



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

MARCH 2024



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:

EVERYBODY INVITE SOMEBODY! This will be a theme during Lent this year. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus left us with a job to do. As he's ready to return to heaven, he said this to his disciples, ***19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.***

We often hear people lament that church attendance has declined. And it's true, it has declined. I wonder if part of the reason is that we aren't doing our job of going out and inviting people into a relationship with Jesus through the church. It could be that people aren't coming to church because they haven't been invited. This is important because statistics show that 80% of people attend a church because someone took the time to invite them.

With that in mind, during this Lenten/Easter season I want to challenge EVERYBODY to INVITE SOMEBODY to church. It doesn't have to be hard, just start with the people you know – family, friends, and neighbors. It could be someone new to the church, or someone who used to come, but stepped away because of COVID. Let them know you missed them, offer to pick them up and then sit with them.

One more thing. If they say "no" don't worry or get upset. Your ONLY job is to invite. You plant the seed and leave the rest to God.

EVERYBODY INVITE SOMEBODY! Let's get after this.

Blessings,
Pastor Joyce

HAPPY
Holy Week



HOLY WEEK / EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Service	3/24 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday Service	3/28 5:30 pm
Good Friday Service	3/29 5:30 pm
Easter Sunrise Service	3/31 7:00 am
Easter Breakfast	3/31 7:30 am
Easter Celebration Service	3/31 10:30 am

The Lenten season is a journey to the cross. As such, the church's Worship Committee, along with the Council on Ministries has decided to offer several worship experiences during Holy Week:

- The Palm Sunday service will feature special music by the children's bell choir and a palm parade.
- The Maundy Thursday service will take place in the fellowship hall (our Upper Room) and is designed to be an interactive service.
- The Good Friday service will include several monologues from witnesses to the event.

We hope you will try to make it to all of the services. The reason is simple, you can't fully experience an Easter resurrection without first going to the cross.

On Easter Sunday, the Sunrise service will be led by the Centennial Youth Group,. A breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt will follow the service. The 10:30 Celebration service will be a more traditional service with special music from the choir.



SOUPER BOWL CANNED SOUP DRIVE REPORT

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our soup drive. Our goal was to collect more than 200 cans of soup. This year, thanks to your generosity, we collected 246 cans of soup that will go to the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

LENTEN MISSIONS PROJECT - CARING HANDS

During Lent we will be collecting a monetary offering for Caring Hands. Typically the church collects non-perishable items (canned goods) for the food pantry. Money collected during Lent will be given to Caring Hands to purchase perishable food (meat, eggs, fresh fruits, and vegetables, etc.) If you would like to make an offering, please place your donations in the clear box on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Our goal during Lent is to raise at least \$500 for the pantry.



EASTER BREAKFAST DONATIONS

We are inviting members of the congregation to help provide items for the breakfast. We will be ordering breakfast pizzas, but would like to get donations of orange juice, chocolate milk, fresh fruit, and rolls or sweet breads. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in back of the sanctuary.



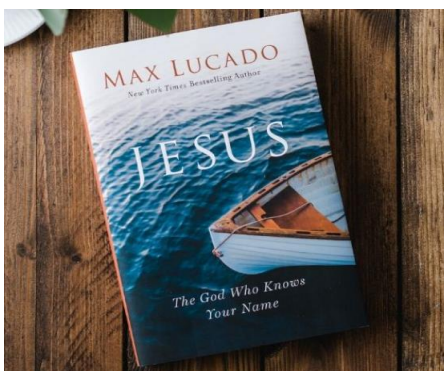
EASTER LILY ORDERS

As in past years, members of the congregation are invited to order an Easter Lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one(s). The cost will be \$9 per plant. Envelopes will be available to order your lily. Orders must be placed no later than Sunday, March 17th.



EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS

The church will hold an Easter Egg Hunt as a children's activity on Easter Sunday morning. Donations of plastic eggs and candy are welcome. The candy should be individually wrapped and small enough to fit into the eggs. Donations need to be received no later than Sunday, March 24th. Please place donations in the marked box in the back of the sanctuary.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT STUDY 6:00 – 7:00 PM

The adult group is doing a study called *Jesus, the God Who Knows Your Name*, by Max Lucado. The study celebrates the fact that we worship a God who is near to us, who knows us, and promises always to be with us. Dinner is served at 5:30, followed by the study time and a contemporary worship 7:00-7:30 pm. All are welcome to come for all or part of the evening.



SPRING FORWARD
Change your clocks

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10th. Don't forget to turn your clocks AHEAD one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

PRAYER LIST

Barb Bolt
Bob Johnston
Dee Johnston
Ardean Williams



Sunday	3/3	Dinner Day	11:30 am
Thursday	3/7	Ivy's Women's Fellowship	1:00 pm
Monday	3/18	Council of Ministries	6:30 pm
Thursday	3/28	Maundy Thursday Service	5:30 pm
Friday	3/29	Good Friday Service	5:30 pm
Sunday	3/31	Easter Sunrise Service	7:00 am
Sunday	3/31	Easter Breakfast	7:30 am
Sunday	3/31	Easter Service	10:30 am

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1. Evan Fischer	2. Brad Geisenhoff
3. Jary Bowie Khloe Geisenhoff Teri Weeks	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	26. Joy Wieland	27. Laura McCrary Jayme & Joseph Fry	28. Andrew Glann	29. Jeff Freel Emma Hackett	30. Adaline Behanish Heath Methlie
31.						

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		\$7,101.46	\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01
March		\$5,903.26	\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01
April		\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01
May		\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05
June		\$7,021.56	\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89
July		\$9,413.26	\$8,636.81	\$6,295.75
August		\$5,192.26	\$7,081.26	\$7,919.24
September		\$7,791.06	\$5,610.25	\$9,763.24
October		\$9,101.26	\$12,111.46	\$12,038.34
November		\$8,401.26	\$8,679.97	\$10,568.68
December		\$11,510.84	\$7,552.26	\$10,477.42
Total Offerings	\$9,670.48	\$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	\$9,670.48	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66

2024 Average Monthly Offerings \$9,670.48
 2024 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,945.33
 2024 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget \$725.15)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, food pantry or mission project donations. As of January 31st, we have collected \$50.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.
 Joy Warner, Financial Secretary



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