



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

February 2021



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:

Every time we gather for worship, we share prayer requests. Although many of our prayer requests include prayers for people immersed in grief or sorrow, I enjoy when people send me specific prayer requests. When I receive requests asking if I can pray for someone for a specific reason, I feel more connected both to the person in need of prayer and to God when I know more specifically how to pray for someone. It's one thing to say, *Lord, I pray for John Smith or Jane Jones*. But it's even more meaningful when I can specifically ask for healing for *John* after he underwent surgery or for *Jane* who has a doctor's appointment coming up.

Sometimes, I get stuck in a prayer rut though. Prayer isn't always easy, even when it's a habitual practice. We aren't always privileged to know what someone needs prayer for. Sometimes I don't even know what I need prayer for when it comes to my own needs. The Psalmist reminds us that God knows our prayers before we know our own prayers:

*Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. -Psalm 139:4*

Oftentimes, I find myself in a season of nonstop prayers of requests rather than prayers for relationship. I'll notice that I spend a majority of my prayer time asking God for help or encouraging God to intervene rather than simply noticing where God has already been. With the help of Catholic friends and teachers, I've learned of meaningful prayer practices that help me not only become a more faithful pray-er, but also how to become more attuned to God's presence in the ordinary.

Catholicism has a lovely prayer tradition known as "The Examen." St. Ignatius of Loyola, a Catholic Priest from the 16th century, co-founded the religious order known as the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) required Jesuits to practice the Examen twice daily. The Examen, according to Ignatius, is meant to help Christians make prayer a habit in their everyday lives. The goals for the Examen include: to become aware of God's presence, to review the day with gratitude, to pay attention to our emotions, to choose one feature of the day and pray from it, and to look toward tomorrow. This image gives you a guide to praying the examen:

Another way to remember the five steps of the Examen is to:

- Relish the moments that went well and all of the gifts you have today.
- Request the Spirit to lead you through your review of the day.
- Review the day.
- Repent of any mistakes or short fallings.
- Resolve, in concrete ways, to live tomorrow with intention and gratitude for God.

If your prayer practices need a jump-start, if you've never tried the Examen, or if you'd like to try something new during Lent this year, I encourage you to take up the Examen as a Lenten prayer practice this year with me, as I pray that we can all become more faithful disciples, giving thanks that God is still-with-us.

*Love, Pastor Dani*

## PRAYING THE EXAMEN

### 1. Give thanksgiving.

Begin by giving God thanks for all the things you're grateful for today. Allow big things and small things to arise—everything from the gift of faith, to the gift of friendship, to the easy commute to work today.

### 2. Ask for the Spirit.

Next, look at the moments in your day when you did not act so well. However, before doing so, ask God to fill you with the Spirit so that the Spirit can lead you through this difficult soul-searching. Otherwise, one might be liable to hide in denial or wallow in self-pity. The point is not to spiral into self-loathing; but to recognize one's finitude and humanity. We all make mistakes.

### 3. Review and recognize mistakes.

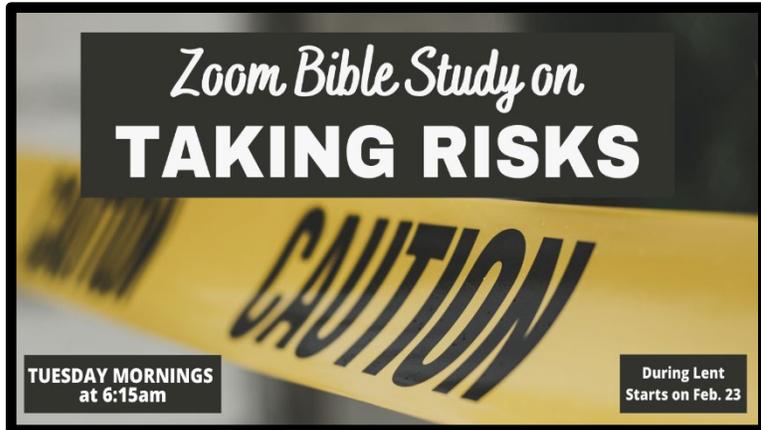
Next, look back at your day and ask the Lord to point out the moments when you made mistakes or missed the mark. Take a sobering look at the mistakes from the day, knowing that you are merely human.

### 4. Ask for forgiveness and healing.

After confessing, ask God for forgiveness. Ask for healing of any harm that might have been done. Ask God for help to move on past the mistake so you are not consumed by anything not worthwhile. And finally, ask for wisdom to discern how one might better handle such tricky moments in the future.

### 5. Pray about the next day.

Lastly, invite God to show you how tomorrow might go. Imagine the things you'll be doing, the people you'll see, and the decisions you'll be mulling over. And ask for help with any moments you foresee might be difficult. Trust that God will be with you at every moment.



Join Pastor Dani every Tuesday morning at 6:15am during Lent as we consider how Christ calls us, his disciples to take risks for the sake of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Each Tuesday, we'll read stories from the gospels and consider how Jesus calls his own disciples to take risks while he too risks it all on his journey to the cross. Jesus risks his reputation, rejection, the loss of friends, temptation, and more throughout his journey to the cross.

During Lent this year, I invite you to consider with me: What do I stand for? What do I believe in? What am I willing to risk for my beliefs?

Click this Zoom link every Tuesday to join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85390289473>

The Bible Study will meet for no longer than an hour and will occur every Tuesday morning from Feb 23 - Mar 30. No book purchase is needed. Biblical text will be provided, but you're invited to come to the online class with your own Bible.



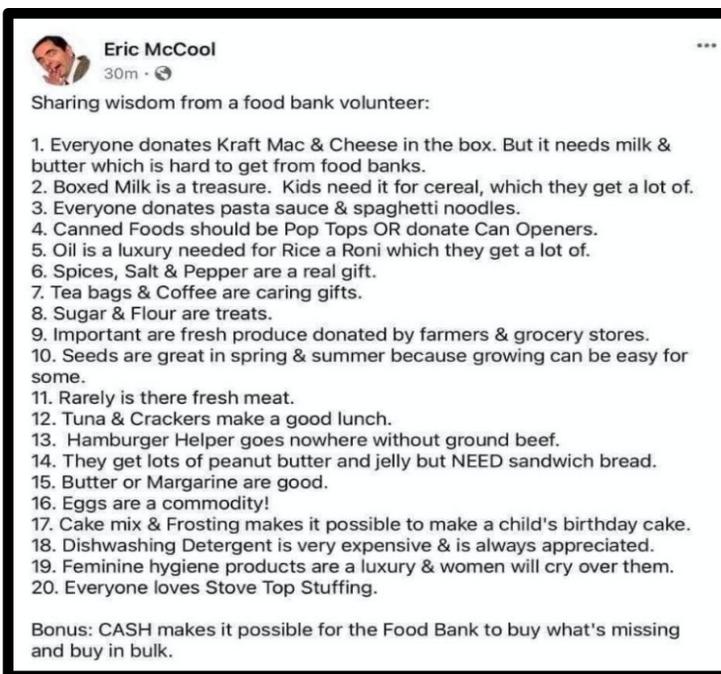
Among the long list of words to describe 2020, UNCERTAIN makes an appearance. We encountered many surprising and challenging endeavors throughout the last year and the Bible has a lot to say about uncertainty in the midst of faith.

During Lent this year, we'll consider in worship how God in Christ calls us to embrace the uncertain as disciples on a journey of holy and gentle love.

Join us each Sunday morning at 10:30am to consider how we embrace the uncertainties of our world and our faith.



As we continue offering donations to the local food pantry (which you can drop off at church and we'll deliver to Caring Hands for you) please consider these thoughtful tips from a Facebook post created by a food bank volunteer:



**Friends, a new re-entry date for in-person indoor worship will be announced soon.**

*Until that date is announced, please recall our planned guidelines for indoor gatherings and worship at Centennial.*

*See below for guidelines:*



A caring family of disciples  
who **know Christ** and  
**make Christ known** in our  
community and around the world.



In order to safely re-enter the building for worship, we have multiple regulations that we must all take seriously in an effort to keep us safe and healthy. See below for a list of regulations and restrictions as we begin indoor worship soon. We hope you'll join us with a mask & a willingness to experiment together.

**INDOOR WORSHIP & SANCTUARY SEATING GUIDELINES:**

- Do not attend any in-person meeting or gathering if you do not feel well or have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Capacity for the sanctuary is set currently at 36 participants for safety reasons. This number is difficult to define and is somewhat flexible as families are welcome to sit together, but folks who are not related to each other must sit 6-feet apart.
- Like the rest of the building, masks are required in the sanctuary until further notice. Hand sanitizer will be made available for you before and after the service.
- Ushers will greet you at the door before you enter the church building. Ushers will hand you a bulletin and assist you in finding the best place to sit that is distanced from those you are not related to.
- If we reach capacity in the sanctuary, we will then seat folks distanced in the narthex. If the narthex reaches capacity, then we will use seating in the fellowship hall where folks can watch the service on the TV and hear it through the radio that we will provide. Folks are welcome to continue worshipping in their cars (tune your radio to 88.5 to worship along with us), or online.
- Every other pew is marked as not occupiable, beginning with the first row of each aisle. Please abide by these restrictions when you enter the sanctuary by sitting only in rows that are not marked off by tape or ribbon.
- Non-family members in the same pew need to sit physically distanced from the other. The CDC recommends 6 ft. Two or three individuals could sit distanced in the same pew. Again, an usher will assist you.
- Ushers will also dismiss families and individuals at the end of the service. Please do not get up to leave without an usher dismissing you. This helps us keep everyone moving safely and reminds us all that we cannot gather indoors for fellowship after service. Please feel free to chat with one another at a safe distance outdoors after the service.
- Online worship will continue to be made available every week. Our website, [ivycentennial.org](http://ivycentennial.org) has all worship links in the "Sermon Videos" tab.
- We will also continue to worship through the radio. So, if you'd like to join us, while staying in the safety of your car, you can join us on Sunday mornings by parking in our parking lot by 10:30am and tuning your radio to 88.5 FM.

## **INDOOR MEETING GUIDELINES AT IVY:**

- Do not attend any in-person meeting or gathering if you do not feel well or have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Masks are required at all gatherings at Ivy until further notice. Masks are located in the church narthex if you need one anytime that you are at the church.
- Check the church calendar before scheduling a meeting to ensure availability. Our church calendar can be found on our website: [ivycentennial.org](http://ivycentennial.org).
- To post your meeting on our church calendar, please email Jeff Freel or Pastor Dani.
  - [jrajfreel@prairieinet.net](mailto:jrajfreel@prairieinet.net)
  - [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)
- Please provide an opportunity for meeting attendees to access your scheduled meeting via Zoom or another online meeting format even when meeting in-person at the church. Ask Pastor Dani if you need help setting up a Zoom meeting ahead of time.
- Write down names and contact information of each person who attends your in-person meeting or gathering in case someone from the meeting is later diagnosed with COVID 19 and all who attended need to be notified.
- Please do not share food or drinks in the church building. If you'd like to have food at your meeting, please encourage everyone to bring their own.
- Physical distancing is required at all gatherings and meetings.
- Please wipe down all objects (chairs, tables, etc.) after the conclusion of your meeting. Each meeting space has its own container of cleaning wipes for your use.
- Capacity limits have been identified for each room and meeting space at the church. The capacity limits are posted on the door of each room. Please abide by these capacity limits.
  - Fellowship Hall: 30 (no more than 3 chairs to a table)
  - Sanctuary: 36
  - Upstairs kitchen: 4
  - Library: 4
  - Downstairs kitchen: 4
  - Nursery: 10
  - Sunday School Room 1: 4
  - Sunday School Room 2: 12
  - Youth Room: 15
  - Narthex: 0. The narthex cannot be used for gathering until further notice.

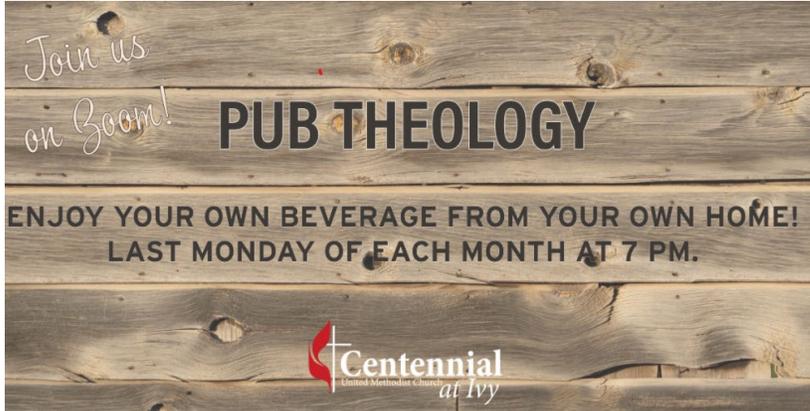
Please only use the narthex as you are on your way to and from the sanctuary.

**Thank you for your help & understanding in following these guidelines!**



Unlike the public libraries, our church library and Little Free Library have no service restrictions such as curb side pick-up only, limited hours, reduced services, no browsing, etc. during this time of the pandemic.

Need a book? The church library and the Little Free Library are always open for your reading needs!



We'll have another **Virtual Pub Theology on Monday, January 25 at 7pm** and I hope y'all can join us! If you haven't joined us before, Virtual Pub Theology is a space where we gather on Zoom to discuss a current event (or multiple current events) and its connection to our Christian faith while enjoying an adult beverage from the safety of your home.

You can read a bit ahead of time about what we'll be discussing this week by reading the attached document. We'll plan to reflect on the power of

words and the events from January 6th at the United States Capitol. I hope you'll join us from the safety of your home with a delicious beverage in hand.

Join our Zoom conversation on Monday evening at 7pm here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86484859977>

You can find our discussion topics attached to this email. Feel free to forward this link or email on to others who might be interested in joining us, too. [And visit our website by clicking here if you want to read some of the articles we've read and discussed in the past few months.](#)



Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. More information regarding the service will follow soon.



*True Love*

For God so lo **V**ed the world,  
 That He g **A**ve  
 his on **L**y  
 Begott **E**n  
 So **N**  
**T**hat whosoever  
 Believeth **I**n Him  
 Should **N**ot perish,  
 But have **E**verlasting life."  
 John 3:16

*"When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too."*

*HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!*

# *FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Aidan Craven Wendy Musgrave	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Bev McGriff	<b>6</b> Dave Warner
<b>7</b> Bob Dice Anne Owens	<b>8</b> Marissa Haley Larry McCrory	<b>9</b> Rev. Bob Cook	<b>10</b> Nathan Griffel  John & Verna Bowie	<b>11</b> Tim Fritz  Missy & Steve Shaver	<b>12</b> Aleka Fischer Raleigh Hiatt Matthew Myers	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Owen Fischer	<b>15</b> Mary Lu Mauritz	<b>16</b> Amy Ferguson  Amos & Jacquelyn Purcell	<b>17</b> Jason Hermann	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Harry & Sandra Clark	<b>20</b> Butch & Diane Griffel
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Terry Britt	<b>25</b> Helen Freeman	<b>26</b> Grant Warner	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Cody Tingley  Kevin & Lisa Day						



Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – Administrative Council @ 8:00 pm  
 Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> – Communications @ 6:30 pm  
 Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – UMW @ 1:00 pm  
 Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – Nominations @ 7:00 pm  
 Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 pm  
 Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Pub Theology @ 7:00 pm  
 Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Lent Bible Study (Zoom) – 6:15 am  
  
 WoW (Virtual) – Every Wednesday during the month of February  
 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm

**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
2020 ACTUAL GIVING VS 2020 BUDGET GOAL**

	REQUIRED	SUNDAYS	TITHES	OTHER INC	TOTAL	INCOME ONE YEAR AGO
JANUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,640.11	\$450.00	\$12,090.11	\$ 7,058.33
FEBRUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,750.17		\$11,750.17	\$12,370.73
MARCH	\$12,477.50	5	\$11,605.44	(8.58)	\$11,596.86	\$19,623.40
APRIL	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 7,401.17	(11.50)	\$ 7,389.67	\$12,891.06
MAY	\$12,477.50	5	\$30,172.17	(13.34)	\$30,158.83	\$11,292.53
JUNE	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 6,566.13	(9.68)	\$ 6,556.45	\$10,422.00
JULY	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 9,976.83	(11.60)	\$ 9,965.23	\$ 7,672.17
AUGUST	\$12,477.50	5	\$ 8,426.83	(8.07)	\$ 8,418.76	\$11,830.17
SEPTEMBER	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 8,666.83	(7.90)	\$ 8,658.93	\$13,625.92
OCTOBER	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 9,923.58	(5.72)	\$ 9,917.86	\$ 7,554.17
NOVEMBER	\$12,477.50	5	\$11,837.83	(9.22)	\$11,828.61	\$ 9,141.17
DECEMBER	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,030.83	(31.07)	\$10,999.76	\$13,052.34
<b>2020 BUDGET</b>	<b>\$149,730.00</b>		<b>\$138,997.92</b>	<b>\$333.32</b>	<b>\$139,331.24</b>	<b>93.05%</b>
	<b>52 Sundays in 2020</b>				<b>Required:</b>	<b>91.67%</b>

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, our congregation has donated \$3,950.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry since the beginning of 2020. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May we received **\$20,232** from the Small Business Administration as part of the Covid-19 Stimulus Package. These funds were for the "Paycheck Protection Program" which helps us keep paying our Pastor, Organist, Custodian and Secretary. In order to meet our 2020 budget, we need to average about \$12,480 per month.

Effective December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Small Business Administration has forgiven the above loan we received on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary**



**Pastor:** Dani Musselman [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)  
**Trustees:** Ardean Williams 515-967-4189  
**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):** Gaylen Heaberlin 515-967-2016