

The Chimes



Centenary United Methodist Church



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Christmas Dinner To-Go
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December 2021

 Confirmation

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Masks are strongly recommended for **ALL** persons entering our church.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Greetings,

By the time you read this note, we will be in the season of Advent. Advent is the season of anticipation for Christmas. As I think about the upcoming Christmas celebration I can't help but remember Christmas' past.



It was a peaceful night. Freshly fallen snow glimmering like diamonds in the light of a full moon. Stillness fills the air, the rush and busyness of the season seems so far removed from the quiet of the night. Everything is right in the world or so it seems.

It is Christmas Eve and, in a simpler time and simpler place, a boy awaits his father at entry gate for the gold mine. 11:15 pm and all is right in the world.

In mere moments the boy's dad will come walking out of the plant and, after saying "hi" to each other, the two will walk together up the hill through falling poofs of snow (big, beautiful flakes that look like they are more the product of a Hollywood special effects department than the awe-inspiring combination of atmospheric conditions that actually caused them).

Such was the Christmas tradition I had with my dad when I was growing up. As a kid I always felt that the night was magical (and not just because I was soon to be opening presents). The night always just felt peaceful. It was only later when I started to know more about God that I realized that the peaceful Christmas Eves of my youth weren't just circumstance.

Truth is... I miss those snowy nights. I miss that sense of peace and everything being right in the world. I miss that sense of awe.

My hope for all of us this advent and Christmas is that we will find those moments of awe, peace and wonder.

Until Next Time,

Pastor Stanton

Church Conference
Wednesday, December 15
7:00 p.m.

This year our Annual Church Conference will be held on December 15. Due to Covid, space is limited. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office.

Bible Study

Wednesday Morning Bible
Study with Pastor Stanton
meets at Second Chance
Coffee Shop at 9:30 a.m.



As you know, the COVID pandemic has been a struggle for individuals, organizations, and businesses, and Centenary United Methodist Church is no exception to this. It has been a rough year all around. And like in any small church, the finances are always an issue; that has been the case at Centenary for some time now. But it has been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.



A few months ago our Accountable Leadership Board began some discussions about where we were sitting financially and where we are heading with the fact that we are living in a COVID world. The worship numbers have not rebounded since we returned to in person worship, and there were some concerns raised that with the trajectory we are on, we as a congregation would not be able to support a full-time pastor in the future.

Our ALB chair contacted our District Superintendent and shared some of those concerns with him about being able to afford a full-time pastor going forward. As it turns out the conference had an immediate need at Hazel Green UMC, where they had suddenly lost their pastor. The Wisconsin Conference had that church without a pastor, and our church stating that they do not know if we will be able to afford a full-time pastor.

Through some meetings with both CUMC's board and HGUMC's board, the decision has been made to enter into a Ministry Partnership where the expenses of the Pastor, will be shared between the two congregations. Now there are some practical practices that we had to discuss. One being that both churches worship at the same time (9:30 on Sunday morning). Obviously, the technology doesn't exist for me to be in two places at the exact time, and the orders of Worship are a bit different, so even if that was possible, it still wouldn't work.

Members of both boards met together on Monday, October 25 and made some decisions regarding worship times. Other decisions will have to be made as we live into this experience, **but beginning November 7, I will be serving both congregations. So what that means for Centenary is that in-person worship time is changing from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** Likely the time of online worship will also change to that time so that it is still streaming at the same time as the live service. But since it is pre-recorded, we could possibly change that if those who faithfully watch the online worship desire. I just wanted to let you know that that change is coming.

Hazel Green has also shifted their worship time to help accomplish this. Their worship service will now be at 8:45 a.m. We are hoping that this partnership will enable us to maintain a full-time clergy person at Centenary and Hazel Green; that we may both experience the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ; that we may be the witnesses to our

communities that God calls us to be; and that through that witness, both churches will grow. That is our hope and prayer. I would sincerely ask that you join us in those prayers. If you have any questions, please let me or one of the ALB members know.

Pastor Stanton

Upcoming Events

Christmas Dinner To-Go

Thursday, December 16

Serving 3:30-6:00

This year's Christmas Dinner will be like last year's— it will be Order-Ahead and Drive-Thru Pick-up only. Meals will still be FREE, but to ensure that we have enough food, you **MUST** order ahead of time. Please call or e-mail the church office to **reserve your meal by December 14.**

Pick-up will be at the side kitchen door ONLY — please do not enter the church to pick up your meals. Turn on Monroe St., pull around the corner of the church, and there will be a sign where to stop. If you would like to help out, we need food donations, kitchen helpers, and runners to take meals to cars. **Watch your e-mail for the sign up sheet.**



Confirmation Class Schedule for 2021-2022

December 1, January 5,
March 9, May 4

*all classes are from
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Any youth in grades 7 and up who hasn't already been confirmed is welcome to attend. We start with pizza at 6:00! Friends are welcome!

QUESTIONS / CONCERNS

Office 965-3455 Cell 312-636-4427

E-mail centenary.umc.pastor@gmail.com

Advent By Candlelight

Due to unforeseen circumstances this years Advent by Candlelight will be canceled. We hope to have a women's night in January. Watch the January newsletter for more information. Sorry for any inconvenience.



Advent
by
Candlelight

CANCELED

Meetings and News



Accountable Leadership Board Monthly Meeting

Monday, December 20 — 6:30 p.m.



Retired & Re-Fired Small Group

Dear Friends,

Advent season starts Sunday, November 28. It is a season of preparation, reflection, and renewal. Let us prepare a place in our lives and hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. Let us reflect on the unending mercy and grace shown to us by God. Let us seek a renewal of our spirit to love God and each other.

Our next meeting will be December 13 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. After sharing lunch, we will be working on Christmas gift bags and cards. Bring your Christmas spirit!

Blessings to you all!

Mary Gensler, Retired & Re-Fired Small Group Leader

We're all Part of His Flock

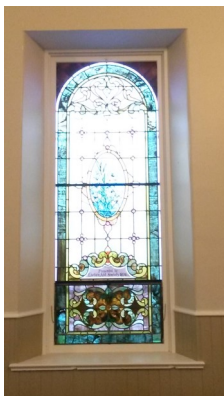


The Retired & Re-Fired Group
Centenary United Methodist Church



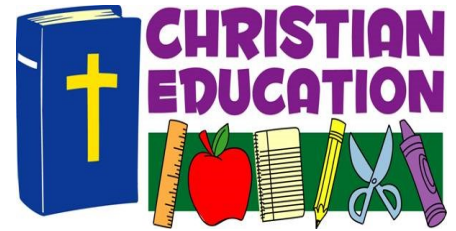
Fill the Sills for Jesus!

Again this year Centenary UMC is attempting to fill all the sanctuary window sills during the Advent and Christmas season with non-perishable food gifts to offer to Jesus on His birthday! The beloved ministry of CUMC Food Pantry will distribute them to those in need in our community. **Please start bringing food products to church (you can leave outside the upstairs doors on office days Monday-Thursday or call ahead and we will come out and get it from you)** and let's fill the sills again this year to provide food for our brothers and sisters and God's beloved children! We will be collecting donations until Wednesday, December 15.



Sunday School News

Sunday school will be making Christmas cards for the nursing homes this year. If you are unable to attend Sunday School but would like to make Christmas cards, make sure they are dropped off to the church no later than December 12th. We will have a movie day on December 19th. Sunday School will take a Christmas break December 23rd and January 2nd. On January 9th we will resume Sunday School classes. All children are invited to join us! All children age 4K – 8th grade are invited to join us!



*****Please note — a message will be sent out if Sunday school has to be canceled due to bad weather.*****

We hope to see you Sunday mornings!

Christian Education Team: Danica Diedrich, Amy Mullikin, & Jamie Roberts



FOOD PANTRY

Show your support for our beloved Food Pantry ministry during the Christmas season! You and your family can be part of a Christmas miracle and blessing by doing any of the following:

- 1.) Making a secondary offering to the Food Pantry. Their financial resources are much lower than in years past, so every dollar you give will help put food in the hands and stomachs of many individuals and families that are in need this Christmas. Simply write out a check with "Food Pantry" in the memo, or place cash in a giving envelope and mark it "Food Pantry."
- 2.) Participating in our "Fill the Sills" drive where we make Christmas offerings to Christ throughout the weeks of Advent, filling—and our goal is to absolutely fill—the window sills in the sanctuary with nonperishable and canned goods and paper products to help increase the inventory of the Food Pantry. Food can be left outside the upper doors during office hours.
- 3.) Bringing boxes of Jell-o or pudding into the church prior to December 15 as part of the Christmas distribution here at Centenary.

Be a blessing and part of the miracle and hope of Christmas through your support of the Food Pantry!

PRAYER LIST



Below is a list of the district churches and a Health & Welfare Agency in the South West District we will pray for in December. Please take time each week and pray for them and, if you feel called, to send them a postcard with a prayer in it.

Rewey: Clergy, Clark Grosvenor and the 19 members. Rewey is located at 421 Hugh- it St, Rewey, WI 53580. November 28 – December 4

Richland Center: Peace, Richland Center: Trinity Regional Ministry: Clergy, Rey Diaz. And the 101 members at Richland Center: Peace located at 265 N Church St, Richland Center, WI 53581. The 55 members at Richland Center: Trinity located at 400 E Seminary St, Richland Center, WI 53581. December 5 - December 11.

Ridgeway: Grace: Clergy, James Droste and the 14 members. Ridgeway: Grace is located at 501 Main St, WI 53582. December 12- December 18.

Sandusky: Clergy, Elizabeth Jacob and the 31 members. Sandusky is located at E3317 E Sandusky Rd, WI 53942. December 19 - December 25.

Shullsburg: Centenary: Clergy, Stanton Bockwoldt and the 173 members located at 226 W Church St, Shullsburg, WI 53586. December 26 – January 1.



Christmas Blessings

Centenary is once again sponsoring some families who could use a little extra help this Christmas. If you selected gifts to buy, **please wrap and return them BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17.** You can either bring them to church during office hours OR drop them off at Becky Mootz's house (215 S. Iowa St. — there is a deck box by the front door).

Thank you!!

Going Above and Beyond as Stewards of CUMC



Food Pantry Giving

We collected 21 items for our October collection. Thank you to everyone who brought something in!

For the month of December we are collecting boxes of Jell-O and pudding. Distribution will be on Thursday, December 16.

December Missional Giving

Mission money collected this month will go to the Warm Hearts Fund here at CUMC. This fund is used to help out people who are in need and come to Pastor Stanton for help. He meets with the individual, learns about their situation, and offers them counseling and support.

If you would like to give to a different ministry, just write it on your envelope, but if you don't, it will go to this month's cause.



Thank you to all that helped with the annual Thanksgiving Dinner! I wouldn't have been able to pull it off without the help of Kim Brown and Charles Searles helping get everything cooked and ready. Thanks to Dawn Gobrecht for helping get everything set up the night before. Also thank you to all who helped package up the meals and hand them out (Penny Tregloan, Shirley Gensler, Danica Diedrich, Art Finnigan, Dawn, Kim, & Charlie). Thank you to those that came and got your dinner...without you we wouldn't have this wonderful feast every year! I hope you enjoyed the meal and have a blessed holiday season.

Becky Upmann

Scarcity or Abundance: What are you looking for?

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” ~Matthew 7:7

Pastor John Pavlovitz tells a story about a time when he was a young youth leader and he found himself overly worried about the future. He was sharing his concerns with his pastor, who replied, “John, do you know why a bluebird finds worms? Because that’s what it looks for.”

John remembers his pastor continuing to tell him that much of what we discover in this life is about the questions we ask, the things we give attention to, and the way we invest our time. The more John was aware of the orientation of his life at any given moment, and the more intentional he was along the way, his pastor counseled, the more John could rest in knowing that he’d eventually end up where he needed to be.

Save the Date: Super Bowl of Stewardship Retreat
Algoma Boulevard UMC: Oshkosh
February 12, 2022
More Information at www.wumf.org

What are you aware of during this Advent and Christmas season? What are you looking for? With global supply chain issues along with the commercialized nature of the holidays, it is easy to fall into a scarcity mindset. However, if we choose to focus on the blessings we have and look to see where God is at work in our lives, in our churches, and communities – we are more likely to experience the joy and peace, not only of the season but that Christ offers all – no matter what time of year.

Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaigns, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or Facebook/[wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org) or call 888-903-9863.

All the Ways to Give to Your Church

All of these along with In-Person or Mailed giving provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider one of these as your way to give. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.



GIVE PLUS⁺



From Our Parish Nurse.....

12 TIPS FOR HOLIDAY HOME SAFETY

The holidays invite all sorts of fun activities, from lighting candles to hanging fresh greens and stringing lights. Here's how to keep your house and family safe from fire and injury.

As you're sprucing up your home this season, keep an eye out for these common holiday trip-ups, fire hazards, and other safety mistakes:

1. **Merry and Bright:** Carefully inspect holiday light strings each year and, discard any with frayed cords, cracked lamp holders, or loose connections. When replacing bulbs, unplug the light string and be sure to match voltage and wattage to the original bulb.
2. **Lights Out:** Always turn off holiday lights when leaving the house unattended or when going to bed.
3. **Fresh Is Best:** Try to purchase a freshly cut tree, as they are more resistant to ignition. Keep your Christmas tree watered and away from open candles.
4. **Timing Is Everything:** Use an outdoor timer certified by CSA International to switch lights on and off. Lights should be turned on after 7 p.m. to avoid the electricity rush hour.
5. **Check for the Certification Mark:** When purchasing light strings, extension cords, spotlights, electrical decorations, gas appliances, or carbon monoxide alarms, look for the certification mark of an accredited certification organization such as CSA International, UL, or ETL to ensure that the products comply with applicable standards for safety and performance.
6. **One and Done:** Never connect more than one extension cord together; instead use a single cord that is long enough to reach the outlet without stretching, but not so long that it can get easily tangled.
7. **The Great Outdoors:** When hanging outdoor lights, keep electrical connectors off the ground and away from metal rain gutters. Use insulated tape or plastic clips instead of metal nails or tacks to hold them in place.
8. **Climbing Up:** Using a ladder when you put up lights? Choose the correct ladder for the job, and double check for a certification mark to ensure your portable ladder complies with applicable standards.
9. **Keep the Gas Behind Glass:** Do not use your gas fireplace if the glass panel is removed, cracked, or broken, and only allow a qualified service person to replace fireplace parts.

10. Sound the Alarm: Test your smoke alarms monthly to make sure they work, and be sure to install smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms on every level of your home -- especially near sleeping areas.

11. Filter-Friendly Furnace: To help prevent carbon monoxide hazards in your home, have a qualified heating contractor perform a yearly maintenance check of your furnace and venting system, and clean or replace your furnace filter frequently during the heating seasons.

12. Clean the Clutter: Do not store combustible materials such as gasoline, propane, paper, chemicals, paint, rags, and cleaning products near your gas furnace. Gasoline or propane cylinders should be stored outside the home.

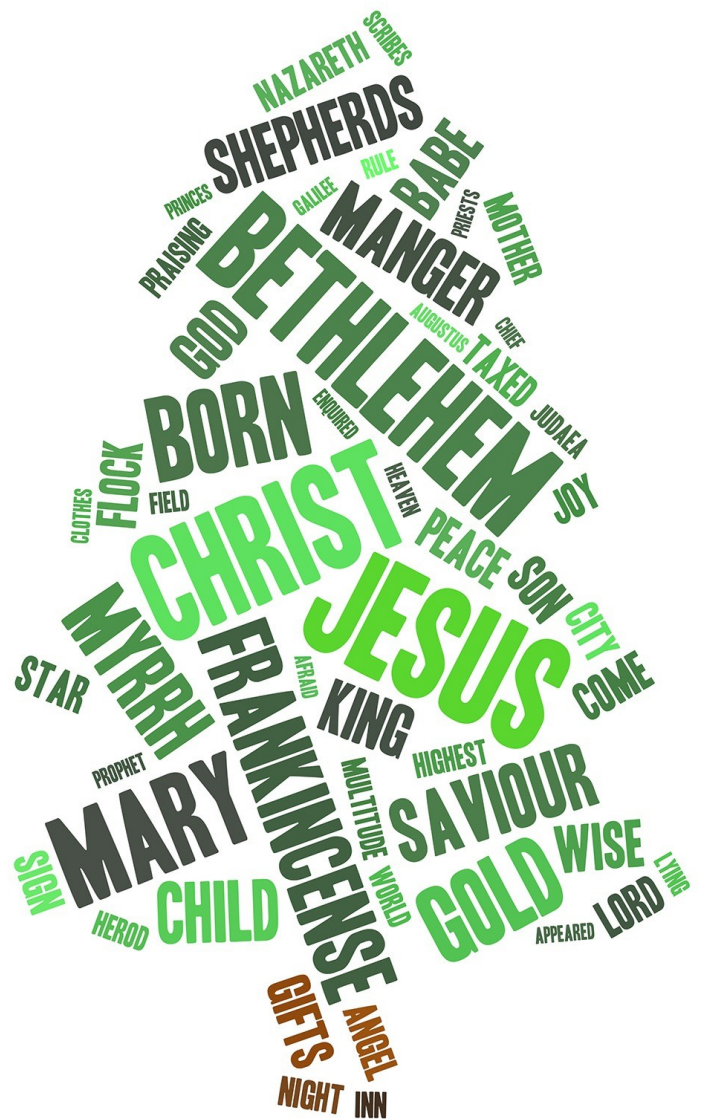
Source: CSA International

This page is provided by our Parish Nurse for Centenary UMC:

Marlene Stewart, RN, BSN, PN, WCC
(608) 293-1193

Please feel free to call her with any health questions you might have.


JESUS is
the *Reason*
for the
Season.



Birthdays of the Month

1 Karen Grace	17 Alex Neff
3 Laura Droessler	18 Mike Jackson
3 Sam Walter	19 Wayne Gehrt
3 Jeff Wymore	20 Brooklyn Bennett
5 Ruth Cherrey	21 Kasha Coe
6 Madisyn Bennett	22 Dirk Bode
8 Chad Teasdale	23 Rick Gill
9 Brett Bode	24 Nate Strang
9 Pete Poppy	25 Jesus Christ
9 Lyla Olson	25 Gayle Stoycheff
10 Beth Teutschmann	26 Harvey Heinberg
14 Debbie Unbehau	27 Josh Russell
15 Allie Gierke	28 Lee Gill
15 Ella Woodworth	30 Ellen Doyle-Chandler
15 Pam Wymore	30 Bev Monahan
17 Marcia Moyle	



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

10 Bruce & Sandy Russell
22 Rick & Lee Gill

Best Wishes
on your
Special Day!

December Worship

December 5

Boundless
Boundless Joy
Malachi 3:1-4
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 12

Boundless
Boundless Peace
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 19

Boundless
Boundless Hope
Malachi 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:30-45

December 24

Boundless
Boundless Spirit
Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 26

Boundless
Boundless Life
1 Samuel 2:18-20
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52





DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NO Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Class	2	3 5:00 Gingerbread Christmas Program	4
5 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Blended Worship	6	7 Pastor Stanton's Day Off	8 NO Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Blended Worship	13 Noon Retired & Re-Fired	14 6:30 mtg. @ HGUMC	15 9:30 Bible Study @ 2nd Chance w/Pastor Stanton 7:00 Charge Conference	16 4:00 Food Pantry 3:30-6:30 Drive-Thru Christmas Dinner	17 Christmas Bless- ings Gifts Due	18
19 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Blended Worship	20 6:30 ALB Meeting	21 Pastor Stanton's Day Off	22 9:30 Bible Study @ 2nd Chance w/Pastor Stanton	23	24	25
26 NO Sunday School 10:30 Blended Worship	27	28 Pastor Stanton's Day Off	29 NO Bible Study	30	31	





The Chimes

Join us for Sunday
Morning Blended
worship
**10:30 In-Person &
Facebook**

(See inside for more
guidelines & details)

Centenary United Methodist Church
226 West Church Street
P.O. Box 127
Shullsburg, WI 53586-0127

Address Service Requested



Our Mission Statement

Sharing God's love to change the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ.