#### **Centenary United Methodist Church**

AUGUST 2021



## The Messenger

Lifting Up Jesus In The Heart Of Jacksonville



## Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday was held on Sunday, July 18, 2021. Morgan Kindred and Jack Borgman were confirmed at the 10:45 service with family and church members watching. They both recently completed the 18-course study and fulfilled obligations to become members of Centenary. There was a reception held in the Narthex immediately after Worship services followed by a family lunch held in the Fellowship Hall . Please feel free to welcome these newest members next time you see them.

More photos on Page 9

Photo courtesy of Scott Olijar



It is charge conference time once again. Actually, the date for Centenary's conference is Saturday, September 18, 9:00 a.m. at Wesley Chapel. For those us responsible to get the forms completed, charge conference has already begun. This is a time of review and reporting on the past year of church activity. It is time to fill committee vacancies, set a new budget and report on the health of the church.

What a year to review. The pandemic had a huge influence on our church business that past year. So far, we have come through, and God has something in

mind for us going into the future. Charge conference marks the end of one year and the beginning of a new one. What would you like to see happen at Centenary in 2022? Has God been speaking to you about the future this church? By January 1, our 200th anniversary will be another great memory in a long history of great memories, but what about tomorrow? We can't see 200 years from now, but how about 2022?

The pandemic has given us all a sort of restart switch. The ability to set aside what was for what could be; what 'could be' for us in 2022? A pastor friend once said, if money was no object, what would you do within your church? God dreams big; earth big, solar system big, universe big, and money is no object to God, so what are your dreams? How big do we dare dream about 2022? God's power can make a donkey talk, seas part and dead men walk, so don't be afraid to offer up some suggestions about the future of your church that may seem far fetched I for one would like to hear what God has whispered in your ear.

#### WEEKLY WORSHIP

Traditional Service	8:15 am
Sunday School for all ages	9:30 am
Confirmation	9:30 am
Fellowship HourCoffee and	tea available
Contemporary Service	10:45 am

#### SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS

Holy Communion ......Sunday, Aug. 1
Blessing of Backpacks, Sunday school promotion and Bible Presentation .....Sunday, Aug. 15
Pennies For Hunger....Sunday, Aug 22
SS Teacher Appreciation .....Sunday, Aug. 29

#### MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

AlAnon Meeting......Wednesdays, 7 pm Donate Blood......1st and 2nd Mondays, 11 - 6

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Messenger Deadline......Thurs., Aug. 20, 9 am

#### LEADERSHIP

Trustees ......Tues., Aug. 3, 6 p.m. Missions .....Wed., Aug. 4, 4 pm Bicentennial Meeting ......Tues., Aug. 10, 2 pm

#### MUSIC PRACTICE

Chancel Choir .....Tues., Aug. 00, 6 pm

#### **BIBLE/BOOK STUDIES**

Prayer Meeting ......Mondays 8:15 am In the Sanctuary Ladies Book Club ......Tues., Aug. 17, 6:30 pm

In the Parlor

**Tuesday Morning** 

Bible Study .....Aug. 3, 17 & 31, 9:30 am *In the Fellowship Hall* 

Monday Night Bible Study ......Sept. 13, 5:30 In the Parlor

#### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW Bus. Meeting ......Tues., Aug. 3, 6:30 pm

## **Centenary Staff**

Pastor Mel Nielsen

Director of Outreach and Growth **Kevin Hinkle** 

Secretary Christi Kennedy

Music Director **Terri Benz** 

Contemporary Worship Leader **Rachel Hinkle** 

Parish Visitor **TBA** 

Custodian
Patty Adcock

Nursery Attendants Kayleigh Dirden Chloe McDannald

#### How to contact us

331 E. State Street P.O. Box 124 Jacksonville, IL 62651 Phone 217-245-8417 Email: www.jaxcentenary.org Website: www.jaxcentenaryorg

### **Centenary's Missionaries**

Mark and Rebecca Smallwood Teachers at Redbird Mission in Kentucky



#### AUGUST ACOLYTES

August 1 - Jackson Six August 8 - Delaney and Molly Ruyle August 15 - Noah Borgman August 22 - Annabelle Hardy August 29 - Nicholas Warmoski

#### TEACHING SCHEDULE BEGINNING AUGUST 22

**Toddler/Pre-K classroom** Teacher: Diana Phillips Assistants: Kayleigh Dirden and Chloe McDannald

#### **Elementary Classroom**

Teachers: Rusti Cummings and Nancy Hardy Assistants: 1st Sunday - Jack Borgman 2nd Sunday - Peggy Jordan 3rd Sunday - Ashley Westenberger 4th Sunday - Amy Stidham 5th Sunday - needed

#### **Middle School**

Rachael Borgman, Mary Tomlin and Linda Tribble.

#### High School Pastor Mel Nielsen

## Acolyte training

Acolyte training/refresh course will be held August 29 during Sunday School time for Elementary age students.

After the training a schedule will be made to acolyte during the worship service you attend.

Serving during worship service is an important way to serve Jesus. We will be talking about not only this importance but learning the significance of the light.

## New curriculum

### announced

The Education Committee is pleased to announce that we have selected a new Sunday School curriculum, "Simply Loved. We have met and explored the materials and are very excited about it.

We think that the children will also be excited and engaged with the lessons. We are trying something new and ordered the digital curriculum. That allows us to share music videos and educational videos in our classrooms.

Please keep us in your prayers as we venture in this new direction and for our children as they learn more about God and his love for them.

# Upcoming Sunday school dates scheduled

A blessing of the backpacks will be held on August 15. Also on that same Sunday will be Sunday school promotion and presentation of Bibles to those entering Kindergarten and 3rd grade. The service on August 29 will feature a Sunday school Teacher Appreciation and Dedication.

## School prayer board

Beginning August 1, 2021, a new Sunday school prayer station will be available in the Narthex. There will be chalkboard and chalk available.

Please stop by and offer a prayer for our schools, students, teachers and parents. You may then write a brief prayer request on the chalk board, e.g. "for learning and laughter,", "for successful school year", "for health", or "for safety."

Let's join together and lift our souls and voices in prayer at the beginning of this school year and throughout the year. **AUGUST 2021** 

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## August Birthdays

•	× 1
2	
	Adallyn Flynn
	James McClarey
	Eliza McClarey
3	Jerry McArtor
	Susan Pennell
6	Robert Minor
7	Mark Stiltz
8	Gregory Ginder
	Clyde Zang
10	Gerald Alderman
	Matthew Hinkle
	Sara Woodrum
11	Nancy Robinson
	Becky Woiwode
12	Diane Stocker
16	
17	Jennifer Yamilkoski
	John Steckel
18	Thomas Jordan
22	
23	
26	
27	Francis Riffey
28	LeeAnn Stelling
29	
	Rhoda Walker
30	Brenda Lane
	Brian Pond

## August Anniversaries

2	Brian and Rachael Borgman
3	Steve and LuAnn Woodrum
4	Matthew and Nancy Hardy
7	Rev. Robert and Janice Foulk
12	Edward and Roberta Randorf
14	Mark and Debbie Belzer
	Charlie and Beverly Rhine
15	Rev. Jean and Dick Hembrough
	Mick and Victoria Selby
16	Jim and Diane Stocker
19	Bob and Amy Stidham
28	Melanie and Michael Refuerzo
30	Reg and Linda Tribble

## Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for August 2021 Worship. Readings & Message are subject to change.

#### August 1

10th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion Altar Color - White Sermon Series: *The Ephesians Playbook* Sermon Title: *Love and Humility* New Testament: Ephesians 4:1-16 Gospel: John 6:24-35

#### August 8

11th Sunday after Pentecost Altar Color - Green Martha Vaché is filling the Pulpit Sermon Title: *Living the Golden Rule* Gospel: Matthew 22:33-40

#### August 15

12th Sunday after Pentecost Altar Color - Green Sermon Series: *The Ephesians Playbook* Sermon Title: *Give Thanks* New Testament: Ephesians 5:15-20 Gospel: John 6:51-58

#### August 22

13th Sunday after Pentecost Altar Color - Green Sermon Series: *The Ephesians Playbook* Sermon Title: *"How To"* New Testament: Ephesians 6:10-20 Gospel: John 6:56-69

#### August 29

14th Sunday after Pentecost Altar Color - Green Sermon Series: *How to See Yourself* Sermon Title: *Listening & Doing* New Testament: James 1:17-27 Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## **United Methodist Women**

## **UMW Book Reviews**

I went back to reading a book from the 2018 list in the area of Social Action. I highly recommend it! The book is entitled <u>"Born on Third Base: A One</u> <u>Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality,</u> <u>Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the</u> <u>Common Good."</u>

The author Chuck Collins is an inequality expert who may upend your assumptions about America's deep wealth divide – one that, for the first time in recent history, locks the nation's youth into a future defined by their class and wealth at birth; limits our ability to address crises like climate change; and creates a world that no one, not even the rich, will ultimatelu want to live in.

## UMW Love Visits

Centenary's United Methodist Women's summer Love Visits are scheduled for Wednesday, August 11. We're not sure yet whether we will be able to safely deliver our usual treats in person. If you know someone who should be added to the list of those we contact, please contact Jarice Crenshaw or Martha Vaché.

## Thank You

Warm and special thanks to our church family and friends who sent us cards, notes, flowers and phone calls for our 65th wedding anniversary. It made our special day even more special. God bless you for your kindness. *Bob and Mary Dalton*  In the book, Collins calls for an end to class war, busts the myths that define our views of rich and poor, and offers bold new solutions for bridging the economic divide and re-engaging the wealthy in rebuilding communities for a resilient future.

## LaMoine Dist. UMW News

The LaMoine River District UMW Annual meeting will be held on Saturday, September 18 at Vermont Street UMC in Quincy. The authors of several books including Debbie Reed from Chaddock will share information about their books that day. Watch for more information.

During August we will begin collecting the following donations to take to the meeting:

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House: gift cards for Wal-Mart, Family Dollar,

Subway, McDonald's, Dollar General, Target, gas cards, etc.

Cunningham Children's Home: Men's White Ankle Socks, men's sizes 6-12 and gift cards for Amazon and Walmart.

## **Cunningham Festival total**

We could have gone virtual with this year's Festival of Quilts as we did in 2020 but we decided to take a chance and to make it a hybrid event. And we are so thankful you took a chance with us!

We are proud to announce that because of YOUR support, the 17th Annual Festival of Quilts brought in \$70,807 which will help provide for the critical needs of the youth, adults and families we serve.

Your commitment to our vision to see every child thrive allows are kids to heal, learn and GROW! And your unwavering support allows our events to grow. Thank you for helping the Festival of Quilts blossom into a hybrid event that can now be enjoyed by our friends both near and far.

## 200 years is a reason to celebrate

Is 200 just another number? Any number is relative to what it is compared to. Compared to the age of this planet, it is less than impressive. Then I look to the Guinness Book of Records to find that Jeanne Calment lived to be 122 years and 164 days and I know that 200 is a very long time.

Despite playing this numbers game, 200, for Centenary has far more meaning and significance. 200 is how long this congregation have been worshipping God as a family. If you look at any 200 year section of a family's history your will find heartbreak and jubilation.

It is the family that can bear together under the most difficult of times that can celebrate an anniversary of 200 years. It is the family that trusts in God to carry them through the heartbreak that finds themselves acknowledging an anniversary of such achievement.

Centenary has not just barely made it to the 200 year line, gasping for its last breath. We are not simply celebrating that we have made it this far, we are celebrating that we are marching on past 200 years.

This congregation is still thriving and finding purpose. This congregation is still hearing God's Word and responding in amazing ways. This congregation is still thirsty for more of what God has to say and do. This congregation is still in the need of grace which only God can supply. We need this grace, because we may be 200, but we may have 200 more years to go.

It is wonderful to look back at 200 years of history and recall all that has been accomplished for the Kingdom. We must also look back and think, what did those Christians from that day do to ensure that we would still be here in 2020, thriving and thirsty for more of God.

Then we ask ourselves a question; what must we do to make provisions for Christians 200 years from today? I look back to the first Disciples who paved the way 2,000 years ago for us. They kept the church alive by proclaiming the living Christ.

Who can you remember from Centenary who proclaimed the living Christ to you? Who might

benefit from hearing that same story from your lips? Without proclaiming the living Christ, 200 years is just another number without meaning or significance.

However, if we look at 200 years as a blessing, and it is, then what do we intend to do about such a blessing? How can we demonstrate our thanks to God for a blessing of this magnitude? Proclaim the living Christ! That is what God wants from us.

I believe we have been doing that for 200 years, Praise God. There are still some who have not heard the Good News. The Good News is that the living Christ is living for them. What a story to tell! So let's go about planning our celebration and pray for good weather and a lot of fellowship with friends from now and long ago.

Let us also be mindful during the celebration of the reason we celebrate. The living Christ is still living in YOU! Wouldn't it be interesting to interview a member from that very first worship service and ask them if they thought this congregation would still be here in 200 years?

They might answer, "As long as God is with us, we will be here as long as need be." Well, we are still here, and I believe God still needs our hands and feet and voices to raise up the Living Christ so that all may know we are still alive in Jesus.

Yes, Centenary is still alive in Jesus, and that is a reason to celebrate. Go ahead and order your meals, but a t-shirt or a sweat shirt, invite a friend or former member to come back and let us all come together to enjoy the blessing of 200 years.

Not one of us will be here 200 years from now, so we have an opportunity to so something for a whole new flock of lambs who will be thirsty and in need of the grace of God when that day comes.

I want you to enjoy the only 200th celebration Centenary will ever have. Come out and buy a pie or win a cake, be tricked by the magician or simply enjoy the fellowship of friends and family. If we are there, God will be there as well, what a couple of days it could be.

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## **Missions**

## **Donate school supplies**

Now (while they are on sale) is the time to purchase school supplies to donate Washington Elementary School. The school will appreciate all types of supplies. Karmen Birdsell teaches there and will deliver them for us.

### MMDC news

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center has recently sent shipments to Honduras and Michigan. A shipment valued at \$259,723.28 was loaded at Midwest Mission and sent to Honduras through our partner, Food for the Poor, on June 29th.

Items included in this shipment were: 39 electric sewing machines, over 800 air fresheners, 25,295 cloth face masks, 3,500 disposable face masks, 6 exam chairs, 50 hospital grade mattresses, 100 walkers, 103,680 face towels, 800 exam gloves, 400 disposable gowns, 280 MMDC Student Kits, and 168 MMDC Layette Kits. Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, where 64% of people fall under the poverty line.

A shipment left Midwest Mission Distribution Center on Thursday, July 8th with 1,872 UMCOR Cleaning Kits to the families, businesses and communities affected by the flooding in Dearborn, Michigan with a value of \$140,400.00.

Historic rainfall hit metro Detroit Friday, June 25th and continued into that weekend, with at least 1,000 cars abandoned as highways filled up with water, and countless flooded residential basements in the area.

The city experienced rainfall of nearly 6 inches in 24 hours, which is far beyond the capacity of Southeast Michigan's storm water system. Detroit and Dearborn were the hardest hit communities affected by the flooding, with over 37,000 families that were without power.

If you would like to volunteer at the MMDC, contact Martha Vaché. Preregistration is required. More information about the work that MMDC does can be found at http://www.midwestmission.org/.

## **Produce sharing**

If you have extra summer garden produce (sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, and cucumbers, etc.) bring it to share on Sunday



mornings. Donations and extra produce will be given to the food center.

On weekdays, the Jacksonville Area Food Center accepts produce from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Extra produce can also be taken to New Directions Homeless Warming and Cooling Center at Grace UMC, The Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen on North Main St., or to the Salvation Army. (The Sal Army distributes food on Wednesday afternoons and serves lunch daily.)

## Support for Smallwoods

Centenary recently received a letter from Mark and Rebecca Smallwood giving an update on their school year.

Becky teaches elementary students at Redbird Christian School and Mark has been teaching math and helping out in many ways at the school this year after "retiring" from teaching music.

Their son, Nate, is now teaching music. Nate's wife, Akela, is an elementary teacher so a new generation of Smallwoods are also teaching at the school.

Centenary recently sent \$1500 from the Lenten Offering and Missions donations to help support these missionaries. Find out more about Red Bird Mission at https://rbmission.org/.

Quote of the Month

When the law of God is written on our hearts, our duty will be our delight.

- Matthew Henry

## New Members courses

Pastor Mel is currently looking for dates to hold new members classes. The course is 5 - 1 hours classes. There have been a few people show an interest in joining with the Centenary family. Pastor is looking for anyone else who might be interested.

Attending the classes does not mean you need to join, if you have been wondering about Centenary and Methodism, this is the course to take. Once you complete all 5 classes you are eligible to join.

Please let him know of your interest so he can make further plans for classes later this summer.

## Monday Morning Prayer

The Monday Morning Prayer Group has decided to move the starting time for the meeting to 8:15 a.m. every Monday morning. All are welcome to attend.

The group has decided to move the location of the meeting to the small chapel in the education building.

This group engages in conversation, prayer and shares short scripture passages to help guide our prayers.

You do not need to speak or pray aloud.

## Thank You

We are grateful for the prayers, cards, and other good wishes as Dick went through surgery this past month. Happily, he is well on the road to recovery, and your support has been a valuable part of that healing process. Thank you, and blessings to all. Sincerely, Dick and Jean Hembrough

## Monday Night Bible Study returning

The Monday Night Bible Study will be held in the Parlor at 5:30 p.m. beginning on September 9. The group will be studying "Life Lessons" from Max Lucado. Purchasing the book is optional. If you have any questions about this study, please Constance Diana Philips.

## Martha Vaché to fill pulpit

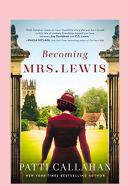
Martha Vaché will be filling the pulpit for Pastor Mel on Sunday, August 8. Her sermon title is "Living the Golden Rule." Her scripture passage is Matthew 22:33-40.

## Helen Hammond's information

Helen Hammond has moved to Cedarhurst. She would appreciate cards or visits. Her information is listed below:

#### Address:

Cedarhurst Senior Living 2225 W. Morton Ave AL #15 Jacksonville, IL 62650 **Phone:** 217-245-9312



## Ladies Book Club

The August Ladies Book Club will meet on Tues., Aug. 17 at 6:30 in the church parlor.

The featured book is "Becoming Mrs. Lewis" by Patty Callahan

Please contact Debbie Nielsen if you would like to participate.

#### **CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**AUGUST 2021** 



Photos courtesy of Scott Olijar

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## Vision and Sight

"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision!" -- Helen Keller

My friend and brother, the late Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson, tried his best to get the folks in The United Methodist Church to see things through a different set of lenses. He challenged each of us to look, not through our limited eyesight, but through belief and faith in Jesus Christ, to look through the loving eyes of Jesus. Dr. Dotson's mantra was, "See all the people!"

Jesus challenged us by reminding us that the "harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Jesus clearly saw "all the people." He also saw the workers and quickly concluded that more workers were needed if we were serious about reaching people with the Good News of the Gospel.

I am often asked, as a Bishop, to share my vision for The United Methodist Church or for the IGRC. My vision has a few nuisances and growing pains, but it basically remains the same. I want folks to come to faith in Jesus Christ and to serve him as their Lord and Savior. I want the clergy and laity that I am so blessed to lead to be so passionate and enthusiastic about following Jesus that they will be compelled to bring people to Jesus Christ and to assist them in the process of becoming fully devoted disciples.

My vision is for a denomination and an annual conference filled with churches that are propelled by the power of prayer, anchored in the Word of God, led by the Holy Spirit to engage in ministries that matter and make a difference, while transforming the world, one person at a time with the life-changing Good News of the Gospel. My vision is for Christian community, Christian unity, and Christ-centered justice and love to be at the heart of all that we do. My vision is that it will be said again about the church, "they are turning the world upside down!"

John the Baptist is my number two Bible hero. I love his attitude and understanding of his call. He summed it up in this simple statement about himself and Jesus, "He must increase, and I must decrease." John was willing to be set aside for the sake of the kingdom of God.

One of the lessons I have learned during this pandemic is that it really is not about "me." Don't get me wrong, the Lord wants to use each one that is willing and available for service, in some form or fashion. We get it twisted when we think that it's all about us. As members of The United Methodist Church, we have grown up reciting the Wesley covenant prayer. This simple prayer is all about being fully surrendered and pliable for God's use, no matter what.

There is a big difference between vision and sight. A recent trip to Mayo Clinic revealed that I am losing my battle with glaucoma. While I still have physical sight, it is rapidly deteriorating, and a more drastic medical approach is needed. I am not sure what the future will hold but I am sure that even blindness will not hamper my Kingdom vision.

My personal medical challenges will not hinder the vision of the IGRC from moving forward. It will be necessary for me to take a brief ministry break to address my eyesight issues. I apologize for any disruption this may cause you or our Conference.

I am working with the Conference leaders to determine our next steps. I do so with confidence that this Annual Conference can and will continue to move forward in achieving God's vision for us. I will be requesting a brief Medical Leave to deal with my eyesight problems. This Medical Leave will become effective July 1, 2021. An interim Bishop will be assigned by the Council of Bishops. Please keep this interim Bishop and me in your prayers.

My vision for the IGRC is not nearly as important as the Lord's BIG PICTURE vision. Only the Lord knows where and how each servant should be deployed. My job and your job are to be available and ready to serve.

I invite you to join me as I pray again this prayer of full surrender:

"I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen." -- John Wesley

God Bless, Bishop Beard

	SAT., AUG. 7		PASTOR ON VACATION SAT., AUG. 14		SAT., AUG. 21		SAT., AUG. 28			S- Sunday school room N- Narthex F - Fellowship Hall P - Parlor O - Pavilion C - Chapel X - Online
	FRI., AUG. 6		PASIOR ON VACATION FRI., AUG. 13		FRI., AUG. 20		FRI., AUG. 27			0,2222000
2021	THURS., AUG. 5		PASTOR ON VACATION P	PASTOR ON VACATION	THURS., AUG. 19		THURS., AUG. 26	Messenger Deadline		
AUGUST 2021	WED., AUG. 4	4 pm -Missions (P) 6 pm - AlAnon (F)	WED., AUG. 11	6 pm - AlAnon (F) PASTOR ON VACATION	WED., AUG. 18	5 pm - JACC (N) 6 pm - AlAnon (F)	WED., AUG. 25	6 pm - AlAnon (F)		
AL	TUES., AUG. 3	9:30 am - Bible Study (F) 6 pm - Trustees @ Parsonage 6:30 pm UMW Business Meeting (P)	TUES., AUG. 10	PASTOR ON VACATION	TUES., AUG. 17		TUES., AUG. 24		TUES., AUG. 31	9:30 am - Bible Study (F)
	MON., AUG. 2	8:15 am - Prayer Group (C) 10 am - Office Staff Mtg	MON., AUG. 9	PASTOR ON VACATION	MON., AUG. 16	8:15 am - Prayer Group (C) 2 pm - 200th Mtg. (P) 10 am - Office Staff Mtg	MON., AUG. 23	8:15 am - Prayer Group (C) 10 am - Office Staff Mtg	MON., AUG. 30	8:15 am - Prayer Group (C) 10 am - Office Staff Mtg
	SUN., AUG. 1	Holy Communion	SUN., AUG. 8	PASTOR ON VACATION	SUN., AUG. 15	uc	SUN., AUG. 22	Pennies for Hunger	SUN., AUG. 29	Sunday School Teacher Appreciation at 10:45

#### **CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**