



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

10 This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

- Jeremiah 29:10-14 (N.I.V.)

D iscovery plays a role in the life of faith. God operates in this world in such a way that a primary means of connecting with God is through the seeking-discovery process.

Perhaps that's why in Jeremiah, God said, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you."

Last year I was part of my grandson's first hide and seek match. When we first began, he couldn't help but yell our where he was hiding. It takes a while to figure out the nuances of the game.

What is it about the excitement of that game that some, even adults, cannot help not remain hidden?

Sometimes before the game has begun, someone is yelling, "Here I am."

Not that God is impatient, but the Lord is like this at times. God cannot stay hidden. God wants to be found. When we seek God with all our hearts, God says, "I will let you find me" I find that an awesome pat of God's nature, God wants to be found.

As you and I navigate through another new year, we will go about doing what we are supposed to do. We will go to work, hopefully attend church, sleep and maybe play a game of hide and seek with family.

Watch for God in your everyday routine. The Lord will make contact with us incidentally but not accidentally. There are a untold ways in which we will 'discover' God new again, if we take the time to look.

Approach your faith journey with an expectation of the unexpected and know that God will provide reassurance by yelling out from behind the bushes, "I'm here, I'm here!"

- Pastor Mel

Centenary UMC

Church Staff

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

Dale Wooldridge......January 9, 2021
Ann DeFrates....January 26, 2021

Sunday Morning Schedule

Special Worship Services

Holy Communion.....Sunday, Feb. 7

Special Offerings

Pennies for Hunger.....Sun., Feb. 28

Mission Opportunities

AlAnon Meeting.....Online until further notice Donate Blood.....1st and 2nd Mondays ea. month 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Leadership Opportunities

Missions.....Wed., Feb. 10, 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., Feb. 18, 9 a.m,

United Methodist Women

Love Visits	1st week of February
IGRC UMW Spiritual Growth	n RetreatTBA
Business Meeting	Tue., Mar. 2, 6:30 p.m.
LaMoine Personal Growth	Sat., Mar. 13
Salad Lunch/Bazaar	Fall 2021

Donate blood

Blood donations are especially needed during the pandemic. The donation center has been moved to the Community Building on South Main Street in Community Park. Blood donations are accepted on the 1st and 2nd Mondays each month (February 1 and 8) from 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Appointments are required. Contact the blood center by calling 217-753-1530 or login to https://www.bloodcenter.org/

Centenary to resume inperson worship services on February 7

Bishop Frank J. Beard and members of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Extended Cabinet announced Jan. 12 the lifting of suspension of inperson worship in churches.

Upon hearing that news, the Centenary Administrative Board voted to return to in-person worship beginning on Feb. 7. The same safety protocols will be in place for worship and meetings as before.

Confirmation will begin at a later date. Please follow email and Facebook communications for updated information.

Spring Food Drive

Our Centenary spring food drive for the Jacksonville Area Community Food Center will be from March 7 to March 21. Bring non-perishable food to fill the ledges in the sanctuary.

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 Monthly	
Year to Date through December 2020	
Received	
Current Annual Track	\$65,879.20
Avg. Monthly donations so far through 2020	\$24,524.57

Lent Bible Study

Join Pastor on Sunday nights in Lent for a six-week online Bible Study that coincides with the Sunday Sermon Series, *The Letters of Easter*. The study will begin on Sunday, February 21, 5:30 p.m.

There is no cost or book to purchase. Please register with the pastor by email: pastormel1@hotmail.com or text 815-922-9161. Please provide your email when registering. The deadline to register is Thursday, February 18.

Ladies Book Club

The February Ladies Book Club meeting will be Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. The Book they are reading is: "*Three Days, The Search for the Boy Messiah*," by Chris Stepien Please contact Debbie Nielsen if you would like to participate.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Appointments are now being accepted for Morgan County residents who are 75 or older to receive the Covid Vaccine. ICall 217-47+9-1817 to make an appointment. I just called and made our appointments.

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 February-March 2021 worship.

(Readings & message may change without notice.)

February 7

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

February 14

Transfiguration Sunday
Altar Color - White
"Following Jesus Steps #4, We Change"
Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

February 21

1st Sunday of Lent Altar Color - Purple "The Letters of Easter - Love" Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

February 28

2nd Sunday in Lent Altar Color - Purple "The Letters of Easter - Hope" Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

March 7

3rd Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion
Altar Color - Purple
"The Letters of Easter - Wisdom"
Gospel: John 2:13-22

March 14

4th Sunday in Lent Altar Color - Purple "The Letters of Easter - Grace" Gospel: John 3:14-21

UMW News

UMW Business Meeting

The next UMW business meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. (on Zoom or in the Fellowship Hall). We will discuss plans for the spring including possibly having a carry-out sale of German Potato Salad. All women are invited.

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



New Members always welcome

February Circle Meetings

FHS Circle: Wed. Feb. 10, 6:30 pm

Hostess: Terri Benz

Hope Circle: Thurs. Feb. 11, 1:30 pm, on Zoom

Program: Book sharing **Ruth Circle:** No meeting

Spirit Circle: Thurs. Feb. 25 - TBA

Future UMW dates

Love Visits: During the 1st week of February **IGRC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat:** TBA **Business Meeting:** Tues. Mar. 2, 6:30 p.m., parlor LaMoine District UMW Personal Growth Program: Saturday. March 13 Virtual Time: TBA

Salad Luncheon/Bazaar (Postponed until fall)

UMW Membership

All women in the Centenary family are welcome to be a part of our United Methodist Women. UMW members may participate in a circle or be a member-atlarge. You don't need to be a member of Centenary to join UMW. Contact me or any UMW officer for more information. Jarice Crenshaw, Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Each month UMW plans to list why our members enjoy belonging to UMW. (See below)

What I Enjoy About Being a UMW Member:

I enjoy being a member of the UMW because I feel that I am supporting Centenary's ministries, the local community, and beyond where there are needs and receive joy while serving. Jarice Crenshaw

As a member of the For Heavens Sake circle, I enjoy hearing what the other circles are doing. On a more global level, it is rewarding to hear how our UMW unit is active in supporting financially, through service, or prayer the many missions of the United Methodist Women. Terri Benz

UMW Love Visits

The members of Centenary's United Methodist Women have traditionally delivered plates of cookies to those on our Love Visit list on the first Wednesday of February. Due to the pandemic, it is not safe to make these personal visits this year. Members of UMW and circle members plan to send Valentine cards this year instead of delivering cookies. Hopefully, we will soon be able to safely see each other in-person.

Prayer and Self-Denial

Jane Masters, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, has materials for the UMW Prayer and Self-Denial program to share with circle and UMW members. Hope Circle focused on Prayer and Self-Denial at their January meeting. Offering donations should be mailed to Martha Vaché, UMW Treasurer or put in the UMW mailbox in the church office for Martha. Make checks to "Centenary UMW".

UMW News

UMW Book Reviews

"Gum Moon: A Novel of San Francisco Chinatown" by Jeffrey Staley is an Education for Mission book for 2021 and is in the Centenary library. In 1898, 3 year old Chinese-American Mei Chun Lai is sold to a cruel brothel keeper, where a sympathetic prostitute befriends her. Two years later, at the height of a plague quarantine, a young Methodist woman rescues Chun and places her in a home for abused and trafficked girls. The home was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. Chun (aka"Maud") and a group of seven other Chinese children embark on a crosscountry singing tour to raise funds to rebuild. When their home matron suffers a breakdown, 13 year old Maud must lead the band of children home. Based on a true story..

"Anxious To Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism" by Carolyn Helsel is a book in the category of Leadership Development. It can be acquired through the Jacksonville Public Library inter-library loan program. Talking about race can make us anxious. Professor and pastor Carolyn Helsel draws on her experiences with white congregations to offer tools and practices to explore the anxious feelings that can come up when talking about racism. Learn how to join the hard conversations and move forward with less fear, more compassion and more knowledge of self, others and the important issues at stake.

Salad Luncheon postponed

The UMW salad luncheon, bazaar, and bake sale has been postponed until fall. The tentative date is Wednesday, October 6. Mark your calendars and plan to help us then. Invite your friends to attend.

UMW Sunday held

Centenary's annual UMW Sunday was held on January 31. Ellen Dixon gave the message. She is a former member of Centenary who sang in our choir and was active in Hope Circle. 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.

Our 2021 UMW officers were installed by our LaMoine River District Shepherdess, Libby Gaige. Libby is a LaMoine River District UMW Representative to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. Other UMW officers helped with the service.

Mary Tomlin announced that Centenary's 2021 UMW Mission Woman of the year is Tamara Newby. Over the years Tamara has blessed many in our Centenary family with handwritten cards and letters of encouragement.

2021 UMW books

Centenary's 2021 UMW books are printed. UMW members and others may pick up a copy in the Narthex, the church office or from circle leaders.

Mission News

(Continued on page 7)

2020 Missions Committee lists donations

During 2020 Centenary UMC gave nearly \$40,000 to missions locally and beyond. Over \$13,500 was donated by individuals and groups connected to Centenary. Some of these donations were designated by the donors and were sent directly. Other donations given to missions were designated by the Missions Committee.

In addition, the Fox Trust Committee approved donations of a little over \$16,000 to mission projects and agencies in our Jacksonville community and to Methodist missions within the United States. In 1992 Centenary received a large bequest from the estate of Florence Fox. The money was invested, and a portion is distributed in June and December at the direction of Centenary's Fox Trust Committee.

Thanks to everyone for their generosity. A complete list of the 2020 donations is available in the church office.

Christmas Eve prayer requests from the youth at Cunningham

The following are actual prayer requests from the youth at Cunningham Children's Home. The children were specifically asked, "Where do you need peace?"

- That my sister will trust me and like me again.
- My parents not being alive.
- Getting a family.
- I need peace with everything.
- My family.
- I need peace with myself and what my purpose is.
- No wars, fighting, arguing.
- That I have not found my dad.
- I need peace in my life.
- My family to help me get through being in a group home.
- For good things to come my way.

The following are the children's responses to the question, "What do you hope will happen in your lifetime?"

- No abandonment of children.
- Peace and relief.
 - Me going home.
 - Stop drugs.
 - To never be without family.
 - To get married to a wonderful wife.
 - My puppy and I to live a long life.
 - Genuine, loving people.
 - Stop the shooting.
 - Stay calm and happy no matter what.
 - World peace.

You are invited to prayer for these requests as well.

Thank You

Dear Centenary Church Family: You have amazed us with your generosity and thoughtfulness as we've said our earthly goodbyes to Dale. Thank you for the memorial gifts, flowers, cards, food and most of all, for your prayer support. We will always remember that you have shown Christ to us by your love and your actions. God's blessings. The Wooldridge, Benz, Evans and Hinkle families.

February Birthdays

4	James Macrander
5	Patricia Patterson
6	Jane Rorex
	Devi Harper
9	Lacey Sorrill
	Lane Stiltz
10	Rene Strubbe
	Patty Cook
	Joan Quigg
	Louis Vaché
15	Benjamin Belzer
	Carol Smith
17	Shirley Gish
	Charlene Anderson
19	Matt Tomlin
	Mary Tomlin
22	Alex Hrynewych
28	Wendy DeBolt

February Anniversaries

6	Ron and Joyce McAllister
	Alex and Amy Hrynewych
12	Kelly and Billy Latham
14	Richard and Barb Fernandes
18.	Scott and Emily Calhoun

Quote of the Month

No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I have prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes.

— Martin Luther



THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT MESSENGER IS THURSDAY, FEB. 18, 9 A.M.

Mission News

(Continued from page 5)

MMDC workday

We don't have a specific date scheduled to volunteer at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Chatham. However, they do need volunteers from central Illinois. Contact Martha Vaché if you are interested in volunteering so we can set at date and get registered.

TEOSA needs volunteeers

TEOSA (Temporary Emergency Overnight Shelter Accommodations) needs additional volunteers to help staff the shelter which is located on the southeast corner of Walnut and Main Streets. Both men and women are needed. Pastor Mel and Debbie have been volunteering and would be happy to answer any questions that potential volunteers might have.

Blanket Sunday

Blanket and Tools of Hope Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, February 21. There will be a special offering for Church World Service. CWS responds immediately after a disaster happens with tents, blankets, recovery kits, medicines, etc. In addition, CWS is committed to stand with people in the long process of recovery and rehabilitation. CWS works to provide care to traumatized children; rebuild communities; and restoring hope in some 80 countries.

With your support, the CWS TOOLS & BLANKETS Program is a rainbow of caring to people in need around the world. A blanket can be purchased for \$10. Larger gifts are welcome. Make checks out to "Centenary UMC" and designate Blanket Sunday. Information about the work of CWS is available on their web site: http://cwsglobal.org/

Fox Trust report for December 2020

Organization Requesting Funds	Requested By	\$ Amount Requested	\$ Amount Approv
	roduction by	y Amount Nequested	# Amount Appro
Centenary UMC Youth Group - FUSION - Mission Trip	Kevin and Rachel Hinkle	\$2,000.00	\$2,00
Chaddock's Children's Foundation	Jeff VanCamp	\$550.00	\$55
Congregational United Church of Christ	Missions (Lynn Bohlmann)	\$200.00	\$20
Crisis Center Foundation	Missions (Jo Turner)	\$100.00	\$10
Cunningham Children's Home	Ginger Mills	\$960.00	\$96
Educational Day Care Center	Jessica Niederer	\$1,000.00	\$1,00
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Todd Sweatman	\$500.00	\$50
Grounds of Grace	Dana Pfeiffer	\$1,000.00	\$1,00
JACIL (Independent living)	Missions (Peggy Davidsmeyer)	\$200.00	\$20
Jacksonville Area Community Food Center	Melissa Hall	\$3,000.00	\$3,00
Jacksonville Salvation Army	Missions (Major Katie Pinkston)	\$500.00	\$50
Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood house-IGRC UM agency	Missions (Lisa Graves)	\$400.00	\$40
Midwest Mission Distribution Center-IGRC UM agency	Chantel Corrie	\$1,000.00	\$1,00
Midwest Youth Services	Ann Hungerford	\$1,000.00	\$1,00
Pastor Helping Hand Account	Missions	\$900.00	\$90
Pathway Services Unlimited	Maryjane Million	\$100.00	\$10
Prairie Council on Aging - Doorbell Dinners	Clare Collins	\$200.00	\$20
Prairieland United Way	Karen Walker	\$1,000.00	\$1,00
Red Bird Missions-IGRC UM agency	Missions (Tim Crawford)	\$400.00	\$40
Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen (Polly Pulley)	Missions (Polly Pulley)	\$200.00	\$20
TEOSA	Alan Bradish	\$800.00	\$80
UMCOR - Disaster Response USA-IGRC UM agency	Missions	\$200.00	\$2
Total Requested or Approved		\$16,210.00	\$16,2
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Remaining Balance			

AMOUNT

GIFT GIVEN TO

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10dIST CENTENARY	IIT FOFM Bell Tower/Steeple Fund	Children's Activities	Elevator Upkeep Fund	FUSION/Youth Fund	Music Fund	Pavilion Fund	Organ Reservoirs Fund	ay	A Cup of Cold Water (Local Emergency needs)	H.E.L.P.S. Ministry Outreach	JACIL	for: Jacksonville Area Food Center	Jacksonville Salvation Army	nds Upkeep Jubilee Habitat for Humanity	New Directions Warming/Cooling Center	do)	Baby Fold, The (Normal)	Chaddock (Quincy)	Cunningham Children's Home (Urbana)	Check # Lessie Bates Neighborhood House (E.St. Louis)	Midwest Mission Distribution Center (Chatham)	Red Bird Mission (Kentucky)	Volunteers in Mission	Zip code	Church World Service/CROP	honoree: Heifer Project	UMCOR (United Methodist Com. on Relief)	MISSIONARIES	Mark & Rebecca Smallwood/Red Bird School	ZIP code	newsletter Name:
Centenary United Methodist	Memorial/Honorarium GIII Form	In Memory of		In Honor of	For the following energal occasion:		Birthday Mother's Day	Anniversary Father's Day	Wedding Veteran's Day	Christmas Other		Please use this gift of \$	Centenary - General Fund	Centenary - Building and Grounds Upkeep	Centenary - Missions	——————————————————————————————————————		Molecular principle of the	Make checks payable 10; Centenary UMC	Date of donation:(Donated by:	77		City: State		Please send a gift card to the following honoree:	Name:	Address:		City:state	Put in newsletter Do NOT put in newsletter

2 0 2 1	Thurs., Feb 4 Fri., Feb. 5 Sat., Feb. 6		Thurs., Feb. 11 Fri., Feb. 12 Sat., Feb. 13	1:30 pm - Hope Circle (0)	Thurs., Feb. 18 Fri., Feb. 19 Sat., Feb. 20	Messenger Deadline	Thurs., Feb. 25 Fri., Feb. 26 Sat., Feb. 27	E		NOTICE: Due to the pandemic all scheduled meetings and events in February are subject to change. PLEASE NOTE: The church is asking for help keeping everyone safe. Please wipe down tables, door handles, etc. after each small group or meeting. Supplies will be provided.
ARY	Wed., Feb. 3 Thur		Wed., Feb. 10 Thurs	4 pm Missions (0) 6:30 pm - FHS Circle 7:30 pm - Al-Anon (0)	Wed., Feb. 17 Thurs	TBA - Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm - Al-Anon (O)	Wed., Feb. 24 Thurs	7:30 pm - Al-Anon (O) Meeting		NOTICE: Due to the pandemic all scheduled meetings and events in February are subject to change. The saking for help keeping everyone safe. Please whendles, etc. after each small group or meeting. Supplies will be provided.
E B R U	Tues., Feb. 2		Tues., Feb. 9	6 pm - Trustees Meeting @ Parsonage	Tues., Feb. 16	6:30 pm - Book Club (0)	Tues., Feb. 23			Due to the E: The church is asl handle
F I	Mon. Feb. 1	10 am - Staff Mtg.	Mon., Feb. 8	10 am - Staff Mtg.	Mon., Feb. 15	10 am - Staff Mtg.	Mon., Feb. 22	10 am - Staff Mtg		
		Abbreviations (F) Fellowship Hall (P) Parlor (S) Adult SS Room (N) Narthex (O) Online	Sun., Feb. 7	Holy Communion Drive Thru	Sun., Feb. 14		Sun., Feb. 21	5:30 p.m Lent Bible Study w/Pastor Mel on Zoom	Sun., Feb. 28	Pennies for Hunger 5:30 p.m Lent Bible Study w/Pastor Mel on Zoom

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

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February 2021

