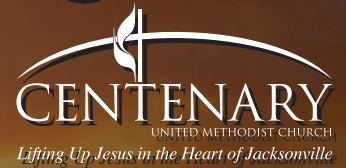


# The Messenger

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

January 2020



## Pastor's Corner

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

**7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

– Joshua 1:7-9 (N.I.V.)

Like so many examples in Holy Scripture, Joshua saw a fair amount of trouble. Challenges confronted him throughout his life. How did Joshua do it? God spoke and said, "do not be afraid." We have a choice, like Joshua, to believe in those words or not. We can believe and still not trust them, we need to trust God to faithfully fulfill these words.

Trust is a word that has been going through my mind and it has been featured in my writings lately. When a word, feeling or thought continues to bounce around in my head, I begin to think that God is involved.

If the problems of 2020 taught us anything, it is to trust God more than ever. Nothing will overtake the unpleasantness we have experienced other than trusting in God. Maybe God is seeking greater faith and trust from the people called Christians.

Perhaps we have become to lackadaisical in our approach to our faith journey. Is it possible we have allowed other idols to creep so much into our life that we needed a reminder of God's grace? "Be strong and courageous," says the Lord.

Let us carry these words into 2021, "Do not be discouraged." I believe that God will see us through these dark days. I write this article the morning after watching the first hospital nurse receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Be strong and courageous, now is not the time to give up.

Beyond the pandemic, we have had many other reasons to be discouraged; God has an answer for them all. The answers that God has provided are written in your Holy Bible. God is reminding Joshua to meditate on the Book of Law day and night. Since Jesus we have more than law, we have grace. I invite you to spend 2021 with the Bible close to you and God's words of encouragement ever on your lips.

– 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.....TBD  
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

***In Sympathy***

Pastor Trisha Chapman.....December 8, 2020

***Sunday Morning Schedule***

Traditional Worship Service.....8:15 a.m.  
 Sunday School (all ages)..Postponed until further notice  
 Fellowship Hour.....Postponed until further notice  
 Contemporary Worship Service.....10:45 a.m.

***Special Worship Services***

Holy Communion.....Sunday, Jan. 3  
 Please drive through the church parking lot, heading east, between 9-10:30 to receive the elements while remaining in your vehicle. Pastor Mel will greet you.

***Special Offerings***

Pennies for Hunger.....Sun., Jan. 17

***Mission Opportunities***

AlAnon Meeting.....Online until further notice  
 Donate Blood.....Postponed until further notice

***Leadership Opportunities***

Missions.....Wed., Jan. 13, 4 p.m.

***Children's Ministries***

Sunday School.....Postponed until further notice

***Music Practices***

Chancel Choir.....Postponed until further notice

***Communications***

Bulletin Deadline.....Postponed until further notice  
 Messenger Deadline.....Thurs., Jan. 21, 9 a.m.,

***Chapman obituary***

Pastor Trisha L. Chapman, 63, of Galva, IL died Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, at her home.

She was born April 3, 1957, in Jacksonville, the daughter of O. Lynn and Patricia "Patt" Babb Chapman.

She is survived by one sister, Krystal (Dennis) Twitchell of Riverton; one niece, Samantha Steinmetz (partner Gary Mical) of Lake Villa; and her great-nephew, Chase Mical. She was preceded in death by her parents; and two sisters, Janell Chapman, and Tanya Steinmetz.

Early in her life, Trisha had worked at various jobs before finding her calling as a Pastor. She had been serving as a Pastor for the last 17 years, most recently at Galva First United Methodist Church and Bishop Hill United Methodist Church. Pastor Trisha enjoyed crafting. She loved her family, and especially loved her great-nephew, Chase.

Private family services will be held, with burial at Memorial Lawn Cemetery in Jacksonville. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society or to your local Food Bank.

***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.

**Your generosity is needed to help make the churches budget during these days of separation.**

**Needed**

2020 Annual Budget..... \$360,174.00  
 Monthly..... \$30,014.50

**Year to Date through November 2020**

Received ..... \$256,011.81  
 Current Annual Track..... -\$104,162.19

Avg. Monthly donations so far through 2020.....\$23,273.80

**Once again COVID-19 is altering our church calendar. In-Person worship has been canceled until further notice.**

**All dates on the church calendar are subject to change without notice.**

**Please stay tuned to Facebook, the church website and your email for further information.**

## *Drive through Holy Communion planned*

In order to be in compliance with state, local and religious leaders, Centenary UMC is temporarily canceling inside worship services until further notice. If we are not back inside before Sunday, January 3, Pastor Mel will be offering Holy Communion at the south doors of the church between 10 a.m. - Noon. Please enter the parking lot facing east, so the driver's window is facing the church.

You may drop of your offering envelope and also pick up UMW Program Books and Upper Room.

## *Upper Room no longer available*

Centenary is sad to announce it will no longer be providing The Upper Room Daily Devotional Magazine. If you would like to purchase your own subscription you can log onto [upperroom.org](http://upperroom.org) or contact them with the address listed below. If ordering by mail, please indicate whether you want the large print or regular.

The Upper Room  
1908 Grand Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37212  
Customer support: 800-972-0433

## **K.I.C.K.S. UPDATES**

### *Sunday School Update*

Sunday School lessons have been offered on Facebook for a few months. You can find them in the private Facebook page Centenary Kids. If you have a child in our SS program, your name is already there as a member. For the last month, e-mails have been sent after the lesson with resources you can use as follow up activities.

In February, the Facebook live lessons will continue. The February lessons will be on the story of the Magi, Jesus' baptism, the calling of the disciples and God's kingdom.

## *Upcoming Worship Schedule*

*The following is a tentative schedule for January 2021 worship.*

**(Readings & message may change without notice.)**

### **January 3**

Epiphany Sunday  
Altar Color - White  
"The Magi Come Calling"  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

### **January 10**

Baptism of the Lord Sunday  
Altar Color - White  
"Baptism"  
Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

### **January 17**

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany  
Human Relations Day  
Altar Color - Green  
"The Mystery of Nathanael"  
Gospel: John 1:43-51

### **January 24**

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany  
Ecumenical Sunday  
Altar Color - Green  
"Following Jesus Steps #1, Hear the Call"  
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

### **January 31**

4th Sunday after the Epiphany  
Altar Color - Green  
"UMW Sunday - Guest Speaker"  
Gospel: TBA

### **February 7**

5th Sunday after the Epiphany  
Holy Communion  
Altar Color - White  
"Following Jesus Steps #2-3, Ministry Begins"  
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

## UMW News

### 2021 UMW Officers

The 2021 UMW slate of officers have been announced.

Co-Presidents: Rusti Cummings and Angi Freitag

Vice President: Catherine Pritchett

Secretary: Debbie Nielsen

Treasurer: Martha Vaché

Spiritual Growth: Jane Masters

Social Action: Pat Baptist

Membership/Nurture/Outreach: Jarice Crenshaw

Education /Interpretation: Terri Benz

Program Resources: Diana Phillips

### UMW and/or Circle Membership

All women in the Centenary family are invited to become a member of our United Methodist Women. UMW members may participate in a circle or be a member-at-large. The UMW sponsors activities such as our Love Visits, Salad Luncheon, Mother's Day Banquet, Fall Luncheon, and Christmas Brunch. Circles meet monthly for study, spiritual growth, fellowship, and service. For more information contact one of the circle leaders or Jarice Crenshaw, UMW Membership Chr.

#### FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE CIRCLE

2nd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

FHS sponsors an annual Cookie Walk and breakfast fund raisers. They also coordinate "A Cup of Cold Water, and occasionally have day trips. Co-leaders: Linda Tribble and Mary Tomlin

#### HOPE CIRCLE

2nd Thursday (Time varies)

Hope Circle has a variety of activities: a soup luncheon, shared meals, visits to Centenary friends, service projects, and a semi-annual Garden Walk. Leader: Martha Vaché

#### RUTH CIRCLE

3rd Wednesday, 1:30 pm, parlor

Ruth Circle has devotions, fellowship, refreshments, and a program. They enjoy a Christmas luncheon and go out to eat in June. Secretary: Bonnie Minor

#### SPIRIT CIRCLE

4th Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at various restaurants

Spirit Circle sponsors a variety of activities that are usually related to children.

Co-Leaders: Rusti Cummings and Amy Stidham

*(All UMW and circle activities are subject to change due to the pandemic. Watch for updates.)*

### UMW Program Books

Centenary's 2021 UMW books are printed. UMW members may pick up a copy in the Narthex, the church office or from circle leaders. Thanks to Brenda Lane for editing the books and Christi Kennedy for printing them.



*New Members  
always welcome*

#### January Circle Meetings

**FHS Circle:** Wed. Jan. 13, 6:30 pm

Hostess: Linda Tribble

**Hope Circle:** Thurs. Jan. 14, 1:30 pm. on Zoom

Program: Prayer and Self-Denial – Jane Masters

**Ruth Circle:** no January meeting

**Spirit Circle:** Thurs. Jan. 28 at 6:00 p.m. at

Lonzerotti's

### *Future UMW dates*

UMW Business Meeting:

Tues. Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

UMW Sunday:

Sun. Jan. 31

UMW Love Visits:

Week of February 7 – Cards will be sent.

IGRC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat:

Sat. Feb. 27 --- Virtual

## UMW News

### *UMW Reminders and 2021-2022 Reading Program books*

Reminder: Early in January, please take the time to list the books that you have read in 2020 and send it to Diana Phillips so that she may send it on to the District Program Resources Chairperson by January 31. You may mail or email your list. Thank you.

Below is a list of the 2021-2022 UMW Reading Program books that will be available either in our Centenary Library or the Jacksonville Public Library. Books can also be ordered through your favorite book store, Cokesbury, or Amazon.

#### 2021-2022

UMW Reading Program Books Available

CL Centenary Library

JPL Jacksonville Public Library

JPL-I Jacksonville Public Library Interlibrary Loan

#### Education for Mission

- Gum Moon: A Novel of San Francisco Chinatown (CL)
- The Unstoppable Garrett Morgan (JPL-I)

#### Leadership Development

- Speaking Well: Essential Skills for Speakers, Leaders, and Preachers (C)
- Anxious To Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism (JPL-I)
- Cinderella Liberator (JPL)
- Not Your Princess: Voices of Native American Women (JPL-I)
- Rise!: From a Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou (Bonus Book) (Youth) (JPL-I)

#### Nurturing for Community

- Binkle's Time to Fly (Children) (JPL-I)
- The Bird Boys: A Delpha Wade and Tom Phelan Mystery (JPL-I)
- The Hate U Give (Youth) (JPL)
- Let's Work!: Mexican Folk Art: Trabajos (JPL-I)
- A Living Gospel: Reading God's Story in Holy Lives (CL)

#### Social Action

- Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community (CL)
- For Such a Time as This: Hope and Forgiveness After the Charleston Massacre (JPL-I)
- Girl Gone Missing: A Cash Blackbear Mystery (JPL-I)
- Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin

(JPL-I)

- Women Rise Up; Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution (CL)

#### Spiritual Growth

- Adamant: Finding Truth in a Universe (JPL-I)
- Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home (CL)
- One day I Wrote Back: Interacting with Scripture Through Creative Writing (CL)
- Right Here Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness (JPL-I)
- They Call Me Guero: A Border Kid's Poems (Youth) (JPL-I)

### *UMW Business Meeting*

UMW officers will meet on Tuesday, January 5 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. The group will finalize plans for UMW Sunday and other events in 2021. All UMW members are welcome to attend. Members can participate via their computer/tablet or by a phone call. Contact Martha Vaché to receive the log in information.

### *UMW Sunday plans*

Centenary's annual UMW Sunday is scheduled for January 31.

Ellen Dixon has been invited to bring the message that day at the 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. services. Ellen is a former member of Centenary who sang in our choir and was active in Hope Circle. When they lived in Jacksonville, her husband, Jonathan, was the chaplain at MacMurray College.

Ellen lives in Springfield and is a certified lay speaker. She has been an officer in the Sangamon River District UMW and serves on the Cunningham Children's Home Board. On February 27 she will be leading the IGRC UMW's Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat.

Our 2021 UMW officers will be installed by our LaMoine River District Shepherdess, Libby Gaige. Other UMW member will help with the service and our UMW Mission Woman of the year award will be announced.



Picture courtesy of Rachel Borgman

**Pictured above: Two of the many volunteers who came out to share the love of Jesus with their community. Noah Borgman and Jack Borgman are shown at their post on Saturday, December 5 at Farm and Home in Jacksonville. Thank you to all who volunteered to ring for the Salvation Army. The Red Kettle Campaign was a very important source of income for the Salvation Army in 2020.**

## January Birthdays

- 1.....Debra Belzer  
Kelly Quigg
- 2.....Pricilla Cook  
Melanie Refuerzo
- 3.....Joshua Pritchett
- 4.....Sharon Lippert
- 6.....Bradley Manker  
Alaina Bell
- 7.....Kim Spangenberg
- 8.....Lindsay Stiltz
- 10.....Reg Tribble  
Heather Gifford
- 12.....Luke Craddock
- 17.....Barney Stock
- 19.....Steven Woodrum  
Melissa Kindred  
Huston Spradlin
- 20.....Lauren Stidham
- 21.....LuAnne Woodrum
- 25.....Terri Benz  
Sheryl Hanson  
Ann DeFrates
- 26.....Alison Prosser
- 31.....John Gotschall  
Ashley Pond

## December Anniversaries

- 4.....Charlie and Mary Tomlin  
Jim and Joan Quigg
- 6.....Gerry and Bonnie Robinson
- 13.....Bob and Rita Northrop  
J.W. "Bill" and Carol Smith
- 16.....Richard and Diane Webster
- 21.....Josh and Lacey Sorrill

## Quote of the month

Mercy

He that demands mercy and shows none ruins the bridge over which himself is to pass.

— Thomas Adams



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

## Mission News

### *MMDC workday*

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center is currently seeking volunteers from the local area. Wearing masks and social distancing is required. Volunteers must be registered in advance. To find out more about volunteering at MMDC contact Martha Vaché or Debbie Nielsen.

### *Advent offering*

It's not too late to give a donation to the Advent Offering. The money from this offering will go towards Pastor Mel's Helping Hand Fund. The pandemic has created financial problems for many families and individuals in our local community. Pastor Mel will use the money to help those in need. Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with Advent in the memo line.

### *Human Relations Sunday*

Human Relations Sunday will be on January 17. The special offering that day will support the ministry of Christ among those living on the margins of society. The offering will be used to nurture at-risk youth, strengthen communities' self-improvement efforts, and advocate for the oppressed. Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with Human Relations in the memo line.

### *Thank You*

Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for Chaddock's Santa Express, shopped online for Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts, donated food to the Jacksonville Area Food Center, rang bells for the Salvation Army, shopped for and deliver Christmas baskets, participated in or helped with Centenary's Drive-through Nativity, or shared Christmas cheer in countless other ways. Your love brightened the Christmas season for others as you shared Christ's love.

## *Letter from Missionary*

NOTE: The following note was included in a Christmas card sent to the Centenary Missions Committee by a China Missionary, Connie Weick. The Mission Committee supports her mission.

Dear Centenary UMC,

Blessings for Advent. I wanted to send a special something from China for your altar when services begin again or for your virtual services.

This is a paper cut by Chinese Christians, portraying a Bible story, Can you guess which one?

Thank you so much for the \$150.00 for my China - return supply list. I am looking forward to after Christmas sales to load up. My hope is to have my Visa approved for March-April, so I can be back on the classroom by May. Pray for that.

Blessings and joy for your Advent season. I pray for you all.

Love and peace, Connie



Above is the Chinese paper art sent to us by Connie Weick. She is asking if we can identify the Bible story it is portraying.

## *Quote of the month*

### Forgiveness

Will you rob God of His almightiness in pardoning?  
You say your sin is great, but is it infinite? Is not God alone infinite? Is your sin as big as God, as big as Christ? Is Jesus Christ only a mediator for small sins?

— William Bridge

**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 \_\_\_

CENTENARY	GIFT GIVEN TO	AMOUNT
Bell Tower/Steeple Fund		
Children's Activities		
Elevator Upkeep Fund		
FUSION/Youth Fund		
Music Fund		
Pavilion Fund		
Organ Reservoirs Fund		
<b>JACKSONVILLE</b>		
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		
<b>MIDWEST</b>		
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		
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>		
Church World Service/CROP		
Heifer Project		
UMCOR (United Methodist Com. on Relief)		
<b>MISSIONARIES</b>		
Mark & Rebecca Smallwood/Red Bird School		
<b>OTHER</b>		
Name:		



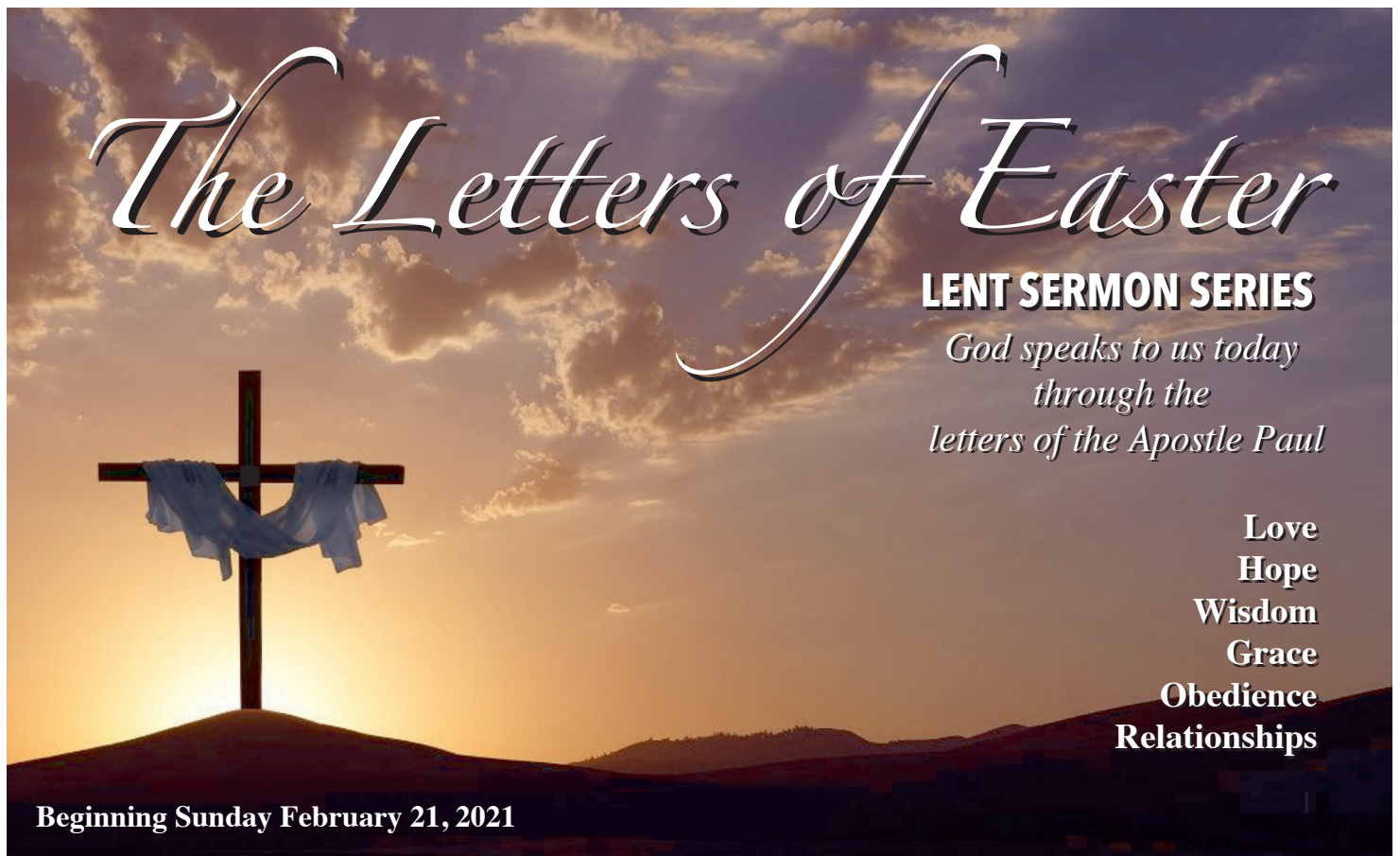


Centenary United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 124  
331 East State Street  
Jacksonville, IL 62651

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January 2021



*The Letters of Easter*

**LENT SERMON SERIES**

*God speaks to us today  
through the  
letters of the Apostle Paul*

Love  
Hope  
Wisdom  
Grace  
Obedience  
Relationships

**Beginning Sunday February 21, 2021**