



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

April 2022



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:

I grew up hearing the phrase “April showers bring May flowers,” but what comes after tornadoes that show up in March?

Iowa weather is full of surprises. I'm used to seeing snow one day and 70°F two days later. But I was surprised to hear a tornado would come through our community this early in the year! Regardless of my surprise, we witnessed some of the most devastating tornadoes in the Midwest in recent years on March 5, 2022. My heart, like many of yours, broke at the news that our loved ones and friends had terrible damage to their homes and properties. I heard and drove by the damage where roofs were missing, windows were shattered, livestock were yet to be found, and families were displaced. So much has been lost and gone. Devastating storms like tornadoes provide us with a death of future dreams and plans.

As Easter approaches, however, I'm thinking about what the Christian faith has to say about life after death. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, we grieve the death of Christ, and we are reminded of our own mortality. Then on Easter morning, when we celebrate God's incredible power through Christ's resurrection, we bear witness to the indescribable power God presents to us in life after death. On Easter, we become more than people who grieve. Because on Easter, we become people of hope and love. On Easter, we proclaim that life can be found even after death.

When I visited with families in our community who had experienced such devastation after the tornadoes on March 5, each and every one of them reminded me of the promises of *life*. So much devastation occurred, but everyone (from the Tingley family to the Jacksons & Persons) gave thanks for life. They said, “things can be replaced; people can't” and “we're so grateful that everyone is safe.”

Brock Jackson woke up the morning after the tornadoes and called his football coach at Central College to tell him that he wouldn't be able to attend weight-lifting practice that afternoon. Brock's coach asked what happened and after Brock told him, his coach said, “give us an hour and we'll be there.” An hour later, the entire Central College football team arrived at the Jackson/Person properties to clean up, rebuild fences, and help find livestock.* Signs of life after death showed up that morning in the people who showed up, cleaned up, and brought hope with them.

Resurrection doesn't teach us to forget the pain of the past or the grief that accompanies death. Resurrection is a celebration, however, that death doesn't get the final word. We'll find resurrection again on Easter this year, but I believe we've already seen these signs of hope, joy, and life after death in our midst.

So, if April showers bring May flowers, then what comes after tornadoes in March? I believe what comes next is resurrection.

“With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.” - Acts 4:33

**With love,
Pastor Dani**

*To read more about the Central College football team and their response to tornado damage, follow this link:

<https://www.kniakrls.com/2022/03/10/central-football-players-help-teammates-family-following-tornado/>



On the Sunday after Easter
(AKA the 2nd Sunday of Easter)
We will enjoy a Sunday of holy humor!
Join us for a worship service of fun,
hymn sing, & celebration as Christ is
Risen!

*please note that we will not celebrate communion on Holy
Humor Sunday. We will host communion on Maundy
Thursday (4/14) and again on
May 1 & May 31



Join the Pastor's Book Club!

We are moving onto our next book:
*The Lazy Genius Way: Embrace
What Matters, Ditch What Doesn't &
Get Stuff Done*
by Kendra Adachi.

Pastor's Book club meets every other
Thursday at 7pm in the church library
to discuss what we read the week
before & to read scripture that
engages the book, too.

We will begin discussing
The Lazy Genius Way on
April 7 at 7:00pm

If you'd like to join us for our next book, please email: pastordanim@gmail.com.
You're welcome to join us anytime!



IVY'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!

*Come join us Saturday,
April 16th @ 11:00 am
Ages: 6th grade and under*



There may be a special appearance by the Easter Bunny himself!

UMW UPDATES

Centennial United Methodist Women met March 3rd at 1:00 with six members present. The group will again, serve the Caring Hands Food Pantry Simple Supper in April. The menu will consist of cavatelli, fruit cups, rolls, cookies, and water. The clients are always very appreciative of the meal.

An important announcement was shared by the secretary of changes for United Methodist Women. The organization will now be known as United Women in Faith. It seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

LIBRARY UPDATES

A very personal book has been donated to our church library by Mary Ferguson. "And Then There Was One" was written by Susie Clark, a former member of our church. Susie and her husband Howard had two children, Danny, and Lisa. When the children were in elementary school, the family moved to St. Louis. Both children were stricken with Niemann Pick Type C, a rare terminal disease. Danny died when he was 18 and Lisa died at age 20.

In 2004, Susie and Howard moved back to Iowa where Howard later died of cancer. They had been married for 34 years. Susie reconnected with a former classmate from 3rd grade. She ends her book by declaring life is what you make of it, and she chose happiness.

A BIG THANK YOU TO PAT ADEY'S FAMILY!

After Pat passing, her family generously donated a nice collection of her books to our church library. She was an avid reader, and their generosity was certainly appreciated.

LENTEN SEASON

Traditional worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
Dinner, study and contemporary worship
on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 10
10:30 a.m. | Palm Sunday Service

Thursday, April 14
7 p.m. | Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 15
8 a.m.-5 p.m. | Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Saturday, April 16
11 a.m. | Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 17
7 a.m. | Youth Sunrise Service
10:30 a.m. | Easter Service

 **Centennial**
United Methodist Church
at Ivy



9150 NE University Ave., Altoona
Located one mile east of Southeast Polk High School
www.ivycentennial.org

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|---|--|
| | | | | | 1. Amanda Ferguson Andrea Hackett | 2. |
| 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. April King | 9. Whitney Long |
| 10. | 11. Leslee Lynch Sue Tomlin | 12. | 13. | 14. | 15. | 16. Gail Gish |
| 17. | 18. Butch Weeks | 19. | 20. | 21. | 22. | 23. |
| 24. | 25. Justin Shaver | 26. | 27. | 28. | 29. Janice Williams | 30. Macy Craven Mary Ferguson Dale & Irene Dewey |

Saturday, April 2nd – Men’s Group @ 9:00 am

Sunday, April 3rd – Dinner Day following Service

Wednesday, April 6th – WoW @ 5:30 pm

Wednesday, April 6th – Administrative Council Meeting @ 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 7th – United Women in Faith @ 1:00 pm

Thursday, April 7th – Pastor’s Book Club @ 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 10th – Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 13th – WoW @ 5:30 pm

Thursday, April 14th – Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00 pm

Friday, April 15th – Good Friday Prayer Vigil @ 8:00 am

Saturday, April 16th – Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:00 am

Sunday, April 17th – Easter Sunday – Youth Service @ 7:00 am – Regular Service @ 10:30 am

Wednesday, April 20th – WoW @ 5:30 pm

Thursday, April 21st – Sunday, April 24th – Pastor Dani on vacation

Sunday, April 21st – Holy Humor Sunday!

Wednesday, April 27th – WoW @ 5:30 pm

Wednesday, April 27th – Communications Meeting @ 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 28th – Pastor’s Book Club @ 7:00 pm

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME**

| | Offerings 2022 | Offerings 2021 | Offerings 2020 | Offerings 2019 |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| January | \$11,240.28 | \$11,270.04 | \$11,273.44 | \$6,141.66 |
| February | \$9,698.09 | \$8,480.01 | \$10,933.50 | \$11,454.06 |
| March | | \$12,192.01 | \$10,780.19 | \$19,206.73 |
| April | | \$12,506.01 | \$6,573.00 | \$11,974.39 |
| May | | \$8,717.05 | \$9,110.16 | \$10,375.86 |
| June | | \$8,118.89 | \$5,739.78 | \$9,505.66 |
| July | | \$6,295.75 | \$9,248.40 | \$6,855.50 |
| August | | \$7,919.24 | \$7,701.93 | \$11,013.50 |
| September | | \$9,763.24 | \$7,942.10 | \$12,809.25 |
| October | | \$12,038.34 | \$9,201.03 | \$6,737.50 |
| November | | \$10,568.68 | \$11,111.78 | \$8,324.50 |
| December | | \$10,477.42 | \$10,282.93 | \$12,235.67 |
| Total Offerings | \$20,938.37 | \$118,346.68 | \$109,898.24 | \$126,634.28 |
| Government Paycheck Protection Program | - | \$20,177.00 | \$20,232.00 | |
| Iowa Conference Assistance Program | | \$4,300.98 | \$9,201.00 | \$10,400.04 |
| Total Offerings & Programs | \$20,938.37 | \$142,824.66 | \$139,331.24 | \$137,034.32 |

2022 Average Monthly Offerings \$10,469.19
 2022 Average Required for Budget \$12,555.42
 2022 YTD Offerings vs. Required for Budget (\$2,086.23)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund or mission projects.
 As of February 28th, we have collected \$330.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary



Pastor: Dani Musselman pastordanim@gmail.com
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 joj8893@gmail.com