.com](mailto:Mishaver2@gmail.com) 515-967-6288  
**Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins):** Amy Ferguson [anbscorbin@gmail.com](mailto:anbscorbin@gmail.com) 515-402-6056  
**Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving):** Gaylen Heaberlin 515-967-2016

**Below is the email that was sent to the congregation on May 27<sup>th</sup> in case you missed it or would like to read it again:**

Beloved people of Centennial UMC at Ivy,

I believe all of us at Ivy are longing to gather again in person as we miss gathering for worship, for hugs, and for delicious food and coffee around a shared table in the fellowship hall. I hope you know that you are missed and loved and remembered in this time and we all look forward to joining again when we trust it is safe for us to do so. Thank you for your patience and prayers as I work with church leadership to determine next steps toward returning to in-person worship.

**With the high number of COVID-19 cases and related deaths in Polk County and with the recommendation of the Bishop, the leadership of Ivy and I have prayerfully decided to cancel or postpone all in-person worship events and services in our church building through June 30.** You can find Bishop Laurie Haller's letter attached to this email. We will redetermine if July is appropriate for us to reopen our building on June 22 and will keep you posted as to what will be our next course of action. After reflection on the physical distancing recommendations from the Office of the Iowa Annual Conference concerning worship at this time and with the continued high level of COVID-19 cases in Polk County, the leadership and I felt it was best to wait a little while longer before returning to in-person gatherings. In this time, we are returning to the roots of those in the first church, remembered in Acts, who experienced and worshipped God not just in the temple, but also outdoors and in their individual homes (Acts 2:1-13; 43-47).

We also want to hear from you! We want to know how you feel about returning to the church building for worship services, meetings, and events. So, we will be sending out a survey soon which will help us at our next leadership meetings to determine when we feel it is best to return to in person worship and events. You'll receive this survey via email or in the mail. We hope you will take a few moments to take this survey and return it to us as soon as possible.

I trust that this prayer will guide us as we enter another month of this pandemic, praying for those with the virus, for the safety of us all, and for the hope that we will return once again gathering together safely and with open and ready hearts:

*Creator God, you show up in every place. We find you in our living room and on the sidewalk. We find you at the grocery store and in our driveways. In video chats with friends and phone conversations with loved ones. In cards we send to one another, just to say "hello." God, be among us now, in every place we are and with every feeling we encounter. Among the feelings of frustration, may we find You in the smile we notice from our neighbor. Among the moments of loneliness, may we find You in the unexpected cardinal that stops to sit in our tree for a visit. Among the feelings of joy and celebration, may we find You providing us with peace and courage.*

*This is our prayer, as we still wait to embrace one another again.  
May you give us the strength and courage to wait a little while longer,  
praying that the waiting is what offers our care for one another.  
Amen.*