



# STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

August 2020



## ***A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANI:***

On the journey back to Des Moines from Ely, Minnesota, Erik's grandma Nancy came across a book with the title *"What if God was in charge of your to-do list?"* I was taken aback by the question, worried for a moment that my to-do list would differ from the one God would write for me. However, after a few minutes I realized how task-oriented my list really is. I've shared my love of to-do lists with the church before; I thoroughly enjoy the sense of accomplishment that comes from carefully yet powerfully gliding my pen across the words *"do the laundry"* to identify its status of completion. The process of doing the laundry is almost bearable because I have the privilege to cross it off the list once it's finished!

But when Grandma Nancy brought up the book title that she came across on our road trip, I reflected on how self-centered my to-do list has become. Sure, sometimes my list might include non-selfish tasks, such as *"write a note to a friend"* or *"sign up to volunteer at Meals from the Heartland,"* but for what purpose am I truly accomplishing the tasks? For the purpose of helping? For the purpose of serving others and serving God? Or for the purpose of crossing the task off my to-do list?

So this week, I am changing my to-do list with this question at the forefront: *"what if God was in charge of my to-do list?"*

Instead of making *"respond to the email from a colleague"* as my first task, I'll write *"spend intentional time in prayer."* For Paul reminds us:  
**"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." -1  
Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Instead of writing *"spend time journaling about my day"* I'll write instead, *"spend time journaling as one option for worship this day"* because sometimes my journaling becomes more about complaining than it does about gratitude for God. For the Psalmist reminds us:

**"Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds...praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!" -Psalm  
150:1-2; 6**

Instead of making my second task, *"order a new book this week"* I'll replace it with *"donate the extra money or energy to an organization that needs it this week, like the food pantry or Habitat for Humanity."* For in his letter to the Phillipians, Paul writes:

**"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but the interests of others." -Phillipians 2:3-4**

What if God was in charge of your to-do list? Would you change your list much or is it pretty much the same? My prayer for all of us as our summer comes to its end and as our lives get busier, is that we might all take a moment in the upcoming days to wonder how we spend our time and for what purpose. May you find the time to wonder, *what if God was in charge of my to-do list?*

*With Love, Pastor Dani*

Below is a document that is a continuous work-in-progress. Over the past few months, committee chairs at Ivy at I have engaged in discussions on how to best implement practices at our church that keep us safe while still allowing us to have time for worship, fellowship, and more in the pandemic. This document best explains how we hope to continue the work of the church in phases of re-entry. Our document is quite similar to the document created by the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, yet it is more specific for our community with our resources in mind. Please know that these recommendations may change and will be adapted as time moves on. Additionally, these phases may not progress as seamlessly as we would hope. It may be that in some months we choose to exist as a church in Yellow Phase 2 and then return to Yellow Phase 1 or Red Phase based on restrictions and guidelines created by Bishop Laurie Haller, our government, or on information provided to us concerning the spread of COVID-19. Still on August 1, we continue to be in Yellow Phase 1. Whatever we decide and enact concerning our safety as a church, we will strive to do it in love and in prayer.

Thank you for your understanding and your patience. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via email: [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com)

Phased Reopening for Centennial UMC at Ivy  
Please see below for more in-depth guidelines & regulations

<u>Red Phase</u>	<u>Yellow Phase 1</u>	<u>Yellow Phase 2</u>	<u>Yellow Phase 3</u>	<u>Green Phase</u>
Stay home.	Outdoor gatherings only. No indoor in-person gatherings (life rituals not included)	Outdoor gatherings still encouraged. Minimal indoor gatherings	Less restrictions on indoor gatherings and meetings	Yay! All gatherings welcome
Online worship only.	Worship outdoors allowed. Masks required. Online worship continues.	Begin in-person indoor worship. Maybe 2 services offered. Online worship continues	Return to 1 in-person indoor worship service. Online worship continues.	All are encouraged to join us for indoor worship! Online worship continues!
No hospitality time offered.	No hospitality time following services.	No hospitality time following services.	Coffee time for hospitality time. No sharing of food.	Hospitality time with food and drink returns!
No in-person meetings or gatherings.	No in-person indoor meetings.	One indoor meeting/gathering per day. Online or outside gatherings encouraged.	Indoor gatherings welcome with restrictions.	Return to regular indoor functions with less restrictions



## **Detailed Phasing Plan for Centennial UMC at Ivy**

*Please note that all regulations & recommendations may change & will be re-evaluated as time moves forward. This plan has been created with the intentions laid out by the Iowa Annual Conference of hoping to re-open in phases as to “do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.”*

### **RED PHASE:**

- We will not host any in-person indoor or outdoor gatherings or worship services
- Online worship only
- Exception: life services (weddings or funerals) will be limited to no more than 10 people and will be recommended to take place outdoors when possible
- We will encourage continued giving online & via mail
- Will require all meetings to remain online or over the phone
- Communion will be celebrated online during live services

### **YELLOW PHASE 1:**

- If you do not feel well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you please do not attend any in-person gatherings or services
- We recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety
- We will host one or two outdoor gatherings per month
- Committees and leaders will be required to plan & communicate ahead of meeting/event times how to implement regulations and restrictions (i.e. physical distancing, masks, etc.)
- Can begin to offer outdoor services with people staying in their cars
- No in-person indoor gatherings or worship services
- Exception: life services (weddings or funerals) will be limited to no more than 20 people and will be recommended to take place outdoors when possible
- Recommend meetings to stay online
- Communion celebrated online or at outdoor worship service
- Masks required at all gatherings and will supply anyone with a mask if needed
- Physical distanced seating required at outdoor gatherings
- Will encourage continued giving online & via mail. Will include in-person offering at worship services
- Online worship remains as option for anyone

### **YELLOW PHASE 2:**

- If you do not feel well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you please do not attend any in-person gatherings or services
- We recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety

- Return to offering minimal indoor gatherings
- Might offer 2 or more worship services per week (on the radio, indoor or outdoor worship, etc.)
- Exception: life services (weddings or funerals) will be limited to no more than 50 people
- Outdoor gatherings still encouraged over indoor
- One indoor meeting/gathering per day
- Committees and leaders will be required to plan & communicate ahead of meeting/event times how to implement regulations and restrictions (i.e. physical distancing, masks, etc.)
- Recommend meetings to stay online
- Communion celebrated at outdoor worship service or will be offered at end of indoor service as people leave building
- Masks required at all gatherings and will supply anyone with a mask if needed
- Physical distanced seating required at all gatherings. Families may sit together.
- Committee leaders asked to clean any surfaces touched following an indoor meeting
- No meals or fellowship time indoors
- No congregational singing permitted
- Minimal to no liturgical response in services (Call to Worship, Lord's Prayer, etc.)
- Children's time in front of sanctuary will not be permitted. Will have children's bags made for a child's use during worship. Will continue to connect with families online with bedtime stories, etc.
- Shaking hands will not be permitted by greeters and will be recommended for all to remain physically distanced
- Hymnals will not be used by congregation during worship
- Recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety
- Will encourage continued giving online & via mail. Will include in-person offering at worship services
- Online worship remains as option for anyone

### YELLOW PHASE 3:

- If you do not feel well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you please do not attend any in-person gatherings or services
- We recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety
- Will continue to offer indoor gatherings with safety restrictions
- Will return to offering 1 indoor in-person worship service
- Life services will abide by all worship service restrictions
- Indoor gatherings and meetings welcome with physical distancing recommended
- Committees and leaders will be required to plan & communicate ahead of meeting/event times how to require physical distancing, masks, etc.
- Communion celebrated in-person with careful distancing guidelines (disposable cups, individual wafers, masks & gloves for servers, etc.)
- Masks recommended at gatherings and will supply anyone with a mask if needed
- Physical distanced seating recommended at all gatherings. Families may sit together.
- Committee leaders asked to clean any surfaces touched following an indoor meeting

- Coffee time and food (with limitations) may return for hospitality time. Coffee will need to be served (not self-served) and food will either need to be served or prepacked into individual packages to prevent the use of communal serving utensils
- Minimal congregational singing
- Minimal liturgical response in services (Call to Worship, Lord's Prayer, etc.)
- Children's time in front of sanctuary is not recommended. Will have children's bags made for a child's use during worship. Will continue to connect with families online with bedtime stories, etc.
- Shaking of hands will not be recommended by greeters or any in-person worshipper
- Will re-evaluate use of hymnals for in-person worship
- Recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety
- Will encourage continued giving online & via mail. Will include in-person offering at worship services
- Online worship remains as option for anyone

## GREEN PHASE:

- If you do not feel well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you please do not attend any in-person gatherings or services
- All gatherings welcome indoors & outdoors
- All are encouraged to join us for indoor worship and all gatherings
- Hospitality time with food and drink welcome and encouraged
- Ask that all worshippers and attenders respect others desire to stay physically distanced
- Will continuously evaluate safety restrictions for worship and all gatherings as needed
- Will encourage continued giving online & via mail. Will include in-person offering at worship services
- Online worship remains as option for anyone
- Will hope to engage in worship that does not take for granted the ways in which we have had to change the ways we gather and worship together in the pandemic. And we hope to continue learning and evolving as time goes on



July 1<sup>st</sup> marked the second anniversary of our full-time ministry at Centennial UMC. We on the finance committee would like to thank all who have made these historic two years possible with your generous gifts. All of us working together have made this ministry possible. Although our church building has been closed to personal meetings over the past four months, our leadership has kept us connected by the use of new technology and activities. One of our major accomplishments has been The Caring Hands Food Pantry. Our congregation has contributed over \$2,500 in the past 4 months, on top of our regular giving towards our annual budget. Seven months

into 2020 (with all of its problems) it looks like we are going to come through this year financially strong and continue to fulfill a vital role in our community well into the future. Thanks for your continued support.

Don Hiatt, Finance Committee Chair

# RAINY DAY FUND CHANGES

Last year the Finance Committee moved a portion of Centennial's reserves to the Iowa Methodist Church Foundation to take advantage of better yield potential. These were split into one-year building certificates @ 2.17%- and three-year building certificates @ 2.35%. We were informed that our one-year certificate (which holds 1/2 of our rainy-day fund) was renewing and the new rate would be .009%. Also as explained last year, if we needed any of it before the certificate matured, there would be a penalty of .06% on the amount withdrawn.

On a vote of 10 - 0, the finance committee decided to not renew that certificate and instead move that money to our savings account with Community State Bank at Altoona. Our three-year certificates will remain with the Iowa Methodist Church Foundation until they mature and then decide whether to renew them or not.

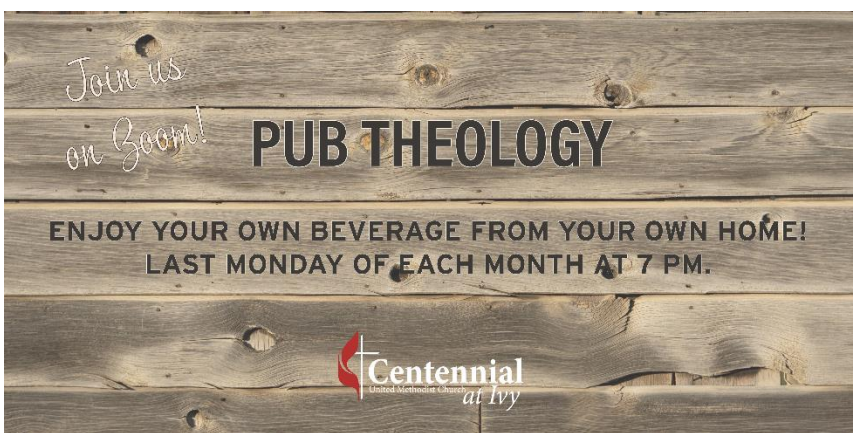
Don Hiatt, Finance Committee Chairman



On Sunday, July 26, we tried worshipping on the radio! Folks drove to the church, parked in our parking lot, tuned to 88.5 FM, and participated in worship from the safety of their car. We still had our livestream video on our church Facebook page, so that folks who were unable to participate in worship on the radio could stay at home and still worship with us. All of the technology is a learning curve, but our first Sunday on the radio was a success thanks to your prayers and support!

So, for the month of August, we're going to try it some more! We'll worship each Sunday in August at 10:30am over the radio and online. We hope you'll join us for worship in our parking lot sometime this month. We're still able to sing, pray, and reflect together in this safe way. And on the last Sunday of the month, we'll celebrate communion together again.

We hope you'll join us for worship soon!



## VIRTUAL PUB THEOLOGY

On the last Monday of each month at 7pm, we're gathering on Zoom for real & raw conversations about God & current events. Do you have questions about where you see God in the world right now? Do you ever wonder what it means to live Christ-like in modern day situations? Do you want to participate in authentic reflections & open dialogue? Then join us on the last Monday of the month at 7pm on Zoom!

Each week we'll discuss the relationship between our Christian faith and current events. While we cannot safely gather at a restaurant or bar, we'll gather on Zoom and it's Bring Your Own Beverage! Check your email or visit our website [ivycentennial.org](http://ivycentennial.org) for Zoom links.

# FOOD DRIVE

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**5:30 – 7:30 PM**  
**DRIVE THRU FOOD DRIVE**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** On Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 pm, we will be hosting a drive thru food drive! For the next week or so, we hope you'll collect a few personal hygiene and non-perishable food items to help us fill the hayrack in our church parking lot on Wednesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of August!

All donations will be given to Caring Hands Food Pantry as well as small local neighborhood pantries

around Des Moines and Altoona.

Please drive by and drop off your donations. If you are unable to drive by, please contact Marcy Bowie at 515-250-9903 to pick up the items from your front porch. Please invite your neighbors and friends to help fill the hayrack.

**Most needed items are personal hygiene items, pancake mix, hamburger helper, canned meats and chunky soup.**



## **“Annual Pie & Cake Auction”** **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 am**

Our Annual Pie and Cake Auction will be held Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> following fellowship time. Help us raise funds for church camp registrations, Sunday School, Youth and Vacation Bible School materials, etc. We would appreciate it if you would share your talents by donating pies or cakes to be auctioned. Please note that this fundraiser is also important to the committee as the donations also help them provide other events and items to the congregation throughout the year. Some of these events are the Easter Egg Hunt that has been a staple in this church for years, Easter Breakfast, gifts to the graduating seniors along with the reception after the senior service in May, Christmas goodie bags and reception after the Christmas Program.

## **Welcome** **Keaton Von Adey!**

He was born on July 22<sup>nd</sup> weighing in at 6lbs 10 oz and 20 inches long! Mom, dad and both big sisters are doing great!



# PLEASE JOIN US IN VOLUNTEERING AT MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND SATURDAY, AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> FROM 9-11 AM

*Contact Rita Denhart if you are interested in volunteering!*

**\*\* Please read the following carefully as you will be required to agree to the new COVID-19 volunteer safety standards and procedures BEFORE choosing a shift on the calendar.**

- All volunteers must be 14 years or older or at least 8 years old and accompanied by an adult family member. Family units are welcome; however, we recommend a 2 children per adult policy at this time (i.e. 4 children per 2 adults).
- Group registrations are allowed.
- All volunteers will be required to have their temperature taken prior to entering the packaging center. Anyone with a temperature of 100°F or above will be asked to return home. Family members may also be asked to return home.
- You must bring a clean mask (a bandana or scarf is not acceptable) to wear during your shift.
- To increase social distancing, training is occurring at the packaging table.
- We've decreased our capacity over 50%.
- If you need to cancel your shift, please let us know ASAP to allow your spot to be filled by another volunteer.

**If you or anyone in your household has experienced the following symptoms in the past 72 hours we ask that you please stay/return home: runny nose, sore throat, cough, headache and/or body aches, nausea and/or vomiting, diarrhea, fever and/or chills, new loss of sense of smell and/or taste or sinus congestion or have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.**

***Older adults and people with underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness and should stay home.***



## **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS DURING YOUR SHIFT:**

- Hands must be washed before your volunteer shift.
- **IMPORTANT:** Hands **MUST** be re-washed if the following happens:
  - Touching of face
  - After a sneeze or cough
  - Touching of personal items (phone, keys, wallet, etc.)
- Please remain as far apart as possible at all times if you come from separate households.
- Gloves will be provided and must be worn throughout your shift.
- Hands **MUST** be washed after your shift before returning home.
- If you want to take pictures, you must wait until your shift is over before touching your phone.



# CHURCH LIBRARY

## August Reading Celebration:

August 9 - Book Lovers Day - If you are reading this, chances are you will want in on this holiday. Celebrated worldwide, this is a chance to pull out your tattered old favorite, shiny new release, or share your recommendations for others to enjoy. However you want to celebrate, embrace your book love and share it with the world!

Let's share OUR favorite books! Please email me ([hiattdl@aol.com](mailto:hiattdl@aol.com)) the title of your favorite book. It can be from your childhood or a book you just finished reading. They will be shared in the September Steeple News. My favorite book is from my childhood, Jelly and George by Fritz Willis. (Of course, it is a cat story!) Don's favorite book is Stalking the Wild Asparagus by Euell Gibbons. Hope to hear from you!

# LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. Through Little Free Library book exchanges, millions of books are exchanged each year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Little Free Library recently received the 2020 World Literacy Award for its significant contribution to global literacy. There are over 100,000+ libraries in 100+ countries where millions of books are exchanged annually. Each library has a Charter Number. Centennial's Little Free Library's Charter Number is 43308.

Some Little Free Library's have been converted to sharing boxes full of food and household supplies which has been particularly important during the pandemic. Stop by #43308 sometime when you are in the area! Remember the church library and the Little Free Library are always open even if the public libraries are still closed.

# THE UPPER ROOM WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY

Thanks to the Worship Committee, Centennial receives The Upper Room devotional booklets every other month.

Each Upper Room booklet includes a suggested Bible passage, a personal story relating the message of the Scripture to daily life, a thought for the day, a prayer, and a prayer focus.

Please stop by the church and pick up the July/August Upper Room to enhance your daily devotions. The booklets are free and can be found in the church narthex or in the Little Free Library in the church parking lot.

# *AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Marcy Bowie Jo Ann Hansen Gabe Remster Richard Wehde	3 Pastor Duane & Sheryll Skidmore	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Kristi Olgren	11	12 Gordon & Peg Atzen	13 Sandra Clark Brock Jackson  Lois & Richard Wehde	14 Tim Campbell  Aaron & Brandi Jackson	15 Jolynn Fetters  Margaret & Pastor Gary Forster  Bev & Chuck McGriff
16 Susie Fischer	17 Dale Dewey Karen Heaberlin Lee Ann Martin	18 Gayle Jordan  Don & Libby Hiatt	19 Sarah Hermann Valerie Hermann	20	21	22 James Maxwell
23	24	25 Nick Corbin	26 Brenda Person	27 Linda Carnahan Ted Cox Chris DeMoss Mason Morgan	28 Byron & Judy Hemingson	29 Angela Shanks
30 Jonathan Freel Phyllis Kujac	31 Aaron Jackson					

**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
2020 ACTUAL GIVING VS 2020 BUDGET GOAL**

	REQUIRED	SUNDAYS	TITHES	OTHER INC (Breeze Costs)	TOTAL	INCOME ONE YEAR AGO
JANUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,640.11	\$450.00	\$12,090.11	\$ 7,058.33
FEBRUARY	\$12,477.50	4	\$11,750.17		\$11,750.17	\$ 12,370.73
MARCH	\$12,477.50	5	\$11,605.44	(8.58)	\$11,596.86	\$ 19,623.40
APRIL	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 7,401.17	(11.50)	\$ 7,389.67	\$ 12,891.06
MAY	\$12,477.50	5	\$30,172.17	(13.34)	\$30,158.83	\$ 11,292.53
JUNE	\$12,477.50	4	\$ 6,556.13	(9.68)	\$ 6,556.45	\$ 10,422.00
JULY	\$12,477.50	4				
AUGUST	\$12,477.50	5				
SEPTEMBER	\$12,477.50	4				
OCTOBER	\$12,477.50	4				
NOVEMBER	\$12,477.50	5				
DECEMBER	\$12,477.50	4				
<b>2020 BUDGET</b>	<b>\$149,730.00</b>		<b>\$79,135.19</b>	<b>\$406.90</b>	<b>\$79,542.09</b>	<b>53.12%</b>
					<b>Required:</b>	<b>50.00%</b>

As of July 19, our congregation has donated \$2,275.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry since the beginning of 2020.

On the 5th of May we received \$20,232 from the Small Business Administration as part of the Covid-19 Stimulus

Package. These funds were for the "Paycheck Protection Program" which helps us keep paying our Pastor,

Organist, Custodian and Secretary. In order to meet our 2020 budget, we need to average about \$12,480 per month.

**Gaylen Heaberlin, 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):** Gaylen Heaberlin 515-967-2016