



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

FEBRUARY 2024

LENT

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOYCE:

ASH
WEDNESDAY



Remember that
You are dust, and to
dust You shall return.
Ecclesiastes 3:20

We live in a world that values perfection, and that's what we want the world to see in us - the perfect marriage, the perfect kids, the perfect job, the perfect body, and the perfect amount of holiness. The problem is that none of us is perfect. Sure, there's a lot that we get right, but the truth is there's a lot we don't. **Spoiler Alert! We're all a work in progress!**

In a few weeks, we'll begin the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday – February 14th this year.

Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter. It's a time to reflect on our lives and examine the condition of our hearts. Is our life and living a reflection of God's Kingdom? And if changes are needed, it's a time to pause and ask for God's help to make the changes we need to make.

One last thing, and this is important. Lent is also a time to remember the depth of God's love for us. The apostle Paul put it this way, *God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8).

Our Lenten Journey begins on Wednesday, February 14th at 5:30. Join us on Ash Wednesday as we remember our need for God's grace in our lives.

Blessings,

Pastor Joyce



Souper Bowl Sunday! Don't Forget to Wear Your Team Jersey! Sunday, February 11th 10:30 am

We will be celebrating our Souper Bowl Sunday on February 11th during worship. The youth will lead the service, followed by a soup lunch. This would be a great Sunday to invite a family member or friend to church!



Food Pantry Mission Project

Winter is a great time for soup! We'll collect donations through Sunday, February 11th. Donations can be placed on the table in the narthex. When we did this last year, we were able to collect 200 cans of soup to donate to the pantry. This year let's see if we can top that!



PLEASE NOTE Dinner Day Change for February

Dinner Day in February will be on February 11th, the second Sunday instead of the first Sunday. Delicious soups will be provided as the main course, so bring whatever else you would like to share for our monthly community meal.



Lenten Sermon Series – Drinking from the Fountain of Grace

When we feel parched by the circumstances of life, Jesus, who is the living water invites us to come to him. As we look at what it means to Drink from the Fountain of Grace, we'll be using various kinds of cups (e.g. the broken cup, the empty cup, the cup of living water). **If you have a favorite cup, please feel free to bring it to church and we'll add it to our visual display for the sermon series.**



Ministries

Council on Ministry Report (COM)

The Council on Ministry is made up of representatives of the Education, Mission/Hospitality, Worship and Communication committees. The COM met Monday, January 22nd to talk about the priorities of the church for 2024. In our work together, we decided to focus on the following priorities for this year:

1. Work on building a congregational care ministry.
2. Work on offering high quality holiday services and events.
3. Work on reaching out to the community around the church.

We'll look at each of these priorities in turn and begin to develop some Ministry Action Plans (MAPS) to help guide us and keep us on target. The COM is a relatively small group, and we would love to have your help and input as we move forward. If you're interested in serving on a task force around one of these initiatives, please get in contact with Bobbi Meister, Jeff Freel or Pastor Joyce.

Communion Steward Opportunity

Pastor Joyce is looking for a person or two to help prepare communion on the last Sunday of each month. The role involves preparing the table in the sanctuary with the loaf of bread, individual pieces of bread and the cup of grape juice. It also involves caring for the communion elements after the service. If you can help with this important job, please contact Pastor Joyce on her cell phone, 515-480-8457.



Thursday	2/1	Ivy's Women's Fellowship	1:00 pm
Wednesday	2/7	Administrative Council	7:30 pm
Sunday	2/11	Souper Bowl/Youth Sunday	10:30/11:30 am
Wednesday	2/14	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 pm
Wednesday		WOW Service – Every Wednesday	5:30 pm

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1.	2. Aidan Craven Wendy Musgrave	3.
4.	5. Bev McGriff	6. Dave Warner	7. Bob Dice Anne Owens	8. Marissa Haley Larry McCrory	9. Rev. Bob Cook	10. Nathan Griffel John & Verna Bowie
11. Tim Fritz Missy & Steve Shaver	12. Aleka Fischer Raleigh Hiatt Afton Maxwell Matthew Myers	13.	14. Owen Fischer	15. Mary Lu Mauritz	16. Amy Ferguson Amos & Jacquelyn Purcell	17. Jason Hermann
18. David Burrier	19. Harry & Sandra Clark	20. Butch Diane Griffel	21.	22.	23.	24. Terry Britt
25. Helen Freeman Grant Warner	26.	27.	28. Cody Tingley Kevin & Lisa Day	29.		

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	\$7,791.06	\$5,610.25	\$9,763.24	\$7,942.10
October	\$9,101.26	\$12,111.46	\$12,038.34	\$9,201.03
November	\$8,401.26	\$8,679.97	\$10,568.68	\$11,111.78
December	\$11,510.84	\$7,552.26	\$10,477.42	\$10,282.93
Total Offerings	\$105,690.91	\$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	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66	\$139,331.24

2023 Average Monthly Offerings \$8,807.58

2023 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,750.00

2023 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget \$115.15)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, food pantry or mission project donations. As of December 31st, we have collected \$5,205.00 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary



Pastor: Joyce Webb revjlwebb76@gmail.com

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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