



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

SEPTEMBER 2026

Pastor Article

For me, fall always feels like a new beginning. Like many churches Ivy Centennial takes a ministry breather during the summer months. As fall comes back around, and school begins, we begin a new season of ministry. In this new season, I invite you to consider a simple question: How are you growing in your faith?

You see, faith isn't a destination we reach; it is a lifelong journey we travel with Christ. Wherever we may be spiritually—whether we are new believers, longtime disciples, or somewhere in between—God is always calling us to take another step forward. The apostle Paul reminds us to *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* (2 Peter 3:18). Growth is God's desire for every disciple. It's about learning and transformation.

The Scriptures tell us that spiritual growth happens best in community. In the early church, they gathered not only for worship but also in homes, learning, praying, encouraging, and caring for one another. One of the most important next steps we can take is to get involved in a small group.

Small groups provide the opportunity to build meaningful relationships, study the Bible, share life's joys and challenges, and support one another in faith. If you're not currently involved in a group, I encourage you to prayerfully consider joining one this season. We already have some opportunities for you to consider:

Ivy Centennial Women's Group - meets monthly for devotion, service projects and fellowship

Ivy Centennial Men's Group – meets monthly for devotion, church work projects and fellowship

Wednesday Adult Group – meets weekly for Bible study. Most studies have a video component, followed by discussion time.

Adult Sunday School – meets weekly before church for Bible study. Most studies have a video component, followed by discussion time.

In addition, the Nurture, Outreach and Worship (NOW) Committee will be working on some other small group opportunities that will be offered throughout the year. Look for a list soon.

This month, my challenge to you is to ask yourself three questions:

1. **How am I growing closer to Christ?**
2. **How am I connecting with others in Christian community?**
3. **How can I help others grow in faith by leading a small group?**

Here is my prayer for Ivy Centennial – that September will be a month of new beginnings and deeper relationships, as we take our next steps together. A church family, growing in faith and strengthening our community through small groups.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Joyce

MISSION NEWS

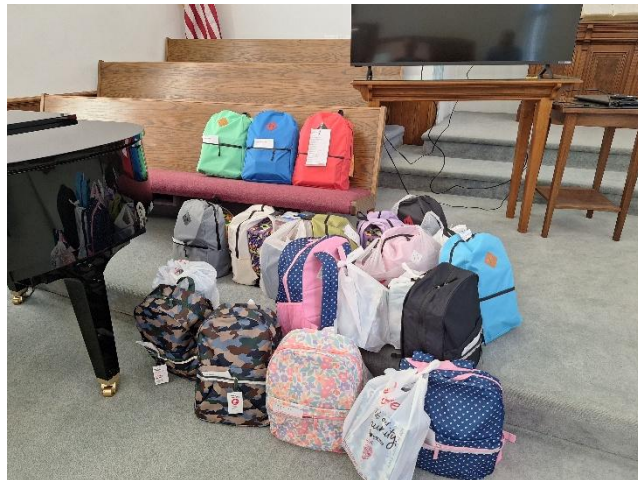


THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you to everyone who brought in school supplies for this year's School Supply Drive. Supplies were donated to children at Altoona Elementary School.

Together we filled 18 backpacks, and also provided extra markers, pencils, crayons, glue sticks and folders for teachers to have on hand.

We celebrated as we blessed the school supplies during the worship service on August 9th.



COMING UP...

HAT, MITTEN AND COAT DRIVE

Thank goodness winter isn't here yet – but it won't be long. Beginning Sunday, September 7th through Sunday, October 11th, the NOW Committee will begin collecting warm winter clothing for children and adults. We are looking for NEW hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. We are also collecting new or gently used winter coats. Take some time to check out your closets for those coats you haven't worn in a while or coats that your kids have outgrown. Collected items will be taken to Families Forward (the former Bidwell Riverside Center and Hawthorne Hill). Look for the box in the narthex.



Centennial UMC continues to be a strong supporter of our local food pantry. We know that for many of our neighbors, buying groceries can be a challenge. You can support the food pantry, either by making cash donations or picking up some extra items when you do your grocery shopping. If you want to make a cash donation, just write “food pantry” in the memo section of your check or on the outside of your giving envelope and put it in the offering plate. Or if you prefer, you can give on-line by going to the church’s website ivycentennial.org and pressing the “give now” button. Under the drop-down arrow, there is an option to give to the Food Pantry. Thank for all the ways you care for our neighbors in need.



NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD 11:30

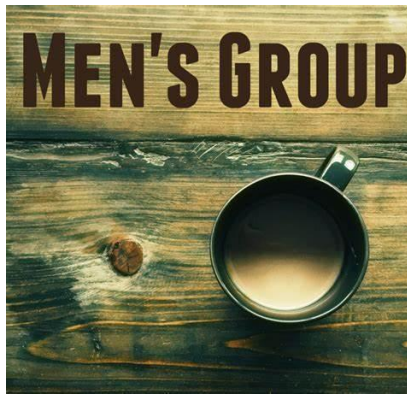
The Ivy Women’s Group will meet at the church for a light salad lunch. If you’re able, please bring a salad or other side dish to share.

Last month, the ladies met at the Olive Garden in Ankeny for wonderful food and conversation.



L to R: Sherry Burrier, Leslee Lynch, Sandra Stuart, Judy Hemmingson, Gail Gish, Joyce Webb, Janice Williams, Missy Shaver

This group is open to all Ivy Centennial women and their guests. If you haven’t been yet, be sure and check it out. If you have questions, please contact Leslee Lynch at 515-577-8258



NEXT MEETING –

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH 9:00

The Ivy Centennial Men's Group will meet at the church for breakfast and will do some planning for the Chili Oyster Soup Supper. All men are welcome to be part of the group. If you have any questions, please call or text Jonathan Freel at 515-771-9687 or email jonfreel7@gmail.com.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH AT CENTENNIAL UMC

The Nurture, Outreach and Worship (NOW) Committee would like to offer a Children's Church program this fall. We are looking for a person who can lead it and several volunteers to serve as helpers on a rotating basis. Children's Church would take place during the worship time. Children would attend worship until after the children's message and then leave for the last 25-30 minutes of the service for their own church time, which would include a Bible story, craft activity or game and a snack.

When we baptize children at Centennial UMC, we make a promise to participate in helping each child to know Jesus. Please pray about it and if you feel called, add your name to the sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please visit with Pastor Joyce.



WEAR YOUR TEAM COLORS TO CHURCH **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH**

The Iowa – Iowa State Football Game is on Saturday, September 12th. As a way to get into the spirit, you're invited to wear your favorite team colors to church on the 6th. It's also Dinner Day, consider bringing your favorite tailgate food.

This would be a great time to invite a friend to church!



2024 Homecoming Parade Float

SOUTH EAST POLK HOMECOMING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST 5:00 PM

As part of the church's outreach efforts, we will be participating in this year's South East Polk High School Homecoming Parade. Here are some ways you can help:

1. Help put the float together. We'll let you know when.
2. Bring a bag or two of small, individually wrapped candy to hand out during the parade. Preferably not chocolate.
3. Volunteer to pull the float in the parade.
4. Join with your church family by walking or riding in the parade.

THIS IS OUR TIME TO SHINE IN OUR COMMUNITY.



IVY CENTENNIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH 6:30 PM

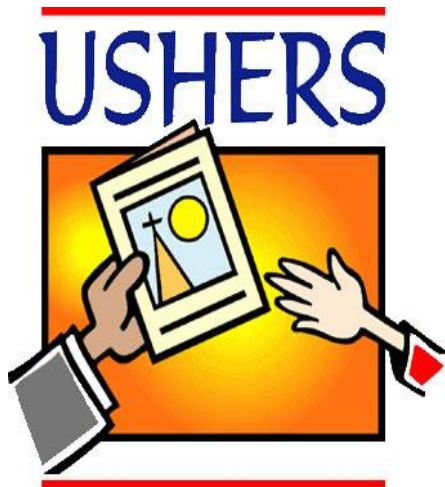
This year, Centennial will host the cluster charge conference. The charge conference is open to all members of the congregation and will include worship, approving reports and ministry and mission plans for 2027.

Since we will serve as the hosts, we will need people to greet members of other congregations as they arrive. We'll also need to provide and serve some light refreshments (cookies / bars, coffee / lemonade). We will have a sign-up sheet when it gets closer to the date. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Joyce. Call or text 515-480-8457 or email her at revjlwebb76@gmail.com



CALENDAR – Please let Aleka Fischer know if you have something for the calendar

Thursday	9/3	11:30 am	Ivy Women's Group
Sunday	9/6	11:30 am	Dinner Day
Sunday	9/13	11:45 am	NOW Committee Meets
Thursday	10/1	5:00 pm	SE Polk HS Homecoming Parade
Sunday	10/18	11:30 am	Pie and Cake Auction
Sunday	10/25	4:00-6:00 pm	Church Bonfire
Sunday	11/8	6:30 pm	Charge Conference



USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

6th Mike and Mary Ferguson
 13th Missy Shaver and Gaylen Heaberlin
 20th Jonathan and Jeff Freel
 27th 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 are in need of prayer and 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

Forrest Campbell	Matthew Myers	Barb Bolt	Jerry Peck
Tim Miller	John Bowie	Nancy Day	Bob Dice
Jeff Olgren	LaDonna Morse	Larry Jordan	
Chuck McGriff	Bev McGriff		

Ivy Centennial (for God's continued blessing)
 Caring Hands Food Pantry
 Donna Gustafson and La Casa de Esperanza in Peru

September Birthdays		September Anniversaries	
3	Joseph Fry	4	Chris & Diana DeMoss
4	Jordan Carroll	4	April & Dana King
6	Susan Churchill, Dan Geisenhoff, Dee Johnston	7	Kristi & Mark Olgren
8	Landan Deutmeyer	8	Jason & Torie Hermann
12	Wendy Fritz, Carol Graves	12	Josh & Stephanie Lampkin
13	Tom Bergstrom, Angela Selby	12	Julie & Larry Palmer
16	Debbie Parker, Ken Sharp	15	Jill & Steve Craven
19	Todd Hiatt	19	Jen & Neal Griffiths
20	Tom Johnston		
21	Steve Craven, Amy Ferguson		
24	Jennifer Morgan		
25	Jeff Tomlin		
26	Gage Seaman		
27	Lisa Schmidtke		
30	Brittani Corbin, Kensli Haley		

CENTENNIAL UMC FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Income January - July 2026 (see note below)	\$52,126.35
Monthly Average Giving	\$7,446.62
Expenses January - July 2026	
Payroll / Payroll Taxes	\$29,849.77
Utilities (electric, propane)	\$3,663.64
Communications (phone, internet, webpage)	\$904.85
Church Maintenance (lawn, snow, repairs, trustees)	\$4,366.62
Insurance	\$390.00
Administrative (accounting, postage, office, Breeze)	\$1,816.62
Ministry Expenses (educ, worship, outreach, fellowship)	\$2,003.30
<i>Est. 150th Anniversary Expenses (not covered by fundraisers)</i>	<i>\$1,200.00</i>
Apportionments (Iowa UMC Conference Giving)	\$10,455.36
Total Operating Expenses	\$54,650.16
Monthly Average Expenses	\$7,807.17
Over / Short	-\$2,523.81

Thank you for your generous support of the mission and ministry of Ivy Centennial.

Please Note: the numbers above only represent general offerings received and general operating expenses. The snapshot does not include mission giving and mission pass-through expenses (e.g. food pantry) or memorial gifts. It also doesn't include income raised through church events (e.g. spaghetti supper or pancake supper) since those funds are often designated for a specific purpose or project.

In July, we included an estimated net expense for the 150th Anniversary Celebration (fundraisers less expenses). A final expense amount will be included with the August Financials.



Pastor: Joyce Webb revjlwebb76@gmail.com

(515) 480-8457

Email Prayers Requests: Missy Shaver Mishaver2@gmail.com

515-967-6288

Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins): Aleka Fischer alekakfischer@gmail.com

515-868-2559

Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving): Joy Warner ywj8893@gmail.com