



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

December 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DUANE:

Later in his career, the British actor, A.E. Matthews, found himself dealing with occasional forgetfulness. In a play in which he was cast, Matthew's was in a scene in which he walked across a room, answered the phone and engaged in conversation; the content of which was crucial to the plot. When he picked up the phone, his mind went blank. He looked at the other actor on stage and said, "It's for you." "It's for you," is not a request or a question. "It's for you," is a straightforward statement, which on the surface seems easy to understand.

Many of my fondest memories are of Christmas' past, when our family gathered around the Christmas tree to open presents. During those times our daughters had difficulty containing their enthusiasm because we have a tradition of not marking presents with the name of the intended recipient. Only the person who placed the gift under the tree knew who would receive it. Of course, the bigger boxes and packages drew the most attention and few days would go by without Krista or Michelle asking, "Is the big one for me?"----Well, OK, maybe it was me that kept asking that question. In any case, we knew there were no mistakes under the Christmas tree. We knew for certain that each and every gift was intentionally chosen, purchased, wrapped and given in the spirit of love. We also knew that sooner or later, (joy of joys), someone would place a gift in front of us and say, "It's for you."

A little over two thousand years ago the world anxiously awaited the gift of the Messiah. Like all children they could hardly contain their excitement. They knew the prophecies. They knew the gift was on the way, so they searched high and low hoping to find a gift-wrapped Messiah with their name on Him. Old Testament scriptures have recorded that every once in a while, they thought they had found him. But as soon as the bows and wrappings came off, they were disappointed.

Then one night in the distant hills near Bethlehem, (Joy of Joys) the world heard the long-awaited news. "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." IT'S FOR YOU! Just as it has been prophesied by Isaiah, He will be called; Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

God has given us the perfect gift; one that never ages, never needs batteries, never disappoints, never goes out of style and best of all, you can take Him with you wherever you go. So, rejoice all you Heavenly Hosts. Rejoice you citizens of the realm of glory. Rejoice, "Good Christian friends with heart and soul and voice; now we hear the endless bliss: News! News! Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door and you are blessed for evermore. Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this". (United Methodist Hymnal, page 224).

God's ultimate cure for the common life takes you to the babe in Bethlehem. Immanuel. Remember the promise of the angel? "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:23).

Immanuel. The name appears in Hebrew form as it did two thousand years ago. Immanu means "with us." El refers to Elohim, or God. He came as the "with us God." Not an "above us God" or "a somewhere in the neighborhood God." Not "God with the rich," or "God with the religious." **But God with us. All of us.** All of us; Russians, Germans, Buddhist, Mormons, truck drivers, taxi drivers and librarians. (Max Lucado, From: Cure for the Common Life.) May you have a blessed Advent Season and a Merry Christmas.

Oh, and please don't forget to unwrap the most important gift of all. It's the perfect gift and "**It's for you.**"
Grace and Peace to you and to all those you love.

Pastor Duane

CHOIR Practice



Centennial UMC Choir Rehearses every Tuesday from 7 pm to 8pm!

Please don't worry if you cannot make every week. We will practice each anthem several times.

If you want to do a solo, play an instrument or direct, just let Linda or Maggie know and we will try to fit it in.

If you are new to choir or haven't been singing since high school, please come join us. We have a lot of fun. Psalm 100!

Monday, December 2nd – Admin Council Meeting – 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 5th – UMW – 1:00 pm

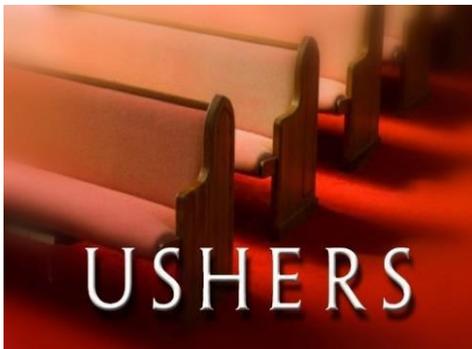
Saturday, December 7th – Live Nativity – 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Sunday, December 8th – Wreath Making Class – 1:00 pm

Saturday, December 14th – Men's Group – 9:00 am

Sunday, December 15th – Youth Christmas Program 6:30-8:30 pm

Tuesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm



December 1st – Butch, Judy Weeks & Nancy Day

December 8th – Mike, Mary Ferguson & Verna Bowie

December 15th – Leslee Lynch, Addie Redman & Jackie Purcell

December 22nd – Jim, Rita Denhart & Bonnie Altes

December 28th – Amy, Jason Ferguson & Maggie Stout



Don't forget for those that signed up for the real wreath making class. It will be Sunday, December 8th at 1:00 after church. Cost is \$20 and sign up is required to attend since space is limited. Small snack and refreshments will be provided.



Please come join us for our Live Nativity
Saturday, December 7th 6:30-8:30 pm.

Stop inside for cookie, hot chocolate or hot apple
cider.

Please spread the word and invite your family &
friends.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

*Sunday, December 15th - 6:30 pm - Cake and
refreshments will be provided after the program.*



Please sign up for hosting fellowship time after church.
There are a lot of openings the next few months. If no
one is signed up, we will NOT have treats that day



Thank you to everyone that came and donated socks for our
Socks and Smores Event. The Missions Committee collected
230 pairs of socks to donate to those in need.

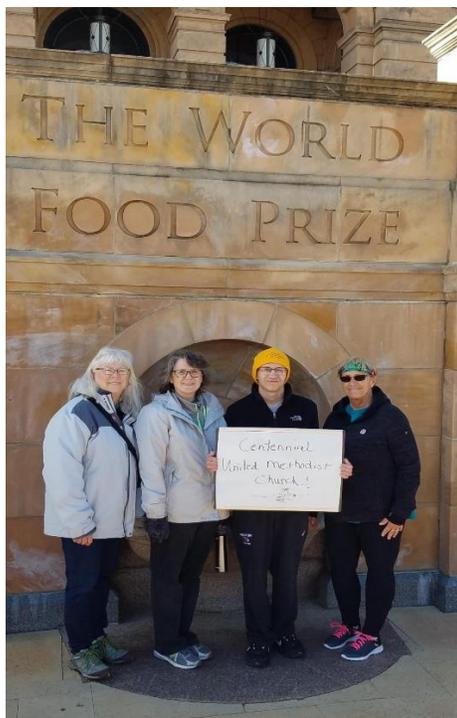
A BLAST FROM IVY'S PAST.....



Do any of these faces look familiar? Members of the 1970's Ivy Youth Group planned a little reunion the night of the UMW Soup Supper Bazaar last month.

Pictured: Front row – Denise Dawley, Kim Wall
Back Row – Andy Dawley, Kelly Adey, Tim Fritz

2019 DES MOINES HUNGER HIKE - The Des Moines Area Hunger Hike serves as a visible witness to the concern about hunger, both locally and globally. People of all ages, a coalition of institutions, organizations, denominations, and faiths gathered to walk the 3-mile hike this past October. Thank you to everyone who came out and braved the chilly day to participate!



MISSIONS COMMITTEE COAT, HAT & MITTEN DRIVE

Do you have any slightly used coats, gloves, hats etc. that are taking up space in your closet? The Missions Committee is hosting a Coat, Hat & Mitten Drive. Donations can be left in the Narthex and will be accepted until Sunday, December 15th. If you have any questions, please see a committee member.

U M W

Another successful chili and oyster stew supper and bazaar is in the United Methodist Women's history book! 179 hungry people were served tasty chili, oyster stew and desserts. This yearly event would not be possible without the help and support of the congregation! We thank you for your helping to make the chili and oyster stew, for serving it, for making and serving the delicious pies and other desserts, for helping in the fellowship hall and the bazaar area, for washing dishes and putting them away, for cleaning up afterwards, for other jobs large and small and for supporting the United Methodist Women and their mission causes!

We will do it again on November 7, 2020!

CHURCH LIBRARY

Please check out our church library. Not only are there books for adults and young people, there are also DVD's, Videos, CD's and cassette tapes. There are magazines, Sunday School idea books, UMW Reading Program Books, a set of Guidelines for Leading your Congregation for church officers and committees, etc. Visit YOUR church library and see for yourself!

THE UPPER ROOM

The Upper Room is a daily devotional magazine published in more than 30 languages and 100 countries around the world. The daily mediations are written by readers of the magazine and others interested in sharing their faith experiences through writing – both Laity and clergy, published authors and new writers. The mediations are stories of real people working to live faithfully with the Bible as their touchstone. Every day, readers of The Upper Room around the world read the same story in many different languages and pray the same prayer together. The Upper Room is published six times a year. Each issue covers two months.

Issues of the Upper Room are available in the literature holder in the narthex free of charge. Pick one up, read it and share it with a friend.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Josey Fry Butch Griffel Hannah Griffiths	2 Happy Anniversary Ken & Barb Sharp	3 Charles Southcott	4 Diane Griffel Brili Jackson Happy Anniversary Mike & Mary Ferguson	5	6 Linda Howard	7 Jacquelyn Purcell Jamie Remster
8 Marc Dorris	9 Dean Fiene	10 Paul Quick Beth Shipley	11	12 Laney Seaman	13 Happy Anniversary Gail & Tom Gish	14 Larry Heaberlin Torie Hermann Mark Olgren
15	16	17 Paige Geisenhoff Laura Hiatt Jane Wendel	18 Sharon Dolash	19 Brenda Cox Jen Griffiths	20 Brent Scheel	21
22	23 Happy Anniversary Marc & Penny Dorris	24	25	26	27 Happy Anniversary Scott & Andrea Hackett	28 Jo Ordway
29 Abby Glann Kim Wilson	30 Karla Heaberlin	31				

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2019 Actual Giving vs. 2019 Budget Goal

	Required		Tithes	Other Inc	Total	Cumulative Difference
January	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays	\$ 5,878.33	\$ 1,180.00	\$ 7,058.33	\$ (4,398.67)
February	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays	\$12,370.73		\$ 12,370.73	\$ (3,484.94)
March	\$ 14,320.00	5 Sundays	\$19,623.40	\$ 500.00	\$ 20,123.40	\$ 2,318.46
April	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays	\$12,891.06		\$ 12,891.06	\$ 3,752.52
May	\$ 11,457.00	4 Sundays	\$10,332.53	\$ 960.00	\$ 11,292.53	\$ 3,588.05
June	\$ 14,320.00	5 Sundays	\$10,272.33	\$ 150.00	\$ 10,422.33	\$ (309.62)
July	\$ 9,458.00	4 Sundays	\$ 7,622.17	\$ 50.00	\$ 7,672.17	\$ (2,095.45)
August	\$ 9,458.00	4 Sundays	\$11,630.17	\$ 200.00	\$ 11,830.17	\$ 276.72
September	\$ 11,823.00	5 Sundays	\$13, 545.92	\$ 80.00	\$ 13,625.92	\$ 2,079.64
October	\$ 9,458.00	4 Sundays	\$ 7,554.17		\$ 7,554.17	\$ 175.81
November	\$ 9,458.00	4 Sundays			\$ -	
December	\$ 11,823.00	5 Sundays			\$ -	
2019 Budget	\$135,946.00		\$ 111,720.81	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 114,840.81	84.48%

52 Sundays in 2019

Budget Decreased from 148,936 as of Pastor Wendy leaving at the end of June.

As of October, we are ahead our 2019 Budget Goal \$175.81

Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary



Pastor: Duane Skidmore doc@dwx.com

Trustees: Ardean Williams 515-967-4189

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

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

Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving): Gaylen Heaberlin 515-967-2016