

The Messenger

We are believers in Christ who gather to
PRAISE God, **GROW** and **SERVE**.

May 2020



Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mel Nielsen
pastormel1@hotmail.com
cell: 1-815-922-9161

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

-Isaiah 43:19 (N.I.V.)

I knew I needed a new prescription, so I had my eyes examined and ordered new glasses a few weeks before the quarantine was established. Even with my new and improved vision I still have a hard time seeing what new thing God is doing. Usually when this happens I ask God for a new perception prescription.

I understand my vision only sees so much. I have been talking to you about the differences between spiritual and physical sight. The Lord seems to be revealing this knowledge to Isaiah. The prophet is moved to use the word perceive. Perception is another form of nonphysical sight.

In John 3:8 we read these words about perception, *"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."* Yes, you and I hear the wind and we know it is the movement of air, so we get at least the physical aspect of wind. God is telling us there is more to the wind than the movement of air. There is purpose.

Jesus is telling us that when the wind blows there is a physical meaning, and also perhaps, a new spiritual meaning. To understand the spiritual aspect, we need to be born of the spirit. The spirit helps us perceive what 'new' thing God may be up to.

When we need new eyeglasses, we get busy making a plan. Sometimes, when the problem is bigger than a new pair of glasses, like a worldwide pandemic, we get really busy making all sorts of plans. So many

plans in fact, we have trouble deciding which plan is best. Throughout this COVID-19 crisis we have been given a simple message to share, 'we are in this together.' How often do we understand the 'we' to include God's Holy Spirit?

If God is not among the 'we', then our perception could be way off. Our physical sight can only see so much of what is happening and very little of what 'will' happen. God is in the present and the future and is making a new thing happen. God has already charted the course in the wilderness and dug the path for the new stream. I may not be able to see this new thing, but I must have faith to perceive the concept that God can see it and is faithfully working on it.

If you have heard someone suggest that you stop watching too much news, it may be God reminding us to stop living only in the wilderness and start perceiving the new stream of water that will refresh us soon.

-Pastor Mel

Centenary UMC

Church Staff

Pastor.....Mel Nielsen
Coordinator of Outreach
and Growth.....Kevin Hinkle
Church Secretary.....Christi Kennedy
Music Director.....Terri Benz
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Rachel Hinkle
Parish Visitor.....Jane Lair
Custodian.....Patty Adcock
Nursery Attendant.....Kayleigh Dirden
Nursery Attendant.....Chloe McDannald

Centenary's Missionaries

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

Please Note: Due to the current circumstances of sheltering in place all dates listed below are subject to postponement or cancelation.

In Sympathy

Jan Shelburn.....April 3, 2020

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.....Sun., May 4

Special Offerings

Pennies for Hunger.....Sun., May 24

Fellowship Opportunities

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

Mission Opportunities

AlAnon Meeting.....every Wed., 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
 Donate Blood.....Mon., May 4 & 11
 at Passavant Hospital, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 MMDC Work Day.....Mon., May 18, 8 a.m.

Leadership Opportunities

Education.....Wed., May 6, 6 p.m.
 FinanceMon., May 11, 6 p.m.
 Evangelism.....Tue., May 12, 6:30 p.m.
 Missions.....Wed., May 13, 6:30 p.m.

Children's Ministries

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

Music Practices

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

Bible/Book Studies

Lectionary Bible Study.....Every Tue., 9:30 a.m.
 @ Barbara Wooldridge's Home
 Monday Night Bible Study..... Every Monday 6:00 p.m.

Communications

Mini-Messenger Deadline.....Wednesdays at Noon
 Messenger Deadline.....Thurs., May 21, 9 a.m.
 Messenger Folding Party.....Thurs., May 28, 9 a.m.

United Methodist Women

FHS Circle.....Wed., May 13, 6:30 p.m.
 Hope Circle.....Thurs., May 14, Noon
 Ruth Circle.....Wed., May 20, 1:30 p.m.
 Spirit Circle.....Thurs., May 28, 6 p.m.



THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT MESSENGER IS THURSDAY, MAY 21, 9 A.M.

Thank You

Thank you so very much for all of the prayers and visits from you all while Weldon was in the hospital. He always loved the people at Centenary so much. We are so thankful for the love that Centenary has for others.

God Bless you all.

Thank you again for your love.
 Love, Debbie and Kristine Earp

Budget Overview

Below is the most up to date budget information. You are able to see how Centenary's giving is matching up with the projected 2020 budget.

Needed	
2020 Annual Budget.....	\$360,174.00
Needed Monthly.....	\$30,014.50
Monthly	
May Offerings.....	NOT AVAILABLE
May Totals (+/-).....	NOT AVAILABLE
Composite	
Total Received	NOT AVAILABLE
Current Annual Track (+/-)	NOT AVAILABLE

Hawks passes away

Long time Centenary members may remember Joyce Fitzsimons Hawks. Joyce passed away in Decatur on April 20 and was buried in a private service at Diamond Grove Cemetery.

Sunday Morning Helpers

Liturgists

8:15

May 3 - Pat Manker
May 10 - Barbara Wooldridge
May 17 - Barb Ginder
May 24 - Bev Rhine
May 31 - Pastor Mel

Greeters

8:15

May 3 - Helen Baldwin
May 10 - Dale and Jean Shafer
May 17 - Shelby Pennell
May 24 - Donna Tolbert
May 31 - TBA

10:45

All dates - Diana Phillips

Communion Stewards

8:15 - May 3

Helen Baldwin/Cyndi Claussen - Sec. 1
Gary Hayes/Brenda Lane - Sec. 2
Donna Tolbert/Pat Baptist - Sec. 3
Dave and Jan Adams - Sec. 4

10:45 - May 3

Pastor Mel/Marilyn Kimmons
Linda Tribble/Cyndi Claussen

Fellowship Hour Host/Hostess

May 3 - ☐ No Service
May 10 - No Service
May 17 - No Service
May 24 - No Service
May 31 - No Service

Please Note: Due to the governor's order to extend the shelter at home, no services will be held at Centenary in May.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

*The following is a tentative schedule for
May 2020 worship.*

(Readings & message may change without notice.)

May 3

4th Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - White
Special: Holy Communion
"The Gate"
NT: 1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel: John 10:1-10

May 10

5th Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - Green
"Home"
Special: Mother's Day
NT: Acts 7:55-60
Gospel: John 14:1-14

May 17

6th Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - Green
"The Way"
NT: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Gospel: John 14:15-21

May 24

Ascension Sunday
Altar Color - White
"The Ascension"
NT: Acts 1:1-11
Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

May 31

Pentecost
Altar Color - White
"Living Water"
NT: Acts 2:1-21
Gospel: John 7:37-52

Signs of Spring at Centenary

While we have all been sheltering at home, spring has arrived at Centenary.

Photos courtesy of Martha Vaché



Spread love, not disease

A volunteer at Centenary placed several hearts on the entry doors to Centenary United Methodist Church. The hearts have the names of healthcare workers, first responders and military personnel who are members or related to members of Centenary. Hearts were placed on the north and south entry doors, shown below are the south doors.

Photos courtesy of Pastor Mel



Food Manager Online Classes

Centenary is in need of more members, women and men, to be certified as food handlers.

Whenever we serve food at the church we are supposed to have someone present who has a Food Managers Certificate.

These classes teach you the proper methods of preparing and serving food, proper temperatures to store and serve food, proper ways to sanitize serving and working areas and other necessary information.

At this time when it is so important for us to be extra cautious about cleanliness it would be wonderful to have extra help keeping every healthy.

Linda Day from the Morgan County Health Department conducts classes in the Morgan County area. Due to the pandemic she has no idea when she will be able to offer another in person class. We are recommended to look at an online class at www.servsafe.com. Centenary will cover the cost of the certificate exam.

If you think you might be interested in taking a class or have any questions please feel free to call or text Debbie Belzer at 217-370-8987.

WANTED: Info about graduates

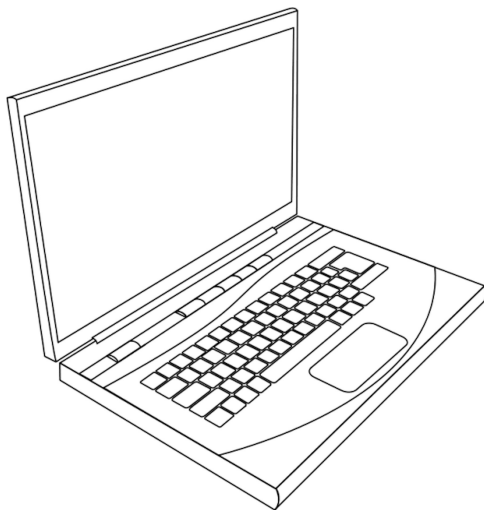
If you would like Centenary to recognize a recent graduate (high school or higher), please contact the church office so that we can list the name, parent's names, future plans, etc. in an up-coming bulletin insert and the June Messenger.

Mowers needed

Spring is here and 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. Email the church office if you can help. Questions? Contact Kevin.

Time to share the love

We have all been told to shelter at home and stay away from crowds but that doesn't mean that we can't still be connected to friends and family. Take time to call or email or send a card to a friend or family member who lives alone and let them know that you are thinking about them.



CONNECT ONLINE

As long as we are not able to gather together on Sunday mornings, a video of the Sunday message/service will be posted on the Facebook page at on Sunday mornings as well as a printed transcript on the website.

A mid-week update and devotion will also be posted on Facebook every Wednesday afternoon.

Please check these pages often for updates and your inbox for email updates as we continue adapting to our new reality.

Centenary Website:

www.jaxcentenary.org

Centenary Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Jaxcentenary

Please note: You do NOT need to have a Facebook login to see our church Facebook page! Check it out today!

May Birthdays

2.....	Matthew Prosser
4.....	Bonnie Waltrip
6.....	Lori Chamberlain
7.....	Kathy Hilligoss
	Isaiah Adcock
9.....	Carolyn Gotschall
11.....	Levi Adcock
12.....	Catherine Pritchett
13.....	Lori Stewart
16.....	Thomas Chumley
	Jennifer Plunk
17.....	Blake Batty
18.....	Shelby Pennell
	Leslie Sparrow
22.....	Joseph Cummings
24.....	James Quigg
28.....	Monica Schriber
29.....	Barb Crouse
	Chad Flynn
30.....	Dale Shafer
	Wanda Irlam

May Anniversaries

1.....	Doug and Karmen Birdsell
6.....	Bob and Mary Dalton
21.....	Steve and Lori Stewart
23.....	Gary and Louise Hayes
24.....	Chad and Rachel Flynn
29.....	Jake and Melissa Kindred

FUSION
Mission Trip
 to
Colorado Springs, CO
 has been canceled.

A local mission event is being organized for youth 6-12 grade. Please watch our Facebook page, Website or Messenger for more information.

K.I.C.K.S. Updates

Acolyte schedule

- May 3 – Annabelle Hardy
- May 10 – Nicholas Warmowski
- May 17 – Otto Zang
- May 24 – Jack Borgman
- May 31 – Mathew Hinkle

Teaching schedule

Toddler Classroom

Date Teacher/Assistant

- May 3 Katelin Six/Brian Six/Kayleigh Dirden
- May 10 Katelin Six/Brian Six/Kayleigh Dirden
- May 17 Katelin Six/Brian Six/Kayleigh Dirden
- May 24 Katelin Six/Brian Six/Kayleigh Dirden
- May 31 Katelin Six/Brian Six/Kayleigh Dirden

Preschool Classroom

Date Teacher/Assistant

- Apr. 5 Diana Phillips/Chloe McDannald
- Apr. 12 Diana Phillips/Chloe McDannald
- Apr. 19 Diana Phillips/Cindy Claussen/Chloe McDannald
- Apr. 26 Diana Phillips/Chloe McDannald
- May 31 Diana Philips/Chloe McDannald/Debbie Belzer

Elementary Classroom

Date Teacher/Assistant

- May3 – R. Borgman/R. Cummings/LuAnne Woodrum
- May 10 – R. Borgman/R. Cummings/Debbie Belzer
- May 17 – R. Borgman/R. Cummings/Ashley Westenberg
- May 24 – R. Borgman/R. Cummings/Amy Stidham
- May 31 – R. Borgman/R. Cummings/Linda Tribble

VBS update

The Education Committee has planned to have our VBS - Knights of North Castle during June 8-11 from 5:45-8:00pm. At this time we are on hold and will make a decision at our May 6 meeting as to how to proceed. Thanks for you patience.

MISSION NEWS

Fox Trust deadline

Centenary's Fox Trust Committee meets twice a year to designate how the interest money received from the Florence Fox Trust will be distributed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the application forms will only be available through the church website www.jaxcentenary.org. You can print a form and send it back to 331 E. State St., P.O. Box 124, Jacksonville, IL 62650. The applications are due back to the office by Monday, June 1.

Money from the trust cannot be used by Centenary for our budget or buildings, given to political causes, or spent outside the U.S. Centenary members aware of special needs in our community are encouraged tell local agencies to apply for a grant.

Lenten offering

It's not too late to give your Lenten Offering. The offering will be used to support Mark and Becky Smallwood, teachers at Red Bird Christian School in the mountains of Kentucky.

The rest of the offering will go toward the new "Our Conference – Our Kids Campaign". This campaign by the IGRC (Illinois Great Rivers Conference) will raise money to endow the spiritual life programs of its five child welfare agencies including: Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham, Lessie Bate Davis Neighborhood House, and Spero Family Services.

Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with Lenten Offering in the memo line and mail to the church office. If you make a donation on PayPal be sure to indicate that it is for the Lenten Offering.

Golden Cross offering

On Mother's Day, May 10th, we have a special offering for Golden Cross. The Golden Cross offering supports our United Methodist older adult ministries, children and family ministries and hospital pastoral care in central and southern Illinois. Some of the agencies supported include: Sunset Home and Chaddock in Quincy, Baby Fold in Normal, Alton Memorial Hospital, and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East St. Louis.

Midwest Mission news

The MMDC is not currently open for volunteer groups but they have continued to ship supplies around the world using staff and local volunteers. The center had a supply of N95 masks on hand that they gave to local emergency personnel. Right now, the center doesn't need volunteers and they don't want supplies to be dropped off at the center. However, they would welcome cash donations and would like to have specific items such as hand towels ordered online and shipped to them. Details of items needed can be found on their website at <http://www.midwestmission.org/>.

The last time I volunteered I noticed a number of tarps ready to be shipped. (See photo below.) I found out that billboard companies donate the used tarps. The tarps are sent by MMDC to countries such as Haiti to be used to cover roofs in the event of a hurricane. It is a cheaper option to the traditional blue tarps and a great way to recycle.

-Martha Vaché



*"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions.
The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely
missionary we become."*

- Henry Martyn

UMW Cancellations

Centenary's UMW had planned for a busy spring. However, with the shelter at home order we have had to cancel our Salad Luncheon, Bazaar, and Bake Sale as well as our Mother's Day Banquet. The LaMoine River District UMW Spring Gathering in White Hall was also canceled.

Quilt Show Postponed

Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana has postponed their annual Quilt Show which was scheduled for early April. They hope to reschedule it later in the year after restrictions on group gathering have been lifted. UMW members are encouraged to work on quilts and items for their boutique and gift shop while your shelter at home.

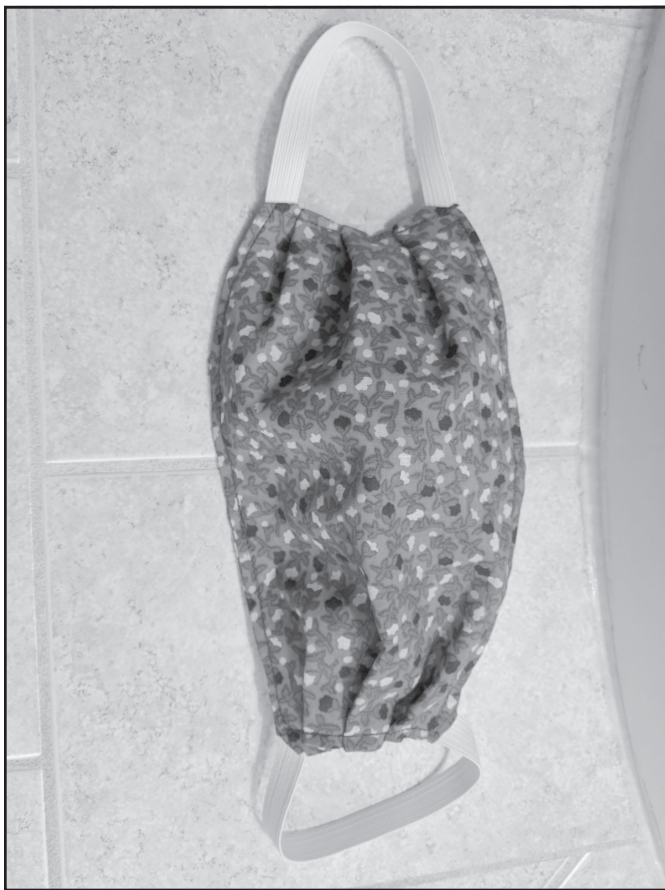
May Circle meetings

The status of future UMW circle meetings is currently unknown. Check with your circle leaders for updates.

UMW Pledges

Since Centenary's UMW's salad luncheon (our major fund raiser) had to be canceled, it would be helpful if UMW members who can afford to would make a pledge to the UMW. The pledges can be paid anytime during the year but paying them soon would help us meet our quarterly pledge to the district UMW. Checks should be made out to "Centenary UMW". Send your pledges to our UMW treasurer, Martha Vaché.

A good way to pass some time



One way for those who sew to serve during this crisis is to make masks. There are many different patterns available. I have one that Cunningham sent if anyone is interested. See photo. Martha Vaché

May Communing with God

Activity – Create rock art/rock painting for your garden or porch.

Scripture – Luke 19:40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Song – Rock of Ages

Terri Benz, Education and Interpretation

UMW Reading Program book reviews

A 2020 Spiritual Growth selection is “Resist and Persist: Faith and the Fight for Equality” by Erin Wathen. “Jesus was a feminist,” writes senior pastor Erin Wathen in this frank book about the many ways patriarchal Christianity affects women's lives. Looking at society and Christianity through a feminist and antiracist lens, Wathen mounts her arguments about why it's essential to raise children as feminists.

“God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church” by Elaine A. Heath is a 2020 book in the category of Spiritual Growth. Just as Paul led the Galatians through a radical cultural change to expand their view of God, themselves and the church's mission, Christians are challenged to do the same today. Elaine Heath urges the church to boldly follow the Holy Spirit's leadership beyond buildings and programs and to join what Jesus is doing in the world.

Answers for Kids Bulletin Pages

Panel 1

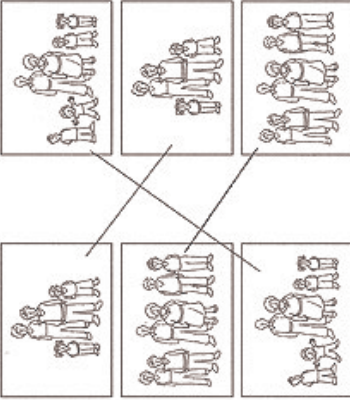
Children's Worship Bulletin

March 22, 2020 • Psalm 91:1-12
Ages 3-6

God, Our Dwelling Place

Lord, You have been our dwelling place.

Match the pictures.

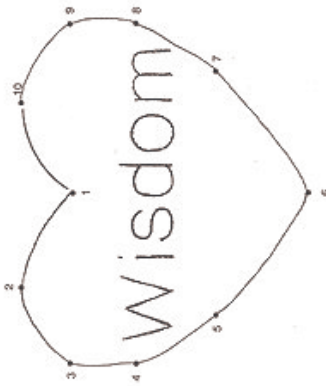


Panel 4

Teach us to gain a heart of wisdom.

Connect the dots and trace the letters.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



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Panel 1

Children's Worship Bulletin

March 22, 2020 • Psalm 90:1-12
Ages 7-12

God, Our Dwelling Place

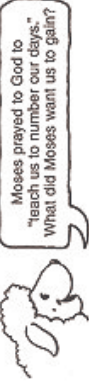
This psalm is a prayer of Moses. What did Moses say?

Find the undefined letters in the picture below.

"Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations."



Panel 4



Use the guide below to fill in the blanks. The first number is the star number.



Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a

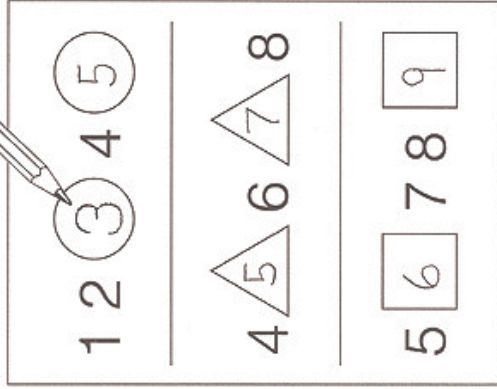
H E A R T O F
2 1 3 2 2 4 1 2 1 5 2 5 2 2
W I S D O M
1 3 1 1 2 3 3 1 2 5 3 5

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Panel 3

Teach us to number our days.

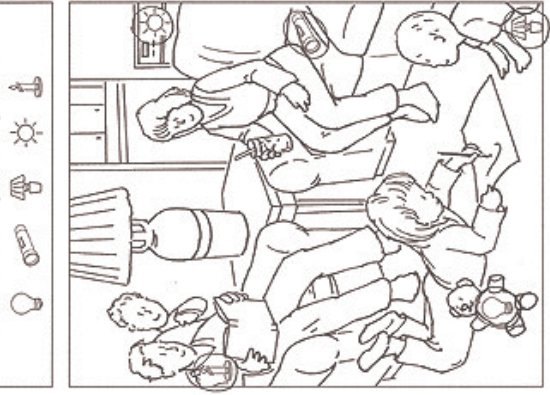
Fill in the missing numbers.



Panel 2

God, You bring light to dark places.

Find these hidden objects in the picture below.



Panel 3

The psalm tells us more about the Lord. What did it tell us?

Write all of the 1's in order. Then return to the top and write all of the 2's in order. Then return to the top and write all of the 3's in order.

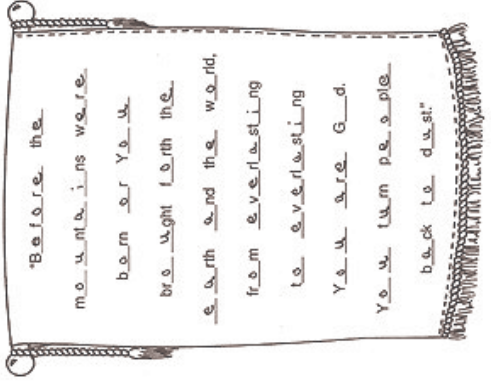
For	1	2	3	1	2	3
thousand	has	length	a	just	of	
in	gone	our	years	by	days	
sight	or	is	Your	like	seventy	
like	a	years	are	which	or	
day	in	eighty	a	the	if	
	night	we	that	The	have	

"For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by as like a watch in the night... The length of our days is seventy years - or eighty if we have the strength."

Panel 2

What else does the psalm say?

Fill in the missing vowels.
o o o o o u a i e e o o o o u o u e e e e e e e e e e
o o e e e i o e e e e i o u e e e e e e e e e e o u o

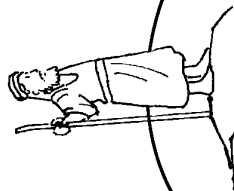




Moses prayed to God to "teach us to number our days." What did Moses want us to gain?

Use the guide below to fill in the blanks.
The first number is the star number.

I T	R O	H F	D E



Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a

$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 2,1 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 3,2 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 2,4 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 1,2 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 1,5 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 2,5 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 2,2 \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 1,3 \end{array}$						
$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 1,1 \end{array}$						
$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 2,3 \end{array}$						
$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 3,1 \end{array}$						
$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 2,5 \end{array}$						
$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 3,5 \end{array}$						



Ages 7+

Psalms 90:1-12

God, Our Dwelling Place

This psalm is a prayer of Moses.
What did Moses say?

Find the underlined letters in the picture below.

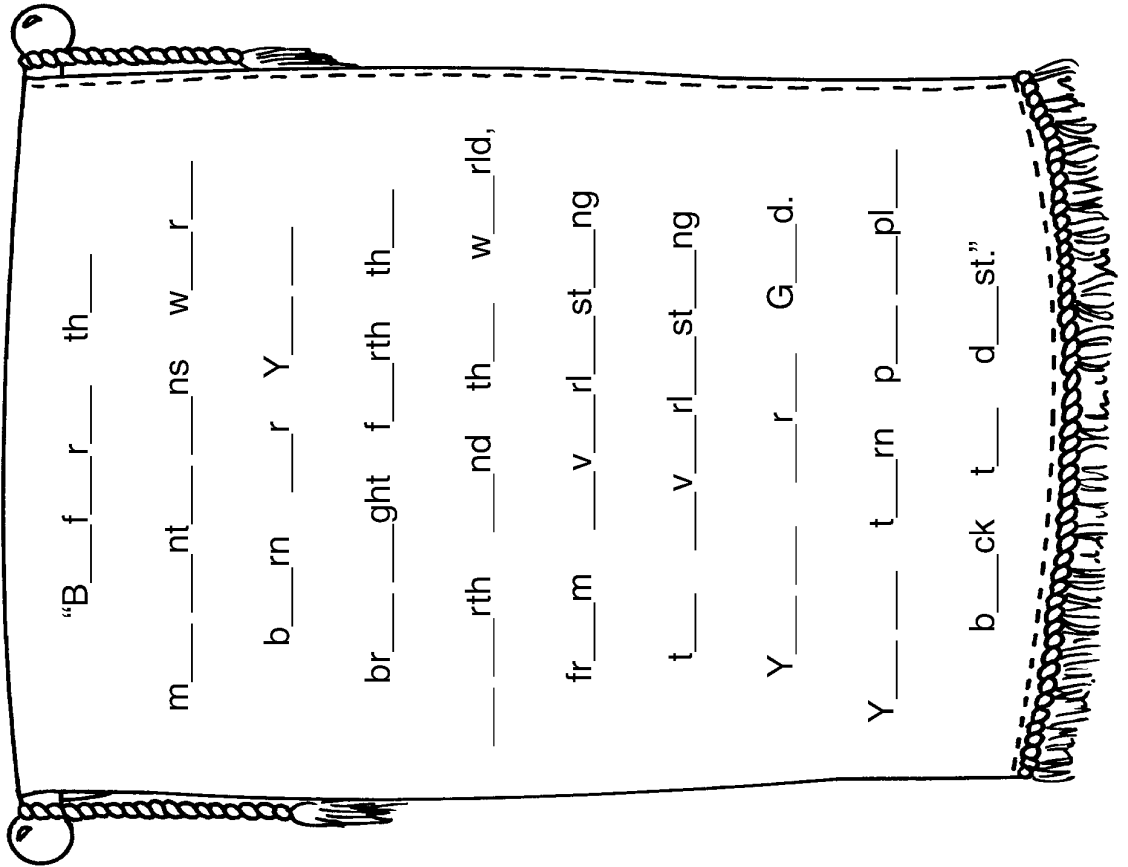
"Lord, You have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations."



What else does the psalm say?

Fill in the missing vowels.

eeeeouaieeeeeouuuueeaae
 ooeaioeeaiouaeouuuueeou



The psalm tells us more about the Lord. What did it tell us?

Write all of the 1's in order. Then return to the top and write all of the 2's in order. Then return to the top and write all of the 3's in order.

For 1	has 2	length 3	a 1	just 2	of 3
thousand 1	gone 2	our 3	years 1	by 2	days 3
in 1	or 2	is 3	Your 1	like 2	seventy 3
sight 1	a 2	years 3	are 1	watch 2	or 3
like 1	in 2	eighty 3	a 1	the 2	if 3
day 1	night 2	we 3	that 1	The 2	have 3

“ _____

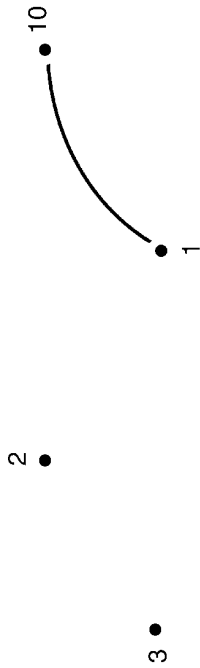
 _____,

 _____ the strength.”

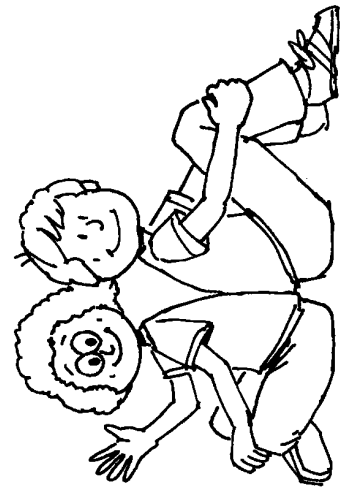
Teach us to gain a heart of wisdom.

Connect the dots and trace the letters.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



5 • • 6 • • 7



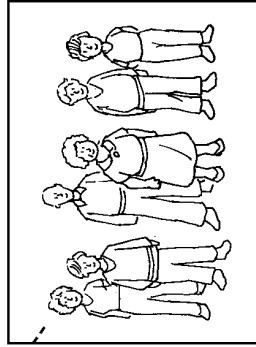
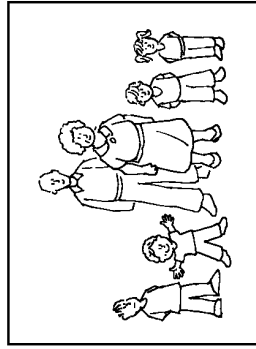
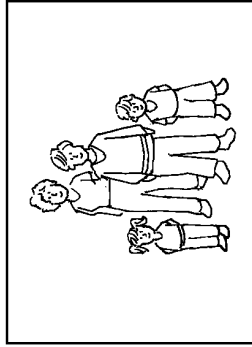
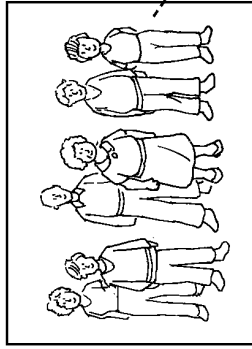
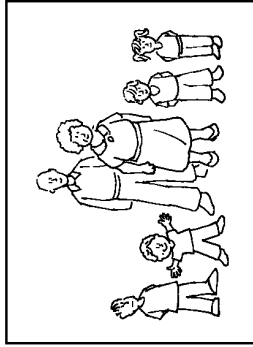
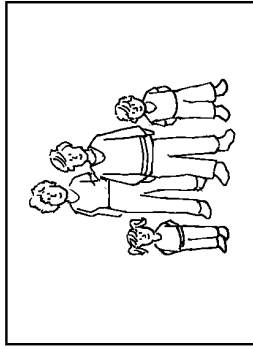
Ages 3+

Psalms 90:1-12

God, Our Dwelling Place

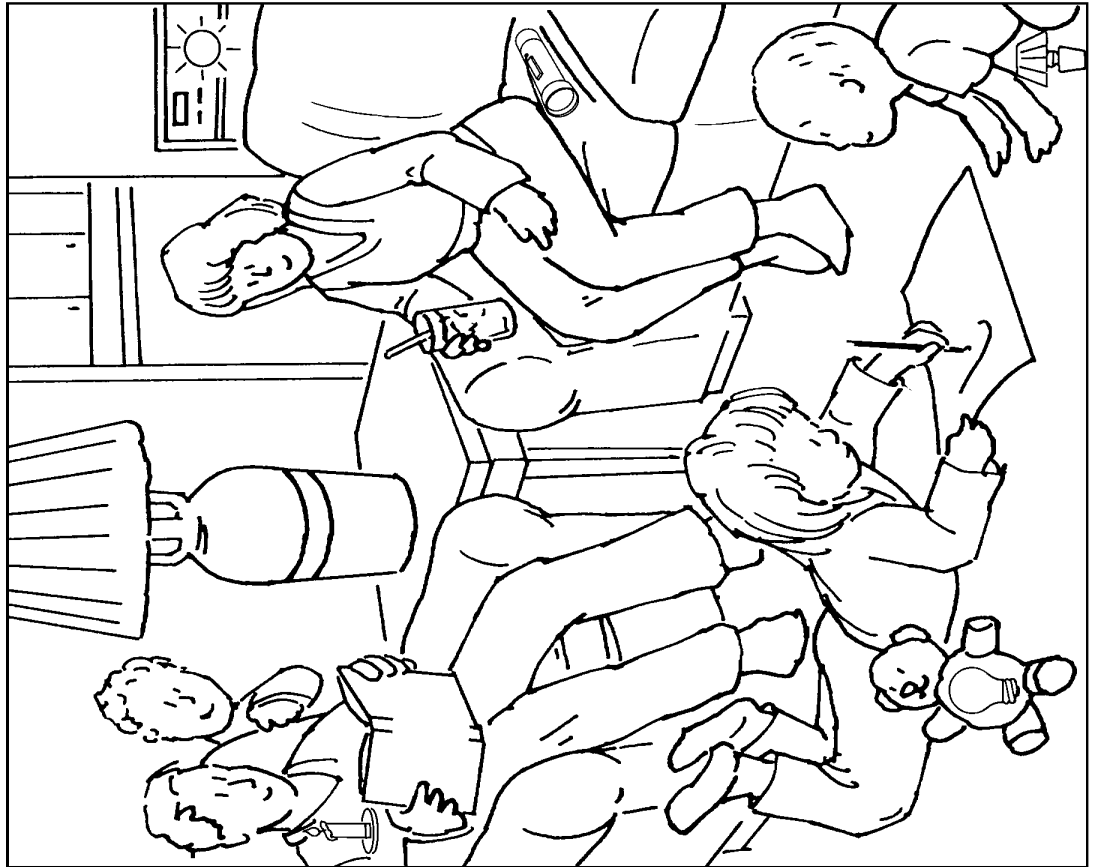
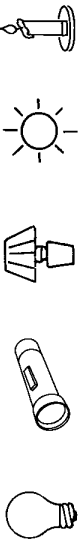
Lord, You have been our dwelling place.

Match the pictures.



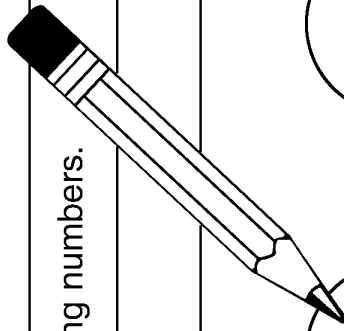
God, You bring light to dark places.

Find these hidden objects in the picture below.



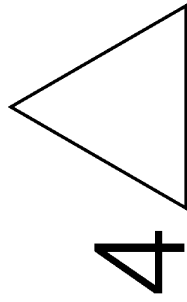
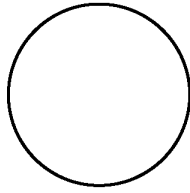
Teach us to number our days.

Fill in the missing numbers.

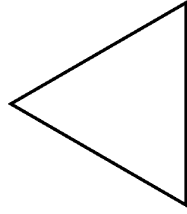


1 2

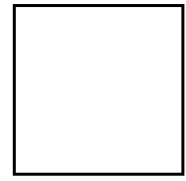
4



6

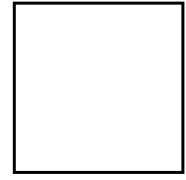


8



5

7 8



**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 _____

Put in newsletter ___ Do NOT put in newsletter ___

<u>GIFT GIVEN TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
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: _____	

M A Y 2 0 2 0

NOTICE:

Due to the governor's order to extend the shelter at home, no services will be held at Centenary in May. Please check our Facebook page or Website for the latest information. For those of you unable to access the online church, information will be shared by phone or mail.

	Fri., May 1	Sat., May 2
	Thurs., May 7	Sat., May 9
	Thurs., May 14	Sat., May 16
	Noon - Hope Circle	
	Thurs., May 21	Sat., May 23
	9 am - Messenger Deadline	
	Wed., May 20	Wed., May 27
	1:30 pm - Ruth Circle 7:30 pm - AI-Anon (F)	
	Tues., May 19	Tues., May 26
	6-9 am - SafeCo Fellowship 9:30 am - Bible Study @ Barb Woodlridge's	6-9 am - SafeCo Fellowship 9:30 am - Bible Study @ Barb Woodlridge's
	Mon., May 18	Mon., May 25
	8 am - MMDC Workday 10 am - Staff Mtg 6 pm - MNBS (P)	10 am - Staff Mtg. 6 pm - MNBS (P)
	Mon., May 11	Mon., May 18
	10 am - Staff Mtg. 6 pm - MNBS (P) 6 pm - Finance (P)	6-9 am - SafeCo Fellowship 9:30 am - Bible Study @ Barb Woodlridge's
	Mon., May 4	Mon., May 11
	10 am - Staff Mtg. 6 pm - MNBS (P)	6-9 am - SafeCo Fellowship 9:30 am - Bible Study @ Barb Woodlridge's
	Sun., May 3	Sun., May 10
	Holy Communion	10 am - Staff Mtg. 6 pm - MNBS (P)
	Sun., May 24/31	Sun., May 31
	24/Pennies for Hunger	10 am - Staff Mtg. 6 pm - MNBS (P)
	Wed., May 28	Wed., May 29
	9 am - Messenger Folding Party 6 pm - Spirit Circle	Abbreviations (F) Fellowship Hall (P) Parlor (S) Adult Sunday School Room (N) Narthex

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

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May 2020

Our Spiritual Weapons Needed to Fight Against COVID-19

This tragic pandemic is an opportunity for the followers of Christ, around the globe, to unite and engage in spiritual warfare that will defeat and destroy the works of darkness. Each Christian, within their own unique context, will need to decide how God has called them to engage in this spiritual battle. Each Christian leader will need to listen for the Lord's voice (and nudging) to decide how best to rally, equip and deploy the troops under their direction. We dare not sit silently and idly by wringing our hands and thinking that we are powerless against this pandemic. Jesus said about US, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matthew 5:14-15). NOW IS THE TIME to let your light shine for Jesus. People are searching for solutions and seeking answers to this pandemic. Believers are not powerless. We have been given weapons to assist in fighting against this evil. It is our job to stand up, stand out, and proclaim victory even before we see the end of the battle. Let us not shrink back or shy away because we don't believe we can do anything. Remember the story of Jehoshaphat. This battle belongs to the Lord. I've read the back of the book and we win. Ultimate victory does not excuse us from engaging and utilizing the weapons God has provided for us to use in defeating this pandemic. Perhaps God has strategically placed us "for such a time as this!"

Written by Illinois Great Rivers Bishop Frank Beard