



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

March 2023



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:

Spring is almost here! Although with the recent cold and snow, it may not seem like it. In Iowa, the change of seasons is always something to look forward to.

For many people, spring is a time to clean house, both literally and figuratively. It's a time to "declutter" and get rid of the things that take up residence in our homes and in our lives. In John 2:13-22, we find Jesus doing a little "spring" cleaning in the temple. In a display of righteous anger, Jesus kicks out the merchants and money changers. They have turned God's house of prayer into a marketplace and are a hindrance to the true worship of God.

During this Lenten season, we also have an opportunity to do a little spring cleaning, to declutter and get rid of the things that keep us from truly worshiping God.

May your journey to the cross be a time for reflection and transformation. May the Holy Spirit work in and through you to reveal God's purpose for your life as you serve him. And may God help you to know the joy and celebration of following in the footsteps of Jesus, who came to give himself for us.

Be well and be blessed!

Pastor Joyce



EASTER EGG HUNT SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH

Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations Needed

The church will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th. You can help by donating small, individually wrapped candy (to fit inside the Easter Eggs). We expect to fill around 1,000 eggs this year. There will be a box in back of the sanctuary for you to put your donations in. We'll be collecting candy through the month of March. If you would rather, you can make a financial donation and we'll purchase the candy. Just write "Easter Egg Hunt" in the memo section of your check.

ORDER YOUR EASTER LILYS!

There are order slips at the church if anyone would like to order an Easter Lily. All orders are due by March 26th. Cost of the Lily's are \$8.00
If you have any questions, please reach out to Evan Fischer



SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

The church will be offering scholarships to children and youth who want to attend church camp this summer. The church will pay half of the cost, using funds from the Pie and Cake auction and some designated memorial funds. If needed, additional funds are available from the Iowa Methodist Conference Camping program. If you know a child who might enjoy going to camp, please pick up a brochure and scholarship application. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ferguson (515) 975-0586 or Pastor Joyce (515) 480-8457.



SOMETHING NEW FOR THE KIDS!

We have established a hand bell choir for the kids. They have already had a chance to play for their families and the congregation. The bell choir is open to any child who wants to join in the fun. Notes correspond to the color of the bell, so no need to read music. If you have questions about the bells, please contact Mary Ferguson



YOUTH SUNDAY THANK YOU!

Thank you to the church's youth for leading worship on February 19th. They did an outstanding job. Thanks also to Allison Lehn and Simon Meister for providing great leadership for our youth. Finally, thank you to education committee members and parents who helped the youth make and serve walking tacos. We are blessed!

A graphic with the words "Thank You!" written in a white, cursive font on a dark blue background.



SOUPER BOWL SOUP COLLECTION FINAL RESULTS

A BIG Thank You to everyone who brought in soup for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. TOGETHER we collected 200 cans of soup. More than four times last year's number. When we all work together, we can accomplish big things for God.



Schedule of Events

Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm
*Friday, April 7 - Good Friday Service 5:30 pm
Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am
Easter Celebration Service 10:30 am

*On Good Friday, the church will be open from 4:00 to 7:00 for prayer. From 5:30 to 6:00, there will be a short Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary.



Lenten Study – *Why Easter Matters*
Sunday's 9:15 am - Fellowship Hall
Wednesday's 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall

Lent is a 40-day journey to help us get ready for Easter. It's a time of self-examination and transformation. *Why Easter Matters* is a four-week video-based study that looks at some of the people whose lives intersected with Jesus in the weeks leading to his crucifixion. They

each had an agenda that was different from God's. But then there was a cross and a resurrection. In the study we'll talk about why the resurrection mattered then and still matters today.

We hope you'll join us on the journey to Easter on either Sunday mornings before church 9:15-10:15 or on Wednesdays, during WOW 6:00-7:00 pm. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Pastor Joyce – call or text (515) 480-8457.



DISASTER RELIEF FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA

Over the last few weeks, we have been watching news about the recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria after the earthquake. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already providing assistance. For those of you looking for a way to respond, the mission committee will be accepting donations to UMCOR on Sunday mornings through March 12th. Special offering envelopes are available. Or if you don't have an envelope, just write "earthquake relief" in the memo section of your check. Alternatively, you can go directly to the UMCOR website (umcor.org) and make an online donation. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbi Meister at (515) 979-1734.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH

Remember to set your clocks AHEAD before you go to bed on Saturday night

DISAFFILIATION Q & A SESSION, SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH 11:45 AM

Over the last several years, the United Methodist Church has wrestled with the issue of homosexuality. Specifically whether same sex marriages can be performed in church facilities and whether LGBTQ pastors can be ordained and appointed to United Methodist Churches. In Iowa, the bishop and cabinet made the decision to allow local churches to choose how church property can be used and whether the church will receive a pastor who identifies as LGBTQ.

It's a divisive and complex issue where people of deep faith have different views. In fact, some churches have made the decision to disaffiliate (leave) the United Methodist denomination.

We understand some people might have questions about the issues and the disaffiliation process. In order to address questions, we have scheduled a meeting for March 12th. For people who have questions, we will gather in the sanctuary at 11:45.

A few helpful notes:

1. The meeting is open to all congregation members, but is totally optional
2. This is a question-and-answer time, not a time to debate the issue
3. No vote will be taken.

If you would like to know more, you can go to the Iowa UM Conference website at iaumc.org and click on the Disaffiliation option. You can also contact Pastor Joyce.



Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 pm Worship on Wednesday (WOW)

Thursday	3/2	1:00 pm	Ivy Women's Fellowship
Sunday	3/5	11:30 am	Potluck Dinner
Wednesday	3/8	7:40 pm	Council on Ministries Meeting
Tuesday	3/7	6:30 pm	Education Meeting
Saturday	3/11	9:00 am	Men's Group
Sunday	3/12		Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday	3/12	11:45 am	Q&A Session on LGBTQ Issue and Disaffiliation
Wednesday	3/15	NO WOW	SEP spring break
Monday	3/20		Steeple Items Due
Tuesday	3/21	6:30 pm	Worship Meeting

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. Varah Haley Zuri Haley Darin & Mitzi Wood	15.	16.	17. Barb Sharp Gary & Leslee Lynch	18.
19. Carissa Bowie Lainey King Ardean Williams	20.	21. Larry & Laura McCrary	22. Jordan Graves Gary Lynch	23.	24.	25. Landan Fetters Madison Heaberlin Cathy Johnston
26. Joy Wieland	27. Laura McCrary Jayme & Joseph Fry	28. Andrew Glann	29. Jeff Freel Emma Hackett	30. Heath Methlie	31.	

**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		\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01	\$10,933.50
March		\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01	\$10,780.19
April		\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01	\$6,573.00
May		\$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
Total Offerings	\$17,243.17	\$110,724.03	\$118,346.68	\$109,898.24
Government Paycheck Protection Program			\$20,177.00	\$20,232.00
Iowa Conference Assistance Program			\$4,300.98	\$9,201.00
Total Offerings & Programs	\$17,243.17	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66	\$139,331.24

2023 Average Monthly Offerings \$17,243.17
 2023 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,750.00
 2023 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget \$8,493.17

As of January 31st, we have collected \$160.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, Caring Hands or mission project donations.

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