



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

March 2021



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:

One year ago, on March 15, more than 60 of us gathered in the church sanctuary for worship. It was the last time we worshipped together inside the sanctuary without masks, without social distancing guidelines, and without knowing anyone who had died from COVID-19. The terms *global pandemic*, *physical distancing*, *quarantine*, and *unprecedented* were not part of our everyday vocabulary.

On March 15th, though, many of us gathered like it was a regular Sunday. But it wasn't. It was the last time we would be together before this global pandemic. It was the last time we would worship together until eleven months later when a small group of us gathered for the first indoor worship in February 2021. And perhaps more importantly, it was a day of celebration for the Maxwell-Bowie family as we baptized Afton James Maxwell, who was only one month old at the time!

On that day, reciting from the hymnal, we declared that we would nurture and surround Afton with love and forgiveness as her church family. Together we said we would pray for her, witness her growth, and help her live according to the example of Christ. It's what we say to all people baptized in our beautiful & historic church. You said it to Afton's sister Oakley a few years before and to many others who have entered the doors of Centennial.



I invite you to take a look at these pictures of Afton. I know many of us haven't been able to see her sweet face since last March due to the pandemic but look at how much she has changed since her baptism. She's grown so much: her hair is longer, her eyes are wider and browner, and she has a wide smile that lights up any room. It's been an entire year since she was baptized and so much has changed in her life. And yet we, as a church, commit to the very same things we committed to on March 15. Even though she has changed so much, we are *still* committed to nurturing and surrounding her with love and forgiveness. We will continue to pray for her, watch her grow and change and, with God's help, encourage her to live according to the example of Christ.

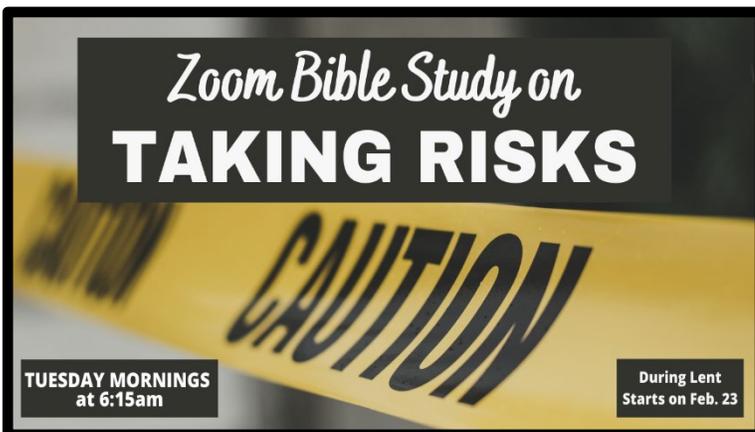
In the coming years, Afton will also teach us how to live according to the example of Christ, as the world's youth continues modeling for us how to be kinder and more compassionate neighbors. Children and youth teach us, through their love, how to be better disciples of Jesus Christ from their softness that hasn't turned yet into the hard edges that prevent us from loving abundantly and without exception.

The many changes in Afton's life over the past year illustrate how in this last year, we have *all* changed. When the same group of us that were present for Afton's baptism return to in-person worship, we will not be the same people. It's inevitable. It's been a lonnnnnng year that caused us to focus more on survival than perhaps we ever have. We have had to rely more on each other in new ways and we are not the same people that we were on March 15, 2020 when we gathered for worship.

And maybe that's ok. It's ok that we changed. We had to, in order to survive and provide for ourselves and our families this year.

But our commitment stays the same. Even as changed people, we continue to commit ourselves to nurturing and surrounding one another in love and forgiveness and understanding. We continue to pray for each other, watch each other change and grow, and help one another live according to the example of Christ. I'm convinced that there may not be any work better in this world than the work of surrounding each other in love, through every change and trial we encounter. Thanks be to God.

Love, Pastor Dani



Join Pastor Dani every Tuesday morning at 6:15am during Lent as we consider how Christ calls us, his disciples to take risks for the sake of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Each Tuesday, we'll read stories from the gospels and consider how Jesus calls his own disciples to take risks while he too risks it all on his journey to the cross. Jesus risks his reputation, rejection, the loss of friends, temptation, and more throughout his journey to the cross.

During Lent this year, I invite you to consider with me: What do I stand for? What do I believe in? What am I willing to risk for my beliefs?

Click this Zoom link every Tuesday to join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85390289473>

The Bible Study will meet for no longer than an hour and will occur every Tuesday morning from Feb 23 - Mar 30. No book purchase is needed. Biblical text will be provided, but you're invited to come to the online class with your own Bible.



Among the long list of words to describe 2020, UNCERTAIN makes an appearance. We encountered many surprising and challenging endeavors throughout the last year and the Bible has a lot to say about uncertainty in the midst of faith.

During Lent this year, we'll consider in worship how God in Christ calls us to embrace the uncertain as disciples on a journey of holy and gentle love.

Join us each Sunday morning at 10:30am to consider how we embrace the uncertainties of our world and our faith.



RISE & SHINE

March-April Missions Focus

Please donate breakfast food items
in March & April to support
Caring Hands Food Pantry



pancake mix
fruits
jelly
coffee
bread
muffins
& more



Thank a soldier

**Chris Lehn, Allison Lehn's husband,
has been serving over seas for our country since
September 2020.**

**We want to let him know we are thinking of him &
that we are thankful for his service.**

**Leave your letters/drawings in the basket in the
Fellowship Hall before March 15 & we will send one
package full of our Ivy love!**



SAVE THE DATE!

Ensure hope for women, children & youth on
Day of Giving, March 23, 2021



United
Methodist
Women

Help us honor our foremothers by giving to the
Legacy Endowment Fund to ensure
United Methodist Women
can continue serving women, children & youth
around the world for the next 150 years.

Generous donors have agreed to match gifts received
for Day of Giving!

Donate online at unitedmethodistwomen.org/150 or by phone: 800-278-7771



Worship Schedule Holy Week 2021

Palm Sunday | March 28 | Worship at 10:30a
WOW | March 31 | Worship at 7:00p
Maundy Thursday | April 1 | Worship at 7:00p
Good Friday | April 2 | prayer vigil from 8a-5p
Holy Saturday | April 3 | easter egg hunt TBD
Easter Sunday | April 4 | Youth Sunrise Service
& Worship at 10:30a



HYMN SING IS BACK! (SORT OF!)

Do you have favorite hymns you haven't sung in a year?
Write down your favorite hymns and put them in the "HYMN SING"
basket in the church narthex.

Each week, Pastor Dani will randomly pick two hymns from the HYMN
SING basket and include them the following week in our worship bulletin.

If you are unable to write down your favorite hymns, send them via mail
and we'll add them to the basket for you.

Centennial UMC at Ivy PO Box 624 Altoona, IA 50009

We now offer worship inside our sanctuary with guidelines to help keep us safe.
Please read below before attending worship in our sanctuary.



A caring family of disciples
who **know Christ** and
make Christ known in our
community and around the world.



In order to safely re-enter the building for worship, we have multiple regulations that we must all take seriously in an effort to keep us safe and healthy. See below for a list of regulations and restrictions as we begin indoor worship soon. We hope you'll join us with a mask & a willingness to experiment together.

INDOOR WORSHIP & SANCTUARY SEATING GUIDELINES:

- Do not attend any in-person meeting or gathering if you do not feel well or have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Capacity for the sanctuary is set currently at 36 participants for safety reasons. This number is difficult to define and is somewhat flexible as families are welcome to sit together, but folks who are not related to each other must sit 6-feet apart.
- Like the rest of the building, masks are required in the sanctuary until further notice. Hand sanitizer will be made available for you before and after the service.
- Ushers will greet you at the door before you enter the church building. Ushers will hand you a bulletin and assist you in finding the best place to sit that is distanced from those you are not related to.
- If we reach capacity in the sanctuary, we will then seat folks distanced in the narthex. If the narthex reaches capacity, then we will use seating in the fellowship hall where folks can watch the service on the TV and hear it through the radio that we will provide. Folks are welcome to continue worshipping in their cars (tune your radio to 88.5 to worship along with us), or online.
- Every other pew is marked as not occupiable, beginning with the first row of each aisle. Please abide by these restrictions when you enter the sanctuary by sitting only in rows that are not marked off by tape or ribbon.
- Non-family members in the same pew need to sit physically distanced from the other. The CDC recommends 6 ft. Two or three individuals could sit distanced in the same pew. Again, an usher will assist you.
- Ushers will also dismiss families and individuals at the end of the service. Please do not get up to leave without an usher dismissing you. This helps us keep everyone moving safely and reminds us all that we cannot gather indoors for fellowship after service. Please feel free to chat with one another at a safe distance outdoors after the service.
- Online worship will continue to be made available every week. Our website, ivycentennial.org has all worship links in the "Sermon Videos" tab.
- We will also continue to worship through the radio. So, if you'd like to join us, while staying in the safety of your car, you can join us on Sunday mornings by parking in our parking lot by 10:30am and tuning your radio to 88.5 FM.

INDOOR MEETING GUIDELINES AT IVY:

- Do not attend any in-person meeting or gathering if you do not feel well or have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Masks are required at all gatherings at Ivy until further notice. Masks are located in the church narthex if you need one anytime that you are at the church.
- Check the church calendar before scheduling a meeting to ensure availability. Our church calendar can be found on our website: ivycentennial.org.
- To post your meeting on our church calendar, please email Jeff Freel or Pastor Dani.
- jrajfreel@prairieinet.net
- pastordanim@gmail.com
- Please provide an opportunity for meeting attendees to access your scheduled meeting via Zoom or another online meeting format even when meeting in-person at the church. Ask Pastor Dani if you need help setting up a Zoom meeting ahead of time.
- Write down names and contact information of each person who attends your in-person meeting or gathering in case someone from the meeting is later diagnosed with COVID 19 and all who attended need to be notified.
- Please do not share food or drinks in the church building. If you'd like to have food at your meeting, please encourage everyone to bring their own.
- Physical distancing is required at all gatherings and meetings.
- Please wipe down all objects (chairs, tables, etc.) after the conclusion of your meeting. Each meeting space has its own container of cleaning wipes for your use.
- Capacity limits have been identified for each room and meeting space at the church. The capacity limits are posted on the door of each room. Please abide by these capacity limits.
- Fellowship Hall: 30 (no more than 3 chairs to a table)
- Sanctuary: 36
- Upstairs kitchen: 4
- Library: 4
- Downstairs kitchen: 4
- Nursery: 10
- Sunday School Room 1: 4
- Sunday School Room 2: 12
- Youth Room: 15
- Narthex: 0. The narthex cannot be used for gathering until further notice.

Please only use the narthex as you are on your way to and from the sanctuary.

Thank you for your help & understanding in following these guidelines!

UMW:

Centennial United Methodist Women met Feb. 11 at 1:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Seven members were present. The January Scripture, Psalm 136:1 and the February Scripture, Mark 31 were read.

March 23rd has been declared a Day of Giving to the Legacy Fund Endowment campaign. The group will serve the Caring Hands Simple Supper on April 26th at Adventure-Life Reformed Church in Altoona. Discussion was held as to the menu.

At the March 25th meeting, the group will prepare love boxes in the form of Easter baskets for 11 shut ins. The group sent generous monetary gifts at Christmas to Bidwell Riverside Center and Hawthorn Hill in Des Moines and Shesler Hall in Sioux City and received heartfelt thank you in return for the gifts. Members are to bring the Blessing Jars they received last March to the March meeting. This will culminate a yearlong project focusing on the blessings they received during the year.



IN NEED OF A NEW BOOK TO READ? THERE ARE TWO EXCEPTIONAL NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY TO CONSIDER.

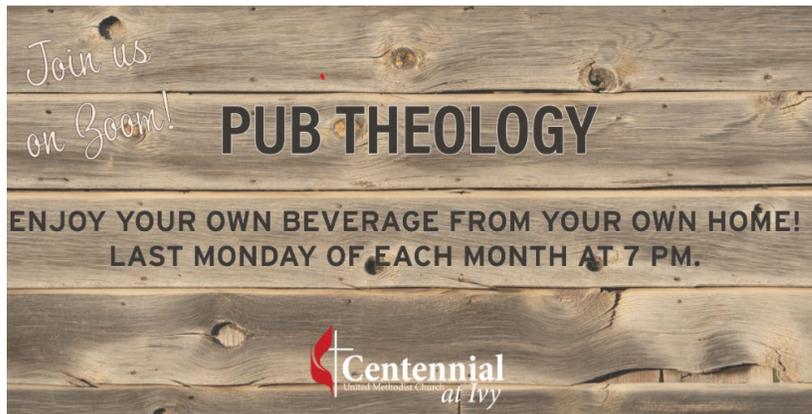
Whether you are an Iowa State fan or an Iowa fan, you might be interested in reading "Football's Fallen Hero- The Jack Trice Story" by Steven Jones. It is a true story of Iowa State's first black athlete, Jack Trice. It relates Trice's time at Iowa State College in Ames through the day he died from injuries sustained during a football game against the Minnesota Gophers on Oct. 6, 1923. Years went by and Trice was forgotten. Then in 1973, there was a renewed interest in him and in 1997,

after a twenty-five-year struggle, Iowa State University dedicated Jack Trice Stadium in honor of the man who was expected to do big things.

"My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life: the honor of my race, family and self is at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will." - Jack Trice

Another new book that can be found in the church library is *Everybody Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People* by Bob Goff. The book was the basis of Pastor Dani's message on January 10th.

This book is a simple life statement. We were created to love everybody, always. This includes those who are hard to love and even those we are afraid of. We find it a little (or even a lot) creepy. The author shares his own stories of simple ways to love others.



We'll have another **Virtual Pub Theology on Monday, March 29th at 7pm** and I hope y'all can join us! If you haven't joined us before, Virtual Pub Theology is a space where we gather on Zoom to discuss a current event (or multiple current events) and its connection to our Christian faith while enjoying an adult beverage from the safety of your home.

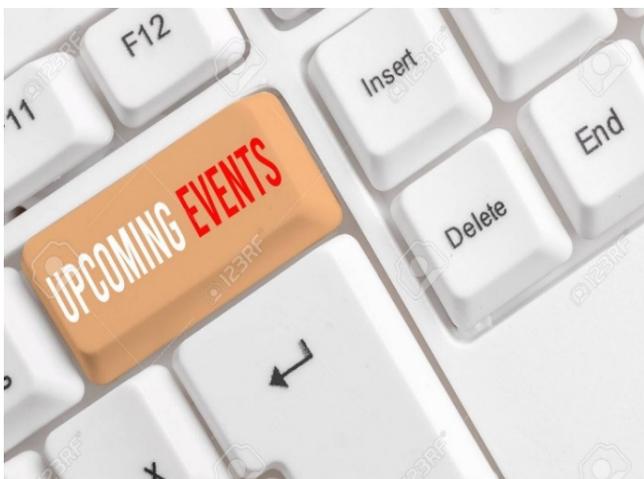
You can read a bit ahead of time about what we'll be discussing this week by reading the attached document. We'll plan to reflect on the power of words and the events from January 6th at the United States Capitol. I hope you'll join us from the safety of your home with a delicious beverage in hand.

Join our Zoom conversation on Monday evening at 7pm here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86484859977>

You can find our discussion topics attached to this email. Feel free to forward this link or email on to others who might be interested in joining us, too. [And visit our website by clicking here if you want to read some of the articles we've read and discussed in the past few months.](#)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Evan Fischer	2 Brad Geisenhoff	3 Jary Bowie Khloe Geisenhoff	4 Megan Dereus Gaylen Heaberlin	5 Jake Shaver	6 Colin Britt Irene Dewey Edie Musgrave
7	8	9 Gunnar Methlie	10 Maggie Stout	11 Peggy Hennigar Todd Owens	12	13 Lisa Day
14 Darin & Mitzi Wood	15	16	17 Barb Sharp Gary & Leslee Lynch	18	19 Carissa Bowie Lainey King Ardean Williams	20
21 Larry & Laura McCrory	22 Jordan Graves Gary Lynch	23	24	25 Landan Fetters Madison Heaberlin Cathy Johnston	26 Joy Wieland	27 Peg Atzen Laura McCrory Jayme & Joseph Fry
28 Andrew Glann	29 Jeff Freel Emma Hackett	30 Heath Methlie	31			



Monday, March 1st – Council on Ministries @ 7:00 pm
 Tuesday, March 2nd – Communications @ 6:30 pm
 Thursday, March 4th – UMW @ 1:00 pm
 Thursday, March 16th – Finance @ 7:00 pm
 Wednesday, March 18th – UMW @ 12:00 pm
 Monday, March 29th – Pub Theology @ 7:00 pm

WoW (Virtual) – Every Wednesday during the month of March from 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Lent Bible Study – Every Tuesday during the month of March at 6:15 am via Zoom

**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
2021 ACTUAL GIVING VS 2020 ACTUAL GIVING**

	REQUIRED	SUNDAYS	TITHES	OTHER INC (Breeze Costs)	TOTAL	INCOME ONE YEAR AGO
JANUARY	\$12,369.00	5	\$12,636.87	\$19.95	\$12,616.92	\$12,090.11
FEBRUARY	\$12,368.00	4				\$11,750.17
MARCH	\$12,368.00	4				\$11,596.86
APRIL	\$12,368.00	4				\$ 7,389.67
MAY	\$12,369.00	5				\$30,158.83
JUNE	\$12,368.00	4				\$ 6,556.45
JULY	\$12,368.00	4				\$ 9,965.23
AUGUST	\$12,369.00	5				\$ 8,418.76
SEPTEMBER	\$12,368.00	4				\$ 8,658.93
OCTOBER	\$12,369.00	5				\$ 9,917.86
NOVEMBER	\$12,368.00	4				\$11,828.61
DECEMBER	\$12,368.00	4				\$10,999.76
2020 BUDGET	\$148,420.00		\$12,636.87	(\$19.95)	\$12,616.92	\$139,331.24
	52 Sundays in 2021				Actual:	8.5%
					Required to meet budget:	8.33%

As of February 14th, Centennial has collected \$295 for Caring Hands Food Pantry. Let's keep it up!!

Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary



Pastor: Dani Musselman pastordanim@gmail.com

Trustees: Ardean Williams 515-967-4189

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): Gaylene Heaberlin 515-967-2016



Centennial United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 624 Altoona, IA 50009

CHURCH LIBRARY

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



Contact us at:

**Visit our website at ivycentennial.org to see
Committee and Event information and Church updates.**

Visit us on Facebook at Centennial at Ivy United Methodist Church Visit us on

Instagram at [centennial_ivy](https://www.instagram.com/centennial_ivy)

Or on our website at IvyCentennial.org