



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

JANUARY 2024



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:

I like to play golf. The problem is that I'm not very good at it. If you play golf, you might be familiar with the term "mulligan." It's a chance to try the shot again – basically it's a do over. In some ways, the beginning of a new year is a "mulligan". If things last year didn't turn out the way you hoped, take a "mulligan." Often our "mulligans" take the form of New Year's Resolutions - a list the things in our lives that we want to start doing or stop doing or change. Usually the list includes things like lose weight, exercise more, watch less TV, spend less time on social media and more time with family. If you're like me, the year begins with promise, but then as time goes on, life gets busy or there are distractions that get in the way, and the changes we wanted to make somehow lose their urgency and importance.

Here we are again, standing at the beginning of another New Year. Many of us are thinking about what lies ahead in 2024. What will the year bring? How will this year be different than last year? Are there changes I should consider making? These are all good questions. But what about questions and changes that involve our faith? The kind that can have eternal meaning and impact.

What if we made a commitment to focus our time, energy, and talents on achieving goals that really matter? Here are a few thoughts:

- If it's been a while since you've been to church, make a commitment to reconnect.
- If you feel distant from God, make a commitment to spend more time in prayer, just to sit awhile.
- If your Bible has been gathering dust, pick up a devotional and make a commitment to crack it open on a daily basis. You can also join a small group or Bible study. The journey of faith wasn't meant to be traveled alone. We need others for support and accountability.
- If you feel like you should be doing more to help others, find ways to serve in ministry and mission in the community and beyond so that Christ's love can be shared.

Friends, as we look forward to the promise of a New Year, my hope is that we would also look at the ways we can grow in our life of faith.

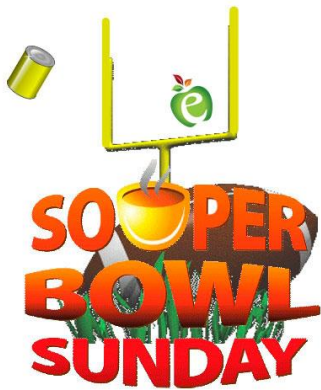
God bless you in the New Year to come.

Pastor Joyce



January Mission Project

Winter is a great time for soup! So, in January we'll be collecting canned soup for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. We'll collect donations through Sunday, February 11th. Donations can be placed on the table in the narthex. When we did this last year, we were able to collect 200 cans of soup to donate to the pantry. This year let's see if we can top that!



Souper Bowl Sunday Celebration, February 11th 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

We'll have some fun on February 11th. **Everyone is invited to wear their favorite team football jersey.**

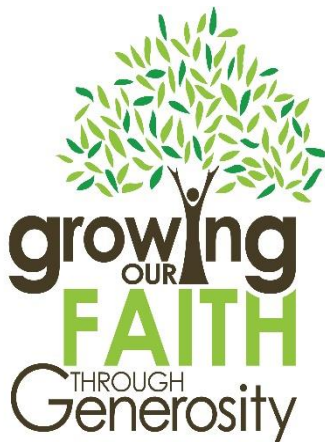
- We'll celebrate the results of our canned soup drive.
- The youth group will lead us in worship and
- We'll share a soup lunch during our fellowship time.

It's a great time to invite a family member or friends to church!



Dinner Day Change for February

Dinner Day in February will be on February 11th, the second Sunday instead of the first Sunday. Delicious soups will be provided as the main course, so bring whatever else you would like to share for our monthly community meal.



Stewardship Campaign Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who turned in an Estimate of Giving Card to support the 2024 budget. To date, 34 families have returned Giving Cards, totaling \$92,060. Your financial commitments to the mission and ministries of the church are appreciated. If you meant to turn in an Estimate of Giving card, but haven't had a chance yet, it isn't too late. Giving cards can be placed in the offering plate during worship, or mailed to the church, PO Box 624, Altoona, IA 50009. If you need a card, please contact Gaylen Heaberlin at 515-322-7108. Together, we do the work of God's Kingdom, and we make a difference in our church and our community.



Something New for 2024!

Over the last several months, members of the Administrative Council and the Council on Ministries have been in conversation about ways we can be more effective and impactful as a leadership team. The church has several ministry committees - missions, hospitality, worship, education, and communications, as well as a Council on Ministries.

What we've found over the last year is that it isn't always possible to find people to serve on the committees. We have some ministry areas that aren't being addressed at all – family ministries, congregational care, and evangelism. In addition, we have a handful of people serving on multiple ministry teams and attending multiple meetings.

So, we decided to try something new in 2024:

Proposed changes:

- Combine the ministry teams into one Council on Ministries (COM). The ministry teams listed above would be combined to form the Council on Ministries
- The COM would meet once each month instead of every other month.
- The COM meeting would become the main conduit for visioning, planning events and activities, sharing ideas and outreach.
- The COM would be expanded to include all the committee members from the representative ministry teams, instead of just committee chairs. Members of the congregation are also welcome to come and provide input

Timeline: The first meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2024, at 6:30.

Benefits of New Structure:

- Reduce the number of meetings the various committee members need to attend. It's especially beneficial for those serving on more than one ministry committee.
- Facilitates and supports communication and collaboration across ministry areas.
- Offers opportunities for more voices to impact the activities and events of the church.
- Offers opportunities for visioning and discerning God's direction for the church.
- Offers an opportunity for the congregation to participate in the conversation and planning as COM meetings could be opened to all who would like to attend.

The administrative committees - finance, staff parish relations, trustees and nominations would continue to meet separately as they currently do.

We see this new structure as a way for the church to organize for ministry in a way that will help us focus on the future that God has for us. Because it's new, we expect there will be questions and suggestions, so don't hesitate to share your thoughts with Jeff Freel at rajifreel@prairienet.net or 515-770-7784 or Pastor Joyce at revjlwebb76@gmail.com or 515-480-8457.



A THANK YOU FROM PASTOR JOYCE!

Thank you so much for the Christmas cards and gifts! I am truly blessed to be your pastor and I'm looking forward to where God will lead us in the year to come.

Pastor Joyce



Dinner Day Hosts Needed

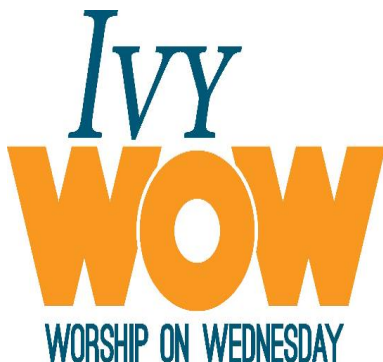
Dinner Day at Centennial UMC is a long-standing tradition of food and fellowship. As we begin a new year, we are still looking for a few hosts. Grab a few family members or friends and sign up to host in 2024. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in back of the sanctuary.



Winter Clothing Update and Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks. Donated items were taken to Families Forward (Bidwell Riverside). We did great! Altogether we collected more than 100 articles of winter clothing.

Adult Coats – 4	Kid's Coats – 5
Adult Jackets – 4	Kids Hats – 12
Adults Hats – 12	Kids Mittens – 21 pairs
Adult Scarves – 4	Kids Hat/Mitten Sets – 6
Adult Socks – 21 pairs	Kids Socks – 20 pairs



Worship on Wednesday (WOW)

We will meet at 5:30 for a meal followed by a time of learning and will end our time together with a short, contemporary worship at 7:00.

You are invited to come for any or all of the evening's activities. *If you read the Pastor's article, you will notice that WOW offers opportunities for Faith, Fellowship and Flourishing.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1. David & Sherry Burrier	2. Mitch Purcell Jennifer & Gary Fischer Jerry & Teri Weeks	3. Carol Briggs	4.	5. Saundra Stuart Bryan Tingley	6. Nancy & Ed Myers
7. Jerry Peck	8. David Tomlin	9.	10. Jan & Rex Adair	11.	12. Nancy Myers	13. Tim & Jennifer Morgan
14.	15.	16. Terry & Linda Howard	17. Amos Purcell MaKenslea McDuffy	18. Anna Behanish Lois Wignall	19. Pastor Gary Forster	20.
21.	22. Steve Shaver Jennifer Southcott	23. Kevin Day Gail & Darrell Long	24. Verna Bowie Neal Griffiths	25. Gabe Fetters	26.	27. Terry Howard Ilisha Martin
28. Libby Hiatt David Johnston	29.	30.	31. Cole Heitman Bob & Phyllis Kujac			



Thursday	1/4	Ivy's Women's Fellowship	1:00 pm
Sunday	1/7	Dinner Day	11:30 am
Saturday	1/13	Men's Group	9:00 am
Monday	1/22	Council on Ministries	6:30 pm

