

It was a beautiful day on April 3 as the temperatures neared 60 degrees and the sun was shining for Centenary's annual Easter Egg Hunt. Pictured above are the children aged Kindergarten and under. They are all standing at the 'starting line' waiting for Sunday school chair, Diana Phillips to signal the beginning of the hunt. The older kids searched for eggs on the open lot next to the parsonage. There were more than 400 hidden eggs in all, thanks to Sunday school volunteers who took the time to fill and hide them. Please see more photos inside this issue.

Time to find some Easter Eggs!



The images coming out of Ukraine are heartbreaking. Do we still live in this kind of world? Do we still live in a world where an aggressor can take what they want because they have the military might to do so? Apparently! If you would like a Christian perspective on this topic, look to the Sermon on the Mount. Here, you will read Jesus words on bullying, "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over

your coat as well." (Matt. 5:38-40) and later Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matt 5:43-44).

To be fair, the Sermon on the Mount were instructions given to Christians who were being persecuted simply because they were Christian. Jesus doesn't say if you are being persecuted for any other reason, go ahead and let

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Traditional Service	8:15 am
Sunday School for all ages	9:30 am
Fellowship HourBetween Sunday	y Services
Contemporary Service	.10:45 am

SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS

Holy Communion	Sunday, May 1
Golden Cross Sunday	Sunday, May 8
Pennies For Hunger	Sunday, May 29

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Donate Blood.....1st and 2nd Mondays, 11 - 6

COMMUNICATIONS

Messenger Deadline Thurs., May 26, 9 am

BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Morning

Bible Study......May 10 & 24 9:30 am In the Parlor

SMALL GROUPS

JACC	Wed., May 11, 5 pm
AlAnon Meeting	Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
Ladies Book Club	Tues., May 10, 6:30 pm
Location to be determin	ed
Prayer Meeting	Mondays 8:15 am
In the Parlor	

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

FHS	Wed., May 11, 6:30 pm
Spirit Circle	Wed., May 11, 6:00 pm
Hope Circle	Thurs., May 12, 1:30 pm
Business Meeting	Tues., May 3, 6:30 pm

Financial Report

As of March, 2022

General Giving	\$64,738.45
General Expenses	\$67,422.54
	-2,684.09

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 Rhoda Walker

Custodian
Patty Adcock

Nursery Attendants Kayleigh Dirden

How to contact us

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

Centenary's Missionaries

Mark and Rebecca Smallwood Teachers at Redbird Mission in Kentucky



MAY ACOLYTES

May 1 - Crue Stiltz @ 8:15 Grant Kennedy @ 10:45 May 8 - Otto Zang @ 10:45 May 15 - Crue Stiltz @ 8:15 Garrett Kennedy @ 10:45 May 22 - Molly Rulye at 10:45 May 29 - Crue stiltz @ 8:15 Delaney Ruyle @ 10:45

TEACHING SCHEDULE

Toddler/Pre-K classroom Teacher: Diana Phillips Assistant: Kayleigh Dirden

Elementary Classroom

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

Middle School

Rachael Borgman, Mary Tomlin and Linda Tribble.

High School Pastor Mel Nielsen

May memory Verse

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. - Philippians 4:6

Sunday School lessons

- FOCUS God knows what we need.
- May 1 God Provides for Ruth
- May 8 God Answers Hannah's Prayer
- May 15 God Speaks to Samuel
- May 22 God Gives His People a King
- May 20 5th Sunday Service Project

Thank you to volunteers

The Education committee thanks everyone who purchased Easter candy, filled Easter eggs, placed the eggs outside and brought their children to participate in our Easter Egg Hunt on April 3.

Coming Events

May 1 - The Sunday School students will be sharing their memory verse and a song by video at 8:15 and in person at 10:45.

May 4 - Education Committee Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.

May 9 - Centenary Children's Choir will be singing at the Mothers' Day Banquet.

May 29 - 5th Sunday Service Project. At SS time, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to paint rocks. The rocks will have a base coat and the children will decorate with paint pens, using pictures and uplifting words.

The rocks will have to dry and then be sprayed, so the kids will get the rocks back on June 5. They can then leave them around their neighborhood or community. I have 3 old t shirts that are used as paint shirts. Please send your child with something to use as a paint shirt, if you can. Paint pens are not as messy as using a brush, but accidents can still happen. - Diana Phillips

VBS decorations needed

If you have any brown craft paper laying around your house and you have thinking about finding a better home for it, please bring it to church. The Vacation Bible School decorators are in need of some brown craft paper to help decorate the sanctuary. Take a look in boxes that are delivered to your house, this is a good place to find some.

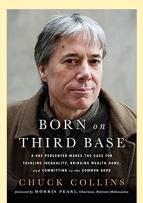
May Birthdays

2	Matthew Prosser
4	Bonnie Waltrip
	Lori Chamberlain
7	Kathy Hilligoss
	Isaiah Adcock
9	Carolyn Gotschall
11	Levi Adcock
12	Catherine Pritchett
16	Thomas Chumley
	Jennifer Plunk
17	Blake Batty
18	Shelby Pennell
	Leslie Sparrow
22	Joseph Cummings
24	James Quigg
	Destiny Slater
28	Monica Schriber
29	Barb Crouse
30	Wanda Irlam

May Anniversaries

1	Doug and Karmen Birdsell
6	Bob and Mary Dalton
23	Gary and Louise Hayes
29	Jake and Melissa Kindred

Ladies Book Club



The May Ladies Book Club will meet on Tues., May 10, 6:30 pm with location TBD.

The featured book will be *Born on Third Base* by Chuck Collins

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for May 2022 Worship. Readings & Message are subject to change.

May 1

3rd Sunday of Easter Altar Color - White Holy Communion Sunday Sermon: *The Rest of the Story* Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19

May 8

4th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day Altar Color - White Sermon: *I Believe!* Reading: Acts 9:36-43

May 15

5th Sunday of Easter Altar Color - White Sermon: *Are You A Disciple?* Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35

May 22

6th Sunday of Easter Altar Color - White The Rev. Bill Werner filling the Pulpit Sermon: TBA Gospel Reading: TBA

May 29

7th Sunday of Easter Altar Color - White Holy Communion Sunday Sermon: *Easy as 1-2-3* Gospel Reading: John 17:20-26

Missions

UMCOR to Help Ukraine

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is accepting donations to help the people of Ukraine. Grants for immediate relief have been given to United Methodist partners in Ukraine as well as neighboring nations—Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia—to support those who remain in Ukraine as well as those who have fled the violence.

In addition, grants are being awarded to partners like ACT Alliance, a global faith-based coalition working in 120 countries around the world. These grants are providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water, clothing, shelter and other necessary supplies.

The situation in Eastern Europe is evolving and Global Ministries and UMCOR will continue to respond in the months and years ahead. UMCOR will work with Church World Service to help with refugee needs and resettlement.

\Give donations to Centenary marked "Ukraine".

Give the Gift of Life

DONATE BLOOD Monday, May 2 or 9 11 am to 6 pm



Blood donations will be accepted at the Community Center on South Main Street in Community Park. Appointments are required. Contact the Impact Blood Center by calling 800-747-5401 or login to https:// www.bloodcenter.org/

Golden Cross Offering

Our annual Golden Cross Offering wil be received on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8. Golden Cross is a collection of older adult, pastoral care and children and family ministries within our Illinois Great Rivers Conference.



Pictured above are, L-R: Marilyn Kimmons and Martha Vaché who traveled to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in April, where they filled and checked school bags.

MMDC Workday

Volunteers are needed by Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Chatham. Contact Martha Vaché for more information if you would like to volunteer with a group from Centenary. Advance registration if required.

Lenten Offering

The Salvation Army Auxiliary's annual Flea-Esta Sale will be held on Friday, May 20 from 8 am to 4 pm and Saturday, May 21 from 8 am to noon in the 4-H Building at the Morgan County Fair Grounds.

Donations for this giant "garage" sale can be delivered to the 4-H Building starting on May 16th. Donations of used but still useful furniture and other items are wanted. (No clothing, shoes, or electronics.) This will be a great place to take any items that are left over from our pavilion sale.

The auxiliary uses the proceeds of this annual sale to support projects of the Jacksonville Salvation Army. Volunteer helpers are welcome.

Missions



Contact the church office with information about any graduates in your family including school, parent's names, future plans, etc. We will publish a list of graduates in a future Messenger.

Lenten Offering

Thank you to those who donated to our Lenten offering. It will be divided between the "New Directions Warming and Cooling Center" in Jacksonville and supporting Mark and Becky Smallwood, teachers at Red Bird Christian School in the Mountains of Kentucky.

It costs about \$220 per day to operate New Directions so monetary donations are appreciated. Volunteers that are fully vaccinated are needed from 6 to 9 p.m.

It is not too late to give a donation for the Lenten offering. Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with Lenten Offering in the memo line.

If interested in volunteering call 217-271-1014 or email: newdirections62650@gmail.com.

Fox Trust applications

Non-profit agencies may apply for funding from Centenary's Fox Trust. Applications are available on the Centenary website at www.jaxcentenary.org. The completed form is due back to the church office by June 1.

Jensen Woods Needs Supplies

Jensen Woods Camp is a United Methodist Camp which provides opportunities for all ages to be engaged with their faith. They mostly serve youth.

Due to budgetary concerns the camp is need of certain items this summer. Take a look in your attic, basement or garage to see if you have any of these items: Bows, arrows, archery supplies, camp cookware, life jackets, flashlights, ponchos, bug spray, first aid items, bottled water, paper plates, plastic utensils, paper towels, toilet paper, anything camping related.

New items are also welcomed. For more details, contact the camp directly: 217-773-2491 www.jensenwoodscamp.com jensenwoodscamp@gmail.com

Mission Trip to Jensen Woods

The Mission Committee, along with Pastor Mel is announcing a one-day mission trip to Jensen Woods on July 9, 2022. This is a pre-scheduled work day for the camp. There will be a variety of cleaning needs that need to be achieved.

The camp is asking that we bring any useful items for indoor/outdoor work, such as: Gloves, hats, rages, rakes, cleaning supplies, pruning tools, etc. As with all mission trips, we need to be flexible and go with the needs of the camp at the time.

If you have any interest in going with Pastor Mel to Jensen Woods for a Mission Day of Work, please see him and sign up. Depending on how many are going, we may need to use more than one vehicle. If you are able to provide transportation, please let Pastor know.

Pastor Mel wants to remind that several camps have closed over the years due to financial trouble. This is one way we can give back and help a camp remain open.

United Methodist Women

Mother's Day Banquet

Our UMW Mother's Day Banquet is Monday, May 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A fried chicken dinner with tossed salad, southern green beans, au gratin potatoes, and rolls will be served by Hamilton's Catering. UMW members will furnish desserts. You don't have to be a UMW member to attend. Bring a friend.

Tickets need to be purchased by Monday, May 2 to give a count to the caterer. Tickets will be sold in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or in the church office. Adults - \$12.00; Children (age 6 to 12) - \$7:00; Pre-school - free.

Terri Benz will entertain us by playing musical selections on the 9-foot Steinway grand piano in our sanctuary that used to be in MacMurray College's Annie Merner Chapel. In addition, Centenary's Children's Choir will sing for us.

The UMW will provide a meal for any of the men in our Centenary family who are willing to help that evening with serving and clean-up.

Women's Circles

New members are always welcome!

May Circle Meetings

For Heaven Sake Circle: Wed. May 11, 6:30 pm Hostess: Mary Tomlin

Hope Circle:

Thurs. Thursday, May 12, 1:00 pm Service Project: Set up for the pavilion sale.

Spirit Circle: Wed. May 11, 6:00 pm, at Centenary

UMW Garage/Pavilion Sale

Centenary's UMW is sponsoring a garage sale on Friday, May 13th. We plan to use the pavilion for larger items and sell the smaller items in the Narthex. Remember us when you do your spring cleaning and bring your treasures! Since our spring salad luncheon was canceled, this sale will help make up the shortfall in the UMW treasury.

Volunteers are needed to set up the sale in the Narthex on Thursday, May 12. Small items can be left in the Narthex starting on Wednesday, May 11. Bring larger items to the pavilion on Thursday, May 12 beginning at 9:00 am. We will store them in the pavilion's storage area overnight. You can also drop them off at the pavilion early on Friday morning.

A limited number of items can be brought to the church earlier in the month and put in the storage area of the pavilion. Contact the church office if you need to do this or have items that need to be picked up. Volunteers will be needed help to set-up for the sale on Thursday and help with the sale on Friday. There will be a signup sheet for volunteer shifts in the Narthex. Everyone is welcome to help.

Future UMW Dates

UMW Business Meeting: Tues., May 3, 6:30 pm, parlor

Mother's Day Banquet: Mon., May 9, 6:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall

UMW Garage Sale: Friday, May 13, all day, in the pavilion

Cunningham Children's Home Festival of Quilts: Fri./Sat., June 3 & 4

United Methodist Women

UMW Reading Program Selections for May

The novel, <u>Before We Were Yours</u>, by LIsa Wingate is an engrossing read. At times it is d i s t u r b i n g a n d w r e n c h i n g, b u t ultimately uplifting. The story is based on one of America's most notorious real life scandals - in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country.

The narrators are a present-day attorney and heir apparent to her father's Senate seat, Avery Staffore, and Rill Foss, a young girl growing up with her siblings on her family's Mississippi River shanty boat, in the 1930's. A Must read! This book is under the category of Nurturing for Community.

Garage Sale Planned

UMW members are planning to have a garage sale in the pavilion on Friday, May 13th. Since spring salad luncheon was canceled, this sale will help make up the shortfall in the UMW treasury. Remember us when you are doing your spring cleaning and save your "treasurers" for us. We will accept items on Thursday, May 12.

Thank You

We want to express our thankfulness to all who sent cards, visited and especially prayed on our behalf during these last 4 months. We felt the Lord's presence and peace; His strength to press on with therapy. Sincerely, Jerry and Rhoda Walker

LaMoine District UMW Spring Meeting

Rev. Shane Hartman, Executive Director of Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems was the featured speaker at the LaMoine District UMW Spring Meeting in White Hall. He talked about the dangers of using marijuana and the easy access to gaming in our area. More information about ILCAAP can be found on their website at www.ilcaaap.org.

Diana Phillips conducted the memorial service remembering district UMW members who passed away during 2021 including six of our members: Jo Baptist, Jean Bowen, Ann DeFrates, Rene Strubbe, Helen Hammond and Lura Lene Smith.

Centenary received the following awards for 2021.

LOVE UNIT Certificate for achieving 8 goals

5-STAR Unit Certificate for meeting our pledge and giving in all 5 channels of giving

Cunningham's SPIRITED SERVANT Award READING PROGRAM AWARDS

Level 3 Award (15 books) - Martha Vaché

Level 1 Award (5 books) - Diana Phillips

Participation Awards: Glenda Eldridge, Marilyn Kimmons, Jane Masters, Debbie Nielsen, Shelby Pennell, Roberta Randorf, and Rhoda Walker

Thank you to those who donated the following items for LBDNH and Cunningham. Soap, T-shirts, undergarments, plus prayer beads, magnets made from old buttons, and a floral arrangement to sell at the Quilt Show.

UMW Business Meeting

The next UMW business meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor. All women are invited. If anyone would like to participate online, contact Martha Vaché for the Zoom link.



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Beautiful Easter Sunrise

Ten hearty souls ventured out early on Easter morning for a Sunrise Service at 6:20 a.m. The service was held on the parsonage lawn. Pictured at right: The sun broke through on the horizon as the service ended.



Finance Committee to begin new general fund campaign

With the return of more programming and services at Centenary the costs are also on the rise. We have all felt the pinch at the gas pump and the grocery store; that same pinch is being felt by Centenary.

The campaign is in the beginning stages and the committee hopes to make a full announcement by the June newsletter. Please look for more information coming to you via the USPS concerning this new financial campaign.

The Finance Committee believes a little extra from each member or friend can make a big difference offsetting some of the shortages that your church has been experiencing.

Large Amount of Items Collected For Local Teachers

The Conference of Churches is overwhelmed by the generosity of all who donated to our Teacher Appreciation Supply Collection for 2022!

The donated items were collected from the participating churches, sorted into baskets by our Life and Works committee, and delivered to many area grade school teachers.

This event was coordinated to show our appreciation to grade school educators who are coming off a very challenging year. This is the time of the school year when supplies run low, so we hope this final boost helps them get across the finish line successfully!

Thank you to all who donated, and Thank you to Stacy and Pat who helped coordinate the event for the Conference of Churches. Together... we can do great things!

Christi Kennedy, Centenary's Office Manager resigns

Dear Centenary Family,

I regret to inform you that I have resigned from my position as the Office Manager here at Centenary, effective May 5th. I have given much thought and consideration to my decision.

It is my plan to do all in my power to minimize the inconvenience caused by my resignation. I will put forth effort to facilitate a smooth transition. I will still be available in the office two days a week helping with the church's finances.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Centenary as the Office Manager and have been blessed by the support of all the members.

If you are interested or know anyone interested in the position, please see Pastor Mel or myself. We are also looking for volunteers to help in the office on days the secretary is sick or on vacation.

Sincerely, Christi Kennedy







PASTOR CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

them have it. I believe these principals are for any case of abuse or persecution. Jesus wasn't preaching about being weak, the Lord was preaching about being strong.

Maybe you saw the Academy Awards presentation on Sunday, March 27. During the telecast an awards presenter was slapped across the face by an audience member who did not care for a joke told by the presenter.

The one who was slapped was also verbally assaulted by the offended person. The presenter shrugged it all off and simply went on with the show. He has not chosen to press charges or face his abuser in court.

Whether or not Jesus played any part in his decision not to retaliate is unknown. The evidence, however, for Christians, is clear, this is how we respond. We stand there and take it. We move on and we allow the guilt to rest solely on the perpetrator.

Bullying is out of hand and can be described as an epidemic. The government has tried to pass antibullying laws, but we all know we can't be forced to like each other. Jesus is not about using force; Jesus is about inviting us to something better.

By standing there and taking it, we deprive the aggressor over what feeds their power. Evil needs engagement, it thrives on our participation. Evil gains more power when we capitulate.

This is why Jesus goes into even greater detail about anger and hatred. "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment." (Matt. 5:21-22).

Once we make a decision to allow anger to run our lives, we are acting as sinners. We are standing against what Jesus tried to teach its in the Sermon on the Mount. We are not Christians. Easier to say when the attack is a slap on the face. When it is genocide and war crimes and dropping bombs on children's hospitals, Jesus words are far harder to comprehend.

It is often in the darkest moments of our life that make us seek the bright light of God's wisdom. This is why I fall back onto God's grace to cover me when I fall short of what I am expected to be and to feel.

I have a feeling that if I were a Ukranian father watching my homeland being turned in to vast cemetery, I would take up arms and push back. I would stand up and say you have taken by shirt but I will not let you have my cloak without a fight.

I would all know that I may be falling short of being a true disciple and all I would have left is God's grace to protect me from myself. If I want God's grace for myself when I stumble, I must also want it for my enemies when they stumble, or there is not hope for humankind.

The hope of all humans resides within the grace of God to forgive us when we do not know what we are doing. Please join with me in praying for God's abundant grace to be felt abundantly.

> God Bless, Pastor Mel

Addresses requested

The Centenary Church Office is currently working on updating some important records. They are requesting all contact information for any military personnel or college age students.

If you know the name, address and email of any current military personnel or college student, please provide that information to Christi Kennedy in the church office.

Bookmobile adds Centenary Pavilion stop

The Jacksonville Public Library will be adding a stop at the Centenary Pavilion every Friday from 11:30 - 12:15. This program begins June 3 and ends August 12.

Centenary is thrilled that they will make the pavilion a stop on their rounds. We hope to see neighborhood children as well as children from our Centenary family take advantage of this opportunity. If you would like to be a part of this great opportunity to provide a snack or help read to the kids while they are here, come see Diana Phillips or Pastor Mel

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Pennies for Hunger 8:15 am - Prayer Group (C) 10 am - Office Staff Mtg PASTOR ON VACATION PASTOR ON VACATION	7:00 am - Tuesday Morning Fellowsh 9:30 am - Tuesday IV Bible Study (P) 3 pm - Children's Ch Practice PASTOR ON VACA	6:30 pm - Ad Council (P) 7:30 pm - AlAnon (N)	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
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