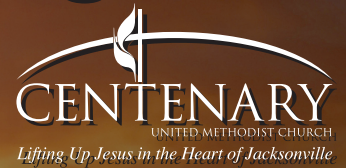


The Messenger

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

April 2021



Pastor's Corner

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

15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate[a] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- 2 Corinthians 3:15-18 (N.I.V.)

Once again, the tomb was empty. What do we do now? Do we allow that knowledge to continue our transformation or not? Just as the veil was removed when Moses spoke to God, our veil has been removed by the empty tomb.

What this means to me is that nothing stands between us and our God. No veils, no walls, no excuses, no kidding! When we turn to face God, our veil is removed. Since there is nothing between us, how do we respond to the tomb being empty?

How can we return to living in fear over ministry and mission challenges? Has not God destroyed all that stands in our way? Death and sin have lost their power over us, right? If we look at the empty tomb and return to living in fear, then we are not being transformed by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

It isn't that God does not understand our fear. When I was first called to be pulpit supply, I had fear. I was terrified of public speaking, terrified! In my early days of church service, I would make church announcements from the choir loft. It was located upstairs, in the back of the church. Even then my

mouth gift dry and my voice trembled.

Fast forward a few years and I am on the phone with my District Superintendent who is asking that I fill the pulpit in not one, not two churches, but five! Before I could say no, the Holy Spirit moved my lips and the word 'okay' came out of my mouth.

I had four weeks to prepare. In that time I underwent attacks like never before. Voices filled my head stating that I would make a fool out of myself, I would stumble and fall flat on my face or I will be laughed out of the pulpit.

I almost called my DS back and tell him no thanks, you have the wrong person. God worked overtime to speak louder than those dissenting voices, offering encouragement. I was a nervous wreck. To make matter worse, my loving wife could not go with me, she was already committed to a Walk to Emmaus weekend. We both understood that is where she needed to be.

PLEASE SEE 'PASTOR' ON PAGE 2

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

Traditional Worship Service.....	8:15 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages).....	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hour.....	Postponed until further notice
Contemporary Worship Service.....	10:45 a.m.
Confirmation.....	9:30 a.m.

Special Worship Services

Holy Communion.....	Sunday, Apr. 4
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Special Offerings

Pennies for Hunger.....	Sun., Apr. 25
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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., Apr. 14, 4 p.m.
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Children's Ministries

Sunday School.....	9:30 a.m. Sundays
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Music Practices

Chancel Choir.....	Postponed until further notice
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Communications

Bulletin Deadline.....	Postponed until further notice
Messenger Deadline.....	Thurs., Apr. 22, 9 a.m.

United Methodist Women

Hope Circle.....	Apr. 8, 1:30 pm
UMW Spring District Mtg.....	Apr. 10, 9:30 am
FHS Circle.....	Apr. 14, 6:30 pm
UMW Business Mtg.....	May 4, 6:30 pm
UMW Spring Fling.....	May 10, 6:30 pm
IGRC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat.....	TBA
Salad Lunch/Bazaar.....	Fall 2021

Shafer's welcome Great Grandchild

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cave became the parents of a son, Hayden James Cave on March 23rd. at 9:10 A.M. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 ozs. and 21 ins. long. The grandparents are Richard and Beth Shafer. Great-grandparents are Dale & Jean Shafer.

PASTOR

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

That first Sunday came and I was up early. I traveled about 45 minutes from my house to a the tiny Richland United Methodist Church; armed with my Bible, a poorly written sermon, and my teenage son as support. (He was my getaway driver in case I was laughed out of the pulpit).

I walked in a greeted the nine people who were in attendance. I was still nervous, yet a peace came over me, a peace I had never felt before. As I walked to the pulpit, a great calmness took over. A transformation took place, instead of dry mouth and sweats, I stood there with a sense of serenity, I knew I was not alone.

"My promises are true," a voice said to me. All other voices were silenced. The Lord still allows me to be the old me on occasion, so God still allows me to get nervous before officiating weddings. Every Sunday or any other time I speak, God's promise and the power of the Holy Spirit keep my transformed self from imploding.

I actually find an immense amount of joy in serving God in a way I never thought possible. There is an old saying that tells us that God doesn't call the equipped, God equips the called. That was certainly true in my case, and the call to transform continues to be part of my ongoing ministry challenge.

God did ask me to take a step, and I did. God did not, however, tell me to stop after one step. There are more steps yet to be taken as I walk away from the empty tomb into a world that needs to know the same promises of God that keep me uplifted are available to all who are willing to follow and listen.

– Pastor Mel

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.

Ladies Book Club

The April Ladies Book Club meeting will be Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. The Book they are reading is: "Eleanor, A Spiritual Biography" by Harold Ivan Smith. Please contact Debbie Nielsen if you would like to participate.

April Birthdays

- 2.....Noah Borgman
- 4.....Helen Baldwin
- 5.....Bonnie Robinson
Diana Phillips
- 6.....Richard Webster
- 9.....Jesse Claussen
- 10.....Angi Freitag
John E. Smith
- 11.....Kristal Stocker
Glenda Eldridge
- 13.....Jordy Gotschall
- 15.....Mary Sorrill
Leah Hamilton
- 16.....Barbara Ginder
Gloria Haley
- 17.....Phil Benz
Kristin Clancy
- 19.....Linda Tribble
- 20.....Gale Waltrip
Lynda Nolan
Tyler Dirden
Debbie Earp
- 22.....Timm Pennell
Ashley Cummings
Sage McDade
- 23.....Amy Hrynewych
- 24.....Dick Hembrough
- 26.....Diane Webster
- 27.....Pat Baptist
Reggie Jordan
- 29.....Bonnie Minor
Roena Henna

April Anniversaries

- 7.....Russell and Marilyn Kimmons
- 10.....David and Janet Chamberlain
- 17.....Gerald and Kathie Alderman
- 26.....David and Karen Dirksmeyer

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for April 2021 worship.

(Readings & message may change without notice.)

April 4

Easter Sunday
Altar Color - White
"The Letters of Easter - It Is Finished"
NT: Acts 10:34-43
Gospel: John 20:1-18

April 11

2nd Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - White
Sermon Series: "Object of Our Love"
Sermon Title: "Walking in the Light"
NT: 1 John 1:1-2:2
Gospel: John 20:19-31

April 18

3rd Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - White
Sermon Series: "Object of Our Love"
Sermon Title: "Purification Through Hope"
NT: 1 John 3:1-8
Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

April 25

4th Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - White
Sermon Series: "Object of Our Love"
Sermon Title: "Greater Than Our Hearts"
NT: 1 John 3:19-24
Gospel: John:10:11-18

May 2

5th Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - White
Sermon Series: "Object of Our Love"
Sermon Title: "Love is From God"
NT: 1 John 4:7-12
Gospel: John 15:1-8

UMW News

UMW Book Reviews

A Living Gospel: Reading God's Story in Holy Lives, by Robert Ellsberg is a 2021-22 selection in the category of Nurturing For Community. These reflections on the lives of saints, prophets and spiritual masters draw particular attention to models of holiness that speak to the needs of our time. Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen and Flanner O'Connor are among those examined, as well as holy people who charted their own paths. In learning how to read the "living gospel" in their stories, we may learn to read our own lives in the same light. This selection is in our CUMC collection.

A selection from the category of Social Action is Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community. This selection is also in the CUMC collection.

The shooting death of Michael brown reignited a long-smoldering movement for justice, with many Sr. Louis-area clergy stepping up to support the young leaders of today's civil rights movement. Seminary professor Leah Gunning Francis was among the activists. Her interviews with more than two dozen faith leaders and organizers demonstrate that being called to lead a faithful life can take us to places we never expected to go.

UMW Donates bedding for Chaddock

Centenary's UMW unit recently took on a project to benefit Chaddock in Quincy. One of their lesser-known needs is the necessity to provide bedding for all incoming students. With that in mind, our unit collected 14 pillows, 13 sheet sets (pillowcase included), and 14 additional pillowcases, all brand-new supplies. In addition, some of our members donated monies for Chaddock employees to shop for more supplies as needed.

Chaddock personnel were so excited to receive these gifts and said they would help fulfill a need after a recent influx of students, some of which came with nothing. Thank you to all who participated. We may do similar projects in the future!

– Terri Benz

What I Enjoy About Being a UMW Member

As a member of UMW, I have grown spiritually as we study and worship together. I love the fellowship that happens when we work together to serve others.

The reading program and classes at Mission u and other UMW events have challenged me to stretch my mind and learn new things.

I have gained many friendships with UMW members locally and throughout the district and conference. Finally, when I am involved with UMW I feel a bond with my mother and grandmother who were both active UMW members.

–Martha Vaché

UMW Business Meeting

The next UMW business meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pavilion or the Fellowship Hall depending on the weather. We will finalize plans for our Spring Fling and other activities. All women are welcome to attend.

UMW Pledges Needed

UMW members are encouraged to make a pledge to the UMW. Without our usual spring Salad Luncheon our UMW treasury is running low. Checks should be made to "Centenary UMW". They can be given to circle leaders or the UMW treasurer, Martha Vaché.



*New Members
always welcome*

April Circle Meetings

FHS Circle: Wed. Apr. 14, 6:30 pm
Hostess: Daphne Spradlin

Hope Circle: Thurs. Apr. 8, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Program: Martha Vaché

Ruth Circle: No meeting

Spirit Circle: - TBA

UMW News

UMW Spring District Meeting

All UMW members are invited to The LaMoine River District UMW Spring meeting on Saturday, April 10 at Wesley Chapel UMC beginning at 9:30 a.m. Jill Gordon, from Douglas Avenue UMC in Springfield will share information about their “Wooden It Be Lovely” project that helps young women and share the many ways that her church is working to be a “Green” church.

Join us for music, inspiration, fellowship, recognition of the 2020 award winners, a memorial service, and an update on Cunningham Children’s Home. Our offering will go toward our UMW missions.

We are excited to be able to finally gather in-person. We plan to follow both the CDC and the IGRC United Methodist guidelines which require wearing masks and social distancing. It will be a morning meeting only with no food served. No reservations are needed.

We will be collecting the following donations that day. (Bring your donations to the Narthex. Give gift cards to circle leaders or Jarice Crenshaw or leave them in the church office.

- Cunningham Children’s Home: 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: 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.



Centenary United Methodist Women are planning a new event. It will be a Spring Fling in the Pavilion on the evening of Monday, May 10th at 6:30 p.m. We are planning a fun event with music and refreshments. Dress casually. Women of all ages are welcome to attend. Guests are welcome.

K.I.C.K.S. UPDATES

APRIL ACOLYTES

April 4 - Jack Borgman

April 11 - Matthew Hinkle

April 18 - Jackson Six

April 25 - Delaney and Molly Ruyle

TEACHING SCHEDULE

(Teacher/Assistant)

Toddler classroom

TBD/Kayleigh Dirden

Preschool Classroom

Diana Phillips/Chloe McDannald

Elementary Classroom

Rachael Borgman and Rusti Cummings - Teachers

Assistants

1st Sunday - *Volunteer Needed*

2nd Sunday - *Volunteer Needed*

3rd Sunday - Ashley Westenberger

4th Sunday - Amy Stidham

5th Sundays - Linda Tribble

Request from Education Chair

We are in need of a teacher for the Toddler classroom (2 year olds) and two assistants for the elementary classroom on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of each month. Contact Diana Phillips if you are interested or have questions.

Quote of the Month

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows; it empties today of its strength.”—Corrie Ten Boom

Mission News

MMDC workday

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Chatham hasn't had as many work teams from other states this year as usual. They are looking for volunteers from central Illinois.

I volunteered on March 23 and kept busy doing a variety of tasks including packing dignity bags, taping boxes, and sorting items for rice and beans meals. I took items to donate including Jarice Crenshaw's grandmother's treadle sewing machine. See attached photos.

If you are interested volunteering let me know. Advance registration is required. Martha Vaché



Native American Ministries Sunday

A special offering will be taken on Sunday, April 18 to support Native American Ministries within the annual conference, to provide scholarships for Native American attending seminary, and to strengthen, develop and equip ministries.

Centenary's Lenten Offering

Our Lenten Offering will be split 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 part 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.

Flea Esta Postponed

The Salvation Amy Auxiliary's Flea Esta has been postponed until late May. Save your donations for this giant "garage" sale. It will be held at the 4-H Building at the Morgan County Fair Grounds. Currently, the fairgrounds are being used to administer COVID vaccines.

Food Drive Results



248.1 lbs.

\$25 in cash was also given.

Thanks for all who donated!



Doorbell Dinners Thank You

Thank you to all who helped with doorbell dinners last month. Thank you for dealing with the inclement weather and the challenging parking situation. Without volunteers like you, many of these people would be unable to stay in their homes. We want you to know how much you are appreciated. Thanks for a job well done!

Barbara Wooldridge & Pat Baptist

DON'T BE THE DEALER



Drug Take Back Day

APRIL 24, 2021

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for all locations

Participants in Morgan & Scott Counties

Jacksonville Police Department
200 W. Douglas Ave., Jacksonville



***PLEASE NO NEEDLES OR LIQUIDS.**



Visit DEATakeBack.com for a collection site near you.

The Object of Our Love

The Blood Center will be accepting donations of blood at the Community Park in Community Park on South Main Street on the 1st and 2nd Mondays each month (April 5 and 12) from 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Appointment is required. For more information, call 217-331-1300 or visit www.bloodcenter.org/

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.

A P R I L 2 0 2 1

	Thurs., Apr. 1	Fri., Apr. 2	Sat., Apr. 3
Abbreviations (F) Fellowship Hall (P) Parlor (S) Adult SS Room (N) Narthex (O) Online			
10 am - Staff Mtg.			
Sun., Apr. 4	Thurs., Apr. 8	Fri., Apr. 9	Sat., Apr. 10
Holy Communion	1:30 p.m. - Hope Circle (F)		9 am - 1 pm Girl Scouts (F) 9:30 am - UMW Spring District Meeting
Sun., Apr. 11	Thurs., Apr. 15	Fri., Apr. 16	Sat., Apr. 17
9 am - UWM Kitchen Clean Up Day 10 am - Staff Mtg.	4 pm Missions (?) 6:30 p.m. FHS Circle		10-12 Stafford Funeral in the Sanctuary
Sun., Apr. 18	Thurs., Apr. 22	Fri., Apr. 23	Sat., Apr. 24
10 am - Staff Mtg	Messenger Deadline		
Sun., Apr. 25	Thurs., Apr. 29	Fri., Apr. 30	
Pennies for Hunger	6 pm SPRC (P)		
	9:30 am - Bible Study (F)		
	9:30 am - Bible Study (F)		
	10 am - Staff Mtg		