



Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mel Nielsen
meln@jaxcentenary.org
cell: 1-815-922-9161

If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

- Luke 14:26 (N.I.V.)

I love Jesus, but . . .wow! Wait a minute, did Jesus just tell me to hate my family? This doesn't sound like anything else the Lord ever taught. Why would Jesus say something like this? I believe Jesus is calling attention to what our priorities are. Jesus' words are hitting us right at the core of our love and affection. If we really want to follow and obey, we must make Jesus the priority in our lives.

Upon first hearing these words, they seem harsh. For the mature Christian who has taken the time to read and learn the whole Gospel these words find a home in our hearts. Didn't Jesus tell us to love our neighbors? Can He actually think I could hate my kids? No, once we see Him for who He really is, how He has loved us, what He has done for us, and what He means to us, we begin to see a larger picture. Our love for Jesus must continue to grow, yes, even beyond our earthly loves.

Jesus is perhaps using a bit of hyperbole to catch our attention and to help us see that hate means we are supposed to love the Lord more than anything, or anyone. Certainly Jesus, who tells us to love even our enemies, is not asking us to 'hate' in the normal sense of the word. At least I don't believe that is what the Lord meant.

We are supposed to love God supremely above all things. The only way we can truly love others is to have a love of God first. That is . . . if we want to love perfectly. Doesn't perfect love sound amazing? Free from the hindrances of jealousy, selfishness, pride, anger and all the other ingredients we add to love that make it less than perfect.

How do we forget the simplest things, how do we forget the most important things? How do we forget to

take the simplest or most important things to God? The simple fact is we do forget, or maybe we try to take advantage of God's grace. Whether it is deliberate or accidental, you and I need to do a better job of loving God first. We need to believe in the power of God's perfect love and begin sharing that kind of love right now.

We can't wait until we have perfected it. We perfect it by getting out there and working on it. I believe our love was perfected at the cross. We just haven't fully accepted that perfection, so we need to work on it. God's grace allows us the time to work on loving the way we should.

Maybe that's why Jesus used the word 'hate.' Nothing humbles a human heart quicker than letting it know it has missed a mark. Have you ever forgotten a birthday or anniversary? Ever wished that you would have said the words, "I love you," instead of having remained silent. Humbling!

Jesus' use of the word hate is very humbling for us to hear. It's like a line has been drawn in the sand to let us know how far we away we are from the type

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Centenary UMC

Church Staff

Pastor.....Mel Nielsen
Coordinator of Outreach and Growth.....Kevin Hinkle
Office Administrator.....Karen Dirksmeyer
Office Manager.....Destiny Slater
Music Director.....Terri Benz
Parish Visitor.....Jarice Crenshaw
Custodian.....Patty Adcock

Centenary's Missionaries

Vae Rose Fultz - Retired Deaconess
Mark & Rebecca Smallwood - Red Bird Mission School in Kentucky

Church Information

331 E. State St., P.O. Box 124
Jacksonville, IL 62651
Phone: 217-245-8417
Email: office@jaxcentenary.org
Website: www.jaxcentenary.org
LaMoine District: www.lamoinedistrict.org
Illinois Great Rivers Conference Website: www.igr.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Traditional Worship Service.....8:15 a.m.
 Sunday School (all ages).....9:30 a.m.
 Fellowship Hour.....between services
 Contemporary Worship Service.....10:45 a.m.

Special Worship Services

Holy Communion.....Aug. 5

Special Offerings

Pennies against Hunger.....Aug. 26

Fellowship Opportunities

Tuesday Morning Fellowship
 at SafeCo. Bakery.....6-9 a.m.
 Fellowship Hour.....Every Sunday between services

Mission Opportunities

Donate Blood.....Mon. Aug. 6 & 13
 at Passavant Hospital, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 MMDC Workday.....Mon., Aug. 20
 Meet at the church at 8 a.m. to carpool.
 AlAnon Meeting
 Every Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Leadership Opportunities

Evangelism.....Tues., Aug. 14, 6 p.m., Parlor
 Finance.....Wed., Aug. 15, 5 p.m., Parlor
 Holy Spokes Cluster.....Wed., Aug. 29, 1 p.m.
 Adult Sunday school room
 Missions.....Wed., Aug. 8, 6:30 p.m., Parlor
 Office Staff Meeting.....Every Mon., 10 a.m.
 Stewardship.....Wed., Aug. 8, 4 p.m., Adult SS Room
 Trustees.....Tues., Aug. 21, 6:30 p.m., Parlor

Bible Study

Lectionary Bible Study.....Every Tues., 9:30 a.m. &
 Thurs., 7 p.m. @ Barbara Wooldridge's home.

United Methodist Women

Love Visits.....Wed., Aug. 1, 9 a.m., Parlor
 Mission U Weekend.....Fri-Sun., Aug. 3-5, Springfield
 Mission U Weekday.....Aug. 5-8, Springfield
 UMW Business Meeting....Tues., Aug. 7, 6:30 p.m., Parlor

Children's Ministries

Sunday School.....Every Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
 Blessing of the Backpacks..Sun., Aug. 19, 8:15 & 10:45

FUSION -Youth Ministries

Sun., Aug. 26, 2-4.....at Brooklyn Youth Center
 Mission Trip.....Jul. 29-Aug. 5, Clendenin, WV

Deaf Ministry

Sunday School.....Every Sunday, 9:30 a.m., Chapel

Communications

Mini-Messenger Deadline.....Wednesdays at Noon
 Messenger Deadline.....Sun. Aug. 26
 Messenger Folding Party.....Fri., Aug. 31

Pastor Mel's Schedule

Office Hours

Tues. & Thurs. Mornings 8 a.m. - Noon
 Mon., & Wed. Afternoons 2-5 p.m.

All office hours are subject to Pastoral emergencies.

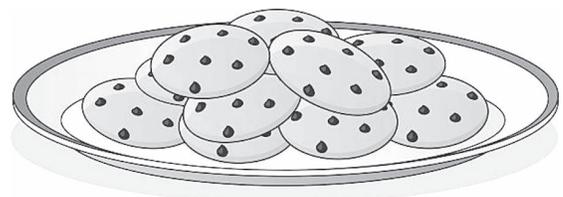
Day Off - Friday

Sabbath - Saturday

*Pastor will be gone to College of Christian Life
 in East Peoria Aug. 13 - 15, 2018*

**Centenary's Office will be CLOSED
 on Labor Day, Monday, September 3.**

UMW Love Visits



Centenary's United Methodist Women's summer Love Visits will be on Wed., Aug. 1 at 9:00 a.m. They will have a brief UMW meeting before preparing plates of cookies and fruit to take to Centenary members and friends.

This is always a wonderful day of fellowship for both those visited and those doing the visiting. Having more volunteers is always helpful. Please join us.

Please bring cookies (even if you can't be here that day). They like to have a good variety of cookies. Cookies can be left in the parlor during office hours.

If you have any questions or know someone to add to the list of those we visit or send cards to, contact Jarice Crenshaw or Sally Stock.

Sunday Morning Helpers

Liturgists

<u>8:15</u>	<u>10:45</u>
Aug. 5 - Pat Manker	Aug. 5 - Marilyn Kimmons
Aug. 12 - Barbara Wooldridge	Aug. 12 -
Aug. 19 - Barb Ginder	Aug. 19 -
Aug. 26 - Bev Rhine	Aug. 26 - Mary Tomlin

Greeters

<u>8:15</u>	<u>10:45</u>
Aug. 5 - Helen Baldwin	All - Diana Phillips
Aug. 12 - Dale and Jean Shafer	
Aug. 19 - Shelby Pennell	
Aug. 26 - Donna Tolbert	

Communion Stewards

<u>8:15 - August 5</u>	<u>10:45 - August 5</u>
Bob and Rita Northrup	Marilyn Kimmons
Helen Baldwin/Cynthia Claussen	Bonita Day
Cara Heller/Pat Manker	Marilyn Denney
Gerry and Bonnie Robinson	

Small Talk

8:15 & 10:45 - Pastor Mel

Nursery Volunteers

<u>8:15</u>	<u>10:45</u>
Aug. 5 -	Aug. 5 -
Aug. 12 -	Aug. 12 -
Aug. 19 -	Aug. 19 -
Aug. 26 -	Aug. 26 -

Fellowship Hour Host/Hostess

Aug. 5 - Terri Benz
 Aug. 12 - Pat Manker
 Aug. 19 - LuAnne Woodrum
 Aug. 26 - Debbie Belzer

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for August 2018 worship.

(Readings & message may change without notice.)

Aug. 5

11th Sunday after Pentecost
 Holy Communion
 Sermon - "Get Your Fill"
 Altar Color - White
 OT: None
 NT: Ephesians 4:1-16
 Gospel: John 6:24-35

Aug. 12

12th Sunday after Pentecost
 "Life and Death"
 Altar Color - Green
 OT: None
 NT: Ephesians 4:25-5:2
 Gospel: John 6:35 & 41-51

Aug. 19

13th Sunday after Pentecost
 "Who is God to You"
 Altar Color - Green
 OT: None
 NT: Ephesians 5:15-20
 Gospel: John 6:51-58

Aug. 26

14th Sunday after Pentecost
 "What Has God Done For You?"
 Altar Color - Green
 OT: None
 NT: None
 Gospel: Matthew 8:1-4

Sept. 2

15th Sunday after Pentecost
 "Shall We Begin?"
 Altar Color - White
 OT: Song of Solomon 2:8-13
 NT: James 1:17-27
 Gospel: Mark 7:1-8



**Cubs-Cards day
 at Centenary**



When Pastor Mel first arrived in Jacksonville, he learned that the people of this community love baseball, and more specifically the St. Louis Cardinals OR the Chicago Cubs! But, does Centenary have more Cubs fans or more Cards fans?? On Sunday, August 19th, wear your Cubs or Cards gear to worship and wear it proudly! Oh, and Pastor Mel is definitely a fan of one or the other... you'll have to join us on the 19th to find out which team it is! See ya then!

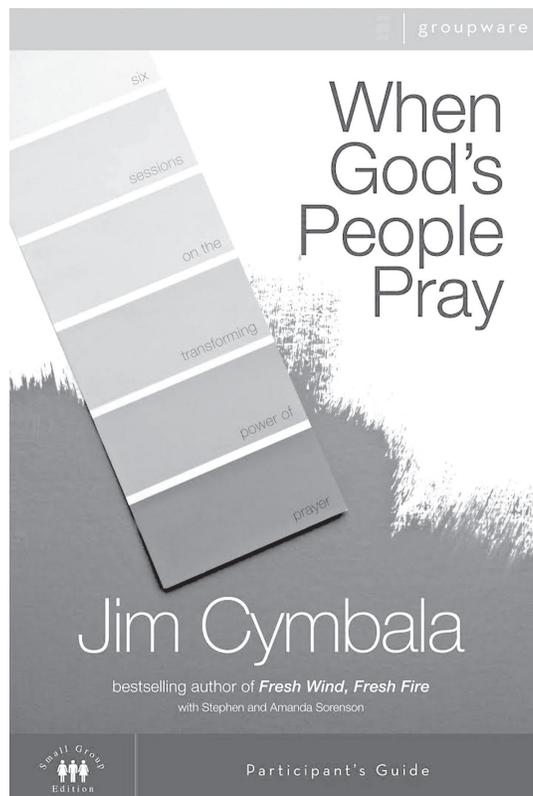


Photos by Pastor Mel

Jacksonville Centenary UMC was part of the 4th of July Parade. Despite the hot temperatures, 13 people came out to toss candy, wave and have a good time.

We have been called to be a prayerful people!

Come and join Pastor Mel for a journey into the power of prayer. Study aspects of prayer, hear personal stories and gain confidence in your own prayer life.



Beginning Thursday, Aug 23

1:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

(your choice) In the Church Parlor

6-week course will run for 7 weeks to accommodate Pastor's vacation. Ends Oct. 4

Participant Book Cost is \$8.00

Order through the Church Office

Makes checks payable to Centenary UMC

OR Purchase your own copy online at your favorite bookseller.

DEADLINE FOR CHURCH ORDERS IS Thurs., Aug. 9

Please sign up below and give to Pastor Mel

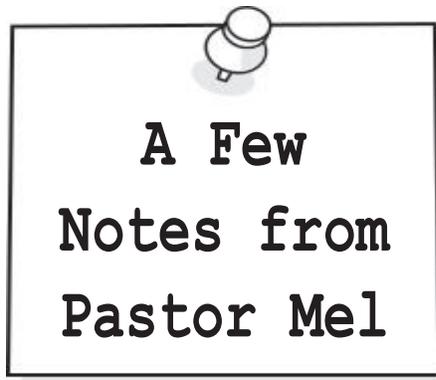
NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I will **Order book through church.** **Order my own.**

I plan to attend at **1:00 p.m.** **6:00 p.m.**



New members

Pastor Mel is planning to hold his first new members classes. These classes would run for 5 weeks and be held in between the first and second services on Sundays. Child care will be available. There is no cost and obligation to join Centenary once the course is complete.

These five classes cover Methodism, history, polity, practices, beliefs and why we do the things we do. This is a great time to bring all your questions concerning the United Methodist Church.

This course is open to anyone, even if you are already a member and want to participate, come join us. No dates have been set because Pastor Mel wants to see how many are interested and what days and times work best. Please see Pastor Mel if you want to know more.

Confirmation classes

Pastor Mel would like to know how many families have youth between 6th - 8th grade who have not yet been confirmed. He would like to meet with you to discuss the process of becoming a professing member of Centenary through confirmation.

There is a mandatory participation of 18 individual 90-minute classes. The course has not yet been placed on the church calendar. Pastor would like to know how many if any are eligible this year. Classes begin in the fall and are completed around Easter if possible.

Heard a calling?

A call from God is not necessarily a call to be a pastor. God calls every person to some mission or ministry. A call can sometimes be described as a voice you hear, or a nudge you feel, or a sensation that you are being pulled towards something. God is persistent.

If you have a feeling that God is calling you but you do not understand to what and where, Pastor Mel would like to speak with you. A call was once described like God asking you to get ready for a trip and you respond by going to the train station only to discover

there are trains leaving every few minutes and going in all directions.

Not every call is clearly defined, God wants us to be in discernment over our calls. That may require we take a few different trains to see where they lead. We will soon discover if the train we boarded was the right one. Discovering our call may take time, it is a process.

Pastor Mel is seeking people who feel they have received a call to serve, to assist them with their discernment.

Thank You

Thanks to all who sent a card or gift to Debbie and I as part of the welcoming basket. We appreciate every kind word, deed or thought. You helped to make us feel welcome to our new home in Jacksonville. Thanks also for the wonderful, delicious produce that has made its way from your garden to our dinner table.

More thanks to the church trustees for their hard work in getting the parsonage ready for our arrival. Two appliances were discovered to be in need of minor repair after we moved in. Chuck Fairfield was quick to respond and made sure everything was taken care of. Thanks again to all!

Aug. 26 Sermon

God has chosen Aug. 26 to be the Sunday Pastor Mel will deliver his testimony from the pulpit at both services. This message has some adult moments included; there is talk of violence and other adult material. Pastor will not try to be too graphic, but his words may not be for younger ears. Childcare will be available for these services.

Vacation and days off

Pastor Mel and Debbie will be taking a brief 4-day vacation before she begins working full time at Passavant Hospital. Pastor will be out of the office on Sept. 19 & 20. He will also be out of the office on Aug. 13-15 so he can attend the College of Christina Life in East Peoria. Pastor is required to earn continuing education credits so he will be out of the office on those dates for this purpose. He also hopes the Holy Spirit will help him see beyond the credits!

Assuming the Messenger

Pastor Mel has assumed the responsibilities of the monthly church newsletter. Martha Vaché, who had been handling these duties for many years requested someone new take over. After a few brief discussions Pastor Mel accepted the position. He would like to thank Martha for her dedication to this wonderful ministerial and evangelistic publication.

August Birthdays

- 2.....Landyn Flynn
Adallyn Flynn
- 3.....Jerry McArtor
Susan Pennell
- 6.....Robert Minor
- 7.....Mark Stiltz
Lester Meado
- 8.....Gregory Ginder
Clyde Zang
- 10.....Gerald Alderman
Matthew Hinkle
Sara Woodrum
- 11.....Nancy Robinson
Becky Woiwode
- 12.....Diane Stocker
- 13.....Carol Kluge
Michael Spradlin
- 16.....Bill Latham
- 17.....Jennifer Yamilkoski
John Steckel
- 18.....Thomas Jordan
Rosalie Fiedler
- 19.....Bob Stidham
- 22.....George Sparrow
- 23.....Julie Bryant
- 26.....Everett DeBolt
- 27.....Francis Riffey
- 28.....LeeAnn Stelling
- 29.....Jace Birdsell
Rhoda Walker
- 30.....Brenda Lane
Brian Pond

August Anniversaries

- 2.....Brian & Rachael Borgman
- 3.....Steve & LuAnn Woodrum
- 4.....Matthew & Nancy Hardy
- 6.....Doug & Jane Rorex
Mike & Kristal Stocker
- 7.....Rev. Robert & Janice Foulk
- 12.....Edward & Roberta Randorf
- 14.....Mark & Debbie Belzer
Charlie & Beverly Rhine
- 15.....Rev. Jean & Dick Hembrough
Mick & Victoria Selby
- 16.....Jim & Diane Stocker
- 17.....Jeff & Tanya Biessman
- 19.....Bob and Amy Stidham
- 28.....Melanie & Michael Refuerzo
- 30.....Reg & Linda Tribble

Thank You

I want to express my sincere and humble thanks to the many members of Centenary who have extended their messages of thanks and gratitude to me following my resignation as handbell director. My years as handbell director have blessed me greatly. I look forward to continuing my journey as a member of Centenary UMC and serving the congregation in other capacities.
-- John Steckel

PAVILION PLEDGE SHEETS

Centenary's Trustees and Finance Committee have formed a plan to proceed with the proposed pavilion project on the churches south lot. To make this project a reality, they hope to receive \$50,000 in pledges to cover half of this project.

Copies of the pledge sheet are available in the Narthex, church office and in this newsletter. Pledges are due back to the office by August 5th. Remember that this is 2nd mile giving above current stewardship pledge amounts.

AUGUST 2018

	Wed., Aug. 1	Thurs., Aug. 2	Fri., Aug. 3	Sat., Aug. 4
	9 am - Love visits 7:30 pm - Al-Anon (F)	7 pm - Bible Study @ Barb Wooldridge's		IGRC UMW Mission U
FUSION Mission Trip	FUSION Mission Trip	FUSION Mission Trip	FUSION Mission Trip	FUSION Mission Trip
Sun., Aug. 5	Mon., Aug. 6	Tues., Aug. 7	Wed., Aug. 8	Thurs., Aug. 9
Holy Communion IGRC UMW Mission U	10 am - Staff Mtg	6-9 am - SafeCo Fellowship 7 pm - Bible Study @ Barb Wooldridge's	4 pm - Stewardship (P) 6:30 pm - Missions (P) 7:30 pm - Al-Anon (F)	7 pm - Bible Study @ Barb Wooldridge's
FUSION Mission Trip				
Sun., Aug. 12	Mon., Aug. 13	Tues., Aug. 14	Wed., Aug. 15	Thurs., Aug. 16
	10 am - Staff Mtg	6-9 am - SafeCo Fellowship 7 pm - Bible Study @ Barb Wooldridge's	6:30 pm - Finance (P) 7:30 Al-Anon (F)	7 pm - Bible Study @ Barb Wooldridge's
	Pastor Gone to CCL	Pastor Gone to CCL	Pastor Gone to CCL	
Sun., Aug. 19	Mon., Aug. 20	Tues., Aug. 21	Wed., Aug. 22	Thurs., Aug. 23
Blessing of the Backpacks 8:15 & 10:45	8 am MMDC Workday 10 am - Staff Mtg	6-9 am - SafeCo Fellowship 6 pm - Trustees (P) 7 pm - Bible Study @ Barb Wooldridge's	7:30 Al-Anon (F)	7 pm - Bible Study @ Barb Wooldridge's
Sun., Aug. 26	Mon., Aug. 27	Tues., Aug. 28	Wed., Aug. 29	Thurs., Aug. 30
FUSION 2-4 p.m. @ Brooklyn Youth Center Messenger Deadline	10 am - Staff Mtg	6-9 am - SafeCo Fellowship 7 pm - Bible Study @ Barb Wooldridge's	1 pm Holy Spokes Cluster Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon (F)	
			9 am - Messenger Party	
				Abbreviations (F) Fellowship Hall (P) Parlor (S) Adult Sunday School Room

2019 General Conference Delegates discuss The Way Forward

**By Heather Hahn, July 17, 2018
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS)**

When General Conference delegates get together, they often spend their time discussing votes and lobbying fellow delegates to vote as they do.

Lonnie Chafin, a lay delegate from the Northern Illinois Conference, wanted a different approach ahead of next year's special session of The United Methodist Church's top legislative assembly.

The 2019 special General Conference seeks to resolve the denomination's longtime debate over ministry with LGBTQ individuals — a dispute that threatens to splinter the 12.5 million-member, multinational denomination.

With that in mind, Chafin helped bring together a multinational group of 55 delegates and 10 additional church leaders for a gathering aimed not at bolstering a particular perspective but at building relationships.

The group, which met July 13-15 at United Methodist-related Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, Tennessee, does not have a name.

The meeting wasn't supported by any official church organization or any of the unofficial United Methodist advocacy groups that has staked a position on homosexuality provided support. Church Properties Reimagined, a nonprofit organization focused on maximizing the ministry potential of Chicago-area church properties, provided financial support. Chafin added that no United Methodist apportionment dollars were used.

No press attended the meeting.

"We wanted delegates to talk about the plans without spin," Chafin said. "To that end, we tried to get a theological spectrum in the room."

Not invited, he said, were people "who are willing to break the church over their own position." That guideline, he said, excluded people on the extremes. Mainly, it was people who wanted to talk about how to keep the church together.

Chafin said the view articulated most during the meeting was a deep love for The United Methodist Church. "I watched people on all sides of the political

spectrum get emotional and choke up when they talked about how much this church has meant to them," he said.

The delegates scheduled the meeting after General Conference's July 8 deadline for petition submissions, in expectation of having actual legislation to discuss.

The Council of Bishops initially announced plans to release a report with information on three different proposals by the bishop-appointed Commission on a Way Forward by July 8.

However, on July 9, bishops announced a delay in releasing the commission's report because it still needed translation from English into the other three official General Conference languages — French, Kiswahili and Portuguese.

Even without legislation in hand, Chafin said, the group used publicly available information to discuss the three plans.

Those are:

- The Traditionalist Plan, which would increase enforcement of the denomination's current prohibitions against same-gender weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy.
- The Connectional Conference Plan, which would restructure the denomination to have churches and conferences align into different connectional conferences based on theological outlook.
- The One Church Plan, which would leave questions of marriage and ordination closer to the local church and conference level.

A majority of bishops have recommended the One Church Plan, and Chafin said that proposal was a particular focus of the delegates in Nashville with many expressing support.

The Rev. Juan Huertas, a Louisiana Conference reserve delegate, was among those at the meeting who support the One Church Plan. While not perfect, he said, the plan is a step toward keeping The United Methodist Church united in mission and ministry for years to come.

"For me, our witness in such a polarized society is crucial," said Huertas, lead pastor of 1,985-member Grace Community United Methodist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana.

"I often think if we cannot find a way to live together in difference, how can we ask people in the world to do the same? If we cannot be agents of reconciliation within our own body, our witness is

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damaged.”

Mathew Pinson, a lay delegate from the North Georgia Conference at the meeting, also expressed his hope that the 2019 General Conference adopts the One Church Plan.

“United Methodists are the last mainline Protestant denomination that maintains hospitals, schools, colleges, universities and program agencies like UMCOR,” he said, referring to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. “UMCOR, for example, is a world leader in disaster response. In fact, UMCOR is the agency that the Red Cross relies on for first-level deployment of volunteers and shelters when natural disasters occur. In my view, it would be a grave sin to allow these important ministry efforts to collapse because the church could not find a way forward in the unity of Christ.”

He also emphasized that Christians are already bound together through their baptismal covenant, which is more powerful than any polity, creed or biblical interpretation. “I am not going to sit on the sidelines of this conversation and watch people pull the church further apart — I am going to work for unity, peace and justice,” he said.

The Rev. Mark Holland, a Great Plains Conference delegate, goes a step further. He is taking a year of sabbatical to promote the One Church proposal, launching a new group named Mainstream UMC with that purpose.

Holland described the Nashville gathering as an opportunity to do some deep thinking and engage in Christian conferencing among both those supportive and those skeptical of the plan. At General Conference 2016, Holland made the motion that eventually led to the bishops launching the Way Forward process.

The One Church Plan has plenty of critics on both the progressive and traditionalist sides of the denomination’s theological spectrum. While one advocacy group — Uniting Methodists — has endorsed the plan, others such as Good News and the Wesleyan Covenant Association have come out strongly against it.

Reconciling Ministries Network, which advocates for full equality of LGBTQ individuals in the life of the

church, has not taken an official position at this point.

“The One Church Plan is not a progressive plan,” said Jan Lawrence, the group’s executive director, who attended the Nashville meeting. “The plan makes a step toward reducing the harm done in the church now. It stops well short of eliminating the harm.”

The Rev. David Livingston, another Great Plains Conference delegate at the meeting, echoed that sentiment.

“The One Church Plan really is a compromise,” he said. Livingston is the pastor of 763-member St. Paul’s United Methodist in Lenexa, Kansas.

Most participants at the Nashville meeting, he said, came away recognizing that delegates will not be able to pass the perfect plan in 2019. That recognition opens the way to finding common ground.

“In any relationship we sometimes have to choose to get less than our ideal result for the sake of the relationship,” he said. “That’s the Body of Christ, where the eye needs the ear and the ear needs the nose. We’re not going to get this exactly right in 2019, but I do believe we will choose to stay in relationship.”

The Rev. Kalaba Chali, a Zambian native who is now mercy and justice coordinator in the Great Plains Conference, came to the meeting with experience around the denomination’s global connection. He is not a delegate nor an advocate but instead attends General Conference as a French-English translator. He described the meeting as “very Spirit-filled.”

“It wasn’t about competing for one side but about having dialogue,” he said. His hope is that delegates from Africa, Asia and Europe, will be able to examine the legislation in their own languages before siding with any particular advocacy group.

He added that he has spoken with United Methodists in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Mozambique who are interested in finding some compromise to help the church stay together.

Chafin said the Nashville meeting is not the beginning of a new group or movement. But he hopes it is the beginning of connections that will last through the 2019 General Conference in St. Louis. “There’s no question, we’re all part of the same family reunion now.”

Meet & Greets held



Photos by Kevin and Rachel Hinkle

Three 'meet and greet' dates were scheduled to help the Centenary congregation welcome Pastor Mel and Debbie Nielsen. Pictured at top; Pastor Mel and Debbie enjoying a ride on Big Eli at the Jacksonville Community Park on July 8. Not shown is the Ice Cream Social which was held in the Centenary Fellowship Hall on July 15 and the FHS Famous Breakfast which was held July 22 in between church services.

Church directory update

The church is planning into updating the church-wide directory with LifeTouch in the fall 2018. If you would be interested in updating your photo or being added the directory, please watch for more information.

Volunteers needed to help prepare and serve meal to MacMurray Football team

Jacksonville Centenary will be hosting it's 2nd annual dinner for MacMurray's Football players and coaches (all 115+ of them!) on Tue., Aug. 21. Thanks to a donation, smoked pulled pork for the team and all volunteers will be furnished.

Volunteers are being sought to make side dishes/ desserts and others to help serve food and drinks to the attendees. This is a good time of fellowship and a great outreach to these students. Contact Kevin Hinkle if you would like to volunteer.

"Nothing is so strong as gentleness, and nothing is so gentle as true strength."
—St. Francis de Sales

Thank You

Thanks to everyone for contributing to our fund raisers and the individual contributions. The group raised \$984.25 for Relay for Life for American Cancer Society. Thank you all.

Blessing of the Backpacks



Don't forget to bring your backpacks to church on **Sun., Aug. 19, 8:15 or 10:45** for a special Blessing of the Backpacks during the 'Small Talk' portion of the Sunday service.

Centenary's Rock Garden



If you have not visited The Centenary UMC Community Rock garden, take a look! It is located on the northwest corner by the parking lot. There has been a lot of community interest. Rocks have been taken and left by many visitors.

FUSION Mission Trip

The FUSION Mission Trip will be heading out on July 29. We have purchased a 15-passenger van to help with this and many other trips! We are thrilled that we do not have to rent any longer and have a van to use whenever they need it! God definitely had his hand in the finding and purchasing of the vehicle! Thank you, Lord!

The 2018 Summer Mission Trip will be from July 29 to Aug. 5 to. In 2016, a deadly flood ravished most of the state of West Virginia. This massive flooding deeply affected 12 counties, killed 23 people, and devastated over 1,200 homes and families. We will provide disaster relief during our time there.

As many of you know firsthand... these trips can be life-changing for the kids. We are asking that you be in prayer for those going on the trip, as well as those we hope to serve. We are taking a group of 14, including 11 youth and 3 adults and will join other church groups once we arrive for an approximate total of 100 youth and adults.

*Blessings, Kevin and Rachel Hinkle
Directors of FUSION UMYF*

FUSION Fall schedule

FUSION will begin meeting again on Sun., August 26th 2-4 p.m. at the Brooklyn Youth Center

FUSION meetings will generally be 2-4 p.m. every other Sunday afternoon going forward. Please watch for schedule changes for special events and activities.

**Follow FUSION activities
on FACEBOOK:
Go to [facebook.com/groups/
JaxCentenaryFusion/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/JaxCentenaryFusion/)**

Lawn Mowers needed

Volunteers are needed to mow the lawn around the church (not the south lot). A mower is available at the church (or you can bring your own). Volunteers usually mow towards the end of the week. The task usually takes 30 to 40 minutes. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. Questions? Contact the office.

Produce Sharing

If you have extra summer garden produce (sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, and cucumbers, etc.) bring it to share on Sunday mornings. Donations and extra produce will be given to the food center.

On weekdays, the Jacksonville Area Food Center accepts produce from 9 a.m. to noon. Extra produce can also be taken to New Directions Homeless Warming and Cooling Center at Grace UMC, The Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen on North Main St., or to the Salvation Army. (The Salvation Army distributes food on Wednesday afternoons.)

Food Center News

June had the most number of clients served for food orders this year -141 families. It is not surprising that 1,388 people got extra bakery (including extra produce)!

The Illinois Theater donations and garden produce from individuals continue to be bonuses this summer.

Staplessuch as peanut butter, juice, and canned fruit are still needed. We had to replace a very old AC unit, the new equipment is doing fine.

Thanks for all your support for our neighbors in need. Diane Webster, Food Center Rep.

PASTOR

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

of love that is expected of us. God expects us to love. The Lord doesn't expect us to love without having received perfect love first.

I can tell you from the experiences in my life, that I have wanted God's love for me to be perfect; especially when I haven't been. Why do I expect less of myself than God expects from me? Why do I want others to love me as I am, if I am not willing to love them as they are?

Maybe I should hate my imperfect love of family, friends and loved ones. How can I go about loving all these people more perfectly? First, I can try to resolve my issues with Jesus. Allow the words of Jesus to humble my heart enough that it is ready to love more completely, powerfully, sincerely, humbly and perhaps perfectly.

Pastor Mel

K.I.C.K.S. teaching schedule

Preschool/Toddler Classroom

Date	Teacher/Assistant
Aug 5	Diana Phillips/Casey Zang/Karmen Birdsell
Aug 12	Diana Phillips/Casey Zang/Kristin Clancy
Aug. 19	Diana Phillips Casey Zang/Cindy Clausen
Aug. 26	Diana Phillips/Casey Zang/Brenda Lane

Elementary Classroom

Date	Teacher/Assistant
Aug. 5	Rachael Borgman/LuAnne Woodrum
Aug 12	Rusti Cummins/TBA
Aug. 19	Catherine Pritchett/Ashley Westenberger
Aug. 26	Angi Freitag/Amy Stidham

K.I.C.K.S. Sunday schedule

All children (toddlers to sixth grade) are invited to K.I.C.K.S. (Kids in Christ Keep Shining) each Sunday morning. We start in Sanctuary.

9:30 am: Songs, offering ,birthdays

9:45 am: Lessons in classrooms

10:20 am: Closing prayers - classroom

10:30 am: The teacher and assistant will take the children back to the Narthex to meet their parents.

Acolyte schedule

Aug. 5 – Andrew Cooley	Aug. 19 – Matthew Hinkle
Aug. 12 – Jack Borgman	Aug. 26 – Noah Borgman

Take it to the Streets

Volunteers are needed to help with “Take it to the Streets”. Free sack lunches are delivered to children in Jacksonville every weekday at 11:30. You can help by:

- 1) Donating \$\$. Make checks to “Centenary UMC”. Put “Lunches for Kids” in the memo line.
- 2) Volunteer to help make lunches at Grace UMC Mon. to Thurs. at 5:30 pm and Sun. at 3:45 p.m. Lots of help is needed, so just stop by.
- 3) Help deliver the lunches. (Adults only.) Call 245-9521 if you can do this.

Last day for lunches is Aug. 16



K.I.C.K.S. volunteers needed

Volunteers Are Needed in the Nursery and for K.I.C.K.S. (Children’s Sunday School Classes)

To be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuaries policy we need to have two people in the nursery. We have a nursery attendant, but we need a volunteer to be a second person each Sunday morning in the nursery. If you are interested in helping please talk to Kevin Hinkle or Mary Tomlin. Thank you!

Volunteers are also needed for the PreK and Elementary Sunday school classes each week. There is a need for a second adult to be in each class every Sunday. There is no teaching involved with this, you just need to love children. If you are interested in serving with our children, please let Mary Tomlin or Kevin Hinkle know. What a blessing to have so many children in our church family!

K.I.C.K.S. Donates for lunches

The K.I.C.K.S. Sunday school classes collected \$276.53 during the first six months of this year! Their offering was donated to “Take it to the Streets” a summer lunch program for children in Jacksonville. Way to go young people! Their offering for the remainder of this year will go to Angel Tree.

Nursery help needed

Nursery help is needed for Sunday July 29 and next Sunday August 5 from roughly 8 a.m. - 12.

Please contact the office so they can note who will be helping during each service.

VBS Thank You

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, or prayed for 2018 VBS! We had an amazing week and were able to reach out to 32 children! Our week consisted of Bible stories, science, crafts, music, recreation and snacks! We also were blessed to have our Boy Scout troop come and set up a Ropes Course for recreation one evening! Please continue to pray for the children involved that they remember their experiences and Jesus’s stories throughout the year. Thank you, Rachael Borgman

UMW business meeting

The United Methodist Women will have an important business meeting on Tue., Aug. 7, 6:30 p.m. in the parlor.

They need to elect new officers, approve the district pledge for 2019 and plan for the fall luncheon. UMW members are welcome to attend.

Women's Assembly attended

I attended the United Methodist Women's Assembly "The Power of the Bold" in Columbus, Ohio in May.

This was a gathering of UMW members from around the world that is held every 4 years. I enjoyed the music, worship, workshops, mission fair, and wonderful fellowship.

—Martha Vaché

UMW August Challenge

Say no to one-time use water bottles. Find and re-use daily a water bottle that fits your needs. Remember, plastic recycling is a good thing to do, but not using plastic in the first place is better.

Terri Benz, Education & Interpretation

MMDC Center Workday

The next workday at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Chatham will be on Mon., Aug. 20.

Centenary had 8 volunteers in July! We usually leave the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Contact Kevin Hinkle if you are interested in volunteering.



Photo by MMDC Staff

Eight missionaries traveled to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham for a half-day of work. They completed a variety of projects, then enjoyed a light lunch at Bob Evans. Pictured above, L-R, are: Dale Wooldridge, Barbara Wooldridge, Jane Masters, Brenda Lane, Kevin Hinkle, Martha Vache, Pastor Mel Nielsen and Jane Lair. If you are interested in joining the monthly trip, please see Martha Vache or Pastor Mel.

Donate school supplies

It's time to purchase school supplies for Midwest Mission Distribution Center and Washington Elementary School. Items needed for MMDC school bages are: blunt tip scissors, 1 subject spiral notebooks, 12" ruler with metric, hand-held pencil sharpeners, blue or black pens, unsharpened pencils (no advertising), 2 1/2" erasers and boxes of 24 crayons. Don't limit your shopping to just the items on the list. Local schools can use other supplies.

NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome Arthur Wayne Debolt, born July 3rd to Erick and Wendy DeBolt and big brother, Everett.

Grandparents:
Barney & Sally Stock

We welcome Adam Dale Stiltz, born July 7th to Mark and Lindsay Stiltz, and big brothers, Crue and Lane.

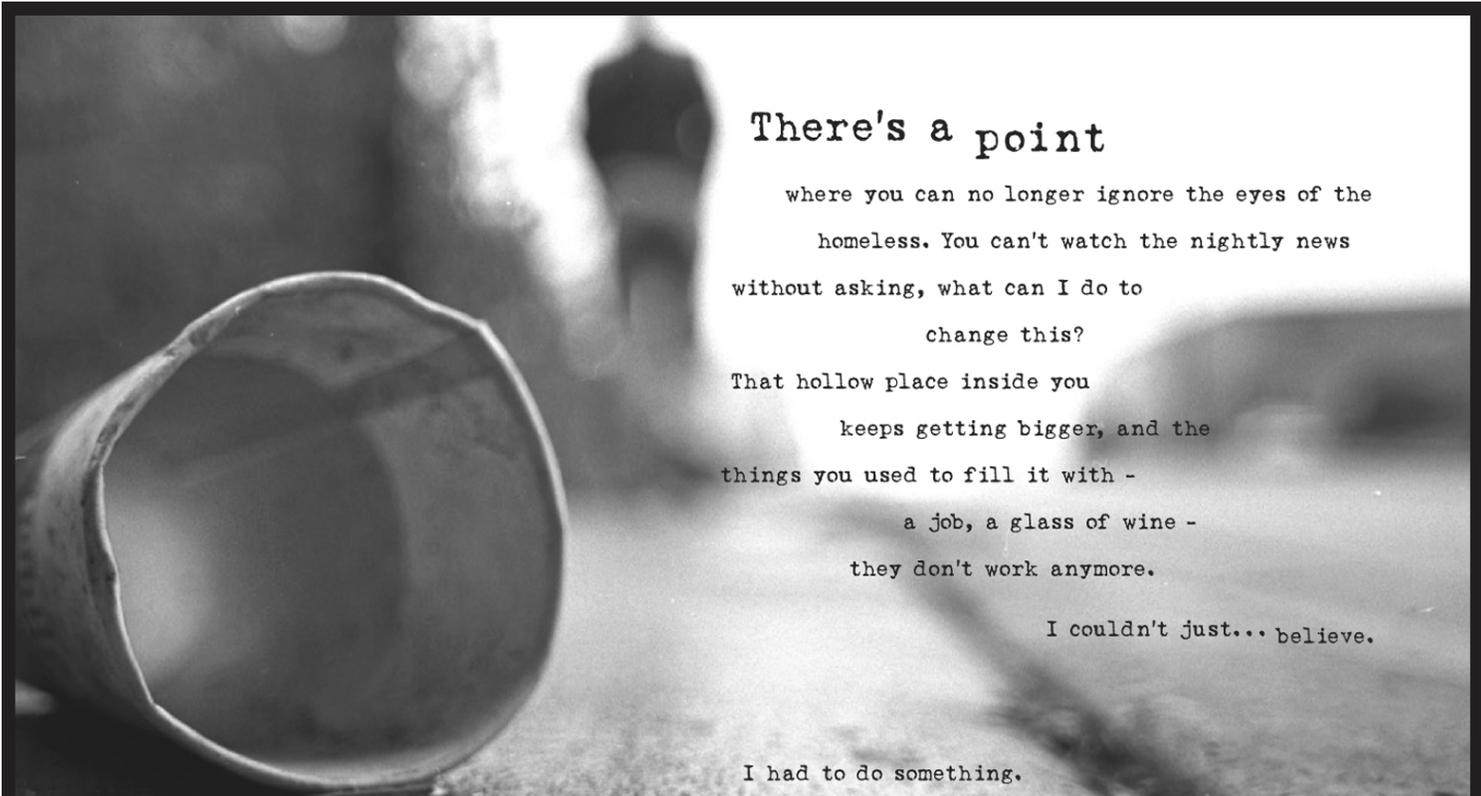
Grandparents
Marc and Barb Ginder
Greatgrandmother:
Grace Oxley



Centenary United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 124
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August 2018



There's a point

where you can no longer ignore the eyes of the
homeless. You can't watch the nightly news
without asking, what can I do to

change this?

That hollow place inside you

keeps getting bigger, and the
things you used to fill it with -

a job, a glass of wine -
they don't work anymore.

I couldn't just... believe.

I had to do something.

I have opportunities for Centenary members to help with the underprivileged in this community,
please call 815-922-9161 - Pastor Mel