



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

MARCH 2025

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOYCE

Spring is coming! Of course, it's only in the single digits, with a below zero wind chill as I write this. But it won't be long, and the cold weather of winter will be behind us. We're also looking forward to another season. March 5th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a 40-day journey that gives us time to reflect on our lives as we prepare for the hope and joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Lent reminds us that none of us is perfect. We're all a work in progress as God continues to shape us into the people we were created to be. The first disciples were a lot like us...imperfect...and yet Jesus called them to follow him. During Lent we will be looking at Simon Peter, the fisherman turned apostle and later a leader in the early church. *Peter wasn't perfect, but he was faithful in his love and desire to follow Jesus.* In this sermon series, we'll look at the ways that Peter was transformed by his relationship with Jesus and the ways we are like Peter...flawed but striving to be faithful.

I would love to see you Wednesday, March 5th at 5:30 for our Ash Wednesday Service, as we begin the Lenten journey together.

Blessings,

Pastor Joyce

SOUPER BOWL MISSION RESULTS

We started this mission project with a goal of beating last year's 246 cans of soup. The final count was 333 cans of soup that Centennial UMC delivered to the Caring Hands Food Pantry. **Thank you to everyone who donated and to Ken Sharp for delivering the soup and other food items to our neighbors in need.**

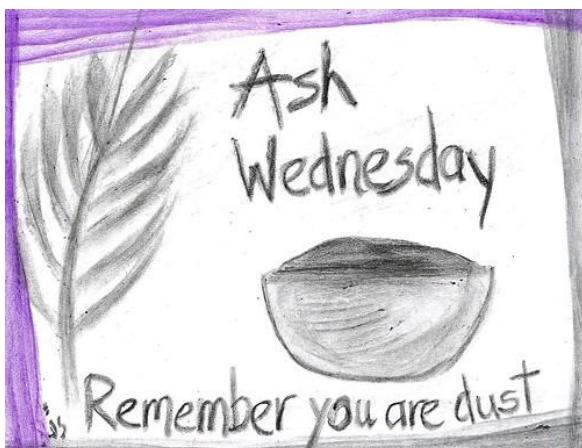


LENTEN MISSION PROJECT LA CASA DE ESPERANZA (HOUSE OF HOPE)

Beginning on March 9th and continuing through the season of Lent, Centennial UMC will collect financial donations for La Casa de Esperanza, a ministry that reaches out to indigenous people in the Amazon jungles of Peru. In the past, the church has contributed to local, state and national mission projects. La Casa de Esperanza is an international mission, started by Iowa native Donna Gustafson. It is a Christ centered residential home for girls who want to attend secondary school. God is blessing this ministry. Here is Donna's description of what is happening at La Casa de Esperanza and the needs:

The count for the school year beginning in March is now 21 new girls plus returning girls. What an explosion! Our first year started 3 years ago with 3 girls, the second year we had 6 girls and this year we had 8 girls. God will triple the number of girls next year! This will certainly mean we need to increase our budget for next year! The budget isn't the only thing that needs increased. We will also need to build new facilities to house girls because we are now at the point where we have to turn away girls that want to come to the Casa de Esperanza.

If you would like to know more, we will be doing a live video chat with Donna on Sunday, March 16th at 12:00 (after the fellowship time). You will be able to hear directly from Donna about this ministry. You'll also hear about how God has been blessing the ministry and have an opportunity to ask questions.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE MARCH 5TH AT 5:30 PM

Ivy Centennial will begin the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th. Ash Wednesday helps us to recognize our mortality and our need for a savior.

The service will last around 30 minutes and will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 9TH

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed. **YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR CHURCH!**



USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO REACH OUT

Most of you know that Centennial uses Facebook to share information about the church and to post videos of the worship services. It's one of the primary ways we reach out. You can help get the word out about Centennial UMC by liking and sharing our posts. If you aren't receiving posts from Ivy Centennial in your Facebook, you can go to the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CentennialUMCatIvy/> and do a friend request. This is a simple way for the church to grow its followers. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Pastor Joyce.



2025 SUMMER CHURCH CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN - Scholarships Are Available Through the Education Committee

Registration materials are available on the sign-up table in back of the sanctuary. There are several different camps to choose from at either Wesley Woods in Indianola, or at Lake Okoboji. There are overnight camps, as well as day camps. There are even camps for grandparents and grandchildren.

If cost is a concern, there are scholarship funds available. We want to make sure any child who wants to go to camp can go. If you would like to make a donation to the Iowa UM Camping program, there are some blue envelopes on the table. Your donations help pay for programs and camp scholarships.

If you have any questions, need help registering or applying for scholarship funds, please call or text Pastor Joyce at (515) 480-8457 or email her at revjlwebb76@gmail.com.



LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ash Wednesday Service | March 5 th | 5:30 pm |
| Palm Sunday | April 13 th | 10:30 am |
| Maundy Thursday | April 17 th | 5:30 pm |
| Good Friday | April 18 th | 5:30 pm |
| Easter Sunrise Service | April 20 th | 7:00 am |
| Easter Breakfast | April 20 th | Following Sunrise Service |



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, Sandy Clark, Judy Fiene, Larry Jordan, Tim Miller (Leslee Lynch's son), Ardean Williams, Karla Heaberlin, Barb Sharp

Save
the
Date

CALENDAR

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

Sundays 9:15 am *The Chosen* Small Group

Wednesdays 5:30 pm *From Beginning to Forever.*

| | | | |
|-----------|------|----------|--|
| Sunday | 3/2 | 11:30 am | Dinner Day Potluck |
| Wednesday | 3/5 | 5:30 pm | Ash Wednesday Service |
| Sunday | 3/9 | | Daylight Savings Time Begins |
| Sunday | 3/16 | | Live video chat with Donna Gustafson from La Casa de Esperanza |

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1. Evan Fischer |
| 2. Brad Geisenhoff | 3. Khloe Geisenhoff Teri Weeks | 4. Megan Dereus Gaylen Heaberlin | 5. Jake Shaver | 6. Colin Britt Irene Dewey | 7. | 8. |
| 9. Gunnar Methlie | 10. Maggie Stout | 11. Todd Owens | 12. | 13. Lisa Day | 14. Varah Haley Zuri Haley | 15. |
| 16. | 17. Gary & Leslee Lynch | 18. | 19. Lainey King Ardean Williams | 20. | 21. Larry & Laura McCrory | 22. Jordan Graves Gary Lynch |
| 23. | 24. | 25. Landan Fetters Madison Heaberlin | 26. | 27. Laura McCrory Jayme & Joseph Fry | 28. Andrew Glann | 29. Jeff Freel Emma Hackett |
| 30. Addi Behanish Heath Methlie | 31. | | | | | |

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 | | \$9,829.06 | \$7,101.46 | \$9,698.09 |
| March | | \$10,748.26 | \$5,903.26 | \$9,669.39 |
| April | | \$6,768.06 | \$10,174.26 | \$14,356.63 |
| May | | \$5,321.26 | \$6,837.26 | \$9,004.49 |
| June | | \$9,196.26 | \$7,021.56 | \$7,083.14 |
| July | | \$7,083.86 | \$9,413.26 | \$8,636.81 |
| August | | \$6,342.26 | \$5,192.26 | \$7,081.26 |
| September | | \$7,991.31 | \$7,791.06 | \$5,610.25 |
| October | | \$4,765.26 | \$9,101.26 | \$12,111.46 |
| November | | \$10,238.00 | \$8,401.26 | \$8,679.97 |
| December | | \$7,479.63 | \$11,510.84 | \$7,552.26 |
| Total Offerings | \$7,813.01 | \$95,433.70 | \$105,690.91 | \$110,724.03 |

2025 Average Monthly Offerings \$7,813.01
2025 Average Required Monthly for Budget
2025 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of January 31st, we collected \$100.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

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