

The Messenger

Lifting Up Jesus In The Heart Of Jacksonville



Valentine's Messages of Love

On Sunday, February 26, Sunday school kids handed our Valentine's Scripture cards, It was a way of helping all of us see the love in God.



Pictured at left; Annabelle Hardy, Zach Hardy and Molly Ruyle, at right is Delaney Ruyle. The youth distributed handmade Valentines with loving scripture reminders on each card.



Is it just me, or have you noticed the pace has picked up a bit at Centenary? I mean the pace of activities, small group meetings and opportunities have increased. I recall praying to God about how lifeless the church had become during the pandemic; I was praying for new life and a rekindled spirit. Be aware of what and how you pray. God has answered with a flurry of activity.

You may not be aware of all that is happening, has happened and will yet happen. First what has happened and is happening; 22 people signed up for the Lent Bible Study Simon Peter. Not only are the adults enjoying the study, but the Sunday school youth have also participated in their classes. I have been able to witness first hand how excited they are to be all together and learning about this important Biblical figure. I have even been able to portray Simon Peter for story time. It was fun.

Another busy place has been the new Outreach Committee, formerly the Evangelism Committee. The few who have gathered have come up with big ideas, some of which you have heard during Sunday Worship services lately. Your Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee also took to heart a request from the IGRC Cabinet to address three areas of important focus for the remainder of 2023, that committee has also been reporting their vision during Sunday worship. A Beginner's Bible Study is underway and Kid's Church is still enhancing our youngest in the traditions of worship!

A table has been added to the existing two tables in the parlor to accommodate the larger crowds for the Tuesday Morning Bible Study, the Adult Sunday School class on Sunday mornings and the recent Lent Bible Study. It is exciting to need more space! Amen!

Plans are underway to bring back the weekly prayer small group. New meeting day and times will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

IN MEMORY

Charlie Rhine.....Sunday March 12
Tamara NewbyTuesday, March 14

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Weekly Worship Service9 am
Sunday School for all ages.....10:15 am
Fellowship Hour.....Before and after Service

SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS

Holy Communion.....Sunday, April 2
Pennies For Hunger.....Sunday, April 23

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday (Seder)Thur., Apr. 6, 6 pm
Good Friday.....JACC 11:30, am Central Christian
Easter Sunrise.....Sun., Apr. 9, 6:25 am
(Parsonage Lawn)
Easter Service.....Sun., Apr. 9, 9 am

COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Messenger Deadline.....Wed., Apr. 19, 9 am

BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Morning
Bible Study.....Apr. 10 & 24 9:30 am
In the Parlor
Beginner's Bible Study.....Tuesdays, 6 pm

CHURCH MEETINGS

OutreachMon., Apr. 10, 6 pm
Missions.....Wed., Apr. 12, 3:30 pm

SMALL GROUPS

AlAnon MeetingWednesdays, 7:30 pm
Ladies Book ClubWed., Apr. 19, 6:30 pm

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Book Sorting in ParlorFri., Apr. 7, 9 a.m.
LaMoine District UWF Spring Meeting . .Sat.,
Apr. 15, at Rushville UMC
Spirit CircleWed., Apr. 12, 6 pm
FHSWed., Apr. 12, 6:30 pm
Hope CircleThurs., Apr. 13, 11:30
Drop Off Garage Sale ItemsThurs., Apr. 27, 3-7
Drop Off Garage Sale ItemsFri., Apr. 28, 8 - 1
Garage SaleFri., Apr. 28, 2-7 & Sat. Apr. 29, 8-1
UWF Business Meeting.....Wed., May 3, 1 pm

Centenary Staff

Pastor

Mel Nielsen

Office Manager

Rachel Hinkle

Finance Manager

Teri Hall

Music Director

Terri Benz

Contemporary Worship Leader

Rachel Hinkle

Parish Visitor

Visitation Committee

Custodian

Patty Adcock

Nursery Attendant(s)

To Be Determined

How to contact us

331 E. State Street

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Jacksonville, IL 62651

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Website: www.jaxcentenary.org

Centenary's Missionaries

Mark and Rebecca Smallwood

Teachers at Redbird Mission

in Kentucky



MARCH ACOLYTES

- 4/2 - Avery and Hudson Woodrum
- 4/9 - Blake and Jaylen Batty
- 4/16 - Annabelle Hardy and Ashlyn Seymour
- 4/23 - Mason and Matthew Hinkle
- 4/30 - Crue and Lane Stiltz

TEACHING SCHEDULE

Toddler/Pre-K classroom

Teacher: Diana Phillips

Assistant: [VOLUNTEER NEEDED](#)

Elementary Classroom

Teachers: Rusti Cummings and Nancy Hardy

Assistants:

1st Sunday - Jack Borgman

2nd Sunday - LuAnn Woodrum

3rd Sunday - [VOLUNTEER NEEDED](#)

Please see Diana Phillips.

4th Sunday - Amy Stidham

Middle School

Rachael Borgman, Mary Tomlin and Pat Baptist.

High School

Pastor Mel Nielsen

Kids' Church

Kids' Church: Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to assist in Kid's Church. It is very much appreciated. A sign up list can be found in the narthex.

April Lessons

4/2 ~ Palm Sunday lesson

4/9 ~ Resurrection lesson

4/16 ~ Jesus Makes a Beachside Breakfast for His Friends (John 21: 1-25)

Memory Verse: John 15:14-15

4/23 ~ Jesus Washes His Friends Feet

(John 13: 1-20 Memory Verse: Phil. 4:13)

4/30 ~ 5th Sunday Service Project

Sunday School Joins Adults for Lent Bible Study

The Children's Sunday school classes joined Centenary adults in a Lenten Study about Simon Peter. We used the children's leader guide designed for use with Adam Hamilton's book *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful/Disciple*. For six weeks we learned from Peter's life and ministry and how we and the children may apply these learnings to our own lives. The lessons were very engaging and age appropriate. We had center activities, whole group times and small age level group times. We thank Simon Peter (aka Pastor Mel) for visiting us each week and giving us a first hand account of his experiences with Jesus.

Upcoming Events

5th Sunday Project – April 30

VBS – June 12-15

Thank you to everyone who donated candy and/or helped to fill the Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt.



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 Jo Baptist 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 worship schedule for April 2023

Readings & Message are subject to change.

April 2

6th Sunday of Lent - Palm Sunday

Holy Communion Sunday

Altar Color - Purple

Sermon Series: The Big Questions

Sermon Title: Why Is Jesus Special?

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:1-11

April 9

Easter Sunday

Altar Color - White

Sermon Series: The Big Questions

Sermon Title: *Why Be A Christian?*

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:13-14

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:22-26

April 16

2nd Sunday of Easter

Altar Color - White

Sermon Series: A New Church

Sermon Title: *Peter's Plea Part 1*

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

April 23

3rd Sunday of Easter

Altar Color - White

Sermon Series: A New Church

Sermon Title: *Peter's Plea Part 2*

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

April 30

4th Sunday of Easter

Altar Color - White

Sermon Series: A New Church

Sermon Title: *What Happened?*

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Missions

Lenten Offering

Each year Centenary Mission's Committee chooses mission projects to support during Lent. This year half of our Lenten offering will be given to the "New Directions Warming and Cooling Center" located at Grace UMC. The center provides their homeless guests a place to shower, get food, do laundry, and sleep. Families and/or individuals can stay at the center for up to 60 days while they are working to gain independence. It costs about \$220 per day to operate the center so monetary donations are appreciated.

The rest of our Lenten offering will be used to support Mark and Becky Smallwood. Becky teaches elementary students at Red Bird Christian School in the mountains of Kentucky. Mark is a talented musician who substitutes at the school and drives a school bus. Centenary has supported Mark and Becky for more than thirty years.

Lenten offering envelopes are available in the Narthex. Donations will be accepted anytime until Easter. Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with Lenten Offering in the memo line.

Shampoo Donations Requested

Midwest Mission needs donations of shampoo to include in their personal dignity kits. These kits will be sent to Ukraine and Turkey. Shampoo must weigh between 12 oz. and 19 oz.

Cluster Packing Rice Meals

Thanks to all who signed up to help with the Holy Spokes project of packing rice meals for Midwest Mission on Palm Sunday at Grace UMC. Plan to stay for fellowship and pizza afterwards.

Native American Ministries Sunday

On Sunday, April 23, we will celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday which recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and to society.

The special offering that day will be used to provide seminary scholarships and support Native American ministries including Day Spring Native American UMC in East Peoria. Give donations to Centenary with marked "Native Am Sunday".

Ladies Book Club



The next Ladies Book Club will meet on Wednesday, April 19, 6:30 pm in the Narthex.

The featured book will be "Woman of God" by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro.

Donate Blood

Blood donations are accepted on the 1st and 2nd Mondays each month (April 3 & 10) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Jacksonville Memorial Hospital. Appointments are required. Contact the Impact Blood Center by calling 800-747-5401 or login to <https://www.bloodcenter.org/>

Midwest Mission Volunteers

Several Centenary members plan to volunteer at Midwest Mission (new shortened name for Midwest Mission Distribution Center) on the morning of Tuesday, April 4. Contact Martha Vaché for more information or if you would like to volunteer. Advance registration if required.



If you visit Centenary's Facebook page, be sure to 'like' or 'share' with others as this really helps to get our information out to others.
- Thanks for your help.



Scouts Participate in First Aid Training

The Boy Scouts participated in a First Aid Meet on 2/25/23 at the First United Methodist Church in Springfield.

The scouts demonstrated their skills in emergency first aid applications, leadership, and



Weekly Prayer Gathering Returns

The weekly Prayer Gathering returns on Wednesday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Mel is encouraging everyone to attend.

The Prayer Gathering is a time to share joys and concerns, share a passage of scripture and pray. There is no reason to fear praying aloud, as that is not a requirement.

A new feature to get us started this year will be building a beautiful Biblical jigsaw puzzle together while we discuss the prayers requests.

It has often been said that the engine of a church is the prayer groups. It is important to have a vital prayer commitment in any church. Please come and be part of the engine of Centenary.

United Women of Faith

Calling All Bakers

Calling all bakers: We plan to include a bake sale during our UWF garage sale so bring your baked treats ready to sell.

Tidbits from Terri

UWF – Supports US projects and nearly 90 national mission institutions which are community centers, schools, and residences located around the United States. Included are Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East St. Louis.

60 Ways to Live Longer, Stronger and Better – Organize one thing each day – your purse, a bedside table, a drawer. You'll feel one chore is behind you, which is helpful in feeling less pressured in general.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, calls and visits during the time of Tamara's passing. Your caring has meant the world to me. Thank you to my church for the nice reception held after services on March 26.

God Bless you all.

Tom Newby

United Women of Faith

UWF Reading Program

For 2023, books from 2018-2023 reading program lists are eligible for reporting credit, if you have not previously read them.

A reminder! There are many books suitable for children and youth as part of the UWF Reading Program. You may get credit for them also. And the big plus is that you can share them with your children and grandchildren.

You can also receive Reading Program credit for listening to the Faith Talks podcasts. Listening to at least two episodes of Faith Talks counts as the equivalent of one book. You can find the podcasts on the UWF website. This might be a good program at a circle meeting! You can listen together and discuss.

I have heard many recommendations for this title, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. This title is in the Social Action category. We do not have this in our church library, but it is available through the Jacksonville Public Library.

In this book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history as been shaped by a hidden caste system. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people – including Martin Luther King, Jr. – she shows the ways the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day, ultimately pointing to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions toward hope.

Another book in the Social Action category is in our own church library, *Cousins: Connected Through Slavery, A Black Woman and a White Woman Discover Their Past and Each Other* is

written by Betty Kilby Baldwin and Phoebe Kilby.

What happens when a White woman, Phoebe, contacts a Black woman, Betty, saying she suspects they are connected through slavery? Revealed to be cousins, they commit to a path of reconciliation. In alternating chapters, each tells her dramatic story, from Betty's experience as one of the first Black children to attend her desegregated school to Phoebe's eventual question to Betty: "How do I begin to repair the harms?" Piercingly honest, the book included a working reparations project that the women conceived together.

UWF Garage/Pavilion Sale

Everyone in the Centenary family is invited to contribute items to our United Women in Faith's garage sale in the pavilion. The sale will be held on Friday, April 28 from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 29 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Remember us when you are spring cleaning and save your "treasures" for us. We will accept items at the pavilion on Thursday, April 27 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm and on Friday, April 28 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you have large items to donate, call the church office.

UWF Collecting Donations

There is a basket in the Narthex for the gifts that we are collecting to take to our LaMoine District Spring Meeting on April 15. (Leave gift cards in the church office.)

Donations for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

Pull-ups (sizes 3T-6T), wipes, blue pens or gift cards.

Donations for Cunningham Children's Home

athlete's foot spray, men's stick deodorant, men's white t-shirts (small and medium sizes) and hand soap in pump containers plus Amazon gift cards, and Wal-Mart gift cards.

United Women of Faith

Mother's Day Banquet

Our United Women in Faith Mother's Day Banquet will be on Monday, May 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. After the meal, Diane Dietz and Terri Benz will share their musical talents with us in the sanctuary. All women and children are invited to attend. Bring a family member or friend. Hamilton's Catering will provide a delicious meal of fried chicken, tossed salad, southern green beans, au gratin potatoes, and rolls. Circle members will furnish desserts. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets will be sold in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or in the church office. The deadline to purchase tickets is Tuesday, May 9. Cost: adults - \$13.00; Children (age 6 to 12) - \$8.00; Pre-school - free.

The banquet is being planned by: Program: FHS; Food: Spirit; Set-up/Decorations: Hope. We will provide a free meal for the men in our Centenary family who are willing to help that evening with serving and clean-up.

UWF Business Meeting

The next UWF business meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3 at 1:00 pm in the church parlor. All women are invited. If anyone would like to participate online, contact Martha Vache for the Zoom link.

Future UWF Dates

Sort Books: Fri. Apr. 7, 9:00 am, parlor

LaMoine District UWF Spring Meeting:

Sat. Apr. 15, 9:00 am, Rushville UMC. Lunch reservation due Apr. 10.

Drop off garage sale donations:

Thurs: Apr. 27, 3:00 to 7:00 pm

Fri. Apr. 28, 8:00 am to 1:30 pm, pavilion

UWF Garage Sale:

Fri. Apr. 28, 2:00 to 7:00 pm and

Sat., Apr. 29, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, pavilion

UWF Business Meeting:

Wednesday, May 3, 1:00 pm, parlor

Mother's Day Banquet:

Mon, May 15, 6:00 pm, FH

Cunningham Children's Home Festival of Quilts:

Fri/Sat, June 2 & 3

LaMoine Spring Gathering

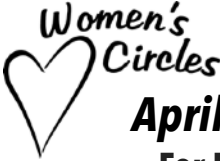
All UWF members are invited to our district spring gathering on Saturday, April 15 at Rushville UMC. Our speaker, Connie Wieck, will share her experiences as a missionary teacher in China. A special feature will be a performance of the "Holy Thursday Drama".

We will have devotions, music, a memorial service, presentation of 2022 awards, updates about Cunningham and LBDNH, an offering for missions, fellowship, and a delicious lunch prepared by the ladies of our host church.

Come at 9:00 a.m. for registration and breakfast snacks. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. Tickets for breakfast/lunch are \$10. Rusti Cummings, Debbie Nielsen, Diana Phillips, or Martha Vaché plan to attend. If you can join us please let one of these ladies know by Monday, April 10 so we can call in reservations and plan car-pooling.

Sorting Books in Parlor

Volunteers are needed to help sort the books in the parlor on Friday, April 7 beginning at 9:00 am. Some books will be re-arranged on the shelves, others donated to Love Packages, some sold at the garage sale, and others recycled.



Women's
Circles

*New members
always welcome!*

April Circle Meetings

For Heaven Sake Circle:
Wednesday, Apr. 12, 6:30 pm
Hostess: Daphne Spradlin

Hope Circle:
Thursday, Apr. 13, Luncheon, 11:30 pm
Location/Hostess: Martha Vaché's home
Program: Holy Land Memories

Spirit Circle:
Wed. Apr. 12, 6:00 pm, at Proud Richards

Many Hands Make Light Work

On Sunday, March 12, 5 adults and 5 youth helped fill Easter Eggs in preparation for the Easter Egg hunt held on Sunday March 26. Several dozen of eggs were filled with an assortment of treats. Thanks to all who stayed after church to help and those who donated the candy.



Thank You

Thank you to all of those who helped with Doorbell Dinners this past month. Your service is greatly appreciated. Those who participated included Lou and Martha Vache', Reg and Linda Tribble, Steve and Kathy McCarty, Harold Sorrill, Tom Jordan, Phil Benz, Barb Keehner, Pat Manker, Darcy Adams, and Jim Stocker. We will deliver meals again the week of June 19-23, 2023.

Barbara Wooldridge
& Pat Baptist, Coordinators



Pictured above are some of the volunteers who delivered Doorbell Dinners. Pictured above, L-R, are: Linda Tribble, Jim Stocker, Barb Keehner, Darcy Adams, Kathy McCarty, Pat Manker, Steve McCarty, Tom Jordan and Reg Tribble. Not pictured are: Lou and Martha Vaché, Harold Sorrill, Phil Benz and Pat Baptist who is taking the picture.



Graduate Info Needed

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.

Thank You

I want to thank the ladies for the cookies and visit a few weeks ago and thanks to everyone for the many birthday cards and love I received on my 95th birthday! I thank God every day... I even got to do Doorbell Dinners last week!
Harold Sorrill

Children's Ministry News



Rock Painting and Sanctuary Building Projects

On Sunday, March 5 the Sunday school projects included painting hot rocks (right out of the oven) and building a sanctuary out of blocks. This was all part of the Simon Peter Bible Study.

PASTOR

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

announced soon. This new Prayer Group will be initiating a more comprehensive look at prayer by using the book, Dynamite Prayer, A 28 Day Experiment.

This is the book and study I participated in during Covenant Keepers this winter. It doesn't require much from the participants except to devote themselves to praying the prayers that are recorded in the book. Watch for more information to be announced soon.

Looking into the future, we know that VBS is around the corner and I am trying to find adults who might be interested in a service oriented mission trip. There is talk about using the Pavilion for a week-long revival later in the summer or early fall. How about an all-day, all-district Evangelism training event held here at Centenary. Nothing on this event has been finalized, it is just one of the ideas that I believe God has planted in the minds and hearts of the disciples at Centenary.

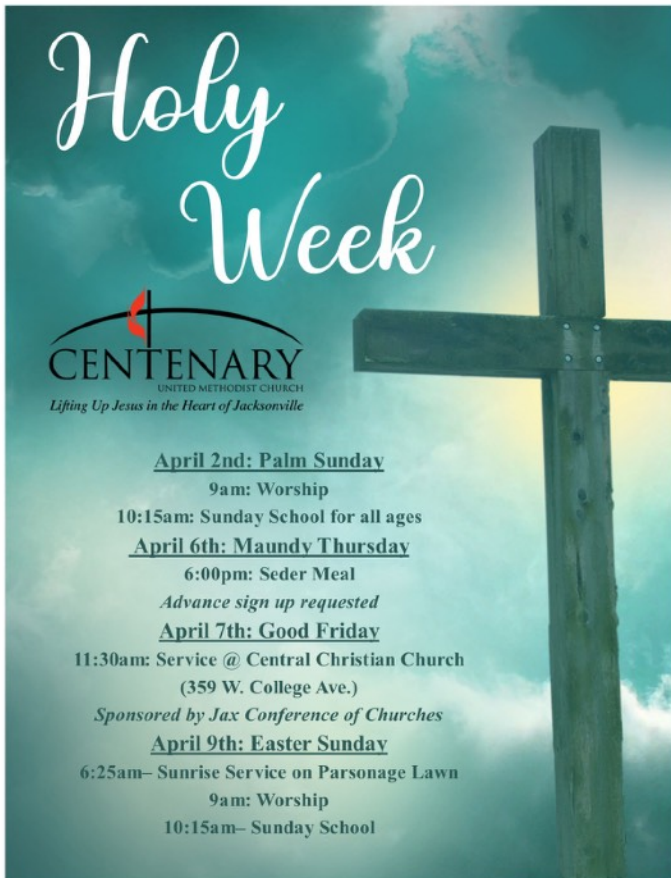
On a personal note, I have been working steadily on a program that will unite the local churches of Jacksonville in our efforts to help at risk and near-homeless neighbors. This is what has been called the Unmet Needs Program of Jacksonville.

There are three ways to volunteer for Unmet Needs; one is to assist on the committee which oversees the disbursement of funds to those in need. The second is to be a mentor to partner with an individual or family for moral support and encouragement. The third is to pray for the committee's efforts.

So, like I said, is it just me or are we getting busier? We are blessed to have the pace pick up, God must see something within each of us at Centenary. Can you see what God sees in you? If not, you may just need to get out of your comfort zone and try some of these new things that are happening.

If we believe that Jesus was in the pandemic boat with us then surely we believe Jesus is with us now that we are back on shore walking and get moving again! Let's get moving, all of us, together.

Blessings,
Pastor Mel



Holy Week

CENTENARY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Lifting Up Jesus in the Heart of Jacksonville

April 2nd: Palm Sunday
9am: Worship
10:15am: Sunday School for all ages

April 6th: Maundy Thursday
6:00pm: Seder Meal
Advance sign up requested

April 7th: Good Friday
11:30am: Service @ Central Christian Church
(359 W. College Ave.)
Sponsored by Jax Conference of Churches

April 9th: Easter Sunday
6:25am— Sunrise Service on Parsonage Lawn
9am: Worship
10:15am— Sunday School



EASTER
Sunday

Sunday, April 9th, 2023

6:25am—Outdoor Sunrise Service on the Parsonage Lawn
Bring chair if unable to stand.

9:00am—Easter Worship
You can also join us online at www.facebook.com/jaxcentenary for our LIVE worship.

10:15am—Sunday School for all ages

CENTENARY
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