



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

January 2026



As we enter this new year, we also step into something extraordinary: the 150th anniversary of our church. One hundred and fifty years of worship, witness, laughter, tears, baptisms, funerals, potlucks, prayers, and countless acts of quiet faithfulness. One hundred and fifty years of God's people gathering in this place, listening for the Spirit's voice, and doing their best to follow Christ's call.

Anniversaries like this are more than numbers. They are mile markers on a long and beautiful road. When travelers reach a milestone, they pause—not to stop the journey, but to remember how far they've come and to look ahead at what is yet to come.

As we begin this anniversary year, I invite you to reflect on three movements of gratitude and hope:

## **First, Remember Our Roots**

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us—founders who dreamed boldly, teachers who shaped faith, servants who gave generously, and saints who prayed us through seasons we never saw. Their legacy is not a museum piece; it is a living foundation.

## **Second, Celebrate the Present**

God is still at work here. In our worship, in our outreach, in our friendships, in our shared desire and need to grow in Christ. We are creating a legacy that future generations will remember.

## **Finally, Imagine the Next Chapter**

Anniversaries are not endpoints. They are invitations to look to the future. What will our church look like in the next 10, 25, or 50 years? How will we continue to be a place of welcome, compassion, and courageous faith? What new ministries might be born because we dared to dream again?

My prayer is that this 150th year becomes a season of *deep gratitude, joyful celebration, and renewed commitment*. May we honor the past not by preserving it unchanged, but by carrying its spirit forward—faithful, hopeful, and ready for whatever God is preparing next.

I am grateful to walk into this milestone year with you. May God guide our steps as we continue the story together.

With hope and joy,

*Pastor Joyce*



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for our Christmas family this year.

This year's adoptive family included twin 8-year-old boys, a 1-year-old girl and a newborn baby boy. You all helped make this a very joyful Christmas for this family.



## SPAGHETTI SUPPER JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Join the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team for a Spaghetti Supper. The menu includes spaghetti with meat sauce or meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and drinks. There will be a free-will donation.

To help in the planning, the committee is requesting an RSVP. You can use the sign-up sheet on the sign-up table in the narthex, or you can email Jill Craven at [jill@starstruckiowa.com](mailto:jill@starstruckiowa.com).

There is also a sign-up sheet for people to help by bringing a dessert, helping set-up, serve or clean-up.



## JANUARY 2026 MISSION PROJECT CANNED SOUP DRIVE CARING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

January 4<sup>th</sup> – February 8<sup>th</sup>, we will collect canned soup for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday with a tailgate party.

In 2025 we collected 333 cans of soup. Let's see if we can beat last year's number.



### **2026 DINNER DAY SIGN-UP**

Over the years we have depended on members of the congregation to take turns hosting the meal. We still have opportunities available to host the meal, including January 4<sup>th</sup>. 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. Let's see if we can get the rest of the slots filled. If you have any questions or if you would like to sign-up please get in touch with Mary Ferguson (515) 975-0586.

**Please note that the February Dinner Day will be Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. We'll celebrate our own Souper Bowl with a tailgate party!**



### **CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM ADALINE MARY BEHANISH**

This little cutie was baptized on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Addy's parents are Chad Behanish and Mindy Martin, sister Anna Behanish and grandmother LeeAnn Martin.

What a joy to celebrate Addy's baptism with her family and the Ivy Centennial congregation. We look forward to watching her grow in her faith.



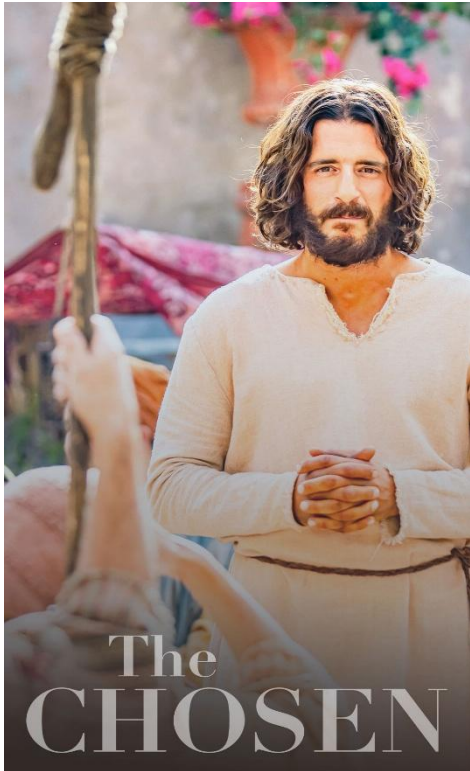
### **Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am**

The women's group will meet on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Small groups are a great way to get to know others in the church. They also provide opportunities to grow and learn more about your faith.



### **THE CHOSEN SMALL GROUP RESUMES**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> 9:15 – 10:15**

After taking a break through the Advent season, the Sunday group will begin again with season 4, episode 6.

This group watches an episode from *The Chosen*, a television series on the life and ministry of Jesus followed by a discussion time. Come and check it out. It's an easy way to plug into a small group.

### **NOOMA BEGINS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> 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 a collection of short films that explores our world from the perspective of Jesus. It's 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.



NOOMA

# USHERS



## USHERS FOR JANUARY

- 4th: Missy Shaver and Gaylen Heaberlin  
11th: Amy and Jason Ferguson  
18th: Gaylen Heaberlin and Ken Sharp  
25th: Jill Craven and Joy Warner



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](mailto:revjlwebb76@gmail.com)

LaDonna Morse	Matthew Myers
Bev McGriff	John Bowie
Jeff Olgren	Nancy Day
Barb Bolt	Karla Heaberlin
Donna Gustafson and La Casa de Esperanza	
Caring Hands Food Pantry	

Save  
the  
Date

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

**Sundays 9:15-10:15 am *The Chosen* Small Group (resumes 1/4)**

**Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30 pm *Nooma* Small Group (begins 1/7)**

Saturday 1/24 5:00 – 6:30 Spaghetti Supper

Tuesday 2/17 TBD Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday 2/18 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 7/12/2026 150<sup>th</sup> 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	\$14,126.75	\$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	\$10,162.00	\$10,238.00	\$8,401.26	\$8,679.97
December		\$7,479.63	\$11,510.84	\$7,552.26
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$76,364.14</b>	<b>\$95,433.70</b>	<b>\$105,690.91</b>	<b>\$110,724.03</b>

**2025 Average Monthly Offerings** \$6,942.19  
**2025 Average Required Monthly for Budget** \$8,766.33  
**2025 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget** (\$1,824.14)

**This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of November 30th, we have collected \$1,535.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.**

**Joy Warner, Financial Secretary**



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(515) 480-8457

**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):** Joy Warner [yoj8893@gmail.com](mailto:yoj8893@gmail.com)