

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mel Nielsen
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3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

- Titus 3:3-7 (N.I.V.)

What do you think the author of Titus would think about our society today? After catching up on the news headlines, do you think he might change the first part of this passage from past tense to present tense? Should he change, "We lived in malice," to "we live in malice." Would he realize we have not yet gotten over hating.

Nations are still at war with other nations; governments are still committing genocide; children still go to bed hungry; powerful men have been accused of acting like animals towards women; violence in the inner cities is becoming an epidemic; public mass shootings are an ever present concern, not to mention the current political culture in this country borders on civil war between the two parties. Titus wrote, "At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures." Were?

Jesus may be the reason for the season, but perhaps that season has been postponed due to a strike! Somewhere in this 'season of Jesus' is the reminder that we have been offered grace. Titus gives us a wonderful reminder to act as though we have received it. Accepting God's grace is the single greatest thing you can do to really live.

When we got a bicycle for Christmas we rode it.

When we got a new dollhouse we played with it. When we receive new clothes or jewelry, we put them on and told people, "Look what I got for Christmas." God asks the same thing, that we put on the gift of grace and let people know about it, not so much with our words but with our actions.

Too often we spend our time sharing the awful news I mentioned above. I am not suggesting we ignore the troubles of the world around us but we cannot give into them. Our life is not about surrendering to the darkness. We need to remember that Jesus is the light that sends the darkness running for the corners. If we are disciples of Jesus then we have an obligation to help keep the darkness at bay.

Obligation is the wrong word. The famous Christmas hymn isn't entitled "Obligation to the World," but instead, "Joy to the World." We should be filled with joy to help chase away the darkness. What better way to defeat the ugliness of hatred than with joy. One way to acknowledge we have truly received

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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
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Rachel Hinkle
Parish Visitor.....Jarice Crenshaw
Custodian.....Patty Adcock
Nursery Attendant.....Kayleigh Dirden

Centenary's Missionaries

Vae Rose Fultz - Retired Deaconess
Mark & Rebecca Smallwood - Teachers at 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.igrc.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.
 Combined Service at 9:30 a.m.....Sunday Dec. 30

Special Worship Services

Holy Communion.....Sun., Dec. 2
 Welcoming New Members.....Sun., Dec. 9
 both services
 Blue Christmas.....Wed., Dec. 19, 6 p.m.
 Christmas Eve Service.....Mon., Dec. 24, 7 p.m.

Special Offerings

Pennies for Hunger.....Sun., Dec. 23
 March to the Manger....Sunday, Dec. 23 (both services)
 Advent Offering.....All during December

Fellowship Opportunities

UMW Christmas Brunch.....Sat., Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m., FH
 Lifetouch Picture Day.....Wed., Dec 4., 1-9 p.m.
 Fellowship Hour.....Every Sunday between services
 Tuesday Morning Fellowship.....Every Tue., 6-9 a.m.
 at SafeCo. Bakery
 Christmas Program.....Sun., Dec. 16, 6 p.m., Sanctuary
 Christmas Caroling.....Wed., Dec. 19, 1:30 p.m.

Mission Opportunities

Chaddock’s Santa Express Deadline.....Sun., Dec. 2
 Fox Trust Application Deadline.....Mon. Dec. 3
 Donate Blood.....Mon. Dec. 3 & 10
 at Passavant Hospital, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Ring Salvation Army Bells...Dec. 8 @ Midland, 10 a -7 p
 Salvation Army Angle Tree Deadline.....Tues. Dec. 11
 MMDC Work Day.....Mon., Dec. 17, 8 a.m.
 Deliver Christmas Food Baskets.....Sat. Dec. 22, 8:30 am
 AlAnon Meeting...every Wed., 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Leadership Opportunities

Missions.....Tues., Dec. 11, 4:00 p.m., Parlor
 Finance.....Wed., Dec. 12, 5 p.m., Parlor
 Trustees.....Wed., Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m.

Children’s Ministries

Sunday School.....Every Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
 Christmas Program Practice:.....Sat., Dec. 15, 1 p.m.
 Christmas Program: Sun. Dec. 16, 6:00 pm, Sanctuary

Bible Study

Lectionary Bible Study.....Every Tues., 9:30 a.m. &
 Thurs., 7 p.m. @ Barbara Wooldridge’s home.
 Monday Night Bible Study.....Every Mon., 6:30 p.m.
 In the Parlor, contact Diana Phillips for more info.
 Wonder of Christmas.....Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20
 1 & 6 p.m. in the Parlor

United Methodist Women

UMW Christmas Brunch.....Sat. Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m., FH
 FHS Circle.....Wed. Dec. 5, 5:30 p.m., Lonzerotti’s
 Ruth Circle Christmas Luncheon. Wed. Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.
 Mangia Restaurant
 Hope Circle Caroling Party....Wed., Dec. 19, 1:30 p.m.
 Spirit Circle.....Thurs., Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m.
 UMW Business Mtg.....Thurs., Jan. 3, 6:30 p.m., Parlor

Music Practices

Chancel Choir.....Mondays 7 p.m., Sanctuary

Jacksonville Area Men

Meeting at Grace UMC.....Tues., Dec. 11, 6 p.m.

FUSION -Youth Ministries

Fusion.....Sun., Dec. 9, 2-4 pm, Brooklyn
 @ Brooklyn Youth Center
 Fusion.....Sun., Dec. 23, 2-4 pm, Brooklyn
 @ Brooklyn Youth Center
 Fusion.....Sun., Dec. 30 - FYI 4-6 pm @ Brooklyn

Communications

Mini-Messenger Deadline.....Wednesdays at Noon
 Messenger Deadline.....Wed., Dec. 19
 Messenger Folding Party.....Fri., Dec. 28



Save BOXTOPS for Red Bird Mission and
 Cunningham Children’s Home Big Box
 Tops for Education
 Put in “cereal” box in the parlor.

Sunday Morning Helpers

Liturgists

8:15

Dec. 2 - Pat Manker
 Dec. 9 - Barbara Wooldridge
 Dec. 16 - Barb Ginder
 Dec. 23 - Bev Rhine
 Dec. 30 - TBD

10:45

Dec. 2 - Marilynn Kimmons
 Dec. 9 - Diana Phillips
 Dec. 16 - Diana Phillips
 Dec. 23 - Mary Tomlin
 Dec. 30 - Pastor Mel

Greeters

8:15

Dec. 2 - Helen Baldwin
 Dec. 9 - Dale and Jean Shafer
 Dec. 16 - Shelby Pennell
 Dec. 23 - Donna Tolbert
 Dec. 30 - TBD

10:45

All dates - Diana Phillips

Communion Stewards

8:15 - Dec. 2

Helen Baldwin and Cyndi Claussen (1)
 Lacey Sorrill and Gary Hayes (2)
 Barney and Sally Stock (3)
 Barb Ginder and Mark Stiltz (4)

10:45 - Dec. 2

Jesse Claussen and Maza Eilers
 Marilyn Kimmons and Pastor Mel

Small Talk

8:15 & 10:45 - Pastor Mel

Fellowship Hour Host/Hostess

Dec. 2 - TBD
 Dec. 9 - TBD
 Dec. 16 - Jeanette Hills
 Dec. 23 - TBD
 Dec. 30 - TBD

Nursery Volunteers

10:45

Dec. 2 - Mary Tomlin
 Dec. 9 - Jesse Claussen
 Dec. 16 - Cindy Claussen
 Dec. 23 - Rachel Borgman
 Dec. 30 - LuAnne Woodrum

Upcoming Worship Schedule

*The following is a tentative schedule for
 December 2018 worship.*

(Readings & message may change without notice.)

Dec. 2

1st Sunday in Advent
 "God Brings Us Hope"
 Altar Color - Purple
 OT: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (part of wreath lighting)
 NT: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Dec. 9

2nd Sunday in Advent
 "God Brings Us Love"
 Altar Color - Purple
 OT: Malachi 3:1-4 (part of wreath lighting)
 NT: Philippians 1:3-11
 Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 16

3rd Sunday in Advent
 "God Brings Us Joy"
 Altar Color - Purple
 OT: Isaiah 12:2-6
 NT: Philippians 4:4-7 (part of wreath lighting)
 Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 23

4th Sunday in Advent
 "God Brings Us Peace"
 Altar Color - Purple
 OT: Micah 5:2-5a
 NT: Hebrews 10:5-10
 Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 30

1st Sunday after Christmas
 "Are You Looking for Me"
 Altar Color - Purple
 OT: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 NT: Colossians 3:12-17
 Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Centenary family grows by one



Centenary's family grew by one when Madison Grace Hinkle arrived on Tuesday, November 6th at 9:13 pm. She weighed 7 lb 12 oz and 20.5" long.

It cannot be over-emphasized that we have not seen the full meaning of the cross till we have seen it... as the center of the gospel, flanked on the one hand by total inability and unconditional surrender and on the other by irresistible grace and final preservation.

— J. I. Packer

Hanging of the Greens



Photo by Kevin Hinkle

All hands were needed to hang the Christmas greens on Sun., Nov. 25. Even the smallest of hands were put to work hanging garland in the Sanctuary. Thanks to all who gave time to help decorate for Advent and Christmas.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who baked cookies, made candy or purchased goodies at the Cookie Walk. It was a great success. We were sold out before noon and had many comments about a nice variety of cookies and candies that were offered.

—For Heaven's Sake Circle



Stewardship Stumpers

This month the stewardship committee is continuing 'Stewardship Stumpers.'

The answers can be found elsewhere in this issue.

#1

The Stewardship "Turkey of the Year" contest winner proceeds will be split 50/50 between the church and the Jacksonville Food Center.

#2

Before construction can begin on the new pavilion, pledges covering the \$100,000 price tag must be received.



Photo by Pastor Mel

The Turkey of the Year was announced at the annual Harvest Dinner, Sunday, November 18, 2018. Pictured left to right are: nominee, Jane Lair; Turkey of the Year winner, Peggy Jordan; Second runner up, Jack Borgman; nominee, Dale Wooldridge; Catherine Pritchett, standing in for nominee Angie Freitag, who was unable to attend, and nominee, Lou Vaché. Thanks to all who filled out pledge cards and voted for their favorite turkey. A delicious turkey dinner was served from Hamiltons. \$558.29 was raised and divided equally between the Food Pantry and the Centenary General Fund.

FUSION activities set

Sun, Dec. 9

Meeting at Brooklyn Youth Center, 2-4 p.m.

Sun, Dec. 23

Meeting at Brooklyn Youth Center, 2-4 p.m.

Sunday, December 30th- FYI 4-6pm at
Brooklyn Youth Center

Fusion is a collaboration of area United Methodist Churches. For more information, contact Rachel or Kevin Hinkle @ 217-370- 3329 or 217-245-8417.

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

PASTOR

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

God's grace is to live with the joy of Christmas.

As you go about making your Christmas shopping list don't forget to add Jesus to the list. What could we get Jesus for Christmas? Share the gift of grace. In all that you think and say and do this Christmas, share the amazing gift of God's amazing grace. Be loving, be kind, be compassionate, be generous, be gentle, be forgiving, be . . . well if you can't remember this whole list than keep it simple, be like Jesus.

Share the gift that God gave us on the first Christmas – grace in the flesh. God offers us grace to fulfill the mission of bringing all creation unto Heaven. You are filled with God's grace, so go share it.

God Bless and Merry Christmas
PMel

Church Toon

Dear God,
When my family sits down to dinner, they always bless their food. But they never bless my dinner for some reason. I have the feeling I'm missing something here.

So I've been wagging my tail extra fast when they pour out my food as my own blessing.

Have you noticed?
-Royce



December Birthdays

- 2.....Josephine Meyer
- 3.....Erin Spangenberg
Shanli Spradlin
Mary Lane
- 4.....Carolyn Beddingfield
- 5.....Jan Adams
Bill Cummings
- 6.....David Adams
Brennan Slater
- 8.....Dillon Pennell
- 9.....Jacqueline Wilham
- 10.....Rev. Janice Foulk
Katie O'Neil
- 14.....Jake Kindred
- 16.....Morgan Kindred
- 17.....Matthew Chumley
Kathie Alderman
- 19.....Mary Ruth McArtor
Margery Meyer
Mary Dalton
Maza Eilers
- 20.....Raymond Day
Tom Baptist
Mallory Selby
Jayden Batty
- 21.....Jack Borgman
Gabe Pratt
Adela Stocker
- 22.....Patricia O'Neal
- 24.....Kelsey Deeder
Kyle Manning
- 25.....Steve Gray
Holly Pennell
- 26.....Vae Rose Fultz
Allison Frost
- 27.....Glenn Neff
June Everett
- 30.....Marilyn Denney
Gary Hayes
Larry Crenshaw

December Anniversaries

- 5.....Gary & Janet Heyen
- 19.....Jr. & Barb Crouse
- 27.....Dale & Barbara Wooldridge
- 29.....David & Jan Adams
- 31.....Mark & Monica Grounds

Holy Spokes Got Talent night held at Centenary

Several acts from area churches entertained a small but hearty group on November 4 at Jacksonville Centenary. Musical acts, interactive scripture reading and even a children's message were highlights from the second annual event.



Photos by Pastor Mel

Top Photo shows a group of 'kids' who came forward to hear a children's message from Barb Wooldridge. **Bottom photo** is Pat Pennell, from Grace UMC, leading the congregation in an interactive and funny reading of the prodigal son parabel.

UMW Christmas Brunch

“On Wings of Prayer” will be the theme of the annual UMW Christmas Brunch to be held on Saturday morning, December 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This year’s hostesses, the For Heaven Sake Circle members, invite all women and girls to attend. Guests are welcome. Reservations will be helpful. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office by Monday, November 26.

Socks, hats, gloves and scarfs for children

Thank you to everyone who donated socks, winter hats, gloves, and scarfs for children at Lincoln and Washington Schools

Bonita Day, UMW Social Concerns Coordinator

Saladless Luncheon

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to Centenary’s UMW Saladless Salad Luncheon. To date we have received more than \$830.

Martha Vaché, UMW Treasurer

UMC December Challenge

Use homemade holiday decorations from materials you already have. Likewise, bake from scratch both for holiday dinners and for gift-giving. It will be cheaper and healthier for you and cut down on packaging waste.

Terri Benz, E & I Coordinator

UMC business meeting

The next UMW business meeting will be held on Thursday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. We will be planning for UMW Sunday on Sunday, January 27 and for other events in 2019. All UMW members are welcome to attend.

2018 UMW Sunday

United Methodist Women’s Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, January 27. Sharla Jolly, Director of Development at Cunningham Children’s Home, will be our guest speaker. UMW members will help with other parts of the service.

Cookie Walk held



Photos by Pastor Mel

The For Heaven’s Sake United Methodist Women Circle held it’s annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, November 17, 8-10 a.m. All the cookies were sold by closing time along with the Christmas decorations that were for sale. The ladies considered it a very successful day.

2019 UMW Officers

Co-Presidents: Angi Freitag
and Brenda Lane

Vice President: Pat Baptist
Secretary: Terri Benz

Treasurer: Martha Vaché
Missions Coordinators

Spiritual Growth: Shelby Pennell

Social Action: Bonita Day

Membership/Nurture/Outreach

Jarice Crenshaw

Education /Interpretation

Terri Benz

Secretary of Program Resources

Diana Phillips

Chancel Choir rehearsals

Centenary's Chancel Choir rehearses every Monday at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary under the direction of Terri Benz. New and exciting music is in our lineup this fall. All are welcome - MAKE US YOUR SMALL GROUP INVOLVEMENT! We'd love to have you!

Year End Giving Deadline

Karen Dirksmeyer, the Jacksonville Centenary Financial Secretary, is asking that all donations to the church be in her office no later than Friday, December 28, 4 p.m. This includes all giving that you want recorded on the 2018 calendar year. She appreciates your attention on this.

Cluster Bake Sale thanks

Thanks to everyone who donated cookies for the Holy Spokes Cluster Bake Sale during Pathway's Festival of Trees last weekend. We had lots of delicious cookies.

Martha Vaché, Cluster Representative

1. True. As happened last year, the profit from the turkey voting will be split evenly.
 2. False. As directed, half of the estimated cost, \$50,000, had to be received in the form of pledges. This amount was exceeded.

STEWARDSHIP STUMBERS
ANSWERS: from page 4

Thank You

Thank you to our church family for your prayers, cards, food and words of compassion during Mark's Mother's battle with cancer and after her death.

A special thank you to my circle for serving our family before her funeral and for Pastor Mel being a blessing to our family with a wonderful service for Mary Lou.

Blessings,
 Mark & Debbie Belzer
 and Family

K.I.C.K.S. Updates

Acolyte schedule

Dec. 2 - Andrew Cooley
 Dec. 9 - Jack Borgman
 Dec. 16 - Matthew Hinkle
 Dec. 23 - Noah Borgman
 Dec. 30 - TBD

Teaching schedule

Preschool/Toddler Classroom

Date	Teacher/Assistant
Dec. 2	Diana Phillips/Wendy DeBolt/ Debbie Belzer
Dec. 9	Diana Phillips/Wendy DeBolt/ Linda Tribble
Dec. 16	Diana Phillips/Wendy DeBolt/ Cindy Claussen
Dec. 23	Diana Phillips/Wendy DeBolt/ Birthday Party for Jesus
Dec. 30	No Sunday School

Elementary Classroom

Date	Teacher/Assistant
Dec. 2	Rachael Borgman/LuAnne Woodrum
Dec. 9	Rusti Cummings/Brenda Lane
Dec. 16	Catherine Pritchett/ Ashley Westenberger
Dec. 23	Angi Freitag/Amy Stidham - Birthday Party for Jesus
Dec. 30	No Sunday School

Nursery volunteers

Dec. 2 Mary Tomlin
 Dec. 9 Jesse Claussen
 Dec. 16 Cindy Claussen
 Dec. 23 Rachel Borgman
 Dec. 30 LuAnne Woodrum



To the glory of God in this Christmas Season, poinsettias will decorate our Sanctuary. For your convenience, the Worship Committee will order these plants for you, if you wish.

Barber Florists will provide a 3-5” bloom red plant for \$14.00. The deadline for ordering is Monday, December 17th.

Poinsettias Order:

Make your check payable to “Centenary UMC”. Please enclose you check with your order.

Orders should be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering plate by the December 17th deadline.

Please write exactly what you want printed.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Quantity _____ @ \$14.00 = _____ Total

Your name/Given By: _____

Poinsettias may be picked up following the December 31st Worship Service.

Put in newsletter ___ Do NOT put in newsletter ___

GIFT GIVEN TO **AMOUNT**

CENTENARY		
	Bell Tower/Steeple Fund	
	Children's Activities	
	Elevator Upkeep Fund	
	FUSION/Youth Fund	
	Music Fund	
	Pavilion Fund	
	Organ Reservoirs Fund	
JACKSONVILLE		
	A Cup of Cold Water (Local Emergency needs)	
	H.E.L.P.S. Ministry Outreach	
	JACIL	
	Jacksonville Area Food Center	
	Jacksonville Salvation Army	
	Jubilee Habitat for Humanity	
	New Directions Warming/Cooling Center	
MIDWEST		
	Baby Fold, The (Normal)	
	Chaddock (Quincy)	
	Cunningham Children's Home (Urbana)	
	Lessie Bates Neighborhood House (E.St. Louis)	
	Midwest Mission Distribution Center (Chatham)	
	Red Bird Mission (Kentucky)	
	Volunteers in Mission	
INTERNATIONAL		
	Church World Service/CROP	
	Heifer Project	
	UMCOR (United Methodist Com. on Relief)	
MISSIONARIES		
	Mark & Rebecca Smallwood/Red Bird School	
OTHER		
	Name:	

Centenary United Methodist Memorial/Honorarium Gift Form

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

For the following special occasion:

- ___ *Birthday* ___ *Mother's Day*
- ___ *Anniversary* ___ *Father's Day*
- ___ *Wedding* ___ *Veteran's Day*
- ___ *Christmas* ___ *Other* _____

Please use this gift of \$ _____ for:

- ___ Centenary - General Fund
- ___ Centenary - Building and Grounds Upkeep
- ___ Centenary - Missions
- ___ Designated Projects (*See back side.*)

Make checks payable to: Centenary UMC

Date of donation: _____ Check # _____

Donated by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Please send a gift card to the following honoree:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Three plans for the Way Forward summarized

The One Church Plan

The One Church Plan gives churches the room they need to maximize the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible.

Changes to the adaptable paragraphs in The Book of Discipline apply only to the Jurisdictional Conferences in the United States. Central conferences, through the work of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, will have the authority to retain the present language regarding chargeable offenses of clergy and questions of ordination related to homosexuality found in The Book of Discipline (2016) or adopt wording in these paragraphs that best serves their missional contexts.

Summary of Plan

The One Church Plan provides a generous unity that gives conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to uniquely reach their missional context without disbanding the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church. In the One Church Plan, no annual conferences, bishops, congregations, or pastors are compelled to act contrary to their convictions.

The plan maintains the leadership structure of The United Methodist Church, including the Council of Bishops, the General Conference, and the annual conferences as one body and one church. It offers greater freedom to many who desire change but do not want to violate The Book of Discipline.

Voting is kept to a minimum except where it is helpful. There is no mandate that requires local churches, conferences, or pastors to participate in a vote that divides, segments, or separates. The United Methodist Church remains in connection, upholding unity of mission without uniformity of practice.

The plan grants space for traditionalists to continue to offer ministry as they have in the past; space for progressives to exercise freely a more complete ministry with LGBTQ persons; and space for all United Methodists to continue to coexist without disrupting their ministries.

Additionally, this plan creates space for annual conferences in various part of the world to practice ministry according to their national or regional

contexts with the connectional autonomy of the adaptable portions of The Book of Discipline.

Connectional Conference Plan

The Connectional Conference Plan reflects a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services. This plan creates three values-based connectional conferences that have distinctive definitions of accountability, contextualization and justice. Current central conferences have the choice of becoming their own connectional conference (up to five additional connectional conferences) or joining one of the three values-based connectional conferences. A redefined Council of Bishops focuses on ecumenical relationships and shared learning. Episcopal oversight, accountability, elections, assignments and funding occur within the College of Bishops of each connectional conference.

Traditionalist Plan

Summary of the Traditionalist Plan (as presented to the November Council of Bishops Meeting): Primary Action: Accountability to the current Book of Discipline language

Disciplinary Language and Implications:

- Broaden the definition of self-avowed practicing homosexual to include persons living in a same-sex marriage or civil union or persons who publicly state that they are practicing homosexuals.
- Mandate that any just resolution shall include a commitment not to repeat the offense.
- Require every annual conference to certify that they will uphold, enforce, and maintain the Discipline's standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination.
- Annual conferences that did not so certify would be encouraged to form something similar to an "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church." As of 2021, annual conferences who could not so certify could no longer use the United Methodist name and logo, and they could no longer receive any funds from The United Methodist Church.
- Require bishops (active and retired) to certify that they will uphold, enforce, and maintain the

PLEASE SEE 'WAY' ON PAGE 13

WAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Discipline's standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination. Active bishops who did not so certify would not be eligible to receive compensation for expenses as of 2021, and would be encouraged to join the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church" formed by the above annual conferences.

- Local churches that disagreed with their annual conference's decision to not enforce the Discipline's standards could vote to remain with the UMC.

- Local churches that disagreed with their annual conference's decision to enforce the Discipline's standards could vote to withdraw from the UMC and unite with the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church."

- Clergy who could not maintain the Discipline's standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination would be encouraged to join the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church."

PASTOR'S NOTE

These are merely summaries of all three plans. You can read the entire document at UMC.org and follow the links to General Conference.

General Conference Delegation

The Council of Bishops announced the call to a special General Conference on Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri. The special meeting of The United Methodist Church's top lawmaking assembly will be limited to acting on a report by Council of Bishops, based on the proposals from Commission on the Way Forward. The 32-member commission, appointed by the bishops, has the charge of finding ways for the denomination to stay together despite deep differences around homosexuality. That commission has developed three plans to help move the denomination forward with hopes of remaining unified. The Illinois Great Rivers Conference elected five clergy and five lay delegates for the Feb. 23-29, 2019 General Conference in St. Louis, MO. The IGRC delegation will be one of many from around the world to debate, amend and pass legislation at the General Conference. Below are the names of those from the IGRC who will be part of the 2019 General Conference. Please pray for them or email them.

Clergy

Sylvester Weatherall, Delegation Chair, 3100 Saint Helen's Ct, Springfield 62704- 6501, sweatherall@igrc.org

Andy Adams, 312 Old Homestead Dr, Troy 62294-1295, andy@troyumc.org

Sara Isbell, 121 Christian Louis Ct, Bloomington 61701-6145, sisbell@wesley-umc.com

Chris Ritter, 731 Virginia St, Geneseo 61254-1988, c.ritter@peopleneedjesus.org

Bob Phillips, 107 Mill St, PO Box 51, Elsah 62028-0051, soulfxr@hotmail.com

Randy Robinson, Alternate, 1104 W Voorhees St, Danville 61832-1604, randyr@stjames-umc.com

Roger Ross, Alternate, 108 Kipling Way, Columbia, MO 65201-6863, rross@momethodist.org

Janice Griffith, Alternate, 307 Boulder Creek Dr, Chatham 62629-2049, jgriffith@igrc.org

Laity

Rhonda Whitaker, 1264 Hickory Dr., Neoga, IL 62447-1212, whitakers@mchsi.com

Bunny Wolfe, P. O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794-9207, bwolfe@igrc.org

Kimberly Woods, P. O. Box 171, Industry, IL 61440-0171, kimberly.woods220@gmail.com

Steve Schonert, 125 Hawthorne Dr., Olney, IL 62450-3306, sschonert@yahoo.com

Larry Weber, 115 Cardinal Dr., Belleville, IL 62221-4310, larryweber@mychristchurch.com

Marian McCray, Alternate, 4003 Maryland Manor Ct., Granite City, IL 62040-3925, marianmccray@yahoo.com

Anish Hermon, Alternate, 16 Cloverhill Cir., Bloomington, IL 61705-3300, ahermon@gmail.com

Carol Sims, Alternate, P. O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794-9207, csims@igrc.org

Advent and Christmas Schedule

*Dec. 23 Sunday Worship
8:15 & 10:45*

*Salvation Army Angel Tree Gifts
Due – Tue. Dec. 11*

*Dec. 30 Sunday Worship
One Combined Service
9:30 a.m.*

*Hope Circle Caroling
Wed. Dec. 19, 1:30 p.m.*

*UMW Brunch
Sat. Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m., FH*

*Blue Christmas
Service
(PLEASE NOTE
DATE & TIME CHANGE)
Wed., Dec. 19, 6:00 p.m.*

*Santa Express Gifts Due
on Sun. Dec. 2*

*Deliver Christmas Food Baskets
Sat., Dec. 22, 8:30 a.m.*

*Salvation Army Bell Ringing
Sat. Dec. 8, Midland Farm and Home,
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.*

*March to the Manger
Sunday Dec. 23, both services*

*All Church Christmas Program
Sun. Dec. 16, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary*

*Christmas Eve Service:
Mon. Dec. 24, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.*

*Ruth Circle Christmas Luncheon
Wed. Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.,
Mangia Restaurant*



**Salvation Army
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED**



**Sat. Dec. 8 - Midland Farm & Home
from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Sign up in the narthex

Gifts in honor/memory

This Christmas you might consider giving a gift to Centenary or to a mission project in honor of or in memory of a friend or relative. There is a gift form attached to this Messenger with many different options listed. Just fill out the form indicating where you want your gift to be sent, attach a check made out to "Centenary UMC", and put in the offering plate or take it to the church office. If you choose to honor someone, an attractive card will be sent to them telling of your gift.

Christmas gift

The long-established custom at Centenary has been to honor our Pastor with a love gift at Christmas. However, Pastor Mel has requested the gift be shared between our dedicated staff members.

If you would like to share in the monetary gift for ALL Centenary employees you may put your gift in an envelope marked "Christmas Gift". Make checks payable to Centenary UMC. Place your envelope in the collection plate or mail it to the office on or before December 16. May you share many Christmas Blessing SPRC



Christmas Eve service

Bring your family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. The service will include candles, carols, scripture and communion.

Blue Christmas service

All who have experienced a loss of any kind this year are invited to this special Service of Hope on Wednesday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

Advent offering

This year's Advent Offering will be divided between Chaddock in Quincy and Big Brother/Big Sister in Jacksonville. Your donation to Centenary's Advent offering will touch the lives of children and youth. Make checks to Centenary UMC with Advent in the memo line.

Chaddock is a United Methodist agency that serves children and youth who have challenges that keep them from attending their local public schools. Chaddock recently built a new school.

Big Brother/Big Sister matches local youth with adult mentors and provides after school programs for kids.



Christmas baskets

Our Centenary family will once again prepare Christmas food baskets for local families. These will be delivered on Saturday morning, December 22, 8:30 a.m. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving a basket contact the church office. Let Martha Vaché or the church office know if you can help deliver the food.



Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited to go Christmas Caroling on Wednesday afternoon, December 19 with members of Hope Circle. We will meet in the Parlor at 1:30 p.m. to get organized. Come share a little Christmas JOY as we sing to members of our Centenary family.

After caroling, we will return to the church for snacks and warm drinks. Contact Martha Vache for more information.



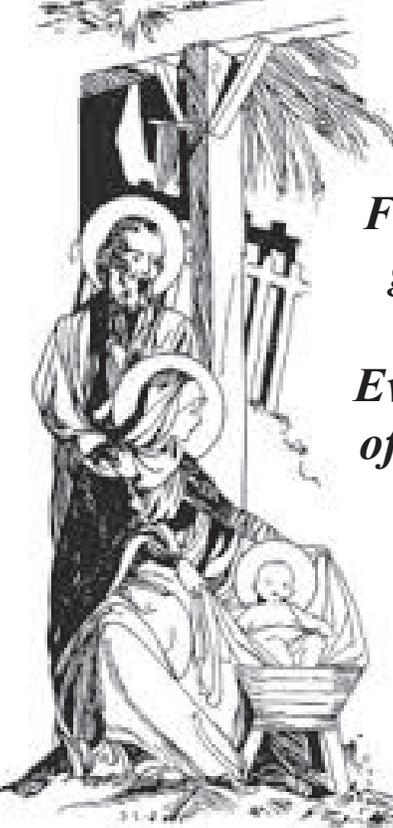
March to the Manger

On Sunday, December 23, both services, you are asked to bring your gifts to the manger and lay them at the feet of Jesus. We will join with the Wise men of old and countless numbers of fellow Christians as we make this journey from our seats to give our gifts of love to Jesus. Our gifts will support the programs of Centenary and United Methodist ministries beyond our church.

Centenary United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 124
331 East State Street
Jacksonville, IL 62651

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December 2018



Merry Christmas!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7