



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

FEBRUARY 2026

THE POWER OF A SIMPLE INVITATION

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Every now and then, I find myself looking back and thinking about my faith journey. I recall the people who first invited me into a deeper walk with Christ. None of them preached a sermon. None of them had a strategy. They simply cared enough to say, “Come with me.” Looking back, I realize how much those small invitations shaped my life. That’s been on my mind lately, because I’m convinced God still works through those same simple moments.

Over the last few weeks, I’ve had a couple of people at Centennial UMC tell me about how they ended up attending the church. They told me they were here because someone invited them to come. They stayed because they felt welcomed here.

I know inviting someone to church can feel awkward. We worry about how they’ll respond. We wonder if we’re being pushy. But I’ve learned that most people are far more open than we imagine. Some are quietly searching for hope. Others are longing for community. Some simply need someone to say, “Come to church with me and we can sit together.” A church invitation isn’t about filling seats; it’s about opening a door for someone to encounter the love of Christ.

As the church prepares to celebrate its 150th year, I want to encourage you to think of one person in your life who might need that invitation. Maybe it’s a family member, or a co-worker or an old friend who used to attend Ivy Centennial that you haven’t seen for a while. Pray for them. Ask God to open a door, soften a heart, and give you courage. You don’t need a script. You don’t need a strategy. You just need a willingness to say, “Would you like to come with me to church this Sunday?” God can take care of the rest.

Thank you, Ivy Centennial for being a church that continues to invite, welcome, and love. I’m grateful to be part of this moment in our story—and excited to see what God will do through the invitations we extend in the years ahead.

Blessings,

Pastor Joyce

OUTREACH MISSION PROJECTS

Soup Drive for Caring Hands Food Pantry



The church is currently collecting canned soup for our local food pantry. The last day to bring canned soup items is Sunday, February 8th. Last year Ivy church members collected 333 cans of soup to donate. Our goal this year is to beat that number. When you shop for your groceries, be sure and pick up a couple of extra cans of soup to share with our neighbors.

LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

DES MOINES RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Lent begins on February 18th and the NOW (Nurture, Outreach and Worship) Committee has decided to do a mission focus on the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House provides a place for families to stay when they have a child who is in the hospital. We will be doing a monetary collection and are exploring other ways to help families going through a difficult time. More information will be coming soon.



DINNER DAY & SUPER BOWL TAILGATE! FEBRUARY 8TH 11:30 AM

In conjunction with our soup collection drive, we will also have some fun by celebrating our own Super Bowl on February 8th with a Dinner Day Tailgate. We're planning a fun trivia contest during our tailgate time. **You are invited to wear your favorite team jersey and bring your favorite tailgate food to share. By the way...this would be a great Sunday to invite a friend or family member to church!**

DINNER DAY DATE CHANGE FOR FEBRUARY & SIGN-UPS

Dinner Day in February will be on February 8th, to correspond with our Super Bowl Sunday. Bring your favorite tailgate food to share. There are still several openings for Dinner Day hosts in 2026. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in back of the sanctuary. It's easy – grab a few family members or friends and sign-up to host. If you have questions, please touch base with Mary Ferguson (515) 975-0586





THE CHOSEN SUNDAYS 9:15-10:15 AM

During the Sunday school time we are doing a small group conversation around *The Chosen* video series, which is based on the life of Jesus. We watch an episode and then take some time for group discussion. If one of your goals for the new year is to take part in a small group, this would be a great place to plug in. Join us for coffee, donuts and conversation. Let Pastor Joyce know if you have any questions (515) 480-8457 or revjlwebb76@gmail.com

NOOMA WEDNESDAYS 5:30-6:30

The Wednesday group will look at some lessons from Rob Bell's *Nooma* series. *Nooma* is the phonetic spelling of the Greek word pneuma, which translates as breath. In a religious context, it points us to the Holy Spirit.

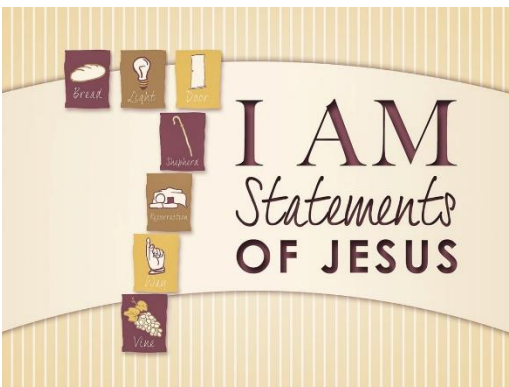
Nooma is contemporary, thought provoking and relevant to our lives today. We'll watch a short video and then spend some time discussing what we've seen. You're invited to come and check it out. Invite a friend to come with you. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Joyce 515-480-8457 or revjlwebb76@gmail.com.



Thursday, February 5th 11:30 am

The women's group will meet on the 5th for a light lunch and a time of fellowship. All women are invited to attend.

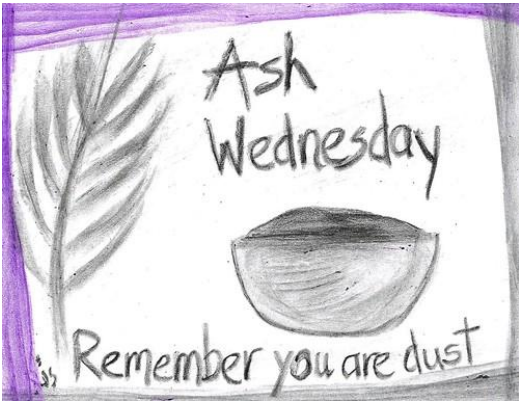
If you would like to know more about the group, please contact Leslee Lynch (515) 967-6008 or Mary Ferguson (515) 975-0586.



Lenten Sermon Series - *The I AM Statements of Jesus*

We will begin a new sermon series on Sunday, February 22nd, based on the *I AM* statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. Jesus said: *I AM the Bread of Life, I AM the Light of the World, I AM the Good Shepherd, I AM the True Vine, I AM the Resurrection and the Life.*

We'll look at the ways the *I Am* statements point to the identity of Jesus as the Son of God and God the Son.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 18th At 5:30 pm

Ivy Centennial will begin the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service on February 18th.

Ash Wednesday helps us to recognize our mortality and our need for a savior. The service will last around 30 minutes and will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

IVY CENTENNIAL'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS



Pancake Dinner Tuesday, February 17th 5:00-6:30 pm

The 150th Anniversary Committee will sponsor a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, which kicks off the season of Lent, a time of repentance and fasting. The name "Shrove" comes from an old English word *shriven*, meaning absolved of sins.

Mark your calendar, invite a person or two and come eat pancakes.

Check out the sign-up sheets on the sign-up table in the narthex for needed food items and ways you can help.



Ivy Centennial Soup Contest Saturday, March 28th

Find your favorite soup recipe and enter it in the Centennial UMC Soup Contest. More details will be coming soon.



GREETERS AND USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

- 2/1 Jonathan and Jeff Freel
- 2/8 Gaylen Heaberlin and Missy Shaver
- 2/15 Mike and Mary Ferguson
- 2/22 Evan Fischer and Gaylen Heaberlin

We are always looking for more people willing to be part of the team. If you would like to be added to the roster, please get in touch with Evan Fischer at 515-494-5432 or Pastor Joyce at 515-480-8457.



If you would like to be added to our prayer list, please contact Pastor Joyce by calling or texting (515) 480-8457 or emailing revjlwebb76@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST

David Burrier	Matthew Myers
Bev McGriff	Chuck McGriff
John Bowie	Jeff Olgren
Leslie Hiatt	Nancy Day
Barb Bolt	Karla Heaberlin
Donna Gustafson and La Casa de Esperanza	
Caring Hands Food Pantry	



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

Sundays	9:15-10:15 am	The Chosen Small Group
Wednesdays	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Nooma Small Group
Sunday 2/8	11:30 am	Dinner Day Super Bowl Tailgate
Tuesday 2/17	5:00 – 6:30 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday 2/18	5:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Saturday 3/28	TBD	Centennial UMC Soup Contest
Sunday 3/29	10:30 am	Palm Sunday
Sunday 7/12/2026		150 th Anniversary Celebration

**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	\$14,026.75	\$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	\$10,162.00	\$10,238.00	\$8,401.26	\$8,679.97
December	\$5,795.36	\$7,479.63	\$11,510.84	\$7,552.26
Total Offerings	\$82,059.50	\$95,433.70	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of December 31st, we collected \$1,645.00 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