



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

May 2023



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:

A while back, I read an interesting devotion written by W. Paul Jones, a monk and former seminary professor. He used a passage from 2 Kings, the story of Elijah being taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire.

When they had crossed the Jordan, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours-otherwise, it will not." As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha was allowed to witness Elijah being taken up into heaven and his desire to inherit a double portion of Elijah's spirit was granted.

Dr. Jones wrote that both Elijah and Elisha were transformed. Elijah was carried off to heaven in a chariot of fire, and Elisha received a double portion of the prophetic spirit of his mentor and teacher, Elijah. Jones then posed this question, **whose spirit do we hope to receive a double inheritance of?** He pointed out that what we choose makes all the difference in our lives - how we live, how we relate to God. and how we relate to other people. Do we seek after the fame of Patrick Mahomes (or Tom Brady), the compassion of Mother Teresa, the wealth of Bill Gates, the sacrificial love of Jesus?

The truth is that we're all on a spiritual journey, in the process of being transformed by God for his plans and purposes. Here's the thing – we aren't spectators, we are to be participants in what God is doing. Whose spirit do we seek after. It's about choosing a path that will help us grow as followers of Jesus. Did you know that Ivy Centennial has a *discipleship pathway*? It's a pathway that includes opportunities for growth and transformation. Centennial's pathway includes the 3-F's:

Faith – loving God as we worship and participate in Bible studies and Christian learning for all ages.

Fellowship – loving one another through small groups, sharing meals together and other congregational activities.

Flourish – growing to be more like Jesus in loving and serving our neighbors as representatives of God's Kingdom.

Over the next several weeks, we'll begin to talk more about what it means to be on the path as a disciple of Jesus, what it means to grow, and what it means to allow the Spirit of God to truly guide and direct our lives.

I'm looking forward to journeying with you!

Be well and be blessed!

Pastor Joyce



Centennial's Worship Committee is looking for input regarding summer worship days and times. In many churches attendance does go down during the summer months because congregation members get busy with other weekend activities.

The goal of the survey is to help us know what families need for summer worship opportunities. There are two specific areas that the survey covers. The first is whether it would be helpful to offer an earlier worship time on Sunday mornings (9:00 or 9:30). The second area relates to offering an alternative date and time (Wednesday or Saturday evening 5:30-6:15). The survey will be available during worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings during WOW. If you need a survey, please get in touch with Pastor Joyce. Thanks in advance for your help!



Over the next several weeks, we will be asking you to review and update your member/contact information.

The church uses a membership software called Breeze to keep track of mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, giving and other member information. It's been a while since records have been updated and we know that some member information has changed.

Please let Pastor Joyce know if you have any questions.



Men's Group will be hosting breakfast on Mother's Day (May 14th) before Church.

RSVP on table in the Narthex or with Jonathan Freel. Everyone is invited!



The Education Committee is excited to announce a scholarship for young adult Ivy members for the 2023-2024 school year!

Details of the scholarship will be available in the Narthex starting May 1st

The 2023 Centennial Mission's Project to benefit Heifer International begins May 1st and runs through June 30th.

During this time we will gather our gifts to benefit the mission of Heifer International. Information on how to share your gifts is at the table in the entryway.

What does Heifer International do? This is a sampling of what Heifer International can do with our gifts:

**WE KNOW SEVERAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO POVERTY.
THAT'S WHY OUR APPROACH IS MULTI-FACETED.**

We do *not* just give animals.

We connect farmers to resources and support.

We train them on proper animal care.

We teach them to grow crops without hurting the environment.

We help them sell their goods.

We help them get loans.

We teach that women are as strong as men.

We provide clean water with irrigation systems and wells.

We make sure families have money to send all their children to school.

We encourage families to pass on their knowledge and gifts to others in the community.

How we help varies by project, but our goal is to ensure families can meet all their needs.



MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1. Logan Heaberlin	2.	3.	4. Jamie Graves Jeffrey & Karla Heaberlin	5. Don Hiatt Lois Wehde	6. Hailey Griffiths Boman Jackson Allison Lehn
7.	8.	9. Bobbi Meister	10.	11. Jennifer Quick Bill & Jo Ann Hansen	12.	13. Greta Musgrave Bob Pool
14. Zach Johnston Ed Myers Victoria Purcell	15.	16. Simon Meister	17. Harry Clark Zach Deutmeyer Jonathan Martin Joy Warner	18. Travis Shipley	19. Avery Britt Rosemary Freul	20. Emily Stout
21. Courtney Fritz	22. Jayme Fry Jayden Graves	23.	24. Drew Hiatt Tim & Wendy Fritz	25.	26. Kelly Adey	27. Tom Gish
28.	29. Doris & Gaylen Heaberlin	30. Jonah Goforth Doris Heaberlin Oakley Maxwell	31. Abby & Andrew Glann Jane & Jeff Heaberlin Cathy & Mike Johnston			



Wednesdays

Tuesday	5/2	6:30 pm
Wednesday	5/3	7:30 pm
Thursday	5/4	1:00 pm
Sunday	5/7	11:30 am
Tuesday	5/9	6:30 pm
Sunday	5/14	9:00 am

5:30-7:30 pm

Worship on Wednesday (WOW)

- Worship Committee Meeting
- Council on Ministries Meeting
- Ivy Women's Fellowship
- Dinner Day
- Education Committee Meeting
- Mother's Day Breakfast

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME**

	Offerings 2023	Offerings 2022	Offerings 2021	Offerings 2020
January	\$17,243.17	\$11,240.28	\$11,270.04	\$11,273.44
February	\$7,101.46	\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01	\$10,933.50
March	\$5,903.26	\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01	\$10,780.19
April		\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01	\$6,573.00
May		\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05	\$9,110.16
June		\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89	\$5,739.78
July		\$8,636.81	\$6,295.75	\$9,248.40
August		\$7,081.26	\$7,919.24	\$7,701.93
September		\$5,610.25	\$9,763.24	\$7,942.10
October		\$12,111.46	\$12,038.34	\$9,201.03
November		\$8,679.97	\$10,568.68	\$11,111.78
December		\$7,552.26	\$10,477.42	\$10,282.93
Total Offerings	\$30,247.89	\$110,724.03	\$118,346.68	\$109,898.24
Government Paycheck Protection Program			\$20,177.00	\$20,232.00
Iowa Conference Assistance Program			\$4,300.98	\$9,201.00
Total Offerings & Programs	\$30,247.89	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66	\$139,331.24

2023 Average Monthly Offerings \$10,082.63
 2023 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,750.00
 2023 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget \$1,332.63

As of March 31st, we have collected \$733.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry. This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, food pantry or mission project donations.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary



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