



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

OCTOBER 2023



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:

A little more than a year ago, my husband Rich and I moved to Urbandale. After living in a parsonage for eight years, we had to buy a new house. This was during the crazy real estate market. We looked at several potential homes and one of the things we looked for was whether the house had *good bones*. Does it have a good floor plan and enough space for us? Is it structurally sound? Has it been maintained through the years?

We could also ask this question of the church. Does this church have *good bones*?

The Centennial UMC has been at this location for nearly 150 years. But a church is more than just the physical building. The *bones* of the church are the people. The people are the building blocks. The writer of 1 Peter says *you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple*. The walls of the spiritual house (the church) are strengthened as each person grows in faith and as each adds his or her gifts to its construction.

In September, we had a Nominations / Leadership Meeting. As we were looking at the ministry slots that we needed to fill, one clear lament is that the church is different today than pre-COVID. There aren't as many people willing to do the work of the church, which makes it difficult to do all the things we used to do...or the new things God might be calling us to for his Kingdom.

Friends, you are a living stone...and it doesn't matter if you're eight or eighty...the church needs you. The church needs your experience, your expertise, and your spiritual gifts.

In order for the church to do the work of the church, it's important for all of the building blocks (all of us) to find a place to serve and use our gifts for ministry. It's easy to say...*I did my time* (like it's a prison sentence). Or think...*somebody else will do it*, which means that either *nobody does it*, or people who are already doing too much, end up trying to do one more thing.

Here's my invitation (and challenge), pray about where God might want to use you in this next year, for the work of the church and the Kingdom of God right here in this place.

We're Better Together,
Pastor Joyce



2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Every fall, the church conducts a financial stewardship campaign. This year's campaign will begin October 15th, with the theme, ***Releasing God's Blessings***.

As people of faith, we recognize the ways God blesses us in our lives. But there's more...

when we live from a place of gratitude for God's gifts and trust in God's provision, we can be agents of God's blessings in our world.

In the next few weeks, you'll be receiving some information about the campaign, including an opportunity to participate in the campaign by completing an Estimate of Giving Card. We will conclude the campaign on November 5th and celebrate as we offer our gifts to God. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Gaylen Heaberlin the Finance Committee chair (515-322-7108) or Pastor Joyce (515-480-8457).



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH 10:30 AM

We had so much fun with this last year, that we decided to do it again. On the 8th, bring your "fur baby," to church for a special blessing. We'll be finishing our sermon series on *Questions for God*, and one question people sometimes have is, do pets go to heaven.

Please note that all pets will need to be on a leash or in a pet carrier. If you're not sure how well your pet will do around people and other animals, feel free to bring a photograph of your pet for a blessing.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 - 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

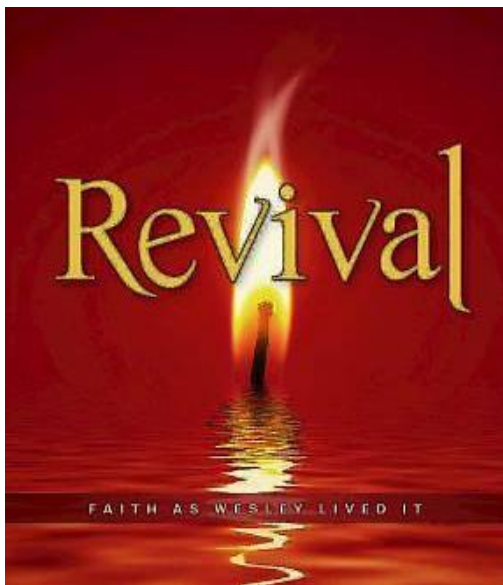


Each year, the church sets aside a time to complete the business of the local church, celebrate the ministries of the past year and outline a mission and ministry plan for the coming year. This year's charge conference will be at Walnut Hills United Methodist Church, 12321 Hickman Rd, Urbandale, Iowa. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate! If you have any questions, or want to carpool, please contact Pastor Joyce at 515-480-8457 or email revjlwebb76@gmail.com



Every year the church celebrates All Saints Sunday. It's a day to remember loved ones who have died, as we lift up their names and celebrate their lives in worship.

Mark your calendar and be sure and invite a family member or friend to this special worship service.



New Bible Study – Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It Begins Wednesday, October 11th 6:00-7:00 pm

As United Methodists, we have a distinct way of living out our faith. This six-week video-based study digs into the essential convictions and practices of the early Methodists. The video is set onsite in England to the key events and places in the life of John Wesley.

By reclaiming the faith, heart, and practices of John Wesley and the early Methodists, we can rediscover the best parts of our own hearts to spark a revival of Christianity in our time.



The Chili & Oyster Supper is Back!

Mark your calendar for the return of this traditional event on November 18th!

All profits from this dinner will go to church ministries or local charities!

The Men's Group is proud to sponsor this church-wide activity, however we will need help from the congregation.

There will be ways to sign up to support this Centennial event in the coming weeks. If anyone has any thoughts, please reach out to Jonathan Freel at jonfreel7@gmail.com or 515-771-9687.

Let's remind the community that Centennial is still here!



Thank You from Brock Jackson

Hello Ivy,

I want to start by thanking the Education Committee and congregation of Ivy for the scholarship granted to me to continue my education at Central College. I will be forever grateful for the tight-knit and loving community Ivy is and will continue to be. I'd also like to share a verse with you that is one of my favorites.

Psalm 27:13-14, "I remain confident of this, I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

God Bless,
Brock Jackson



CHURCH NOMINATIONS

The nominations committee will be reaching out to fill some open ministry positions. If you are contacted by a committee member about serving, it means we believe you have the experience and gifts the church needs for ministry and leadership. So...please say YES.

One critical position that we need to fill for a Church Treasurer. If you have experience with accounting, and/or payroll, please consider whether this might be a good place to use your experience and gifts.



Worship on Wednesday (WOW)

We will meet at 5:30 for a meal followed by a time of learning and will end our time together with a short, contemporary worship at 7:00. You are invited to come for any or all of the evening's activities. *If you read the Pastor's article, you will notice that WOW offers opportunities for Faith, Fellowship and Flourishing.*



The church is still looking for someone to lead the middle and high school youth group. This will be a paid position – 8 to 10 hours a week at \$15/hour.

We're looking for a person who is energetic, a good communicator, and who has a growing Christian faith to share with the youth. If you're interested, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Joyce for a full job description at (515) 480-8457 or revjlwebb76@gmail.com



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Do you like to sing in the shower...or in your car? If so, please consider joining the Centennial UMC choir. There's no better way to use your singing gifts than by praising God in worship! New members are always welcome. The plan is for the choir to sing one Sunday a month, from September through May (possibly more during the Christmas and Easter seasons). Practices usually take place on Sunday mornings, before church. If you're interested, or have questions, please contact Maggie Stout, Centennial's choir director at (515) 419-9329 or maggie.stout@msn.com



The Education Committee would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all that attended the Pie, Cake & More Auction on September 10th!

The committee raised a little over \$3,000 for future scholarships for our youth members of the church!



Sunday, November 5th, Daylight Savings Time Ends!

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour and enjoy that extra hour of sleep that we will receive!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1. Jennifer & Paul Quick	2. Jennifer Fischer Lori Freel Ava Hackett	3. Penny Dorris DayKota Freel Chris Lehn Trevor Simpson Jary & Marcy Bowie	4. Bob Kujac Tylar Meister	5.	6. Dianne & Jerry Peck	7. Missy Shaver Carol & Jamie Graves
8.	9. Margaret Forster	10.	11. Kaylee Olgren Bobbi & Scott Meister	12. Jane Heaberlin	13.	14.
15. Rachael Cox Bob & Dee Johnston	16. Jon & Wendy Musgrave	17. LaDonna Morse Marcy & Tim Campbell	18. Brad & LaDonna Morse	19. Mike Ferguson	20. Jeffrey Heaberlin Dianne Peck Holly Tingley	21. Jessica Carroll Mike Johnston Chuck McGriff
22. Barbara Bernis Diana DeMoss	23. Shay Maxwell	24. Gary Fischer	25. James White	26. Carley Johnston Amy & Jason Ferguson	27. Jill Craven Olivia Fischer Butch & Judy Weeks	28. Marcy Campbell
29.	30.	31. Sue Larson Amanda Van Winkle				



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| Sunday | 9/24 | 12:00 pm | SPRC Meets |
| Sunday | 10/1 | 11:30 am | Dinner Day |
| Wednesday | 10/4 | 7:40 pm | Administrative Council Meets |
| Thursday | 10/5 | 1:00 pm | Ivy Women's Fellowship Meets |
| Sunday | 10/8 | 10:30 am | Blessing of the Pets |
| Saturday | 10/14 | 9:00 am | Men's Group Meets |
| Sunday | 10/15 | 3:00 pm | 2023 Charge Conference |
| | | | At Walnut Hills UMC in Urbandale |
| Saturday | 11/18 | 4:30 -6:30 pm | Chili and Oyster Soup Supper |

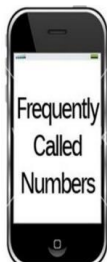
**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME**

	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	\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01	\$6,573.00
May	\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05	\$9,110.16
June	\$7,021.56	\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89	\$5,739.78
July	\$9,413.26	\$8,636.81	\$6,295.75	\$9,248.40
August	\$5,192.26	\$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	\$68,886.49	\$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	\$68,886.49	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66	\$139,331.24

2023 Average Monthly Offerings \$8,610.81
 2023 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,750.00
 2023 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget (\$139.19)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, food pantry or mission project donations. As of August 31st, we have collected \$1678.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary



Pastor: Joyce Webb revjlwebb76@gmail.com (515) 480-8457
 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 voj8893@gmail.com