

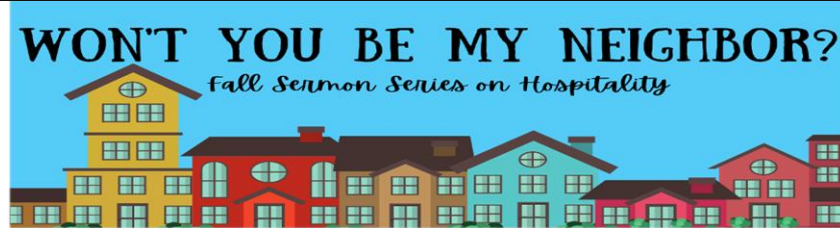


# CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT IVY

9150 East University Avenue. Altoona, IA 50009

Pastor Dani

September 19, 2021



## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS CENTERING MOMENT:

*"One of the principal rules of religion is, to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbor; which he receives as if done to himself in person standing visibly before us." -John Wesley, "A Plain Account of Christian Perfection"*

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

We gather each week where God meets us,

**Here is where the hungry are served first.**

We gather with a faithful community,

**Where the thirsty drink life's water.**

We worship together where God welcomes us,

**Here is where the naked are clothed.**

We love one another as God loves us,

**Here is where the stranger finds a welcome.**

Welcome to God's house! Here is where God reunites with us,

**Here is where all are held in God's peace!**

*\*adapted from Thom Shuman's "Call to Worship on Matt. 25:31-46"*

## OPENING HYMN #318 "Christ is Alive"

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, He comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
He suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

## PRAYER CONCERNS/PASTORAL/LORD'S PRAYER

### HYMN SING

#### #369 "Blessed Assurance" v. 1 & 3

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,

Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:31-46

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**All Praise to the Living Word!**

### HYMN #572 "Pass it On"

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.

That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;  
you spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding;  
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.

That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;  
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found;  
You can depend on him, it matters not where you're bound.  
I'll shout it from the mountaintop; I want my world to know;  
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

### MESSAGE: Move In

*"Is That You?"*

*The jittering snowflakes chase one another in flight from the  
knuckles of wind  
That sway the abandoned branches of trees in their inaudible  
dirge of loss*

*And scatter the dust that lines the street where blank windows  
stare at the gray.  
A fragment of newspaper rolls by, revealing and hiding its  
jumble of pain under clouds the color of bruises.*

*And the torn creation seems to live in the lines of the face of  
this solitary woman,  
Old coat buttoned high and frayed hat pulled hard on a  
forehead furrowed with years,*

*Eyelids pinched from the chill of the air as she shifts, from one  
hand to the other,  
The heavy weight of two bags that might carry all that she  
cares about today.*

*See how carefully she opens her thin wallet at the counter of  
the McDonald's.  
How each coin is cradled like a departing child by wrinkled and  
shaking fingers.*

*How, when she lifts her face to yours and you smile, and she  
smiles in return of your greeting  
Something crosses the space between you like a bridge  
spanning unseen waters*

*And across that bridge moves a gentle light, a glow of  
kindness, of friendship, of grace.  
Is that you in those eyes, O Beloved Redeemer, in that smile,  
in that bridge, in that light?*

*Is that you in the lines on all our weathered faces, in all our  
hands that count out life's coins?  
Grant me grace to see you looking back at me with the love  
you have for all creation,*

*To see you, O King in all of your glory, beneath the folds of  
each old hat, worn coat.*

*\*Poem by Andrew King*

## OFFERING

## PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

**Doxology UMH #95**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## HYMN #560 "Help Us Accept Each Other"

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,  
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;  
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

## BENEDICTION

*"May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that  
you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do  
what others claim cannot be done."*

## FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE SONG

### #2184 "Sent Out in Jesus' Name"

Sent out in Jesus' name  
Our hands are ready now  
To make the earth the place  
In which the kingdom comes

Sent out in Jesus' name  
Our hands are ready now  
To make the earth the place  
In which the kingdom comes

The angels cannot change  
A world of hurt and pain  
Into a world of love, of justice and of peace.  
The task is ours to do to set it really free.  
O help us to obey and carry out Your will!

## SOUTHEAST POLK HOMECOMING PARADE

This Thursday, September 23rd at 6:00 pm. Line  
up for the parade between 5:00 & 6:00 pm at the  
Altoona Aquatics Center." Call or text Pastor  
Dani at 515-447-0497 if you can't find our float"