STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy NOVEMBER 2026

Pastor Article

Many of us have already started making our plans for the Thanksgiving holiday - where we'll be, who we'll be spending it with, what the menu will include. Many families have a great tradition of inviting each person around the table to share something they're thankful for.

Yet for Christians, thanksgiving is about more than a single day. Scripture calls us to cultivate grateful hearts every day. The Apostle Paul writes, *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Notice that Paul does not say to give thanks FOR all circumstances, but IN all circumstances. Even in difficult seasons, we can find reasons to thank God for His presence, His promises, and His unfailing love.

Gratitude changes us. When we focus on God's blessings rather than our burdens, our perspective shifts and we begin to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. A thankful heart recognizes that all we have is a gift from God and inspires us to share those gifts with those around us.
We become more generous, more compassionate, and more aware of opportunities to serve others.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, I encourage you to take time each day in November to name at least one thing for which you are grateful. Then take a moment to offer a prayer of thanks to God for blessing you.

As you look forward to spending time with family and friends, may God fill your hearts and homes with His peace, joy, and abundant blessings this Thanksgiving season.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Joyce

MISSION NEWS

LA CASA DE ESPERANZA

Donna Gustafson visited us from Peru on October 3rd to tell us what missions they do with the donations. In her work, she provides a place for young women to stay while they go to secondary school, youth camps, training, and outreach to the indigenous tribes in the region.

We raised $1685 from the special offering! Thank you all so much for your donations!

HAT, MITTEN AND COAT DRIVE

We wrapped up the hat, mitten, and coat drive for Families Forward (the former Bidwell Riverside Center and Hawthorne Hill). Look at that tree!
Thank you all for the donations!

Centennial UMC continues to be a strong supporter of our local food pantry. We know that for many of our neighbors, buying groceries can be a challenge. You can support the food pantry, either by making cash donations or picking up some extra items when you do your grocery shopping. If you want to make a cash donation, just write “food pantry” in the memo section of your check or on the outside of your giving envelope and put it in the offering plate. Or if you prefer, you can give on-line by going to the church’s website ivycentennial.org and pressing the “give now” button. Under the drop-down arrow, there is an option to give to the Food Pantry. Thank for all the ways you care for our neighbors in need.

BONFIRE

Thank you to everyone who came to the bonfire. It was a great time to gather for a time of fun around the bonfire and enjoyed some good food and company!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed Saturday, so you can enjoy that extra hour of sleep.

NEXT MEETING –
THURSDAY, November 5st 11:30

The Ivy Women's Group will meet at the church to set up for the Chili & Oyster Supper Bazaar.

This group is open to all Ivy Centennial women and their guests. If you haven't been yet, be sure and check it out. If you have questions, please contact Leslee Lynch at 515-577-8258

CHILDREN'S CHURCH AT CENTENNIAL UMC

The Nurture, Outreach and Worship (NOW) Committee will be offering a Children's Church program starting this month. We are still looking for volunteers to serve as helpers on a rotating basis. Children's Church will take place during the worship time. Children would attend worship until after the children's message and then leave for the last 25-30 minutes of the service for their own church time, which would include a Bible story, craft activity or game and a snack.

When we baptize children at Centennial UMC, we make a promise to participate in helping each child to know Jesus. Please pray about it and if you feel called, add your name to the sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please visit with Pastor Joyce.

CHILI & OYSTER SOUP SUPPER
NOVEMBER 7th 4:30-6:30

We will be serving our award-winning chili and oyster soup with fresh oysters, desserts and drinks for dinner. Please use the sign-up sheet on the table in back of the sanctuary to let us know how you can help.
The bazaar will include a silent auction, where you can bid on a variety of fun baskets. It will also include craft items and baked goods. If you have any questions, please call or text Jonathan Freel at 515-771-9687 or email him at jonfreel7@gmail.com. If you have questions about the bazaar, please contact Leslee Lynch at 515-577-8258. A free will offering will be taken and will benefit United Way. Be sure and invite a friend to come along with you.

IVY CENTENNIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH 6:30 PM

This year, Centennial will host the cluster charge conference. The charge conference is open to all members of the congregation and will include worship, approving reports and ministry and mission plans for 2027.

Since we will serve as the hosts, we will need people to greet members of other congregations as they arrive. We'll also need to provide and serve some light refreshments (cookies / bars, coffee / lemonade). We will have a sign-up sheet when it gets closer to the date. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Joyce. Call or text 515-480-8457 or email her at revjlwebb76@gmail.com

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS FAMILY

As in past years, the church is planning to adopt a family for Christmas. Once the family has been selected, Mary Ferguson will get the stars on the tree along with the information of the family in need. Just a reminder, purchased items should be wrapped and returned to the church by the date that is yet to be determined. If you take a star, please be sure and attach the star to the wrapped package.

CALENDAR – Please let Aleka Fischer know if you have something for the calendar

Sunday	11/1	10:30 am	All Saints Sunday / Celebration Sunday
Sunday	11/1	11:30 am	Dinner Day
Saturday	11/7	4:30-6:30 pm	Chili Oyster Soup Supper and Bazaar
Sunday	11/8	6:30 pm	Charge Conference Meets at Centennial UMC
Saturday	11/14	10:00 am	Christmas Ornament Making Party

USHERS FOR OCTOBER

1st
8th
15th
22nd

If you aren't able to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please see if you can trade with someone, or let Evan Fischer know so he can find a substitute (515) 494-5432. Thank you for volunteering to be part of the church's hospitality team.

If you would like to be part of our hospitality crew and included in the rotation, please let Evan know. Training is provided as needed.

If you are in need of prayer and would like to be added to our prayer list, please let Pastor Joyce know by calling or texting (515) 480-8457 or emailing revjlwebb76@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST

Gail Gish
Iisha Mahers
Kelly Schneider (pastor Joyce's uncle)
Matt Kaser (friend of the Weeks family)
Matthew Myers
David Burrier
John Bowie
Barb Bolt
Centennial United Methodist Church for God's Continued Blessing
Donna Gustafson and La Casa de Esperanza
Caring Hands Food Pantry and Oakwood Food Pantry

	November Birthdays		November Anniversaries
1	Steve Sass	14	Steve & Mindy Sass
3	Barb Bolt	18	Mindy & Terry Britt
4	Connie Bishop	21	Dennis & Connie Bishop, Whitney & Nathan Long
5	Jennifer Simpson		
8	Cameron Long		
10	Brenda Stout		
11	Stephanie Lampkin		
15	Jan Adair, Lloyd Hennigar, Medea Saunders		
16	Kayla Goforth, Cynde Pool		
17	Pastor Dani Musselman		
21	John Bowie		
22	Brayden Harmon, Judy Hemingson		
23	Jason Haley, Dana King		
25	Tim Morgan, Julie Palmer		
26	Deana Carroll, Mindy Martin		
27	John Ferguson		
30	Pastor Duane Skidmore		

FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME

	Offerings 2026	Offerings 2025	Offerings 2024	Offerings 2023
January	$10,076.48	$7,813.01	$9,670.48	$17,243.17
February	$5,510.00	$6,021.92	$9,829.06	$7,101.46
March	$5,698.50	$6,740.00	$10,748.26	$5,903.26
April	$16,087.50	$6,484.00	$6,768.06	$10,174.26
May	$5,740.00	$4,400.10	$5,321.26	$6,837.26
June	$5,474.00	$14,026.75	$9,196.26	$7,021.56
July	$5,785.50	$5,222.00	$7,083.86	$9,413.26
August	$8,921.00	$5,811.60	$6,342.26	$5,192.26
September	$4,784.00	$4,527.80	$7,991.31	$7,791.06
October		$5,054.96	$4,765.26	$9,101.26
November		$10,162.00	$10,238.00	$8,401.26
December		$5,795.36	$7,479.63	$11,510.84
Total Offerings	**$68,076.98**	**$82,059.50**	**$95,433.70**	**$105,690.91**

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of September 30th, we collected $900.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary

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