



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

JANUARY 2025

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOYCE

As we begin a new year, I want to share some words from a devotional called *God Calling* that was written by two women living in England in the 1930's. They felt called to meet together every evening for prayer, and in their time of prayer, they sensed Jesus talking to them. They recorded what they heard Jesus saying to them. This is the entry for January 1st:

I stand between the years. The light of My Presence is flung across the year to come...Backward, over the past year, is My Shadow thrown, hiding trouble and sorrow and disappointment. Dwell not on the past – only on the present...Bury every fear of the future. I hold the year in My Hands – in trust for you. But I shall guide you one day at a time...and for each day I shall supply the wisdom and the strength.

Friends, we stand at the edge of a brand-new year, with all of its possibilities and opportunities. We don't know what the future holds in this next year, but we worship a God who does.

My prayer for you and your family, that you would let go of the challenges and disappointments of 2024. Be hopeful and hope-filled as you trust God to lead you into the year ahead.

Blessings,

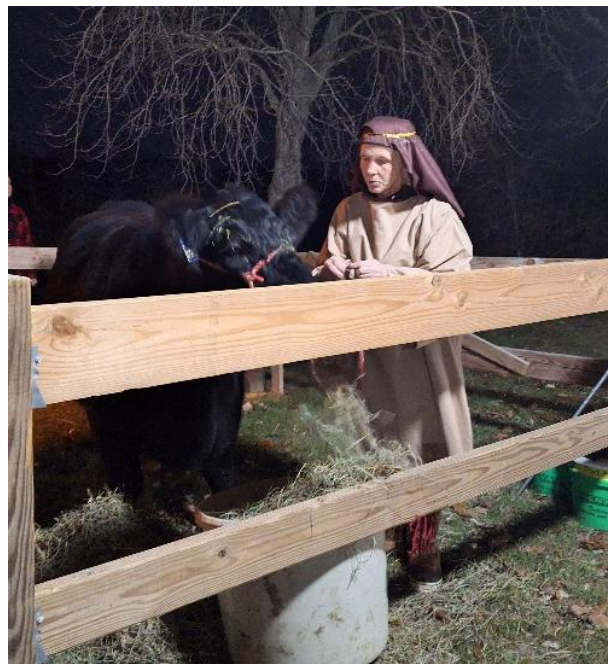
Pastor Joyce

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

December was a busy month for the church. Thank you to everyone who played a part in planning, decorating, providing food, wrangling kids and animals. Check out the pictures below!

Live Nativity

On December 7th, the church did its annual Live Nativity. Lots of visitors stopped by to check out the scene and dropped by the fellowship hall to enjoy some cocoa, cider and cookies. This year we also had special music in the fellowship hall. Local vocalist Tammy Edwards blessed us with some Christmas music.



KID'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On the 22nd the children had their Christmas program during the worship service. There was special music by the kid's bell choir, and a retelling of the Christmas story. After the service, Santa paid a visit, treat bags were handed out to young and old, and we shared birthday cake for Jesus in the fellowship hall.



ADOPTED FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This year, the church's adopted family was a single mom and her five children. Thank you to everyone who took a star (or two or three) to make sure our family had a merry Christmas. As you can see by the picture, there will be a lot of gifts under the tree this year. What a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus, with our neighbors!



JANUARY 2025 SOUPER BOWL MISSION PROJECT

During the month of January, we'll be collecting donations of canned soup for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. There's nothing like enjoying a nice, warm bowl of soup, especially during the cold winter months. So between now and February 9th, let's see how many cans of soup we can collect for our neighbors. Last year we collected 246, let's see if we can beat that in 2025!



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9THTH 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Everyone is invited to wear their favorite team football jersey.

We'll celebrate the results of our canned soup drive.

Enjoy a time of worship, followed by a soup lunch and our favorite tailgate foods.

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 9th, the second Sunday instead of the first Sunday. Delicious soups will be provided as the main course, so bring your favorite tailgate food to share.

There are still several openings for Dinner Day hosts in 2025. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in back of the sanctuary and then grab a few family members or friends to help host a dinner day.



CONFIRMATION CLASS WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY

Pastor Joyce will be offering a confirmation class beginning in January. We are still working out meeting days and times. If you have a young person 6th grade or older who would like to be part of the class, please call or text Pastor Joyce at (515) 480-8457 or e-mail her at revjlwebb76@gmail.com

**Administrative
Council**



PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NOT HAVE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OR COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES MEETINGS IN JANUARY.



PASTOR JOYCE ON VACATION

Pastor Joyce will be taking some time off December 26th through January 3rd. If you have a pastoral care emergency, please contact Pastor Teri Weeks at the Mitchellville UMC. She can be reached at (515) 639-6070.



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

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

Family of Doris Heaberlin
Barb Sharp
Judy Fiene
Karla Heaberlin
Barb Bolt
Moe Gilkison



The family of Doris is so very thankful to our church members that decorated Centennial's sanctuary so beautifully. We received many compliments from those that came to her visitation Sunday evening and her service on Monday morning.

A special thank you for Leslee & Gary Lynch, Mike & Mary Ferguson, Judy & Butch Weeks, Gail & Tom Gish, Jennifer and Olivia Fischer, Jill Craven, Joy Warner & Judy Hemingson for providing the goodies during the visitation and serving the luncheon after the service.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

**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	\$10,238.00	\$8,401.26	\$8,679.97	\$10,568.68
December		\$11,510.84	\$7,552.26	\$10,477.42
Total Offerings	\$87,954.07	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03	\$118,346.68
Government Paycheck Protection Program				\$20,177.00
Iowa Conference Assistance Program				\$4,300.98
Total Offerings & Programs	\$87,954.07	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66

2024 Average Monthly Offerings \$7,995.82
 2024 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,945.33
 2024 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget (\$949.51)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of November 30th, we have collected \$2,117.59 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

