



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

SEPTEMBER 2023



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:

Did you know that the church has a pathway for discipleship? It's a way for church members to center and focus their attention on what it looks like to grow as a disciple of Jesus. In some ways it also helps to identify what we value. The Pathway was created by Pastor Dani and the Council on Ministries a few years ago, so some of you may already be aware of it. For others, you might be hearing about it for the very first time. The Centennial UMC Discipleship Pathway has three components, identified by three "F's." Let's look at them one at a time:

Faith: A disciple of Jesus Christ will take responsibility for growing in their faith. They will be intentional about reading and meditating on the Scriptures, they will take advantage of Bible studies and small groups offered by the church, and they will attend worship regularly. Living a life of faith is about building a solid relationship with Jesus Christ.

Fellowship: Recognizes that we are better together than apart. It's about being together. That's why worship is important, along with sharing meals and doing other activities together. A disciple recognizes the importance of community.

Flourish: John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, referred to flourishing as "sanctification," becoming more like Jesus, in our love for God and our neighbor. The point is that being a disciple of Jesus doesn't have an end point because with God's help, we're continually growing and being transformed.

There you have it...Faith...Fellowship...Flourish...

These are general terms, and it will be up to each of us to assess where we are on the path and determine the next steps that will help us get a little further down the discipleship pathway. Some simple ideas include making a renewed commitment to attend worship regularly, participating in a church ministry, attending a Bible study or small group (opportunities will be published soon), or participating in a fellowship or outreach activity.

Discipleship is a journey. So challenge yourself to determine your first step...then you can take the next step...and the next after that.

Friends, I want to leave you with this thought...Jesus loves you and he wants a deeper relationship with you. How will you respond to the invitation?

We're all in this together!

Pastor Joyce



NEW SERMON SERIES – QUESTIONS OF FAITH

Beginning Sunday, September 10th, we'll start a new sermon series that will attempt to address some of the questions we have about our faith. We're looking for some help from you to develop this series. If you have a question about faith – i.e. about God, the Bible, salvation, death, heaven, the church, whatever, please fill out the bulletin insert during worship and put it in the offering plate, or you can text or email them to Pastor Joyce (515)480-8457 or revjlwebb76@gmail.com



Pies, Cakes & More Auction

September 10, 2023

Please join us after church for our annual Pies, Cakes and More Auction.

Bakers and bidders are needed!

**Sponsored by the
Education Committee.**

**Proceeds go toward our
scholarship program.**

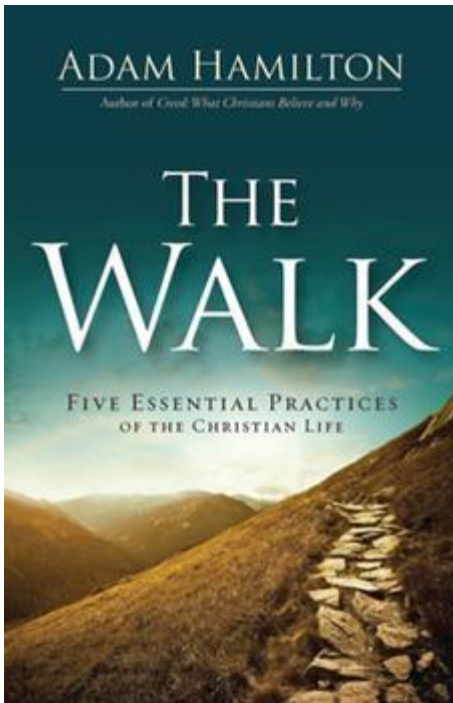
Ivy WOW

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY

Worship on Wednesday (WOW) will return on September 6th. We will meet at 5:30 for a meal followed by a time of learning and will end our time together with a short, contemporary worship at 7:00. You are invited to come for any or all of the evening's activities. *If you read the Pastor's article, you will notice that WOW offers opportunities for Faith, Fellowship and Flourishing.*



The church is still looking for someone to lead the middle and high school youth group. This will be a paid position – 8 to 10 hours a week at \$15/hour. We're looking for a person who is energetic, a good communicator, and who has a growing Christian faith to share with the youth. If you're interested, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Joyce for a full job description at (515) 480-8457 or revjlwebb76@gmail.com



New Wednesday Adult Bible Study – 6:00-7:00 pm

The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life

How do we walk with Christ--daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught it in their writings. And the Church has, through the last 2,000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life. In this six-week video-based study, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

There is an optional companion book available, please let Pastor Joyce know if you would like to order a copy. Cost will be around \$15.



Join the Choir...

**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

Do you like to sing in the shower...or in your car? If so, please consider joining the Centennial UMC choir. There's no better way to use your singing gifts than by praising God in worship! New members are always welcome. The plan is for the choir to sing one Sunday a month, from September through May (possibly more often during the Christmas and Easter seasons). Practices usually take place on Sunday mornings, before church. If you're interested, or have questions, please contact Maggie Stout, Centennial's choir director at (515) 419-9329 or maggie.stout@msn.com



Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies for the families at Caring Hands. We collected enough supplies to put together 11 elementary (K-5) school supply bags and 7 (6-8) junior high/middle school bags. In addition, Caring Hands partnered through the Swerve program and the local schools to hand out 112 backpacks to help families who are food pantry clients. In addition to the donated school supplies, the church had several volunteers, who helped distribute the bags at Caring Hands. Thank you to Mary Ferguson, Sandra Stuart, Ken Sharp, Bobbi Meister, David and Sherry Burrier.



This year Centennial UMC's Education Committee awarded two \$500 college scholarships. Recipients were Olivia Fisher, who attends Iowa State University and is studying in Hawaii, and Brock Jackson who is a student at Central College in Pella. Best wishes to Olivia and Brock as they look forward to the 2023-2024 school year.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 - 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Each year, the church sets aside a time to complete the business of the local church, celebrate the ministries of the past year and outline a mission and ministry plan for the coming year. This year's charge conference will be at Walnut Hills United Methodist Church, 12321 Hickman Rd, Urbandale, Iowa. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Joyce at 515-480-8457 or email revjlwebb76@gmail.com



CHURCH NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

It's that time of the year when the nominations committee will begin their task of matching people with the various ministries of the church. For some in the church, they feel as though they have "retired" from ministry leadership. If this is where you are, please know that the church needs you and the experience you can bring.



The nominations committee will begin meeting soon to talk about the needs in the coming year. Here are some positions that will need to be filled for next year as people roll off of the various ministry teams. If you feel God nudging you to come out of "retirement," please raise your hand and let us know.

The members of the Leadership / Nominations Committee include:

Dean Fiene, Allison Lehn, Mary Ferguson, Don Hiatt, Jeff Freel, Judy Fiene, Jason Ferguson, and Pastor Joyce

Positions to Fill for 2024

- Leadership / Nominations (1-2 openings)
- Finance (1-2 openings, including chair)
- Staff Parish Relations (1-2 openings)
- Trustees (1-2 openings)
- Missions/Hospitality (3-4 openings)
- Communications (1-2 openings)
- Worship (1-2 openings)
- Education (1-2 openings)
- Church Historian

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1.	2. Marilyn Eland
3. Joseph Fry	4. Jordan Carroll Chris & Diana DeMoss April & Dana King	5.	6. Susan Churchill Dan Geisenhoff Dee Johnston	7. Jerry Olgren Kristi & Mark Olgren	8. Landan Deutmeyer Jason & Torie Hermann	9.
10/	11.	12. Wendy Fritz Carol Graves Josh & Stephanie Lampkin Julie & Larry Palmer	13. Tom Bergstrom Angela Selby	14.	15. Jill & Steve Craven	16. Debbie Parker Ken Sharp
17.	18. Mitzi Wood	19. Todd Hiatt Jen & Neal Griffiths Ardean & Janice Williams	20. Tom Johnston	21. Steve Craven Rita Denhart Amy Ferguson	22.	23.
24. Jennifer Morgan	25. Jeff Tomlin	26. Gage Seaman	27. Lisa Schmidtke	28.	29.	30. Carol Graves Kensli Haley Brittani Corbin



Sunday	9/3	11:30 am	Dinner Day
Wednesday	9/6	5:30 pm	WOW Resumes
Wednesday	9/6	7:45 pm	Council on Ministries Meets
Thursday	9/7	1:00 pm	Ivy Women's Fellowship Resumes
Saturday	9/9	9:00 am	Men's Group Meets
Sunday	9/10	11:30 am	Pie and Cake Auction
Sunday	10/15	3:00 pm	2023 Charge Conference At Walnut Hills UMC in Urbandale

**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	\$7,101.46	\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01	\$10,933.50
March	\$5,903.26	\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01	\$10,780.19
April	\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01	\$6,573.00
May	\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05	\$9,110.16
June	\$7,021.56	\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89	\$5,739.78
July	\$9,413.26	\$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	\$63,694.23	\$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	\$63,694.23	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66	\$139,331.24

2023 Average Monthly Offerings	\$9,099.18
2023 Average Required Monthly for Budget	\$8,750.00
2023 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget	\$349.18

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, food pantry or mission project donations. As of July 31st, we have collected \$1568.00 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