



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

December 2022



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:

Thanksgiving is over and the countdown to Christmas has begun. This is the time when life starts to get a little crazy. Shopping, baking, decorating, sending Christmas letters and cards, family gatherings, office parties and even church activities all vie for our attention. With all the distractions, it's easy to get caught up in the busyness of the season and to lose sight of what Christmas is really about.

According to the church calendar, we are in the season of Advent, the church's New Year. Advent comes from the Latin word *advantus* and simply means *coming* or *arrival*.

Advent is a time of waiting for Christ's arrival, but it's not a passive, sitting around twiddling our thumbs kind of waiting. Instead, it's the kind of waiting that anticipates that something special is about to happen. The best example I can give is the couple expecting a child. There are doctor visits, a nursery to get ready, and a car seat to pick-out. If it's a first child, maybe they'll read a book that shows how the baby is growing in the womb, or a parenting book about how to care for their child. Waiting involves preparation as lives are refocused on the birth of the child and the changes that will happen once the baby arrives.

In the same way, Advent is a time of preparing as we wait for Christmas and the birth of Jesus. Not the hectic seasonal activities we find ourselves doing, but a time of quiet anticipation as we refocus our lives to receive the babe in Bethlehem. He is after all, God's special gift to us. A gift of God's own self. Church folk call this the *incarnation* - which means that God became flesh and made his dwelling here with us. Or as Eugene Peterson expressed it: *The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood* (John 1:14 *The Message*).

As we await the birth of Jesus this Christmas, let's also prepare our hearts to receive him. This year...

- Instead of shopping for presents...take time to be present.
- Instead of wrapping gifts...wrap someone in a hug
- Instead of sending gifts...send a message of peace
- Instead of shopping for food...donate food to the food pantry
- Instead of putting up lights...be the light

This Christmas may you truly experience the gift of Emmanuel – God's presence with us.

Be well and be blessed this CHRISTmas

Pastor Joyce



LIVE NATIVITY 2023

Saturday, December 3rd from 6:00-8:00 pm

Education Committee will provide the hot drinks and treats.

Sign up is in the Narthex for the help that is needed to make this a success!



As in past years, the church has adopted a family to help this Christmas.

It is a family of 7 – mom, dad and five children ages 3-13. Check out the stars on the tree that have the needs and wants for each family member. Purchased items should be wrapped and returned to the church by December 11th. If you take a star, please be sure and attach the star to the wrapped package.

HAT, MITTEN & COAT DRIVE

Ivy Methodist Women will be teaming up with the Missions Committee for the annual Hats, Mittens, Gloves, Coats, and Socks for Altoona & Mitchellville Elementary Children.

Any adult item will go to Bidwell for the needy people. There will be a box in the Narthex for the collections along with a basket for cash donations.

Please see Leslee Lynch for Mary Ferguson if you have any questions.





ADVENT STUDY SUNDAYS 9:15-10:15

We will be doing an Advent study during the Sunday school time.

Our study is *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*. This study is video based, so it will be easy for everyone to participate. All are welcome to come for coffee and conversation.

Please contact Pastor Joyce if you have any questions.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH 6:30 PM

Please mark your calendars for this year's Christmas Program. Jill Craven and Jennifer Fischer will be our directors this year.

If you would like to participate in some way by being in the program or helping behind the scenes, please let us know.



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 7:00 PM

The holidays are supposed to be joyous, at least that's what we see and hear on TV and social media. And yet we know that for some people the holidays are difficult.

If 2022 has been a hard year for you or someone you know, please consider joining us for a short service of remembrance. It will be a time to acknowledge our grief and loss and loneliness and find hope in the presence and promises of God.



Make a Joyful Noise

Singing is an important part of worship! After taking a break due to COVID, the choir will be getting back together to sing on Sunday mornings.

If you like to sing and would like to find out more, please get in to

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Centennial United Women in Faith will be gathering on Thursday, December 1st at noon in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck, cookie exchange and Love Gifts for shut ins.

DINNER DAY SIGN UP FOR 2023

Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2023. Please choose your month and sign up!



Save
the
Date

Wednesdays - 5:30-7:30 pm - Worship on Wednesday (WOW)
Thursday 12/1 @ 1:00 pm - United Women of Faith Potluck Cookie Exchange With Love gifts for shut ins
Thursday, 12/1 @ 6:30 pm - Nominations Meeting
Saturday, 12/3 @ 9:00 am - Men's Group
Saturday, 12/3 @ 6:00-8:00 pm - Live Nativity
Sunday, 12/4 - Dinner Day
Wednesday, 12/7 @ 7:30 pm - Administrative Council Meeting
Sunday, 12/11 @ 6:30 pm - Christmas Program
Wednesday, 12/14 @ 7:00 pm - Blue Christmas Service
Saturday, 12/24 @ 5:00 & 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, 12/25 - Christmas Day Service @ 10:30 am

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1. Josey Fry Butch Griffel Hannah Griffiths	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	9. Dean Fiene	10. Paul Quick Beth Shipley
11. Gerry Ordway	12. Laney Seaman	13. Gail & Tom Gish	14. Torie Hermann Mark Olgren	15.	16.	17. Paige Geisenhoff Laura Hiatt Jane Wendel
18.	19. Brenda Cox Jen Griffiths	20. Brent Scheel Allison & Chris Lehn	21. William Deutmeyer	22.	23. Marc & Penny Dorris	24.
25.	26.	27. Andrea & Scott Hackett	28. Jo Ordway	29. Abby Glann	30. Karla Heaberlin	31.

**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	\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01	\$10,780.19	\$19,206.73
April	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01	\$6,573.00	\$11,974.39
May	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05	\$9,110.16	\$10,375.86
June	\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89	\$5,739.78	\$9,505.66
July	\$8,636.81	\$6,295.75	\$9,248.40	\$6,855.50
August	\$7,081.26	\$7,919.24	\$7,701.93	\$11,013.50
September	\$5,610.25	\$9,763.24	\$7,942.10	\$12,809.25
October	\$12,111.46	\$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	\$94,491.80	\$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	\$94,491.80	\$142,824.66	\$139,331.24	\$137,034.32

2022 Average Monthly Offerings \$9,449.18
 2022 Average Required Monthly for Budget (Revised) \$10,736.25
 2022 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget (\$1,287.07)

As of October 31st, we have collected \$2,123.04 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, Caring Hands or mission project donations.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary



Pastor: Joyce Webb revjlwebb76@gmail.com (515) 480-8457
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 Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins): Amy Ferguson anbscorbin@gmail.com 515-402-6056
 Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving): Joy Warner voj8893@gmail.com