



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

December 2025

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOYCE

Dear Ivy Centennial Church Family,

As we enter this holy season of Christmas, I am reminded of the words from John's Gospel: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:5).

The world around us can often feel heavy—with worries, busyness, and uncertainty—but Christmas breaks through with a radiant promise. In Bethlehem's humble stable, God chose to dwell among us, not in grandeur or power, but in vulnerability and love. The Christ Child reminds us that God's light is not distant; it is present with us and near to every heart open to receive it.

Christmas is not only a story to remember—it is a reality to live into. The Christmas season invites us to pause and see the light of Christ shining in the most ordinary places – in the laughter of children during a Christmas program; in the quiet prayers whispered by those who long for peace and in the generosity of neighbors who share warmth and kindness. Together, as a community of faith, we carry Christ's light into the world. Each act of love, each word of hope, each gesture of forgiveness becomes a candle lit against the darkness.

I hope you will take time out during this season of Advent and Christmas for worship, as we celebrate the coming of Christ's light into the world.

May this Christmas be for you a time of renewal, joy, and deep peace. May you find Christ's presence in your home, your relationships, and your heart. And may we, as a church family, continue to shine brightly with the love of Jesus.

Merry Christmas, and may the Light of Christ guide your steps into the New Year.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Joyce



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY CANDLE LIGHTING

On All Saints Sunday, we celebrated the saints in our lives and in our church, who have gone before us. This year we remembered the contributions of our forefathers and mothers who envisioned and planted this “little white church on the hill.” We read the names and lit candles for those in our church community who passed away in this last year:

Doris Heaberlin
Moe Gilkison
Sue Tomlin
Judy Fiene
Gary Forster
Ardean Williams
Brenda Person
Xan Wilkins
Laura Hiatt

Members of the congregation were also invited to light candles to remember their loved ones who have passed.



HAT MITTEN COAT DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who brought in hats, gloves, mittens, socks and coats for this year’s drive. The tree and table were covered with winter gear. The items were delivered to Families Forward (formerly Bidwell Riverside and Hawthorne Hill ministries). Thanks Mary and Mike Ferguson for taking these gifts to Families Forward.



CARING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

This is a difficult and stressful time for many of our neighbors. Thank you for “being the church” in our community. The church donated 93 pounds of food in November. The grocery cart is empty again so let’s see if we can fill it back up. Thanks to Ken Sharp for taking the items to the pantry. Here is a list of the most needed pantry items:

- Chicken noodle soup
- Elbow macaroni
- Tomato paste
- Canned peaches, pears and pineapple (light syrup)
- Canned potatoes
- Canned carrots
- Vegetable oil



CHILI OYSTER SOUP SUPPER AND BAZAAR

The 2025 Chili Oyster Soup Supper and Bazaar was a great success.

Thank you to the Ivy Centennial Men’s group for sponsoring this event and to the Centennial congregation for their help in donating food, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. It was truly a community event!

The free will offering for the soup supper totaled \$2,499.

The proceeds from the Bazaar table were just over \$700 and will be used to support the ministries and activities of the Ivy Women’s Fellowship Group.

We had a good crowd all night long



The Bazaar Table all set up and ready to go.



Gail Gish and Mary Ferguson getting the desserts ready.

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Live Nativity 2024

LIVE NATIVITY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Ivy Centennial will share the Christmas story with the community through our Live Nativity Event, which will take place in the outdoor chapel. The Live Nativity will feature Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds and wise men. We'll also have some live animals to complete the scene.

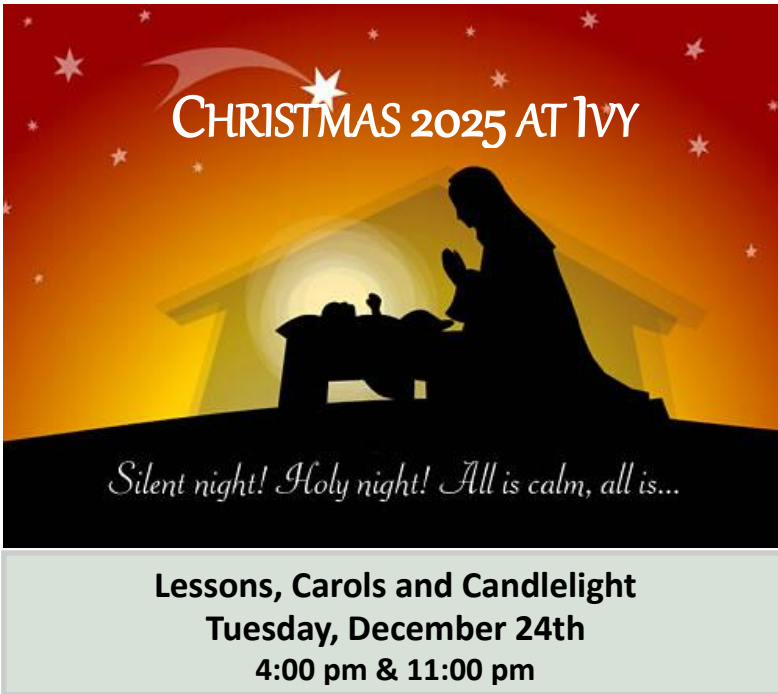
Inside the church we'll have hot drinks, treats, and activities for the kids.

It's not too late to help out – dress up to play a part in the Nativity scene or bring in cookies or bars. This is also a great time to invite a family member or friend and introduce them to Ivy Centennial United Methodist Church.



Join us on Sunday, December 14th during the 10:30 worship service for our Children's Christmas program.

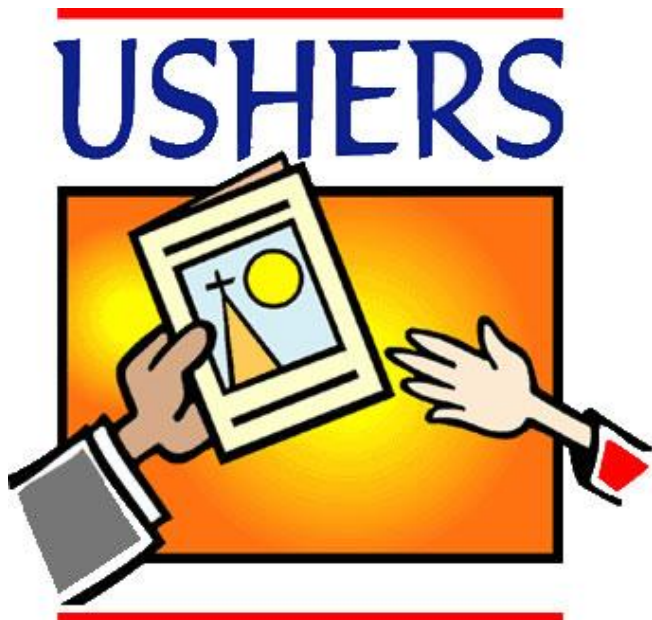
All children are welcome to dress up and participate. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Joyce at 515-480-8457 or revjlwebb76@gmail.com



This year's Christmas Eve Services will be at 4:00 and 11:00 pm.

Both services will include lessons from the Bible, carols, candlelight and special music. The 11:00 service will also include communion.

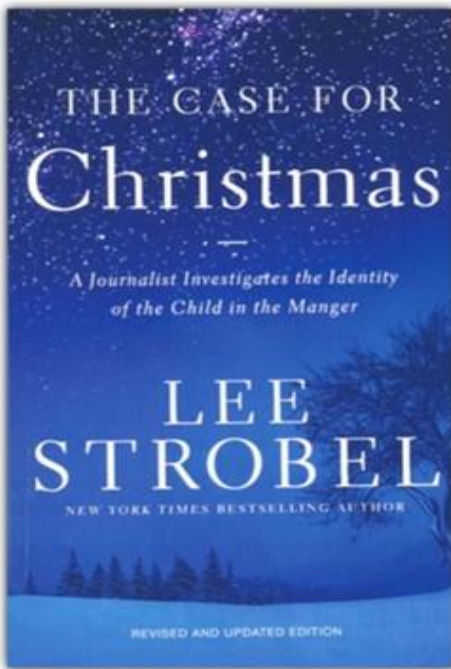
Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



USHERS FOR DECEMBER

- 7th: Bobbi and Simon Meister
- 14th: Tim and Marcy Campell
- 21st: Mike and Mary Ferguson
- 28th: Jonathan and Jeff Freel

2025 ADVENT STUDY



The Case for Christmas

Meets Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30 pm, December 3rd – 17th
Tuesdays 10:30 – 11:30 am, December 2nd – 23rd

In *The Case for Christmas*, Lee Strobel, an award-winning journalist and former atheist, explores the real meaning behind the Christmas story. After his wife became a Christian, Strobel began to question the traditional narratives surrounding Christmas and sought to uncover the truth behind the nativity scenes he had often seen. Strobel consults experts in biblical studies, archaeology, and messianic prophecy to answer critical questions about Jesus' birth and identity.

The group study includes a video portion followed by a time for group discussion. All are welcome to join in this four-week study.



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

We have a choir that has formed to sing during the Advent season.

If you like to sing and would like to find out more, please get in touch with Maggie Stout, the church's choir director (515) 419-9329, or catch her after church.



DINNER DAY SIGN-UPS FOR 2026

Dinner Day is one of Ivy Centennials best loved traditions. For more than 90 years, the church has held a community potluck on the first Sunday of the month. Over the years we have depended on members of the congregation to take turns hosting the meal. Grab some family members or a couple of friends and sign up to host one of our monthly Dinner Days. There is a sign-up sheet on the sign-up table in the narthex.



IVY CENTENNIAL UMC LEADERSHIP FORMAT

Over the last several months, Centennial UMC has been working on a new leadership format. It's called a "simplified traditional model." In a nutshell, it collapses all of the traditional church committees into two working committees and an administrative board.

The two committees are the Nurture, Outreach and Worship Committee (N.O.W.) and the Administrative Committee.

We felt this was a necessary step because it was becoming increasingly difficult to fill all of the committees under the old structure.

The N.O.W. Committee includes the former Education, Mission, Family Ministries, and Worship Committees that existed under the traditional committee structure. The N.O.W. Committee will be responsible for planning and coordinating activities for education, mission, family ministries and worship. The committee will consist of seven or more members. The following individuals have agreed to serve on the N.O.W. Committee:

Mary Ferguson Committee Chair
Evan Fischer
Jennifer Fischer
Sherry Burrier
Marcy Campbell
Leslee Lynch (women's group representative)
Men's Group Representative

The Administrative Committee includes the former Trustee, Finance and Pastor Parish Relations Committees that are required by the UM Discipline. This committee will have seven representatives. We are still trying to fill a couple of spots for this committee. The following individuals have agreed to serve on the Administrative Committee:

Jill Craven Committee Chair
Jonathan Freel
Gaylen Heaberlin
Joy Warner
Missy Shaver (as lay delegate to annual conference)

The Administrative Board will consist of six members. Two members each from the N.O.W. Committee and the Administrative Committee, the Administrative Board Chair and the Lay Leader. The Board will be responsible for overall church planning and visioning.

Jeff Freel Ad Board Chair
Maggie Stout Lay Leader

In addition, there will be separate working teams for communications, memorials and church maintenance. We will be reaching out to congregation members about serving on one of these teams.

The new committees will begin meeting after the first of the year. If you would like to be considered as a nominee for the N.O.W committee or the Administrative Committee (2 spots open), please let Pastor Joyce know. You can call or text 515-480-8457 or email revjlwebb76@gmail.com



TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR SENIOR ADULTS

We know that transportation can be a problem for some members at Ivy Centennial. Gayle Jordan was good enough to share some information about transportation and other resources that might be available to church members.

- **Guide Program** through Cornerstone Caregiving (515) 461-7050 has resources available for people facing dementia, and their caregivers and who are on Traditional Medicare (Part A & B).
- **Aging Resources of Central Iowa** – Sheila Henrichsen (515) 633-9502
- **Yellow Cab Aging** – (6 round trips per year) (515) 286-3679
- **Road Runners** – (515) 205-4447
- **Golden Angels** – (515) 276-9032
- **Compassionate Care** – West Des Moines (515) 664-0005
- **Liberty Transportation** – (515) 577-1832 ****AARP****

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Gayle at 515-490-0561.



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 Rita Denhart
 Family of Fawn Mefferd (Bobbi Meister's mother)
 LaDonna Morse Matthew Myers
 John Bowie Jeff Olgren
 Leslie Hiatt Nancy Day
 Barb Bolt Karla Heaberlin
 Donna Gustafson and La Casa de Esperanza
 Caring Hands Food Pantry

Please let Amy Ferguson know if you have something for the calendar

Tuesdays		10:30 am	<i>The Case for Christmas</i> (begins 12/2)
Wednesdays		5:30 pm	<i>The Case for Christmas</i> (begins 12/3)
Saturday	12/6	5:30 – 7:00 pm	Live Nativity
Sunday	12/14	10:30 am	Children's Christmas Program
Wednesday	12/24	4:00/11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Services
Sunday	7/12/2026		150 th Anniversary Celebration



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

**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	\$6,740.00	\$10,748.26	\$5,903.26	\$9,669.39
April	\$6,484.00	\$6,768.06	\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63
May	\$4,400.10	\$5,321.26	\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49
June	\$14,126.75	\$9,196.26	\$7,021.56	\$7,083.14
July	\$5,222.00	\$7,083.86	\$9,413.26	\$8,636.81
August	\$5,811.60	\$6,342.26	\$5,192.26	\$7,081.26
September	\$4,527.80	\$7,991.31	\$7,791.06	\$5,610.25
October	\$5,054.96	\$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	\$66,202.14	\$95,433.70	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03

2025 Average Monthly Offerings \$6,620.21
2025 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,766.33
2025 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget (\$2,146.12)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of October 31st, we have collected \$1,175.00 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