



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

November 2020



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:

Church looks a lot different these days.

It looks like near-empty sanctuaries and full parking lots. And gift bags with prayers inside that say, “I miss you.”

Church looks like wearing a mask to protect, not necessarily myself, but to protect you. And church is a filled living room with family gathered to worship together from home.

Church looks like teaching each other how to use Zoom and Facebook and YouTube. Church is a phone call and a text. It is a card in the mail and a visit through the window. And a gathering of three people on the porch sharing communion together.

In all honesty, church right now is not always comfortable and it is certainly not the same as gathering in the sanctuary together with our beloved hymn sing or shared prayers. Church asks more of us right now. We reach out more often for loneliness shows up frequently. We learn how to use technology that we never wanted to learn just to sing some of our favorite hymns or just to see the face of a neighbor we have not seen in quite some time.

Church is anywhere that connection occurs and while this pandemic has taken away so much from our lives, it hasn't taken away our ability to connect— we just have to try a bit harder, get a bit more uncomfortable in order to “gather” as the church.

I am grateful for the ways in which you have made yourselves uncomfortable for the sake of connection, discipleship, and church. Thank you for not giving up on the church, but instead with the calls you make and the cards you send, you have made the church a better, more hospitable place for all to experience the abundant love of Christ.

John Wesley believes prayer and thanksgiving are inextricable. According to Wesley, “Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from Him.”

So, as I pray for the church and for all of you, I am giving thanks for your sweet love and faithfulness that has continued and, in some ways, blossomed in the last seven months.

With love & thanksgiving,  
**Pastor Dani**



## MISSIONS COMMITTEE “SOCK & HAT, MITTENS & COAT DRIVE”

Until Nov. 15th, the Missions committee has a basket placed in the Narthex for sock donations for the local shelter that supports those without homes and kids in local schools. **Youth and adult sizes are needed!**

**Nov 29th - Dec 13th** we will have our Christmas box in the Narthex to collect hats, mittens, and coats for Bidwell

Riverside. If someone would like to donate but is not comfortable going out, Brandi is more than happy to pick up items from people. If you would like to donate, but you are not comfortable going out, please reach out to Brandi Jackson and someone will pick up the donations from your front porch!



This year at Ivy, we are asking everyone to record a Family Christmas Greeting or share with us your favorite Christmas Tradition. Send your video to Dani by December 9<sup>th</sup>. You can email the video to [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com) or text it to her at 515-447-0497. Please make the video's short so we can share all that we receive. Some examples would be gathering around the Christmas Tree with your family or pets, maybe a Christmas baking day, picking out the perfect tree or decorating it with friends/family.

You can reach out to Mary Ferguson if you have any questions.



Ivy Centennial will again be sponsoring a family for Christmas. Stars with their wishes will be placed on the Youth Christmas Tree. The stars will be available December 1<sup>st</sup>. **Everything needs to be returned to the church by December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Please reach out to Mary Ferguson if you have any questions.



**How are you thankful for the church? I invite you to write a letter or a prayer for the church and send them to me either by email or to my house.**

**As we enter into November, a month where we celebrate the art of giving thanks, I would love to remind all of us how grateful we are for one another and for our sweet church in worship by sharing the letters and prayers you create.**

**Email: [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com) | Or mail to Dani – 4025 43rd St Des Moines, IA 50310**

# HALLOWEEN DELIVERIES



# NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES



As we approach November 26, we begin the season of giving thanks. Thanksgiving should not just be a day-- it is a season-- where we think critically about that which we give thanks for. In a difficult year, it may be even more challenging to name the things we are thankful for, which is why we may need one another to help us give thanks.

Additionally, the art of gratitude has often been aligned with consumerism and selfish desires to be praised. In this sermon series we will not only give thanks for what we're grateful for, but we'll also deconstruct what holy gratitude looks like so we can be faithful and grateful followers of Christ. With the help of the Bible, Diana Butler Bass (who wrote the book *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*), and personal reflections, we'll learn how to improve our faithful gratitude for ourselves, one another, and our Amazing God!

Grow with us each Sunday at 10:30am online & in our parking lot on the radio!

# CHURCH LIBRARY

## NOVEMBER READING CELEBRATIONS:

**Nov. 1: AUTHOR'S DAY** - Every avid reader has a favorite author whose books never disappoint and leave you wanting more. This day is a day to honor those incredibly talented people.

**Nov. 1: NATIONAL FAMILY LITERACY DAY** - This holiday is all about encouraging families to read together and parents to actively engage in learning activities with their children. It is kicked off on November 1st but events are held all month long. Take this opportunity as an excuse to spend the afternoon with your kids at your local library or bookstore. It might surprise you what you can learn from them and their favorite books!

**Nov. 6: NATIONAL NON-FICTION DAY** - An annual celebration of children's non-fiction, it was initiated by the Federation of Children's Book Groups in partnership with Scholastic Children's Books and is celebrated across the UK each year. People of all literacy interests gather to highlight the best information and narrative non-fiction books for children. Every year there is a different theme to the day.

**Nov. 15: I Love to Write Day** - Founded in 2002 by author John Riddle, I Love to Write Day is now celebrated in over 30,000 schools across the United States. Writing events and activities are held at schools, libraries and bookstores. People are encouraged to find events at local communities to gather and discuss their love of writing.

**Nov. 15: Picture Book Month** - Founded by authors, story tellers and illustrators, Picture Book Month aims to bring awareness to the importance of picture books during the developmental stages of children.

**Nov. 15: National Family Literacy Month** - Started in 1994, the annual event is held to encourage and stress the importance of family literacy. It is officially celebrated on November 1st, but events continue throughout the month of November. Many literacy organizations, including schools and libraries, participate through book drives, read-a-thons, celebrity appearances, etc.

**Nov. 15: National Novel Writing Month** - Affectionately known as "NaNoWriMo", this is a challenge for established writers and newbies alike (really anybody can participate) to attempt to write an entire novel in one month. The word count goal for adults is 50,000 and age 17 and under can have a lesser, yet reasonable goal. It is a fun, creative and challenging exercise that people really enjoy participating in.

## FOOD PANTRY:

Even though we have been unable to bring food items to the church for the Caring Hands Food Pantry for the past several months, there are two smaller food pantries in the area that can always use food.

In Mitchellville, there is one in Killinger Park next to the city hall. (It looks like a Little Free Library) and one in Altoona outside the Altoona Public Library.

Donations will be appreciated!

# *NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Barb Bolt	<b>4</b> Connie Bishop	<b>5</b> Jennifer Simpson	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Brenda Stout	<b>11</b> Arianna Heitman Stephanie Lampkin	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Jan Adair Lloyd Hennigar Medea Saunders	<b>16</b> Kayla Goforth Cynde Pool	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Rob Campbell  <b>Happy Anniversary</b> Mindy & Terry Britt	<b>19</b> Jo Provow	<b>20</b> Gordon Atzen	<b>21</b> John Bowie  <b>Happy Anniversary</b> Dennis & Connie Bishop
<b>22</b> Judy Hemingson	<b>23</b> Jason Haley Dana King	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Tim Morgan Julie Palmer	<b>26</b> Deanna Carroll Melinda Martin Darin Wood	<b>27</b> John Ferguson	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Pastor Duane Skidmore					



Save <sup>the</sup> Date

Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Council on Ministries @ 7:00 pm  
 Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – UMW @ 1:00 pm  
 Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – Men's Group @ 9:00 am  
 Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm  
 Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Pub Theology @ 7:00 pm  
 Saturday – December 5<sup>th</sup> – Live Nativity @ 6:00 pm

WoW – Every Wednesday during the month of November –  
 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm

**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
2020 ACTUAL GIVING VS 2020 BUDGET GOAL**

	REQUIRED	SUNDAYS	TITHES	OTHER INC	TOTAL	INCOME ONE YEAR AGO
JANUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,640.11	\$450.00	\$12,090.11	\$ 7,058.33
FEBRUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,750.17		\$11,750.17	\$12,370.73
MARCH	\$12,477.50	5	\$11,605.44	(8.58)	\$11,596.86	\$19,623.40
APRIL	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 7,401.17	(11.50)	\$ 7,389.67	\$12,891.06
MAY	\$12,477.50	5	\$30,172.17	(13.34)	\$30,158.83	\$11,292.53
JUNE	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 6,566.13	(9.68)	\$ 6,556.45	\$10,422.00
JULY	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 9,976.83	(11.60)	\$ 9,965.23	\$ 7,672.17
AUGUST	\$12,477.50	5	\$ 8,426.83	(8.07)	\$ 8,418.76	\$11,830.17
SEPTEMBER	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 8,666.83	(7.90)	\$ 8,658.93	\$13,625.92
OCTOBER	\$12,477.50	4				\$ 7,554.17
NOVEMBER	\$12,477.50	5				\$ 9,141.17
DECEMBER	\$12,477.50	4				\$13,052.34
<b>2020 BUDGET</b>	<b>\$149,730.00</b>		\$106,205.68	\$379.33	\$106,585.01	<b>71.18%</b>
	<b>52 Sundays in 2020</b>				<b>Required:</b>	<b>75.00%</b>

As of October 18<sup>th</sup>, our congregation has donated \$3,015.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry since the beginning of 2020. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May we received **\$20,232** from the Small Business Administration as part of the Covid-19 Stimulus Package. These funds were for the "Paycheck Protection Program" which helps us keep paying our Pastor, Organist, Custodian and Secretary. In order to meet our 2020 budget, we need to average about \$12,480 per month.

**Gaylen Heaberlin, Financial Secretary**



**Pastor:** Dani Musselman [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)  
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**Email Prayers Requests:** Missy Shaver [Mishaver2@gmail.com](mailto:Mishaver2@gmail.com) 515-967-6288  
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