



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

December 2021



## *A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:*

In the well-known Christmas story "*How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*" first written in 1957, we find a grumpy character at odds with the happiness often found in the holidays. How many of us can relate to the Grinch's character-- finding ourselves annoyed by the repetitive songs, the never-ending Christmas lists, or even the family members you don't want to share Christmas dinner with?

And although we know from the original Grinch story written by Dr. Seuss that the Grinch hated Christmas, we never really find out *why*.

During Advent this year, we will consider together how the popular story of the Grinch can teach us new messages about the birth of Jesus Christ and how we ought to respond to this miraculous birth.

Perhaps we can learn a few lessons from the Grinch who despises the consumerism found during this holiday season. Or maybe we can learn more from the Who's living in Whoville as they learned to sing and celebrate on Christmas day without any presents at all!

Join us during the four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve as we consider where faith shows up in the popular Grinch story and how our faith can help us better understand the good news we celebrate on the day of Christ's birth.

This Advent series is inspired by the recently published book by Matt Rawle: *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch*. Purchase & read the book along with the sermon series to learn more!

*With love, Pastor Dani*

**Winter Warm-Up**  
 In Nov & Dec please donate:

coats  
 hats  
 mittens/gloves  
 scarves  
 socks

or any new or lightly used  
 warm winter items



donations will support:  
 Altoona elementary school kids,  
 homeless youth in DSM, &  
 folks at Bidwell Riverside

**DONATIONS**

**Live Nativity**  
 SAT. DECEMBER 4  
 6-8P

CENTENNIAL UMC AT IVY  
 9150 NE UNIVERSITY AVE ALTOONA, IA 50009



Join us on December 4 for our live nativity!  
 We'll have snacks & hot chocolate available  
 indoors as well.

**CHILDREN &  
 YOUTH  
 CHRISTMAS  
 PROGRAM**



*Join us on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Time: 6:00 pm  
 Ivy's Children & Youth Christmas Program!*

*Christmas Eve  
 Candlelight  
 Services*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24  
 7:00PM  
 &  
 11:00PM





**IVY'S STAR  
 YOUTH TREE**



Visit the Christmas Tree in the narthex to support a local family  
 this Christmas!

Take 1 or 2 stars from the tree to purchase gifts for a local family.  
 Please return your gift(s) wrapped with the star taped to the gift  
 so the family knows which gift belongs to which child.

Please deliver the presents to the church under the tree no later  
 than Saturday, December 11 so we can deliver them before  
 Christmas! Thank you for your generosity during this season.





## WELCOMING OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

Through the support of our Community Greetings representative, we were able to find new residents that were new to the area. This past year our Committee elected to write personal letters of welcome along with inviting them to Ivy for Church and fellowship activities. We would like to invite all members of the congregation to add their voice and hand to this outreach project. We will be spending time writing letters, enjoying company of others, along with a warm cup of tea on **Wednesday, December 8th at 3pm. All are invited to participate.**



## The Cookie Project



Pastor Dani has challenged our church to acknowledge those who give of their own holiday time in service to others (Elder caregivers, Police, Fire, Hospital Staff, Gas Station attendants, Hospice workers, and others). Our mission is to work together to fill 30 boxes of cookies and invite all at the early Christmas Eve Service to deliver a box or three to a selected recipient acknowledging and honoring their service with a card and some treats.

### How can YOU help make this happen:

- Provide a batch of cookies or bars that are ready to be packaged.
- Decorate cookies at the planned Cookie Night
- Provide supplies for Cookie Night
- Write a Christmas Card for the boxes
- Come to Christmas Eve Service grab a box of cookies to deliver on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

Cookie decorating is ALL AGES and COME AND GO to accommodate various schedules.

Cookie decorating will be in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.

Provided cookies or bars need to be to the church by 5pm Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>



## Our library at Ivy

Did you know there is a published author in our congregation? David Burrier is a storyteller, speaker, children's book author, singer, songwriter, and poet. He graciously donated two of his children's books to our church library.

The charming books are:

The Just For You Pet Shop and The String Thing!

Visit the church library for some delightful reading.

# Thank You!

Dear Centennial Congregation,

Thank you so very much for honoring me on Oct. 24th for my years of service as your Lay Member to Annual Conference.

I began serving as Lay Member in 1996 which was the 153rd session of the Annual Conference. The session was held at the Iowa State Center in Ames. Years later the conference was moved to Des Moines which was a much shorter commute!

I enjoyed the Conferences as I found them interesting, enlightening and at times tiring.

I wanted to also thank everyone for the lovely framed collection of comments. I will treasure it.

Libby Hiatt

## CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Centennial United Methodist Women met November 4<sup>th</sup> with seven members present.

The Scripture for November, 1 Corinthians 13:13, was shared.

The secretary explained our new District name, River Park.

It was decided to have a potluck dinner, prepare Love Boxes, and present Mary Ferguson with her UMW pin at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas meeting.

Our funds have been lower recently so our donations to Shesler Hall, Bidwell Riverside and Hawthorne Hill had to be reduced.



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1. Josey Fry Butch Griffel Hannah Griffiths  WOW @ 5:30 pm	2.  Barb & Ken Sharp	3.  Charles Southcott	4.  Diane Griffel Brili Jackson Mary & Mike Ferguson
5.	6.  Linda Howard	7.  Jacquelyn Purcell Jamie Remster	8.  Marc Dorris  WOW @ 5:30 pm	9.  Dean Fiene	10.  Paul Quick Beth Shipley	11.  Gerry Ordway
12.  Laney Seaman	13. Gail & Tom Gish	14.  Torie Hermann Mark Olgren	15.   WOW @ 5:30 pm	16.	17.  Paige Geisenhoff Laura Hiatt Jane Wendel	18.
19.  Brenda Cox Jen Griffiths	20.  Brent Scheel	21.  Allison & Chris Lehn	22.   WOW @ 5:30 pm	23.  Marc & Penny Dorris	24.	25.
26.	27.  Andrea & Scott Hackett	28.  Jo Ordway	29.  Abby Glann  WOW @ 5:30 pm	30.  Karla Heaberlin	31.	

Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> – Pastor’s Book Club @ 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – Live Nativity – 4:00-8:00 pm

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Program @ 6:00 pm

Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – Administrative Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (2 services)  
7:00 pm & 11:00 pm

Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> – Pub Theology @ 7:00 pm



**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
2021 ACTUAL GIVING VS 2020 ACTUAL GIVING**

	REQUIRED	SUNDAYS	TITHES	OTHER INC (Breeze Costs)	TOTAL	INCOME ONE YEAR AGO
JANUARY	\$12,369.00	5	\$ 12,636.87	\$ ( 8.15)	\$ 12,616.92	\$12,090.11
FEBRUARY	\$12,368.00	4	\$ 9,296.84	\$ (10.61)	\$ 9,284.98	\$11,750.17
MARCH	\$12,368.00	4	\$ 12,908.84	\$ ( 9.65)	\$ 12,899.19	\$11,596.86
APRIL	\$12,368.00	4	\$ 33,395.14	\$ ( 9.90)	\$ 33,385.29	\$ 7,389.67
MAY	\$12,369.00	5	\$ 9,433.88	\$ (10.49)	\$ 9,425.55	\$30,158.83
JUNE	\$12,368.00	4	\$ 8,835.72	\$ (10.84)	\$ 8,824.88	\$ 6,556.45
JULY	\$12,368.00	4	\$ 6,295.75	\$ (13.92)	\$ 6,281.83	\$ 9,965.23
AUGUST	\$12,369.00	5	\$ 7,919.24	\$ (2.72)	\$ 7,916.52	\$ 8,418.76
SEPTEMBER	\$12,368.00	4	\$ 9,763.24	\$ (11.92)	\$ 9,751.32	\$ 8,658.93
OCTOBER	\$12,369.00	5	\$ 12,038.34	\$ (9.90)	\$ 12,028.44	\$ 9,917.86
NOVEMBER	\$12,368.00	4				\$11,828.61
DECEMBER	\$12,368.00	4				\$10,999.76
<b>2020 BUDGET</b>	<b>\$148,420.00</b>		<b>\$121,778.56</b>	<b>(98.10)</b>	<b>\$121,680.46</b>	<b>\$139,331.24</b>
	<b>52 Sundays in 2021</b>				<b>Actual:</b>	<b>81.98%</b>
					<b>Required to meet budget:</b>	<b>75.00%</b>

As of November 21st, Centennial has collected \$2,671.52 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.  
Let's keep it up!!

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, we received \$20,177 from the Small Business Administration for the Payroll Protection Program.

### Gaylen Heaberlin, Retiring Financial Secretary



Pastor: Dani Musselman [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)

Trustees: Ardean Williams 515-967-4189

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): Gaylene Heaberlin 515-967-2016