



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

SEPTEMBER 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:



Centennial UMC Sunflowers

### LOOK TO THE “SON”

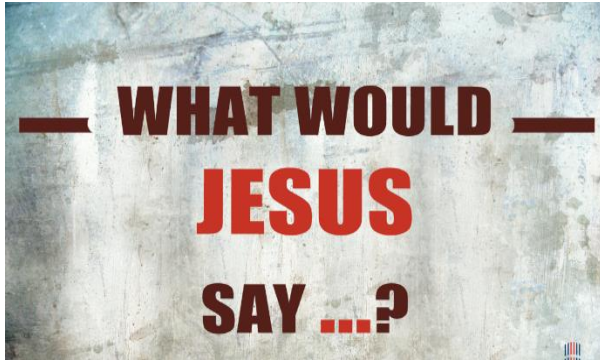
This spring Ken Sharp planted some sunflowers in front of the church. They seem to be thriving in that spot. If you haven't seen them in person, stop by and check it out.

Sunflowers are interesting plants. They start with a small seed and can grow to over 6 feet tall. One reason they're called sunflowers is because the yellow petals radiating out from the center look like the sun. There is another reason they're called sunflowers – if you look at them, you'll notice that the plants will turn to face the sun. If you look at a field of sunflowers, they're all faced the same direction. Even on a cloudy day, they turn toward the sun, to draw their nourishment.

The sunflower provides a spiritual lesson for us. Just as the sunflower faces the sun, we are invited to turn toward Jesus, the son. In Hebrews 12:2, the writer reminds us to *fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith*. In other words, when life is good, fix yourself on Jesus. When life is challenging, fix yourself on Jesus. When life is confusing and uncertain, fix yourself on Jesus. In every circumstance of life, be like a “sonflower,” and turn toward the One who gives life and hope.

Be well and be blessed.

*Pastor Joyce*



## NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

They say that when you're in a group, in order to keep the peace, you aren't supposed to talk about religion or politics. Well we're going to live on the edge and talk about both. This series will look at issues like faith and politics, immigration, mental health, forgiveness and finish with what Jesus might say to the church today.



## 2024 PIE AND CAKE AUCTION SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 11:30 AM Calling all BAKERS AND PIE AND CAKE LOVERS!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this year's *Pie, Cake and More Auction*. We need bakers AND bidders! This is a fun event with a purpose. The auction is sponsored by the Centennial UMC Education Committee to raise funds for scholarships and children and youth ministry. Last year's auction raised just over \$3,000. This spring, the Committee used the pie and cake auction proceeds to award eight \$500 scholarships to our young adults in college and vocational programs. Come join the fun and be sure to invite friends and family to come too!

**2023 Pie and Cake Auction**  
Auctioneer Mark Olgren getting bidders fired up



**Unloading School Supplies at  
Caring Hands**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

THANK YOU for supporting Centennial's school supply drive.

The school supplies were delivered to Caring Hands in time to distribute them to families before the beginning of the school year. Every child deserves to start the school year with the supplies they need to be successful. We know that for some families, buying supplies can be a financial hardship. In your giving, you made a difference in the lives of families in our community.



## CARING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

Going into the fall, our lives can get busy. We want to make sure not to forget our local food pantry. DID YOU KNOW...in Iowa, 344,550 persons (10.8% or 1 in 9) don't know where they will find their next meal. That includes 110,500 children (15.4%, 1 in 6). Food insecurity is a problem that continues to get worse.

We can all help by picking up a few extra non-perishable items to put into the church's grocery cart. Here are a few ideas - soups, box meals, canned meats, canned chili.

Personal care items are also needed items. Let's see if we can fill the cart in September. If you have extra garden produce, you might consider dropping off what you can't use to Caring Hands at 602 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW in Altoona.



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](mailto:revjlwebb76@gmail.com).

Please hold these members and friends of the Ivy Centennial church family in prayer:

Doris Heaberlin  
Maggie Stout  
Judy Fiene  
Chuck McGriff  
Barb Sharp

Teri Weeks  
Barb Bolt  
Ardean Williams  
Karla Heaberlin  
Rose Mary Freel



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>September 1<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>Dinner Day @ 11:30 am</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>September 14<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Men's Group @ 9:00 am</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>September 15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Pie &amp; Cake Auction @ 11:30 am</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>September 20<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Steeple Items due to Amy</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>October 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>Administrative Council Meeting</i>

# *SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
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. Brittani Corbin Kensli Haley					

**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	\$9,829.06	\$7,101.46	\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01
March	\$10,748.26	\$5,903.26	\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01
April	\$6,768.06	\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01
May	\$5,321.26	\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05
June	\$9,196.26	\$7,021.56	\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89
July	\$7,083.86	\$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
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$58,617.24</b>	<b>\$105,690.91</b>	<b>\$110,724.03</b>	<b>\$118,346.68</b>
Government Paycheck Protection Program				\$20,177.00
Iowa Conference Assistance Program				\$4,300.98
<b>Total Offerings &amp; Programs</b>	<b>\$58,617.24</b>	<b>\$105,690.91</b>	<b>\$110,724.03</b>	<b>\$142,824.66</b>

2024 Average Monthly Offerings \$8,373.89  
 2024 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,945.33  
 2024 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget (\$571.44)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of July 31st, we have collected \$1,600.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary

Pastor: Joyce Webb [revjlwebb76@gmail.com](mailto:revjlwebb76@gmail.com)  
 (515) 480-8457

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

Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins): Amy Ferguson [anbscorbin@gmail.com](mailto:anbscorbin@gmail.com)  
 515-402-6056

Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving): Joy Warner [voj8893@gmail.com](mailto:voj8893@gmail.com)

