



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

July 2023

*Faith is not  
believing that God can,  
it's knowing that He will.*

## **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:**

There's a television program called *American Ninja Warrior*. In this program, an obstacle course is set up. The obstacles test balance, strength and jumping ability to see which ninja can finish the course with the fastest time.

I read a devotional recently that described discipleship (being a follower of Jesus and growing to be more like Jesus) as an obstacle race. It suggested that discipleship isn't always easy because it's countercultural. It calls us to be different from the world around us. There are obstacles - things that can get in our way. Most obstacles involve the choice we make. Do I take time to read my Bible and pray or get started on my to-do list? Do I go to church or stay home? Do I risk helping someone else, or just play it safe and hope someone else will do it? These are just a few examples, I'm sure you can think of a few more things that get in your way. The choices we make and our ability to navigate the obstacles will determine how well we run the discipleship race.

The challenge is that discipleship is a race we were never meant to do on our own. It was always meant to be done in community. We need one another for support. When we struggle, we have others to lean on. When we fall down, we have friends to pick us up. When we have questions, we have people to ask. When we wander off course, we have traveling companions to get us back on the right path.

So, are you ready to be a discipleship ninja? Start your "training" with some faith exercises - like making a commitment to come to church or spending time reading your Bible or praying daily. Then, lean on others to help you grow in your "skills."

Let's get after this together.

Blessings,

*Pastor Joyce*

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. (Hebrews 12:1)*

# 2023 Meals from the Heartland Mission Event

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, sixteen youth and adults from Centennial UMC volunteered at Meals from the Heartland. Working with a group from another church, we packed 83 boxes of nutritious meals in a two-hour period of time. A big thank you to everyone who showed up to represent Centennial UMC. Thanks also to Brooke Person for coordinating the event.



Centennial Youth Group "Rocking their hairnets!"



Hard at work!



## KIDS NIGHT OUT

On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Centennial hosted a Kid's Night Out (or Parent's Night Off depending how you look at it). Kid's Night Out was sponsored by the Education Committee to replace the traditional vacation Bible school. As part of our time together, the kids enjoyed walking tacos, followed by a story time, games, a craft and a Super Book Bible video. Thank you to all the adults and youth, who helped out with the various activities.



## Heifer International Results

During May and June, Centennial collected donations for Heifer International. The goal was to raise \$500. We don't have the final tally yet, but as of mid-June, we had raised more than \$700. The great thing is that Heifer International had a big donor commit to a 10 times match for gifts received. That means the church's gift to Heifer becomes more than \$7,000. That's a lot of chickens, bees, sheep, goats, and cows. Way to go Ivy Centennial UMC!

# *JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1.
2. Bob Johnston	3.	4. Jeff Heaberlin	5. Sheryll Skidmore Grace Stout	6. Nancy Day Stan Mauritz Brad Morse	7. Rev. Dani Musselman & Erik Hall	8.
9. Moe Gilkison	10.	11. Holly Adey Mindy Britt Tyke Remster	12.	13.	14.	15. Larry Palmer
16. Jeff & Rosemary Freel	17.	18. Marci Martin	19. Bill Hansen Kari Wilkins	20.	21.	22.
23. Bonnie Altes Kensington Hermann	24. Josh Lampkin	25.	26.	27.	28.	29. Pam Sanders Laura & Todd Hiatt
30.	31.					



### Wednesdays

Sunday 7/2  
 Wednesday 7/5  
 Saturday 7/15  
 Thursday 7/20  
 Wednesday 8/2

### 5:30 pm

10:30 am  
 6:30 pm

### Summer Worship

Monthly Potluck  
 Council on Ministries Meets  
 Scholarship Applications Due  
 Steeple Items Due  
 Administrative Council Meets

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME**

	Offerings 2023	Offerings 2022	Offerings 2021	Offerings 2020
January	\$17,243.17	\$11,240.28	\$11,270.04	\$11,273.44
February	\$7,101.46	\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01	\$10,933.50
March	\$5,903.26	\$9,689.39	\$12,192.01	\$10,780.19
April	\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01	\$6,573.00
May	\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05	\$9,110.16
June		\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89	\$5,739.78
July		\$8,636.81	\$6,295.75	\$9,248.40
August		\$7,081.26	\$7,919.24	\$7,701.93
September		\$5,610.25	\$9,763.24	\$7,942.10
October		\$12,111.46	\$12,038.34	\$9,201.03
November		\$8,679.97	\$10,568.68	\$11,111.78
December		\$7,552.26	\$10,477.42	\$10,282.93
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$47,259.41</b>	<b>\$110,724.03</b>	<b>\$118,346.68</b>	<b>\$109,898.24</b>
Government Paycheck Protection Program			\$20,177.00	\$20,232.00
Iowa Conference Assistance Program			\$4,300.98	\$9,201.00
<b>Total Offerings &amp; Programs</b>	<b>\$47,259.41</b>	<b>\$110,724.03</b>	<b>\$142,824.66</b>	<b>\$139,331.24</b>

2023 Average Monthly Offerings                   \$9,451.88  
 2023 Average Required Monthly for Budget       \$8,750.00  
 2023 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget       \$701.88

As of May 31st, we have collected \$933.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, food pantry or mission project donations.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary



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**Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins):** Amy Ferguson [anbscorbin@gmail.com](mailto:anbscorbin@gmail.com) 515-402-6056  
**Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving):** Joy Warner [voj8893@gmail.com](mailto:voj8893@gmail.com)



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## CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



*Visit our website at [ivycentennial.org](http://ivycentennial.org) to see Pastor Joyce's Sermons, Committee and Event information and Church updates.*