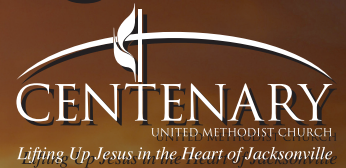


The Messenger

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

March 2021



Pastor's Corner

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

12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-17 (N.I.V.)

Maybe I am dating myself, but I recall the old fire alarms which were inside a metal box with a glass cover. They hung on a wall with a small steel bar attached to them by a short link of chain. If you read the words on the glass cover, "break in case of fire." you would know this is where to go for help in case of, well, a fire.

How many people treat God in much the same way. They keep the Lord at arms length, enclosed in a small box, only to be let out in case of a fire, or other disaster that was beyond their own means to solve.

I was watching an old TV show recently where a man was praying to God for help in finding an item he wanted. A moment into the prayer the item is found by another and brought to the praying man. The prayer is abruptly ended with the words, "Thanks God, I got it

now." It was intended to be funny, but it also made a point about how we often look to God only for help in case of a fire.

I think God knew this about us and had Paul write to us about this very thing. Read the end of this passage again, "Pray continually and gives thanks in all circumstances." All the time and continually led me to believe there is no end to the conversation we have with God, it is ongoing, and ongoing and ongoing and well you get the point.

I understand there is a difference, at least for me, between my ongoing conversation with God and my more formal time of prayer. Yet, they feed into one another and create an endless string of connection.

I believe that if we 'continually' work on this endless string we won't need to have those knee jerk moments where our problem suddenly makes God seem relevant.

Don't we need God to be continually relevant in all circumstances?

- 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.....TBA
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

Jo Baptist.....Mon., Feb. 2, 2021
 DarKena Burton.....Tue., Feb 2, 2021

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.
 Confirmation.....Postponed until further notice

Special Worship Services

Holy Communion.....Sunday, Mar. 7

Special Offerings

Pennies for Hunger.....Sun., Mar. 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., Mar. 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., Mar. 25, 9 a.m.

United Methodist Women

IGRC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat.....TBA
 Business Meeting.....Tue., Mar. 2, 6:30 p.m.
 LaMoine Personal Growth.....Sat., Mar. 13
 Salad Lunch/Bazaar.....Fall 2021

Quote of the Month

A Christian without meditation is like a soldier
 without weapons, or a workman without tools.
 — Thomas Watson

Ladies Book Club

The March Ladies Book Club meeting will be Tuesday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. The Book they are reading is: “*Radium Girls*” by Kate Moore. Please contact Debbie Nielsen if you would like to participate.

In-Person Worship Is Back

Centenary is currently offering in-person worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. each Sunday. We are still requiring face masks and asking for social distancing in the pews.

Confirmation Returns March 7

Pastor Mel is announcing the return of Confirmation classes on March 7. Students will meet in the Pastor's Study in between worship services.

***Church Historian
needed***

A person is needed to take over as Church Historian. This individual(s) would be responsible for archiving church records and routine maintenance of church records. Please call the office 217-245-8417 for more information.

***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.

The Education Committee is currently working on a plan for March and beyond. Please watch for detail as they become available.

March Birthdays

- 3.....Betty Strawn
- 6.....Brenda Stewart
- 7.....Harold Sorrill
Phyllis Hubbard
Karen Decker
- 8.....Jerry Walker
Tinley Sorrill
- 9.....Rachel Hinkle
Rowan Hamilton
- 10.....Tiffany Dirksmeyer
- 12.....Tanya Biessman
Chuck Fairfield
- 14.....Martha Vaché
- 15.....Rachel Flynn
- 16.....David Chamberlain
Gabriel Stocker
- 17.....Janet McCarty
Patricia Manker
- 18.....Kayleigh Dirden
- 21.....Louise Hayes
Ryan Dirden
Madelyn McDade
- 22.....Karen Dirksmeyer
- 27.....Kurt Heller
- 28.....John Richardson
- 29.....Bob Northrop
- 30.....Charlie Rhine
Jr Crouse
- 31.....Benjamin Pritchett
Amy Stidham

March Anniversaries

- 5.....Gary and Joyce Ginder
- 16.....Marcus and Barbara Ginder

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for March 2021 worship.

(Readings & message may change without notice.)

March 7

3rd Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion
Altar Color - Purple

“The Letters of Easter - Wisdom”

NT: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Gospel: Matthew 27:45-47

March 14

4th Sunday in Lent
Altar Color - Purple

“The Letters of Easter - Grace”

NT: Ephesians 2:1-10
Gospel: John 19:26

March 21

5th Sunday in Lent
Altar Color - Purple

“The Letters of Easter - Obedience”

NT: 2 Timothy 1:6-12
Gospel: John 19:28-29

March 28

6th Sunday in Lent
Altar Color - Purple

“The Letters of Easter - Relationships”

NT: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: John:19:28-29

April 4

Easter Sunday
Altar Color - Purple

“The Letters of Easter - It Is Finished”

NT: Acts 10:34-43
Gospel: John 20:1-18



**THE DEADLINE
FOR THE NEXT
MESSENGER IS
THURSDAY,
Mar. 25, 9 A.M.**

UMW News

UMW Sunday

Centenary's UMW Sunday was celebrated virtually on January 31 with UMW officers leading in the service. Ellen Dixon's sermon was entitled, "My Favorite Things". She shared several of her favorite memories from when she was a member of Centenary including memories of serving on the building committee for our new sanctuary, singing the choir and playing bells, working with students from ISD, and participating in UMW salad luncheons. Our UMW gave a donation to the "Wooden It Be Lovely" project at Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church in Ellen's honor.

Wooden It Be Lovely is a project of Douglas Avenue UMC in Springfield. It offers hope and employment to women healing from lives of poverty, addiction, and abuse; providing transitional employment, mentoring, recovery tools, education, community networking, and a safe community. Women are employed to refurbish and sell donated wooden furniture and sew unique products. This transitional employment empowers women to move towards economic stability and an enhanced wellbeing for themselves and their children.

In lieu of alter flowers on UMW Sunday, Centenary's UMW gave a donation to the Crisis Center Foundation in memory of members who died during 2020 including Martha Simmons, Jan Shelburn, Frances Ballard, Millie Laugharn, Jeannette Hills, and Harriett Pearson.

Tamara Newby was recognized as Centenary's 2021 Mission Woman of the Year by Mary Tomlin. For many years Tamara has sent cards and notes of encouragement to many in our Centenary family. Rusti Cummings, UMW Co-President, delivered a UMW pin and certificate to Tamara at her home. In addition, a donation was given to UMW missions in Tamara's honor.

UMW Business Meeting

The next UMW business meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. All women are invited. UMW Officers will automatically be sent the Zoom link. If anyone else would like to be included contact Martha Vache for the Zoom link.

Personal Growth Study



The LaMoine District UMW's 2021 Personal Growth Study will be held on Saturday, March 13 from 9:30 to 11:00 am virtually on Zoom. Christina Krost, IGRC UMW Vice President, will lead the study. It will focus on UMW's Just Energy for All Campaign. Climate Justice is about personal change and systemic change, so we will look at the 13 Steps to Sustainability.

All UMW members are invited to participate in this FREE study. No registration is needed. Log on any time after 9:00 am to visit with your fellow UMW members and make sure your technology is working before the presentation starts at 9:30 am. Click on the following link to join using a computer or tablet (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86525688809>) or call in on a mobile phone by dialing 1-312-626-6799. No registration is needed.

You can find more information on Climate Justice and Just Energy for All at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice>

UMW Donations for Spring District Meeting

The LaMoine River District UMW meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 10 at Wesley Chapel UMC. The Leadership Team is hopeful that we will be able to meet in-person but the decision whether to meet in person or virtually will be made later. We will be collecting the following donations.

Cunningham Children's Home would like men's stick deodorant, gift cards, and Box Tops for Education. The top requested gift cards are VISA, Amazon, Walmart, and McDonald's (\$25+ amounts).

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House also needs gift cards. They can be for anywhere (small amounts are welcome) food, gas, stores, etc. Dollar General, WalMart, McDonalds, DQ, Subway, gas cards, or other fast-food cards.

UMW News

UMW Book Reviews

The first review this month is an offering that is in our Centenary UMW library. It is categorized as Leadership Development. The book is *“Speaking Well: Essential Skills for Speakers, Leaders, and Preachers.”* by Adam Hamilton. The thought of speaking in public strikes fear in the hearts of many. But we are often called upon to speak, teach, preach or make presentations in our work and personal lives. This guide offers nineteen powerful tips and tactics that lead to excellent speaking in any setting.

Our second review is in the Spiritual Growth category, *“One Day I Wrote Back: Interacting With Scripture Through Creative Writing”* by Jane Herring. Do you struggle to relate the Bible to your daily life? This guide will help you talk back to those scripture passages you don’t understand, Ask questions, explore your life, plead, praise and ponder - you’ll find simple, practical tools for beginning and experienced writers, A perfect resource for individuals, small groups and retreats.

Bedding for Chaddock

Shawna Bunnell at Chaddock reports that there is a huge need for new sheets (Twin XL), pillows, and pillowcases (standard) for their students. UMW members are collecting these items until March 14. Terri Benz is coordinating this project and suggested several ways to help:

- Shop and bring your donation to the Narthex.
- Shop online and have the items shipped to Terri’s home.
- Have Terri shop for you. Write a check to “Centenary UMW”. Give it to Martha Vache or leave in the UMW box in the church office.
- Write a check to Chaddock with bedding in the memo. Leave in church office or give to Terri.
- Contact Terri if you want her to pick up a check, cash, or donations or have questions.

The deadline for these donations is Sunday, March 14. After that Terri will make sure that the items and checks get to Chaddock. Shawna was overjoyed that we are doing this collection!

UMW Reading Program

Previously, in the Messenger, was a list of UMW Reading Program books for 2021. The list noted if they were in the Centenary library or were available at the Jacksonville Public Library (with in their collection or through inter-library loan).

Books can be recorded this year for books listed from 2017-2021. Below is a list of 2017 books that can be borrowed from the Jacksonville Public Library.

Education For Mission

1. A History of Religion in 5 1/2 Objects - Bringing the Spiritual to its Senses, by Brent Plate
2. Faith Ed. - Teaching About Religion in an AGE of Intolerance, by Linda Wertheimer
3. Wherever the River Runis - How a Forgotten People Renewed my Hope in the Gospel, by Kelly Minter

Spiritual Growth

1. Living Into Hope - A Call to Spiritual Action for Such a Time as This, by Joan Campbell
2. Soul REpair - Recovering from Moral Injury after War, by Rita Brock
3. The Reason - How I Discovered a Life Worth Living, by Lacey Sturm
4. Wild in the Hollow - On Chasing Desire and Finding the Broken Way Home, by Amber Haines

Nurturing for Community

1. Launch Your Encore - Finding Adventure and Purpose Later in Life, by Hans Finzel
2. Remember Dippy, by Shirley Riva Vernick
3. The Age of Dignity - Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America, by Ai-jen Poo
4. The Perfect Place, by Teresa Hams

Leadership Development

1. Falling Into Place - A Memoir of Overcoming, by Hattie Kauffman
2. Rad American Women A-Z - Rebels, Trailblazers and Visionaries Who Shaped Our History...and Our Future, by Kate Schatz and Miriam Stahl
3. Sally Ride - America’s First Woman In Space, by Lynn Sherr

Mission News

Centenary's Lenten Offering

This year's Lenten Offering will be divided two ways. Part will be used to support the Smallwoods who are missionary teachers at Red Bird Christian School in the mountains of Kentucky. Becky is an elementary teacher and Mark is a talented musician who substitutes at the school.

The other half of the offering will go to the "Our Conference – Our Kids Campaign". This IGRC (Illinois Great Rivers Conference) campaign will raise money to endow the spiritual life programs of five United Methodist child welfare agencies: Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bate Davis Neighborhood House, and Spero Family Services.

Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with Lenten Offering in the memo line.

TEOSA needs volunteers

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.

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 a date and get registered.

UMCOR Sunday

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday" will be observed on Sunday, March 21. This Sunday enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace. Please give generously to the global efforts of our church. Make checks to "Centenary UMC". Memo: UMCOR

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 (March 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/>

Food Center Food Drive

Our spring church food drive food for the Jacksonville Area Food Center will be from March 7 to 21. Peanut butter, canned tuna, canned vegetables, and cereals are always needed. Any non-perishable food that your family likes would be fine. Let's fill the ledges in the sanctuary with donations! If you would rather give a monetary gift, just write "food drive" in the memo line and make your check to "Centenary UMC".



It will soon be time for Doorbell Dinners?

Centenary UMC is scheduled to deliver
Doorbell Dinners the week of
March 15 - 19

The Doorbell Dinner Program assists persons who are homebound and/or have special dietary needs. We need your help! We are in search of drivers and delivery persons. If you can help, please contact Pat Baptist or Barbara Wooldridge.

UMW News

What I Enjoy About Being a UMW Member

I enjoy the UMW for many reasons but the two that came to mind first are: our circles and the Reading Program. The circles provide such caring fellowship and a means to serve others in our church and community.

The reading program encourages me to read beyond the books that I would read recreationally and to learn more about social issues, communities different from my own, leadership skills, mission and to grow spiritually.

-Diana Phillips



New Members
always welcome

February Circle Meetings

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

Hostess: Diana Philips

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

Program: Book sharing

Ruth Circle: No meeting

Spirit Circle: - TBA

Future UMW dates

Business Meeting: Tues. Mar. 2, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

LaMoine District UMW Personal Growth Program: Saturday. March 13 Virtual Time: 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Salad Luncheon/Bazaar (Postponed until fall)

LaMoine District Spring Meeting: Sat., Apr. 10



The Object of Our Love

6-week Sermon Series
Beginning Sunday April 11

Come hear more about the relationship between us and our Savior that is made complete and perfect through love.

M A R C H 2 0 2 1

	Mon., Mar. 1	Tues., Mar. 2	Wed., Mar. 3	Thurs., Mar. 4	Fri., Mar. 5	Sat., Mar. 6
<u>Abbreviations</u> (F) Fellowship Hall (P) Parlor (S) Adult SS Room (N) Narthex (O) Online	10 am - Staff Mtg.	6:30 p.m. - UMW Bus. Meeting (O)	7:30 pm - Al-Anon (O)			
Sun., Mar. 7	Mon., Mar. 8	Tues., Mar. 9	Wed., Mar. 10	Thurs., Mar. 11	Fri., Mar. 12	Sat., Mar. 13
Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. - Lent Bible Study w/Pastor Mel on Zoom	10 am - Staff Mtg.		4 pm Missions (O) 6:30 pm - FHS - (F) 7:30 pm - Al-Anon (O)	1:30 p.m. - Hope Circle (O)		
Sun., Mar. 14	Mon., Mar. 15	Tues., Mar. 16	Wed., Mar. 17	Thurs., Mar. 18	Fri., Mar. 19	Sat., Mar. 20
5:30 p.m. - Lent Bible Study w/Pastor Mel on Zoom	10 am - Staff Mtg.	6:30 pm - Book Club (O)	7:30 pm - Al-Anon (O)			
Sun., Mar. 21	Mon., Mar. 22	Tues., Mar. 23	Wed., Mar. 24	Thurs., Mar. 25	Fri., Mar. 26	Sat., Mar. 27
5:30 p.m. - Lent Bible Study w/Pastor Mel on Zoom	10 am - Staff Mtg		7:30 pm - Al-Anon (O)	Messenger Deadline		
Sun., Mar. 28	Mon., Mar. 29	Tues., Mar. 30	Wed., Mar. 31	NOTICE: Due to the pandemic all meetings and events in March are subject to change without notice. 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.		
Palm Sunday Pennies for Hunger 5:30 p.m. - Lent Bible Study w/Pastor Mel on Zoom			7:30 pm - Al-Anon (O)			