



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

DECEMBER 2024

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOYCE



Christmas is the time for giving and receiving gifts. Usually when we think of gifts we think about the gifts under the Christmas tree - the gifts we exchange with each another.

As we enter into the season of Advent, we'll look at a different kind of gift exchange – the life-giving gifts we receive from our faithful and loving God. It's a divine Gift Exchange of sorts as despair is replaced by HOPE; anxiety is exchanged for PEACE; sorrow gives way to JOY; fear is cast out by LOVE; and darkness is replaced by LIGHT.

This Advent season, as we prepare for gift exchanges with friends and family, we'll take some time to reflect on the gifts given to us by the greatest giver of all and how we can receive and embrace those gifts even in the most difficult of times.

I hope you will join me as we unwrap the gifts of God in this Advent season.

*Pastor Joyce*



## 2025 Stewardship Campaign Results

Thank you to everyone who turned in an Estimate of Giving Card for 2025. Your support is critical to the ministry and mission of Centennial UMC.

So far, 24 families have turned in Estimate of Giving Cards totaling \$72,720. The Stewardship Committee is in the process of following-up and finalizing the 2025 campaign. If you need an Estimate of Giving Card, please contact Gaylen Heaberlin at (515) 967-2016 and he can send you one.

## *Chili and Oyster Soup Supper Thank You!*

Thanks to all the volunteers and to everyone who donated items for the meal and the bazaar table. The church served over 150 people at this year's event, including many from the surrounding community.

The church received \$2,443 in free will offerings and the bazaar brought in another \$783. After expenses, the church will be able to donate \$3,030 to Dorothy's House, a non-profit organization that provides residential care, support and counseling to women who have been impacted by human trafficking, exploitation and prostitution.





## *ADVENT / CHRISTMAS EVENTS*

There's a lot going on during the month of December. Be sure and get these things on your calendar and then let family and friends know so they can join us.



### *DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 10:30 AM*

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. During our worship time, we will do a special Hanging of the Greens Service as we look at the meaning of the symbols of Christmas. Together, we will finish decorating the sanctuary.



### *LIVE NATIVITY Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00 pm*

Come for a time of quiet reflection as we remember the true meaning of Christmas. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall during the event. We'll also have some special music in the sanctuary by local singer songwriter, Tammy Edwards.

We are looking for some folks to participate in our Live Nativity Event. You can help us out by signing up to be a shepherd, angel, magi, Mary or Joseph. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in back of the sanctuary.



### *December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am during the worship service.*

Plan to join us on the 15<sup>th</sup> for Centennial's Children's Christmas Program. The children will tell the story of Jesus' birth, and together, we will sing Christmas carols. We'll also enjoy special music from the children's bell choir.

During the fellowship time, we'll have a birthday cake for Jesus and there will be a visit from Santa. All children are welcome to participate. If you have a child or know of a child who would like to be part of the Christmas program, please reach out to Pastor Joyce. You can call or text her at 515-480-8457 or send an email to [revjlwebb76@gmail.com](mailto:revjlwebb76@gmail.com)



*Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 pm & 11:00 pm*

Please note the time for the early service. Both services will include lessons, carols and candlelight. The 11:00 service will also include communion. Be sure and invite family and friends to join you.



### *CHRISTMAS MISSION PROJECT ADOPT A FAMILY*

The tree is up and filled with stars representing needs for our adopted family. This year's family is a single mom and five children, ages 9 months to 13 years old.

Centennial UMC members are invited to take a star from tree and purchase the requested item. Gifts should be wrapped and returned with the star attached.

The deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mary Ferguson at (515) 975-0586.



### *FALL MISSION REPORT*

Thank you to everyone who participated in the church's fall mission projects. This fall the church had multiple projects:

1. Fill the cart for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. We're happy to report that the cart was overflowing with non-perishable food items for our neighbors.
2. Collect warm winter gear for the kids in our community. The church collected 20 hats, 37 pairs of mittens & gloves, 2 hat, mitten, scarf sets, and 6 pairs of socks. These were delivered to Families Forward to distribute to families.
3. \$530 was collected hurricane relief.
4. \$250 was collected for the Animal Rescue League as part of the Church's Haul-O-Ween Trick or Treat Event

**WAY TO BE THE CHURCH AND SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND!**



If you would like to be added to our prayer list, please let Pastor Joyce know by calling or texting (515) 480-8457 or you can email her at [revjlwebb76@gmail.com](mailto:revjlwebb76@gmail.com)

Please hold these members and friends of the Ivy Centennial church family in prayer:

Doris Heaberlin      Barb Sharp  
 Judy Fiene            Karla Heaberlin  
 Barb Bolt



Saturday 11/30 10:00 am      Decorate Church for Advent  
 Sunday 12/1 10:30 am      Hanging of the Greens Service  
 Sunday 12/1 11:30 am      Dinner Day Potluck  
 Wednesday 12/4 7:00 pm      Administrative Council Meeting  
 Saturday 12/7 5:30-7:00 pm      Live Nativity  
 Sunday 12/15 10:30 am      Children's Christmas Program  
 Tuesday 12/24 4:00 pm      Christmas Eve Service  
 Tuesday 12/24 11:00 pm      Christmas Eve Service

## *DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*

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



**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME**

	Offerings 2024	Offerings 2023	Offerings 2022	Offerings 2021
January	\$9,670.48	\$17,243.17	\$11,240.28	\$11,270.04
February	\$9,829.06	\$7,101.46	\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01
March	\$10,748.26	\$5,903.26	\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01
April	\$6,768.06	\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01
May	\$5,321.26	\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05
June	\$9,196.26	\$7,021.56	\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89
July	\$7,083.86	\$9,413.26	\$8,636.81	\$6,295.75
August	\$6,342.26	\$5,192.26	\$7,081.26	\$7,919.24
September	\$7,991.31	\$7,791.06	\$5,610.25	\$9,763.24
October	\$4,765.26	\$9,101.26	\$12,111.46	\$12,038.34
November		\$8,401.26	\$8,679.97	\$10,568.68
December		\$11,510.84	\$7,552.26	\$10,477.42
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$77,716.07</b>	<b>\$105,690.91</b>	<b>\$110,724.03</b>	<b>\$118,346.68</b>
Government Paycheck Protection Program				\$20,177.00
Iowa Conference Assistance Program				\$4,300.98
<b>Total Offerings &amp; Programs</b>	<b>\$77,716.07</b>	<b>\$105,690.91</b>	<b>\$110,724.03</b>	<b>\$142,824.66</b>

2024 Average Monthly Offerings \$7,771.61

2024 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,945.33

2024 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget (\$1,173.73)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of October 31st, we have collected \$1,795.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary

Pastor: Joyce Webb [revjlwebb76@gmail.com](mailto:revjlwebb76@gmail.com)

(515) 480-8457

Email Prayers Requests: Missy Shaver [Mishaver2@gmail.com](mailto:Mishaver2@gmail.com)

515-967-6288

Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins): Amy Ferguson [anbscorbin@gmail.com](mailto:anbscorbin@gmail.com)

515-402-6056

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

