



The Messenger

Lifting Up Jesus In The Heart Of Jacksonville



Knights of the North Castle

The theme for vacation Bible School was Knights of the North Castle. The Sanctuary was transformed into a wintery castle scene. Brave knights went on a quest to find the Armor of God every day. They searched for the Belt of Truth, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith and the and the Helmet of Salvation.

More pictures inside.



From the Pastor's

Desk

Vacation Bible School is over for another year. As far as I could tell the program ran smoothly, volunteers showed up and did their part, kids were well behaved and decorations looked amazing.

Now we pray a blessing on the lessons that we taught during the four days. In this way VBS is not over, it is an ongoing ministry of the church. To provide for the younger Christians. Doesn't mean you need to teach Sunday school, *although volunteers are needed in that area*, you can simply be a Christian role model.

As I write those words, I am looking at one of my 'souvenirs' from VBS; my 'Belt of Truth.' It reminds me of how often we can allow a little white lie to slip out. I recall Debbie's Grandfather making me a dish of Reuben Lasagna. He knew I enjoyed reuben sandwiches, so he thought he would make me a special dinner.

I hate to say it, but it was not pleasant to eat, I did not care for it one bit. Yet, when he asked me about it, I told a little white lie to avoid hurting his feelings and said, "I liked it." Well that little white lie came back on me as he made the dish twice more, since "I liked it" so much.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Bicentennial activities being formalized

The Bicentennial Committee met on Thurs., June 3 and began finalizing some of the activities for the celebration scheduled for Oct. 16 & 17, 2021.

The following is a tentative schedule of events for both days.

Saturday, October 16

- Participate in Mac Homecoming Parade
- Old Time games on Parsonage lawn
 - Hog Roast for lunch (reservations required)
 - Pie Auction and Cake Walk
- Historical exhibit (church Narthex)
 - Family entertainment

featuring
Magician Tim Hannig

(See more events on Page 3)

DEATHS

Pauline PattersonMon., May 31, 2021

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Traditional Service8:15 am
 Sunday School for all ages9:30 am
 Confirmation9:30 am
 Fellowship HourCoffee and tea available
 Contemporary Service10:45 am

SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS

Holy CommunionSunday, July 4
 Confirmation Sunday ..Sunday, July 18 (10:45)
 Pennies For HungerSunday, July 25

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Messenger DeadlineThurs., July 22, 9 am

LEADERSHIP

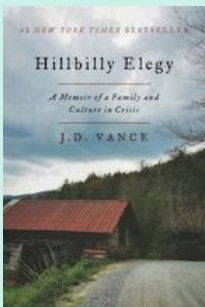
Administrative Council .Wed., July 21, 6:15 pm

MUSIC PRACTICE

Chancel ChoirTues., July ??, 6 pm

BIBLE/BOOK STUDIES

Prayer MeetingMondays 7:00 am
 Ladies Book Club.....Tues., July 20, 6:30 pm
 Tuesday Morning
 Bible StudyJuly 6 & 20, 9:30 am,

**Ladies Book Club**

The July Ladies Book Club will meet on Tues., July 20 at 6:30 in the church parlor.

The featured book is “Hillbilly Elegy” by J.D. Vance. (June’s meeting needed to be cancelled).

Please contact Debbie Nielsen if you would like to participate.

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

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Phone 217-245-8417

Email: www.jaxcentenary.org

Website: www.jaxcentenary.org

Centenary’s Missionaries

Mark and Rebecca Smallwood

Teachers at Redbird Mission

in Kentucky

Children's Ministry News

JUNE ACOLYTES

July 4 - Noah Borgman
 July 11 - Otto Zang
 July 18 - Jack Borman
 July 25 - Matthew Hinkle

TEACHING SCHEDULE

Toddler classroom

Kayleigh Dirden/Nancy Hardy (teachers)
 Lilie Lloyd (assistant)

Preschool Classroom

Diana Phillips (teacher)
 Chloe McCDannald (Assistant)

Elementary Classroom

Rachael Borman / Rusti Cummings (teachers)

Assistants

July 4 - Mary Tomlin
 July 11 - Peggy Jordan
 June 20 - Ashley Westenberger
 July 25 - Amy Stidham

Youth Classroom

Mary Tomlin

Pastor invites all to morning prayer group

Pastor Mel is inviting everyone to the new Monday Morning Prayer Group. This group focuses on prayer with short scripture readings.

Please come to the Centenary Sanctuary at 7:00 a.m. with your Bible and something to record notes.

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.)

EVENTS

(continued from front page)

Sunday, October 17

- Fellowship in Church Narthex
 - Special Worship Service
featuring
 The Rev. Nic Showalter
- Consecration of new North Entrance
 - Box Lunch
 (reservations required)
- Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

Times will be announced when they become final. Former Pastor's will be invited to attend.. The committee invites you to welcome past members and family members.

Support Your Bicentennial

The Bicentennial committee is encouraging you to support Centenary's 200th Anniversary by your attendance and your giving.

Both meals and the entertainment costs have been approved by the Finance Committee and will be funded through past donations to special revenues. However, your support by making new donations is still appreciated.

All donations will help reduce the cost for your church. Please make any donations to Centenary UMC with 'Bicentennial' listed on the memo line.

July Birthdays

1.....	Steven Woodrum
3.....	Janet Heyen Scott Calhoon
4.....	Everett Birdsell
5.....	Brian Borgman
7.....	Jarice Crenshaw Trevor Birdsell
8.....	Rachael Borgman Adam Stiltz
9.....	Steve Quigg
10.....	Bonita Day
11.....	Lura Lene Smith Elizabeth Chamberlain
12.....	Kalyssa Brickey Jean Shafer Galen O'Neil Reneé Brewer
13.....	Tom Newby Emily Calhoon
15.....	Helen Hammond
16.....	Irene Evans
17.....	Paul Hamilton
18.....	Michael Meyer
20.....	Christopher Day
22.....	Benjamin Craddock
23.....	Steve Warmowski
25.....	Robert Dalton
26.....	Scott Baptist Dorothy Long
28.....	Christopher Prosser
29.....	Darcy Adams

July Anniversaries

1.....	Kurt & Cara Heller
2.....	Bill & Johanna Betters
4.....	Gale & Bonnie Waltrip
9.....	Jess & Daphne Spradlin Kevin & Rachel Hinkle
13.....	Jon and Casey Zang
25.....	Steve & Kathy McCarty
30.....	Jason & Monica Schriber
31.....	Tom & Pat Baptist

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for July 2021 Worship.

Readings & Message are subject to change.

July 4

6th Sunday after Pentecost
Independence Day
Holy Communion
Altar Color - White
Sermon Series: *Qualities of Jesus*
Sermon Title: *Jesus is Authority*
New Testament: 2 Cor. 12:2-10
Gospel: Mark 6:1-13

July 11

7th Sunday after Pentecost
Altar Color - Green
Sermon Series: *Qualities of Jesus*
Sermon Title: *Jesus is Compassionate*
New Testament: Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

July 18

8th Sunday after Pentecost
Altar Color - Green
Sermon Series: *Qualities of Jesus*
Sermon Title: *Jesus is God*
New Testament: Ephesians 2:11-12
Gospel: Mark 6:45-56

July 25

9th Sunday after Pentecost
Altar Color - Green
Sermon Series: *The Ephesians Playbook*
Sermon Title: *Fullness of God*
New Testament: Ephesians 3:14-21
Gospel: John 6:1-21

United Methodist Women

UMW Book Reviews

One of the UMW Reading Program Spiritual Growth Selections is Adamant: Finding Truth in a Universe of Opinions, written by Lisa Bevere. What is truth? This has become the defining question of our time. But while everyone has an opinion, truth, it seems, is getting harder to find. Theologically deep yet intimately accessible, this book will anchor your soul in a raging sea of opinions, giving you a clear sense of direction in a wandering world. This book can be checked out at the Jacksonville Public Library through Inter library loan.

This 2021-2022 selection in the area of Spiritual Growth can be found in Centenary's UMW library. L. Roger Owens book What We Need is Here: Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality isn't describing particularly new ideas but reminded us of our basis of spirituality.

What happens when you stop reading about God and open yourself to an ever keeping relationship with God? One day while daydreaming and driving along I-40 in North Carolina, a voice interrupts Owen's reverie. The voice says, Let Me be your Teacher. You are always looking for a new teacher, a new insight, a new way, but I am the Way and that is enough. Can you trust that? Everything you need to live life with Me - I have already given you.

Join Owens in this captivating, sometimes humorous account of how he rediscovered seven "givens" of Christian spirituality:

Reading the Gospels

Praying the Psalms

Sitting with God in silence

Finding Jesus in church

Meeting Jesus in Holy Communion

Receiving and responding to Jesus with the body

Spending time with the poor

Return to the heart of Christian spirituality. It's simple, yet astonishingly complex; Jesus is enough. Jesus offers everything you need to flourish in your life with God.

Hope Circle Garden Walk

The weather was perfect on Sunday, June 13 for Hope Circle's 12th Garden Walk. Each garden was lovely and unique. Over 100 people attended the walk.

The gardens of two Centenary members, Jan Adams and Marilyn Denney, were featured on the walk. Jan's garden features a natural environment that attracts wildlife, birds, and butterflies. She had labeled many of her plants. Marilyn's garden is full of beautiful roses.

Marilyn Sorrill's garden featured a waterfall, a koi pond and a green house. Maggie Herzberger's garden has lots of day lilies plus a wide variety of perennials. Ann Marie Stahel's garden honors the memory of her parents by incorporating items from their farm into her garden.

The members of Hope Circle appreciate those who were willing to share their gardens.



Members and friends of Hope Circle pause for a picture during their tour of homes on the 12th Annual Garden Walk

United Methodist Women

Why I Belong to UMW

It is difficult to share what I enjoy most about being a member of UMW, because there is so much to enjoy! To be honest with you, prior to transferring my membership back to Centenary UMC in 2010, I was not an active member of UMW.

I had a great appreciation of United Methodist Women and knowledge of their history. I especially admired their history of missions. But, during my membership at Peter Cartwright UMC I was not active in UMW.

I was so busy with my family and with youth and children's ministry that I neglected UMW. Although, I appreciated all that they did and supported them, I was not actively involved.

This changed when I transferred my membership back to Centenary UMC and I was invited to join the For Heaven's Sake Circle. I had never experienced being a member of a small group of UMW members. My time with FHS Circle has been a great joy!

My Circle Sisters are a great source of encouragement and support. We hear each other's concerns and lift one another up in prayer. I love their spirit of service, support, and helping those in need. We also have a lot of fun together!

I guess I would have to say that my favorite part of being a member of Centenary UMW is the Christian fellowship.

By Mary Tomlin

UMW Love Visits

Centenary's United Methodist Women's summer Love Visits are scheduled for Wednesday, August 11. We hope that we will be able to do our traditional visiting and deliver cookies. Watch for details in the August Messenger. If you know someone who should be added to the list of those we visit, please contact Jarice Crenshaw or Martha Vaché.

Mission u

It's not too late to register for the UMW's Mission u. It will be held virtually with three pre-recorded sessions to be viewed at your convenience between July 1 and the closing live session. The two studies are:

The Spiritual Growth study, *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship*, written by Darryl W. Stephens will be led by Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin. The book is available through the UMW website <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies> and is available for Kindle through amazon.com and *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique W. Morris is the Social Issue study. It will be led by Burena Howard and Mary Ann Harvey. It is available through numerous outlets such as bookstores, e-stores and even libraries.

To close the study live, interactive sessions will be held online at these times:

- July 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. or
- July 20 from 7 to 9 p.m. for Bearing Witness
- July 17, from 10 a.m. to noon or
- July 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. for Pushout.

To register online go to the following link: <https://www.igrc.org/umw>. Scroll down until you see the heading: "Register for Mission u". Click on the link at the bottom of the page to register.

You will be asked to pay a \$75 fee and will be given a chance to donate to the offering which will be divided between Cunningham Children's Home and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House.

2021 Annual Conference

summary report

By Paul Black

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered online for its second virtual annual conference session June 11-12. The theme of the two-day gathering with a two-hour clergy session and a four-hour plenary session was A Time for Healing, the first of four themes focusing on a quadrennial theme of God Has Made Everything Beautiful in His Time, based upon Ecclesiastes 3.

The start of Annual Conference came with the announcement by the State of Illinois that it was lifting masking and social distancing requirements for fully vaccinated people. Conference leadership, which has provided guidance for the past 15 months through the pandemic, is now returning such decisions to the local church in consultation with local health officials. Despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic, conferees were able to worship and gather for Christian conferencing. IGRC Communications collaborated to produce a hybrid, part-live, part-recorded Annual Conference. Attendees gathered virtually via Zoom web conferencing or by attending one of the eight remote locations throughout the annual conference. Slightly more than 930 attended annual conference from home and another 90 attended through one of the remote sites and voted manually with marshals reporting vote totals via a roll call vote once voting was completed in the Zoom room. Annual Conference secretarial staff aggregated the vote totals.

Bishops Sharma J. Lewis, episcopal leader of the Richmond (Va.) Area, was the preacher for the Opening Worship and Bishop Frank J. Beard preached the closing worship service.

Leading up to the single-day conference, services were aired recognizing 26 retirees with a combined 635 years of service was held June 11; A Memorial Service remembering clergy, clergy spouses and lay members to annual conference that had passed away in the previous year and remembrance of 10 congregations with a combined 1,405 years of ministry that have completed their mission – East Peoria Faith UMC, St. Elmo; Fairview UMC;

Florence UMC, Granite City Niedringhaus, Iroquois UMC, Girard; New Hope UMC, Sumner; Olive Branch UMC, Roberts UMC, Saint David UMC and Texas UMC -- on June 10.

The Conference also approved the closure of two congregations -- the former United Church of Altona and the former Fairview Heights Christ UMC -- which have left the denomination to become independent. Both resolutions followed negotiations between the congregations and conference leadership.

The Annual Conference approved a 2022 budget of \$11,040,909 – a reduction of 1.48 percent. However, included in the spending plan is the use of \$700,000 from Conference reserves to enable a second straight year of decrease in apportionments of more than 7 percent. While budgets have been relatively flat over the past 10 years, the \$10,340,909 apportioned total returns spending levels to 2005. The \$893,033 reduction comes on the heels of apportionment collections of 90 percent in 2020, slightly higher than the 88 percent in pre-pandemic 2019, and still lower than 95 percent in 2018. The Conference ended 2020 with a \$352,000 surplus.

The 2022 Spending Plan also includes funding for a new position -- a Director of Ministerial Excellence -- which will relate to the Conference Board of Ministry, the Bishop and Cabinet, and be a single link for clergy from the beginning of candidacy throughout their active ministry. The position not only includes administrative tasks but it also includes providing direction for the Pastoral Care and Counseling network within the conference. The search process is underway and is being guided by the General Council on Finance and Administration. Applications are being accepted through June 25, 2021.

Legislatively, the conference announced that the health insurance allowance paid to full-time pastors will remain at \$17,500 for 2022. The conference also approved a 2 percent increase to its minimum salaries. In 2022, the salaries will go to \$46,195 for clergy in full connection, associate members and provisional elders; and \$42,391 for full-time local pastors.

Retirees under the pre-1982 pension plan will see a 2 percent increase to \$827 per active service year in

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

2022, funded by a gift from Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund.

In anticipation that General Conference action may result in a split of the denomination, conferees approved a change to the Preachers' Aid Society's by-laws that would extend benefits to any pastor who is a member of the IGRC at the time of separation when they retired. The measure, which required a 90 percent affirmative vote was approved 714-14.

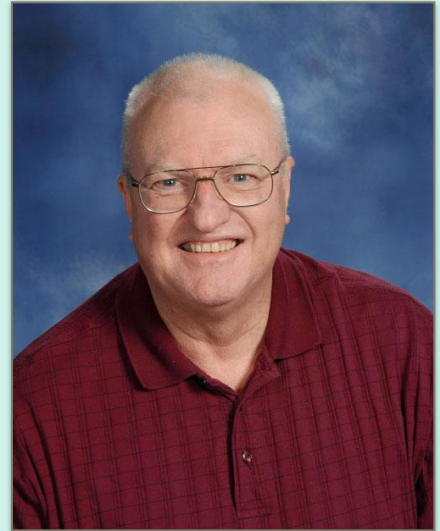
The Clergy Session approved the election of one elder in full connection and three deacons in full connection. They also approved the commissioning of seven provisional elders and one provisional deacon; and celebrated the graduation of three local pastors from Course of Study. Ordination and Commissioning Services will be held at Champaign Faith UMC on Saturday, June 19. Commissioning will be at 11 a.m. and Ordination will begin at 2 p.m.

Membership stands at 112,122 in 2020, down 3,249 (2.8 percent) from 2019. Average worship attendance is 35,151, down 14,119 (28.7 percent), although congregations also reported 45,665 person attending online, which would result in a substantial increase. Church school attendance stands at 12,509, down 3,697.

The 2022 Annual Conference will be held June 9-11, 2022, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria.

Volunteering at Redbird Mission

Jane Lair recently spent a month volunteering at Red Bird Mission. The mission is following the COVID protocols, and the senior center was closed. She helped sort and deliver food boxes to families in a safe way. She also worked with family gardens. While there, Jane had a chance to visit with Mark Smallwood who is the Red Bird School teacher that Centenary had supported for many years.



The Rev. Bill Leppin's service information

A Memorial Service for IGRC retired pastor, the Rev. William W. Leppin, will be 11 a.m. Saturday, July 10, at Davison-Fulton-Woosley-Wilton Funeral Home, 2408 Willow Knolls, Peoria, with visitation from 10 to 11 a.m.

Burial will be at Swan Lake Cemetery.

Rev. Leppin, 73, died Nov. 15, 2020 in Huntley.

Condolences may be sent to his wife, Marsha Leppin, 13304 Meadowlark Ln, Huntley, IL 60142-6385.

Thanks for helping

Thanks to all of you for helping with Doorbell Dinners. Thanks for giving your time and energy to this much needed community program.

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





Vacation Bible School

Centenary held our annual Vacation Bible School on June 7 – 10th this year. We had an amazing time with our Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King’s Armor. Our children trained to be Knights and to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power! All of our “Knights” accepted the challenge to “armor up” and be strong by remaining with God and Sharing God’s love to the world!

We had 35 children participate and 28 volunteers involved this year. A huge thank you to Katelin Six and her mother, Kelly Long for taking the lead on our decorations again! Other incredible volunteers who participated throughout the week included:

Opening/Closing: Sir Knight Kevin Hinkle and Sparky the Dragon puppet (Rachel Hinkle)

Bible Story Leaders: Pastor Mel & Debbie Nielsen

Music Leader: Rachel Hinkle

Craft Leader: Martha Vache

Science Leader: Pat Manker

Recreation Leader: Eric McClarey

Snack Leader/Assts.: LuAnn Woodrum, Terri Benz, Becky Fish

PreK Leaders/Assts.: Diana Phillips, Leah Hamilton, Maggie McClarey, Barb Ginder, Lilie Floyd, Katelin Six, Peggy Jordan, Missy Kindred

Elementary Leaders/Assts.: Rusti Cummings, Nancy Hardy, Maza Eilers, Linda Tribble, Pat Baptist, Karmen Birdsell, Morgan Kindred

Welcome table: Barb Woolridge, Bonnie Robinson

Tech/Powerpoint Leader: Rachel Hinkle

Tech Asst: Jack Borgman

The mission chosen for this year was MidWest Youth Round Table Lunch Program. This program provides nutritious food for youth in the Jacksonville area during the summer months. Throughout the week we collected a total of \$334.51!

I would like to thank everyone for all of their hard work and dedication to our children. I saw so many smiling, energetic faces throughout the week and have heard several stories from parents of how their children continue to sing the songs, recite the castle call outs and bible stories.

Thank you!

Rachael Borgman



More progress being made on the Bell Tower Project

On Wednesday, June 16, part of Rod Nicholson's crew were adding decorative bricks to the tower supports that will eventually hold the iron archway that will hold the bell. The wiring is in place that will give power to the lights that will be featured on both of the towers.

PASTOR

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

He has since passed away, but the lesson lives on in my heart. How often do we throw out little white lies like, "I'm too busy," when in reality, we simply don't want to give a fuller answer. We may confess these sins to God and receive forgiveness. It is when we teach them the youngest members of the church where we do a greater disservice.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us, "Train up a child in the way they should go; and when they are old, they will not depart from it." God is telling us what we teach matters, especially, maybe, how we teach it. Someone in my life taught me how to tell a lie. Maybe not by instruction, but maybe more by lack of instruction.

Allowing children to see us sinning, teaches them something they may never depart from. VBS is a good reminder for us to reach for our best, let's allow VBS to continue serving as a reminder the rest of this year.

—Pastor Mel

Quote of the Month

Do not look to your hope, but to Christ, the source of your hope.

— C. H. Spurgeon

Two youth will be confirmed on Sunday July 18, 10:45 service

Pastor Mel is pleased to announce that Morgan Kindred and Jack Borgman will be confirmed at the 10:45 service on July 18.

Everyone is invited to come and be a part of this special day. A brief reception will be held following the service so all may welcome them as full members to the Centenary family.

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.

JULY 2021

JULY 2021							
	THURS., JULY 1	FRI., JULY 2	SAT., JULY 3		THURS., JULY 1	FRI., JULY 2	SAT., JULY 3
(F) Fellowship Hall (P) Parlor (N) Narthex (S) Sunday School Room (O) Online (V) Pavilion							
SUN., JULY 4	MON., JULY 5	TUES., JULY 6	WED., JULY 7	THURS., JULY 8	FRI., JULY 9	FRI., JULY 10	
Holy Communion	7 am - Prayer Group 10 am - Office Staff Mtg	9:30 am - Bible Study (TBD)					
SUN., JULY 11	MON., JULY 12	TUES., JULY 13	WED., JULY 14	THURS., JULY 15	FRI., JULY 16	SAT., JULY 17	
	7 am - Prayer Group 10 am - Office Staff Mtg	6 pm - Education ©	6 pm - SPRC ©				
SUN., JULY 18	MON., JULY 19	TUES., JULY 20	WED., JULY 21	THURS., JULY 22	FRI., JULY 23	SAT., JULY 24	
Confirmation Sunday	7 am - Prayer Group 10 am - Office Staff Mtg 6 pm - Finance	9:30 am - Bible Study (F) 10:30 am - Bicentennial Meeting © 6:30 pm - Women's Book Study (P)	6:15 pm - Ad Council	Messenger Deadline			
SUN., JULY 25	MON., JULY 26	TUES., JULY 27	WED., JULY 28	THURS., JULY 29	FRI., JULY 30	SAT., JULY 31	
Pennies for Hunger	7 am - Prayer Group 10 am - Office Staff Mtg						