



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

MARCH 2026

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Spring is almost here! I don't know about you, but my whole outlook on life changes when March arrives. The cold and dark of winter is just about over and we can look forward to new possibilities – birds singing, trees budding, early flowers blooming. The earth begins the process of being transformed.

In the church, spring also means the arrival of the Lenten season (the 40 days leading up to Easter). Lent is a time of honest reflection and quiet renewal, as we remember that God is at work around us, calling us into a season of transformation and renewal.

For centuries, the Methodist tradition has embraced Lent as a season to realign our hearts with God's grace. Not through guilt or pressure, but through practices that make space for renewal: prayer, reflection, simplicity, and acts of service.

Lent is not about becoming someone different. It's about becoming more fully who God created us to be.

This season, I invite you to consider one small step toward spiritual renewal. Maybe it's a daily moment of quiet before the start of a busy day, or a renewed commitment to kindness, or going on a walk to enjoy what God has created, or joining a small group, or letting go of something that weighs you down. Whatever small step you choose trust that God will meet you on the journey.

May these forty days open us to grace, deepen our compassion, and prepare our hearts for the joy that awaits on Easter morning.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Joyce

HAPPY
Holy Week



HOLY WEEK / EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Service	3/29	10:30 am
Maundy Thursday Service	4/2	5:30 pm
Good Friday Service	4/3	5:30 pm
Easter Service	4/5	8:00 am
Easter Breakfast	4/5	9:00 am

Please note that there will be ONE Easter Service this year at 8:00 followed by an Easter Breakfast. Easter is a great time to invite family and friends to come to church with you!



150th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

In the months leading up to our 150th Anniversary celebration on July 12th, the Anniversary Committee decided to do some fun events (mostly involving food!) The Committee would like to thank the Centennial UMC congregation for bringing in donations and helping with the events.

1876 – 2026

Spaghetti Dinner

In January, the Anniversary Committee hosted a Spaghetti Dinner. It was a fun evening and the food was delicious.



Meatball Makers: Jerry Olgren, Jennifer Fischer, Jill Craven and Joy Warner



A fellowship hall full of spaghetti lovers



Adeline Lehn enjoying her dinner.
Is there any other way to eat spaghetti?



David and Sherry Burrier, having fun with some of the props.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

In February, the church enjoyed a pancake supper with pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and drinks. In many churches pancakes are a traditional meal on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.



Missy Shaver, Mindy Sass, Steve Sass, Jennifer Fischer and Linda Carnahan getting ready for dinner.



The Pancake Dinner Crowd



Coming Up March 28th 5:00-6:30

Homemade Soup Contest

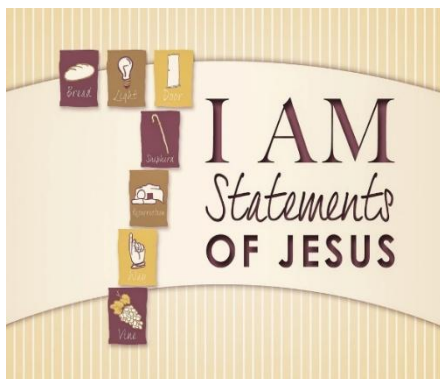
Do you have a winning soup recipe? Enter it in the Centennial Soup Contest. You can enter by using the sign-up sheet on the sign-up table at the church. The soups will be judged at 4:45 and then at 5:00, we'll enjoy your homemade soup creations. Prizes will be awarded for the top three spots.

If you want to bring a favorite soup recipe to share on the 28th, but don't want to enter it in the contest, please let us know using the sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Jennifer Fischer (515) 681-3848.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH

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



Lenten Sermon Series - *The I AM Statements of Jesus*

We just started a new sermon series based on the *I AM* statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John.

Jesus said: *I AM the Bread of Life, I AM the Light of the World, I AM the Good Shepherd, I AM the True Vine, I AM the Resurrection and the Life.*

We'll look at the ways the *I Am* statements point to the identity of Jesus as the Son of God and God the Son.

A graphic with a blue border. The background shows a desk with papers, a pen, and a pencil holder. The text "HIRING" is in large, bold, black letters at the top. Below it, "CHURCH SECRETARY" is in bold, black letters. At the bottom, there is a logo for Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy, featuring a red cross and the text "Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy".

See details at ivycentennial.org.

Opening for Part-Time Church Secretary

Centennial UMC is looking for a person to fill the role of Church Secretary. If you know someone who might be interested, please ask them to contact Jill Craven at jcraven@prairienet.net.

There is a link to the job description on the church website - ivycentennial.org. This outlines the responsibilities and qualifications.

We extend a heart-felt thank you to Amy Ferguson who has done a great job serving as the church secretary over these last several years and who has agreed to continue helping until a new person is hired.

MISSION NEWS

Caring Hands Soup Donation Results

Thank you to everyone who brought in canned soup for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. Our goal was to collect 334 cans of soup (one more than last year). We exceeded our goal by more than 50 cans of soup by bringing in 389 cans of soup to share with our neighbors. Thank you to Ken Sharp for delivering the soup to the Food Pantry. We also delivered a cart full of groceries to the new Food Pantry at Oakwood United Methodist Church in Pleasant Hill, which is open to families each Wednesday.

WAY TO BE THE CHURCH!



389 Cans of Soup for Caring Hands



Centennial's donation at Caring Hands
389 cans of soup equal 379 lbs. of food donated!



Groceries donated to the Oakwood United Methodist Church Pantry

Thank You Note from Oakwood UMC:

Oakwood UMC is deeply grateful for the generous donation from Ivy UMC in support of our food pantry ministry. Your kindness and willingness to come alongside us in serving our community is such a blessing. Because of your generosity, we are able to continue providing food and hope to families who walk through our doors. It is a gift to share in this mission together, and we are truly thankful for your partnership in being the hands and feet of Christ.

Blessings,

Cassie Lahmann



LENTEN MISSION PROJECT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF CENTRAL IA

During the season of Lent (February 18 – April 4) we will collect cash donations and non-perishable “to go” food items. The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa provides a home-away-from-home for families traveling to Des Moines to seek medical care for their child.

Services are provided to families at little to no cost. There are two houses in Des Moines, an 18-bedroom House near Blank Children’s Hospital and a 17-bedroom House at MercyOne Children’s Hospital. Ronald McDonald House Charities offers a comprehensive meal program, comfortable community spaces, laundry facilities, playrooms and more. Feel free to check out the Ronald McDonald website for more information <https://www.rmhdsmoines.org/> or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/rmhdsmoines>.

If you would like to make a cash donation, there are envelopes available on the table in the narthex. If you would like to purchase “to go” food items for the Ronald McDonald Houses in Des Moines, here is a list of the items we will be collecting during Lent.

Single Serving Bags of Chips

Single Serving Cracker/Cookie Packs

Single Serving Trail Mix

Granola Bars

Apple Sauce Cups or Pouches

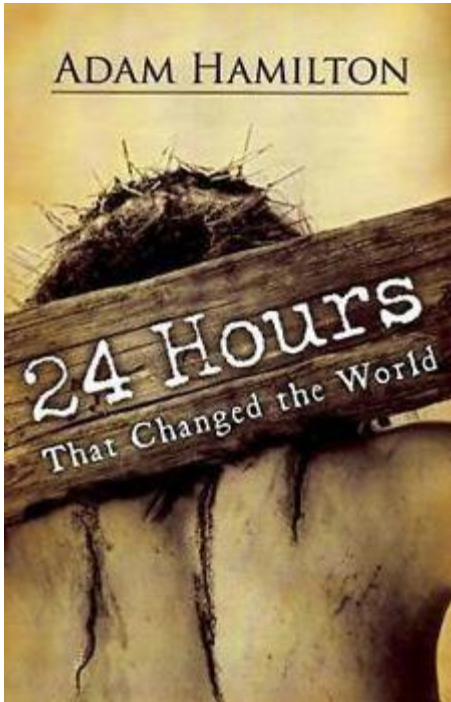
Juice Boxes

Single Serving Microwaveable Soup Cups

Single Serving Microwaveable Mac and Cheese Cups

Let’s see if we can help them restock their supply!

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES AT CENTENNIAL UMC



24 Hours that Changed the World Lenten Small Group Begins Wednesday, February 25th 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Join us for a 6-week video-based study on the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. We'll watch a short video and then take some time for discussion. The six sessions include:

Feb. 25 th	The Last Supper
Mar. 4	The Garden of Gethsemane
Mar 11	Condemned by the Righteous (the trial)
Mar 18	Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate
Mar 25	Torture and Humiliation of the King
Apr 1	The Crucifixion

There will be a light meal beginning at 5:15.

Please contact Pastor Joyce at (515) 480-8457 if you have any questions.



***THE CHOSEN* SUNDAYS 9:15-10:15 AM**

During the Sunday school time we are doing a small group conversation around *The Chosen* video series, which is based on the life of Jesus. We watch an episode and then take some time for group discussion.

If one of your goals for the new year is to take part in a small group, this would be a great place to plug in. Join us for coffee, donuts and conversation. Let Pastor Joyce know if you have any questions (515) 480-8457 or revjlwebb76@gmail.com



Next Meeting is Thursday, March 5th at 11:30

The women will meet at the church for a light lunch, followed by a time of fellowship. This group is open to all women in the church. Feel free to invite a friend to come along.



Next Meeting is Saturday, March 21st at 9:00 am

The Centennial Men's Group will meet at the church for breakfast, fellowship and planning. All men are welcome to come and if you want bring a friend along with you.



2026 SUMMER CHURCH CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Scholarships Are Available Through the NOW 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.

USHERS



USHERS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH

1st: Amy and Jason Ferguson
 8th: Tim and Marcy Campell
 15th: Mike and Mary Ferguson
 22nd: Jonathan and Jeff Freel
 29th: Tom and Gail Gish

If you aren't able to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please see if you can trade with someone, or let Evan Fischer know so he can find a substitute (515) 494-5432.

Thank you for volunteering to be part of the church's hospitality team.

If you would like to be part of our hospitality crew and included in the rotation, please let Evan know. Training is provided as needed.



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

David Burrier	Sue Jones
Matthew Myers	Tim Miller
Bob Bowers	John Bowie
Jeff Olgren	Leslie Hiatt
Nancy Day	Barb Bolt
Donna Gustafson and La Casa de Esperanza	
Caring Hands Food Pantry	



Sundays 9:15-10:15 am

Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Sunday	3/1	11:30 am
Thursday	3/5	11:30 am
Sunday	3/8	
Sunday	3/15	12:00 pm
Saturday	3/21	9:00 am
Saturday	3/28	5:00-6:30 pm
Thursday	4/2	5:30 pm
Friday	4/3	5:30 pm
Sunday	4/5	8:00 am
Sunday	7/12	

The Chosen Small Group

24 Hours that Changed the World

Dinner Day Potluck
Ivy Women's Fellowship
Daylight Savings Time Begins
NOW Committee Meets
Ivy Men's Group
Centennial Soup Contest
Maundy Thursday Service
Good Friday Service
Easter Worship / Breakfast
150 th Anniversary Celebration

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

1	Evan Fischer	17	Gary & Leslee Lynch
2	Brad Geisenhoff	21	Larry & Laura McCrory
3	Khloe Geisenhoff & Teri Weeks	27	Jayne & Joseph Fry
4	Megan Dereus & Gaylen Heaberlin		
5	Jake Shaver		
6	Colin Britt & Irene Dewey		
9	Gunnar Methlie		
10	Maggie Stout		
11	Todd Owens		
13	Lisa Day		
14	Varah Haley & Zuri Haley		
19	Lainey King		
22	Bob Bowers, Jordan Graves & Gary Lynch		
25	Landan Fetters & Madison Heaberlin		
27	Laura McCrory		
28	Andrew Glann		
29	Jeff Freel & Emma Hackett		
30	Addi Behanish & Heath Methlie		

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME**

	Offerings 2026	Offerings 2025	Offerings 2024	Offerings 2023
January	\$10,076.48	\$7,813.01	\$9,670.48	\$17,243.17
February		\$6,021.92	\$9,829.06	\$7,101.46
March		\$6,740.00	\$10,748.26	\$5,903.26
April		\$6,484.00	\$6,768.06	\$10,174.26
May		\$4,400.10	\$5,321.26	\$6,837.26
June		\$14,026.75	\$9,196.26	\$7,021.56
July		\$5,222.00	\$7,083.86	\$9,413.26
August		\$5,811.60	\$6,342.26	\$5,192.26
September		\$4,527.80	\$7,991.31	\$7,791.06
October		\$5,054.96	\$4,765.26	\$9,101.26
November		\$10,162.00	\$10,238.00	\$8,401.26
December		\$5,795.36	\$7,479.63	\$11,510.84
Total Offerings	\$10,076.48	\$82,059.50	\$95,433.70	\$105,690.91

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