



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

September 2020



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:

I'm guessing that most of you have either heard or said the serenity prayer before. In case you haven't or don't remember, here's how it goes:

*God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

Reinhold Niebuhr, an American theologian, ethicist, and professor at Union Theological Seminary famously wrote this prayer 1943. Niebuhr wrote this prayer in a contentious time, as he lived in the midst of both World Wars and the Great Depression. Anxiety and fear overwhelmed the reality of the American culture at the time and Niebuhr gifted the world with this prayer, which was later selected by the *World Almanac* as one of the ten most memorable quotes from the 20th century. Alcoholics Anonymous meetings almost always include a moment where attendees recite this prayer and even Bill Clinton invoked this prayer often throughout his campaign for presidency.

While most of us know the version above, Niebuhr's daughter, Elisabeth Sifton, recorded the longer version. It reads:

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will; So that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him  
forever and ever in the next. Amen.*

Both versions of this prayer made not only a great impact in the 20th century, but they still do today. We're still living in anxious, uncertain, and fearful times. Our world has not rid itself of war, violence, or economic collapse in the last 80 years and now we're in the middle of a pandemic and increased political division. As we participate in or witness arguments concerning when to wear a mask or which political party will ruin our country more, we continue to surround ourselves with disagreement, division, and anxiety.

However, if we're willing to live as Christ did-- if we're willing to listen with empathy, stand with peace, and find power in the vulnerable, then we may learn to live with less anxiety and instead with more faith in prayer, faith in God, and faith in each other. Throughout the month of September, we'll reflect on the serenity prayer and it's connection to the Bible, as we commit to living lives led by Christ; lives of serenity, acceptance, courage, and wisdom. I hope you'll join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30am in our parking lot or online as we dive and live into this prayer of hope for the future we share together.

With love, Pastor Dani

## *Why worship on the radio?*

The pandemic has caused all of us to shift the ways we live, communicate, and worship. Of course, online worship hasn't been the same. We miss each other, the fellowship time, and the energy we receive every time we praise God's name together. Yet, with the resources we have and the work we've been able to put in together, we've been trying worship on the radio for over 4 weeks now!

People arrive about 5 to 10 minutes before 10:30am on Sunday mornings, they wave hi and chat with their neighbors from a distance and tune their car radios to 88.5 FM. With your coffee in hand or your dog on the chair next to you, folks worship safely from their car! Find out below what some from Ivy think so far about worshipping on the radio.

***"I enjoy coming to the church and listening in my car, because I feel it is a step closer to normal worshipping. I am able to see some church family members in person and looking at my church always lifts my spirits. You don't even have to dress up and you can eat and drink whatever you want during the service."***

-Missy Shaver

***"On Sunday mornings, dress in your comfy clothes, grab a cup of coffee and drive to Centennial UMC. Tune your car radio to 88.5 to be part of the worship service at the little white church on the hill. I enjoy the serene setting with the sound of the church bell welcoming worshippers. Linger after the service to visit."***

-Libby Hiatt

***"One reason I enjoy radio worship is that everyone is welcome, even the family pet."***

-Joy Warner



*Boe (Whitney Warner's dog)  
enjoying worship at Centennial UMC at Ivy*

***Join us any Sunday morning at 10:30am  
for safe & joyful worship!  
9150 NE University Ave | Altoona, IA 50009***

# Ivy WOW

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY

Worship on Wednesday will return again on September 23rd, the week after Rally Day. We are still determining what WOW will look like during the pandemic, perhaps worshipping outdoors without sharing a meal together. We will inform everyone as soon as possible what the plans are so you can safely join us on Wednesday evenings this fall. Please be sure to check the church website, our Facebook page, and your personal email for more information soon.

## RALLY DAY

AT  
CENTENNIAL UMC AT IVY

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16

6:30-7:30P

Of course, this year's Rally Day will look a bit different than normal. On Wednesday, September 16 from 6:30-7:30pm, we'll celebrate the beginning of fall together in a safe and distanced way! Come to the church parking lot for a socially distanced bonfire as we fellowship with one another, enjoy s'mores, and end our time in a brief outdoor worship. Bring your own lawn chairs and masks are required!

Join us  
on Zoom!

## PUB THEOLOGY

ENJOY YOUR OWN BEVERAGE FROM YOUR OWN HOME!  
LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7 PM.



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](http://ivycentennial.org) for Zoom links.

## "Annual Pie & Cake Auction" Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 am

Our Annual Pie and Cake Auction will be held Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



# MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2020

We had a great turnout of 11 volunteers. We split in to two teams and there were two other packaging stations at the same time. Eric's parents came all the way from Lincoln Nebraska and volunteered with us.

In total from the time frame of 9:00-11:00 am, we packaged 108 boxes with 60 bags per box for a total of 6,480 bags which will feed 90 children for an entire school year.

A big thank you to all who helped make this another great year of feeding the hungry. Let's plan to do this again next year.



*908 pounds and 1288 items delivered from our Food Drive on August 5<sup>th</sup>! Thank you to everyone that donated and helped out with the event!*





Last week, the soldiers serving in Kuwait used the 40 hymnals we sent for the first time! Rev. Russ Boyd offered thanksgiving to all of you and to the others in Iowa who donated these hymnals for their Sunday morning services each week.

## *SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Marilyn Eland	3 Joseph Fry	4 Jordan Carroll  Chris & Diana Demoss Dana & April King	5
6 Susan Churchill Dan Geisenhoff Dee Johnston	7 Jerry Olgren  Mark & Kristi Olgren	8  Torie & Jason Hermann	9	10	11	12 Carol Graves  Stephanie & Josh Lampkin  Larry & Julie Palmer
13 Tom Bergstrom Angela Selby	14	15 Jill & Steve Craven	16 Pat Adey Debbie Parker Ken Sharp	17 Jerry Huffman	18 Mitzi Wood	19 Todd Hiatt  Neal & Jen Griffiths Ardean & Janice Williams
20 Tom Johnston	21 Amy Ferguson Steve Craven Rita Denhart	22	23	24 Jennifer Morgan  Jim & Rita Denhart	25 Marty Martin Jeff Tomlin	26 Gage Seaman
27 Lisa Schmidtk	28	29	30 Brittani Corbin Kinsley Haley			

**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	\$ 6,556.13	(9.68)	\$ 6,556.45	\$ 10,422.00
JULY	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 9,976.83	(11.60)	\$ 9,965.23	\$ 7,672.17
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		\$89,112.02	\$395.30	\$89,507.32	59.78%
					Required:	58.33%

As of August 16<sup>th</sup>, our congregation has donated \$2,450.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry since the beginning of 2020. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 us keep paying our Pastor, Organist, Custodian and Secretary. In order to meet our 2020 budget, we need to average about \$12,480 per month.

**Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary**



**Pastor:** Dani Musselman [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)  
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