



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

APRIL 2025

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOYCE

Spring is a season of renewal. As we step into the month of April, things around us seem to come alive. The trees are starting to bud out, the birds are singing, and the daffodils are poking their heads out, getting ready to bloom. Spring reminds us that God is making all things new.

Easter is this month. It's more than a date on the calendar, it is the cornerstone of our faith and the ultimate symbol of renewal, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Through his sacrifice, we are reminded that no matter how bleak our circumstances may seem, there is always hope in him. Just as Christ rose from the grave, we too are called to rise—to let go of the past, embrace his grace, and step into the new life he offers.

This month, I encourage each of us to seek areas in our lives that need renewal. Maybe it's restoring relationships, rejuvenating our prayer life, or renewing our commitment to serve others in Christ's name. Remember, just as a gardener tends to the soil, our faith flourishes when we nurture it with prayer, scripture, and fellowship.

Let's also consider how we, as a church, can be agents of renewal in our community. Whether it's through acts of kindness, mission and outreach programs, or simply being present for those in need, we have the opportunity to share the hope and love of Christ in meaningful ways.

May this season of renewal fill your heart with hope, your spirit with joy, and your life with the promise of new beginnings.

Blessings,
Pastor Joyce

HOLY WEEK / EASTER SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday Service	4/13 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday Service	4/17 5:30 pm
Good Friday Service	4/18 5:30 pm
Easter Celebration Service	4/20 8:00 am
Easter Breakfast	4/20 9:00 am

Holy Week commemorates the journey of Jesus to the cross. It is a time to reflect on the suffering and sacrifice of our savior in the days leading up to Easter.

PLEASE NOTE: This year the church will have ONE SERVICE at 8:00 am, which will be followed by breakfast. We WILL NOT have our regular service at 10:30.

The service will include the traditional Easter songs, some special music and communion.

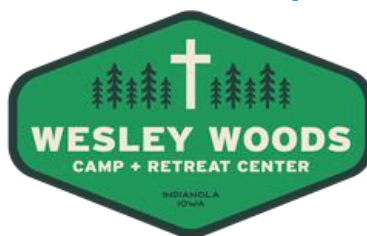
This is a great time to invite family and friends to church for worship and a time of food and fellowship. There are some invitation cards available on the sign-up table. These can be used as invitations to family and friends.



EASTER LILY ORDERS

If you would like to order a lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one(s), orders will be taken through Sunday, April 6th. The cost is \$9.00 per plant and envelopes are on the sign-up table in back of the sanctuary. Plants will be available to take home after the Easter Service on April 20th

2025 Summer Church Camp Registration is now open



Summer will be here soon, which means the United Methodist Church Camps will be open for campers. If you have a young person who is interested in going to camp, registration materials are available on the sign-up table. There are several different camps to choose from at either Wesley Woods in Indianola, or at Lake Okoboji. There are overnight camps, as well as day camps. There are even camps for grandparents and grandchildren. If cost is a concern, the Education Committee has scholarship funds available. We want to make sure any child who wants to go to camp can go.

If you have any questions, need help registering or applying for scholarship funds, please get in touch with Pastor Joyce at (515) 480-8457 or email her at revjlwebb76@gmail.com. If you would like to make a donation to the Iowa UM Camping program, there are some blue envelopes on the table. Your donations to Iowa United Methodist Camps help pay for programs and camp scholarships.

IVY CENTENNIAL IN MISSION



Many of you are aware that cuts in federal funding have impacted organizations that help families dealing with food insecurity. The Food Bank of Iowa and the Caring Hands Food Pantry in Altoona have also been impacted. Caring Hands recently sent out an email asking for donations of the following items. You can help by making a monetary donation through Ivy Centennial, or picking up some of these items as you do your grocery shopping

Rice - brown or white
Chunky soups
Pancake mix and syrup
Canned applesauce
Canned pears
Canned potatoes

Pizza crust and sauce
Spaghetti noodles
Beef stew
Canned mixed vegetables
Crackers - saltines or oyster
Ramen noodles

Personal hygiene items (bar soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.)



LENTEN MISSION PROJECT FOR 2025 LA CASA DE ESPERANZA (HOUSE OF HOPE)

La Casa de Esperanza is this year's Lenten mission project. Its main focus is fulfilling the Great Commission, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with people in remote areas of Peru. One of its ministries is a residential home for girls who want to attend secondary school. Many of the girls live in remote villages in the jungle and need a place to stay during the school year. La Casa de Esperanza is a Christian ministry that provides shelter, food, uniforms and school supplies for the girls. God is blessing this

ministry. This year, the number of girls being served is expected to triple, from 8 to 24, which means the cost to house the girls will also increase.

Other programs include offering youth camps twice a year and resourcing local pastors with Bibles and study materials. Donna Gustafson is the founder and director of La Casa de Esperanza. She grew up in the Des Moines area. She retired from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and sensed God calling her into the mission field. Using her own funds she purchased a piece of property and started this ministry. She is seeking support from individuals and churches to help fund this growing mission. If you want to learn more you can pick up a copy of her newsletters on the table in back of the sanctuary or you can go to her website <https://www.launchinternational.net/donna-gustafson>. If you would like to make a donation, there are special offering envelopes on the table with the newsletter. If you have any questions, please get in touch with David Burrier, the mission contact for this ministry (515-414-0957)





Many thanks to the Ivy Centennial women who helped serve the lunch after Judy Fiene's funeral service. What a wonderful way to show love and support for her family.



1876 – 2026

IVY CENTENNIAL'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

2026 will mark the 150th Anniversary of our church building. We are looking for a few people to serve on a committee to help plan the celebration.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in back of the sanctuary, or you can call Pastor Joyce at (515) 480-8457 if you would like to be part of planning team.



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you 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

Family of Judy Fiene	Barb Bolt
Nancy Day	Karla Heaberlin
Tim Miller (Leslee Lynch's son)	



Wednesday	4/2	Ad Council Meeting	6:45 pm
Thursday	4/3	Ivy's Women's Fellowship	1:00 pm
Sunday	4/6	Dinner Day Potluck	11:30 am
Sunday	4/13	SPRC Meeting	11:45 am
Sunday	5/11	Mother's Day Breakfast	9:00 am
Sunday	5/11	Confirmation Sunday	10:30 am

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1. Andrea Hackett Amanda Tam	2.	3.	4.	5. Charlie Harmon
6.	7.	8. April King	9. Whitney Long	10.	11. Leslee Lynch	12.
13. Zach & Katelyn Deutmeyer	14.	15.	16. Gail Gish	17.	18. Jerry Mellor Butch Weeks	19.
20.	21. Adeline Lehn	22.	23.	24.	25. Justin Shaver	26.
27.	28.	29. Janice Williams	30. Macy Craven Mary Ferguson Dale & Irene Dewey			

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME**

	Offerings 2025	Offerings 2024	Offerings 2023	Offerings 2022
January	\$7,813.01	\$9,670.48	\$17,243.17	\$11,240.28
February	\$6,021.92	\$9,829.06	\$7,101.46	\$9,698.09
March		\$10,748.26	\$5,903.26	\$9,669.39
April		\$6,768.06	\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63
May		\$5,321.26	\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49
June		\$9,196.26	\$7,021.56	\$7,083.14
July		\$7,083.86	\$9,413.26	\$8,636.81
August		\$6,342.26	\$5,192.26	\$7,081.26
September		\$7,991.31	\$7,791.06	\$5,610.25
October		\$4,765.26	\$9,101.26	\$12,111.46
November		\$10,238.00	\$8,401.26	\$8,679.97
December		\$7,479.63	\$11,510.84	\$7,552.26
Total Offerings	\$13,834.93	\$95,433.70	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03

2025 Average Monthly Offerings \$6,917.47
2025 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,766.33
2025 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget (\$1,848.87)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of February 28th, we collected \$235.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary

Pastor: Joyce Webb revjlwebb76@gmail.com
(515) 480-8457

Email Prayers Requests: Missy Shaver Mishaver2@gmail.com
515-967-6288

Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins): Amy Ferguson anbscorbin@gmail.com
515-402-6056

Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving): Joy Warner voj8893@gmail.com

