

The Messenger

Lifting Up Jesus In The Heart Of Jacksonville



UWF Sunday

On Sunday, January 29, the United Women of Faith held its UWF Sunday with guest speaker Brooke Watson, Assistant Director of Development at Cunningham Children's Home. Watson spoke on "Biblical Truths as Evidenced in the Lives of Cunningham Youth." Officers for the 2023 year were also announced.



Pictured, L-R, are: Brooke Watson, Shelby Pennell, Diana Philips, Rusti Cummings, Jarice Crenshaw, Pat Pennell, Martha Vaché, Terri Benz, LuAnn Woodrum and Pat Manker



It is the season of Lent once again. Have you ever noticed the big difference in how our society treats this season as opposed to Christmas? Instead of Santa Claus, we have the Easter Bunny. Instead of a tree full of presents we get eggs and chocolate. Instead of familiar Christmas music and hymns filling the airwaves, we have almost nothing in the way of Lent or Easter music.

I realize there are a few tunes, but nothing like Christmas. Let's face it, Christmas is the big holiday, especially in secular circles. Is this all due to the nature of the holiday? At Christmas we welcome Jesus and on Good Friday we have a painful parting, is that part of it? Then again on Easter we get a reborn Christ with a message of our own rebirth! Maybe it is the pacing of the events, for instance, Christmas has a smooth transition from advent through Christmas Eve and then Christmas Day leading to tell stories of Jesus life.

Lent, however, begins with Ash Wednesday, a time of self denial and confession, then we travel the 40 days in the wilderness, some of us surrendering earthly treasures. Then we have Holy Week and the blessed time of Maundy Thursday gathering, followed by the awful Good Friday and finally the Triumphant Easter Morning. The Lent and Easter season is far more of a roller coaster ride than the Christmas season. Maybe it's because the Easter season is far more liturgical and more prone to theological discourse, or maybe the difference between the seasons is something more than all of these.

For me, the difference lies in relationships. How much easier is it to have a relationship with an infant than a grown up. Especially a grown up with ideas that we might not like or have difficulty in understanding. Babies are under our control and a grown up Jesus has control over us. The very best part of relationships can also be

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Weekly Worship Service9:00 am
Sunday School for all ages.....10:15 am
Fellowship Hour.....Before and after Service

SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS

Holy Communion.....Sunday, March 5
Pennies For Hunger.....Sunday, March 26

COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Messenger DeadlineWed., Mar. 22, 9 am

BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Morning
Bible StudyMar. 14 & 28 9:30 am
In the Parlor
Simon Peter Bible Study ...Wednesdays 10 am or 6 pm

CHURCH MEETINGS

Mission Trip MeetingTues, Mar. 7, 6:30 pm
MissionsWed., Mar. 8, 3:30 pm
Outreach.....Tues., Mar. 14, 6 pm
Ad Council.....Tues., Mar. 21, 6:15 pm

SMALL GROUPS

AlAnon MeetingWednesdays, 7:30 pm
Ladies Book ClubTues., Mar. 23, 2:00 pm

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Spirit Circle..... Wed., Mar. 8, 6 pm
FHS.....Wed., Mar. 8, 6:30 pm
Hope Circle.....Thurs., Mar. 9, 11:45
LaMoine District UWF Personal Growth Retreat,
Tuesday, March 21, Griggsville UMC, 9:30 am

Ladies Book Club



The next Ladies Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 23, 2:00 pm in the Narthex.

The featured book will be "The Alice Network" by Kate Quinn

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

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Phone 217-245-8417

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Website: www.jaxcentenary.org

Centenary's Missionaries

Mark and Rebecca Smallwood

Teachers at Redbird Mission

in Kentucky



MARCH ACOLYTES

- 3/5 - Otto Zang and Clyde Zang
3/12 - Aspen Hayes and Max Hrynewych
3/19 - Molly Ruyle and Delaney Ruyle
3/26 - Jack Borgman and Noah Borgman

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.

March Lessons

3/5 ~ Simon Peter study ~ Peter the Rock Memory

Verse: Matthew 16:16

3/12~ Simon Peter Study ~ Peter Denies Knowing

Christ Memory Verse: Matthew 26:35

3/19 ~ Simon Peter Study ~ Jesus Asks Peter a

Question Memory Verse: John 21: 16b

3/26 ~ Simon Peter Study ~ Peters Spreads the

Good News Memory Verse: Acts 4: 20

Sunday School Joins Adults for Lent Bible Study

The Children's Sunday school classes have joined Centenary Church in a Lenten Study about Simon Peter. We are using the children's leader guide designed for use with Adam Hamilton's book "Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple". For six weeks we are learning from Peter's life and ministry and how we and the children may apply these learnings to our own lives. The lessons are very engaging and age appropriate. We have center activities, whole group times and small age level group times. On the last Sunday of this study, 3/26, we will also have an Easter Egg Hunt following Sunday school.

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt – 3/26

5th Sunday Project – April 30

VBS – June 12-15

March Birthdays

3.....	Betty Strawn
6.....	Brenda Stewart
7.....	Harold Sorrill Phyllis Hubbard Karen Decker
8.....	Jerry Walker
9.....	Rachel Hinkle Rowan Hamilton
10.....	Tiffany Dirksmeyer
12.....	Tanya Biessman Chuck Fairfield
14.....	Martha Vaché
15.....	Rachel Flynn
16.....	David Chamberlain Gabriel Stocker
17.....	Janet McCarty Patricia Manker
18.....	Kayleigh Dirden
21.....	Louise Hayes Ryan Dirden Madelyn McDade
22.....	Karen Dirksmeyer
27.....	Kurt Heller
28.....	John Richardson
29.....	Bob Northrop
30.....	Charlie Rhine Jr Crouse
31.....	Benjamin Pritchett Amy Stidham

March Anniversaries

5.....	Gary and Joyce Ginder
16.....	Marcus and Barbara Ginder

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative worship
schedule for March 2023

Readings & Message are subject to change.

March 5

2nd Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion Sunday
Altar Color - Purple
Sermon Series: The Big Questions
Sermon Title: *Is the Bible Reliable?*
Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:12-24

March 12

3rd Sunday of Lent
Altar Color - Purple
Sermon Series: The Big Questions
Sermon Title: *Why Should I Go To Church?*
Scripture Reading: Psalm 100

March 19

4th Sunday of Lent
Altar Color - Purple
Sermon Series: The Big Questions
Sermon Title: *Why Do Bad Things Happen To
Good People?*
Readings: Psalm 137:1-6 & John 11:23-35

March 26

5th Sunday in Lent
Altar Color - Purple
Sermon Series: The Big Questions
Sermon Title: *How and Why Do I Forgive?*
Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:9-15

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

Missions

Volunteers Needed to Pack Rice Meals

Centenary members of all ages are invited to join members from other local Methodist churches to pack rice meals at Grace UMC on Palm Sunday, April 2, from 3:00 to approximately 5:00 pm. If you can help that day, please sign the volunteer list in the Narthex by March 19. Donations are also needed to pay for the meals which cost \$2 per packet. After the work is finished, everyone is invited to a time of fellowship with pizza.

Each rice meal consists of a vitamin-filled seasoning packet with dried vegetables, rice, and soy. One bag will feed 6 people. The meals will be given to families affected by disasters and others who need food in the United States and around the world. The Midwest Mission Distribution Center will provide the equipment and supplies.

The Holy Spokes Cluster is sponsoring this special Lenten mission outreach. The Cluster consists of all the United Methodist churches in the Jacksonville area. The group traditionally held Sunday evening Lenten services with fellowship before Covid shut everything down. We are happy to once again be able to work and fellowship together.



UMCOR Sunday

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday” will be observed on Sunday, March 19. This special offering enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace.

UMCOR sent money to help with relief after the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Please give generously to the global efforts of our church. Make checks to “Centenary UMC”. Memo: UMCOR.

Centenary’s Lenten Offering

Centenary’s Lenten Offering will be divided two ways. Part will be used to support the Smallwoods who are missionary teachers at Red Bird Christian School in the mountains of Kentucky. Becky is an elementary teacher and Mark is a talented musician who substitutes at the school and drives a school bus. Centenary has supported Mark and Becky for more than thirty years.

The rest of the offering will go to Jacksonville’s “New Directions Warming and Cooling Center”. The center which is located at Grace UMC gives their guests a place to stay for evenings, shower, get food, do laundry, and sleep. It costs about \$220 per day to operate the center so cash donations are appreciated. Families or individuals can stay at the center for up to 60 days while they are working to gain independence.

Donations for the Lenten Offering will be accepted anytime until Easter. Make checks to “Centenary UMC” with Lenten Offering in the memo line.

MMDC Workday

Barb Keehner and Martha Vaché (Pictured below) volunteered at Midwest Mission Distribution Center in January. They spent the day sorting layettes for babies and touring the center. They plan to volunteer again soon. Advance registration is required. Contact Martha Vaché if you are interested in volunteering.



Missions

CWS Responses to Earthquake

In February Centenary celebrated Blanket Sunday. Our gifts received that day will help Church World Service purchase blankets and other needed supplies. CWS works with refugees and is there to help whenever there is a natural disaster.

CWS doesn't currently operate in Turkey or Syria but they are working with the ACT Alliance and other local organizations in the region to provide aid to those affected by the recent disastrous earthquakes.

Learn more about how CWS is helping the survivors of the earthquakes at <https://cwsglobal.org/donate/turkiye-syria-earthquake-2023/>. Donations to help CWS provide aid to those affected by the earthquakes can be made online or given to Centenary with the Memo: "CWS/earthquakes".

Donate Blood

Blood donations are always needed. The donation center has recently been moved back to Jacksonville Memorial Hospital. Blood donations are accepted on the 1st and 2nd Mondays each month (March 6 and 13) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Appointments are required. Contact the Impact Blood Center by calling 800-747-5401 or login to <https://www.bloodcenter.org/>

Tell Pastor What Mission Trip Is Right For You

Pastor Mel will hold an informational meeting to discuss the possibility of a Church Wide Mission Trip. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30 in the Parlor.

The UMVIM, (United Methodists Volunteers in Mission) website is being updated with new and existing mission trips located in Illinois and around the Midwest.

The pastor would like to hear from those who are interested in participating in a mission trip. Trips can be anywhere from a weekend to a week long adventure. Let's get together and share some ideas. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Thank You

Bob and I would like to thank the United Women in Faith for the delicious cookies that Martha Vache and Elaine Gauges delivered to us. We enjoyed the visit also. Now we didn't eat all the cookies because we had a daughter coming to visit and we knew she would enjoy them too.
Bob and Bonnie Minor

Thank You

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and calls recently, when my nephew, Wayne, had his heart attack and I lost my dear friend, Kathy. I also want to thank you for praying for me when I had some medical tests. Everything went well. I am very thankful for my church family.
Karen Decker

Thank You

To all the ladies who participated in making the Love Visits truly lovely. Beautiful cookies and joyous spirits made the home visits a blessing to those who received them.
God Bless
Jarice Crenshaw



It's Time for Doorbell Dinners

Centenary will deliver Doorbell Dinners to persons that are homebound and/or have special dietary needs during the week of March 13-17.

Your help is needed. If you can help drive or deliver the meals, please contact
Pat Baptist or Barbara Wooldridge.



5th Sunday Project Finds Youth Filling Backpacks for Packed Purse Project

On January 29 the Sunday school children and teachers packed nylon backpacks with items for personal hygiene that were donated to the Packed Purse Project.

These are distributed through several counties, including to several agencies in Morgan County.



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.

Did you know that you are welcome to use audio books, if that's an easier way for you to access the books? Bonus Books are credited towards the reading plan as the equivalent of two books.

A 2023 Education for Mission reading program selection is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. This is a novel inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930's. This best-selling historical novel follows the packhorse librarian Cussy Mary Carter and her quest to bring books to Troublesome Creed.

The last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else, Cussy has to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachians and suspicion as deep as the holler to bring the joy of books to the hill folks.

This is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere – even back home. This book is available at the Jacksonville Public Library and in our Centenary library.

Under the category of Nurturing for Community is a book written by Ashley Boggan Dreff,, entitled *Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights*. It is available in Centenary's library.

This book tells the story of American Methodist women's efforts to fight for women's rights, beginning with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and ending with the #MeToo movement.

Each chapter documents particular Methodist women and provides the reader with a basic historic context of the time or situation as it shows how Methodist women engaged and fought for women's equality and women's rights in American society and American Methodism. These Methodist women addressed the causes of oppression, and by stepping out of "their place", they made a place for others.

UWF Love Visits

Eleven members of Centenary United Women in Faith took plates of cookies and fruit and Valentine cards to members of our Centenary family on February 8. These visits were enjoyed by all. The Valentine cards were handmade by our Sunday School children. Valentine cards were also mailed to those that we were unable to visit.



Pictured above are the ladies who delivered cookies and visited members and friends of Centenary who have difficulty getting out. They would like to thank all those who helped bake cookies or took time to deliver, it truly is a team effort.

Donations for Cunningham and LBDNH Listed

The LaMoine River District UWF Spring Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 15 at Rushville UMC. We collect the following donations in the Narthex. (Give gift cards to Rusti Cummings, Diana Phillips, or Martha Vache or leave them in the UMW mailbox in the church office.)

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 and Wal-Mart gift cards.
Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House: 24-count crayons and adult diapers.

United Women of Faith

Personal Growth Retreat

The LaMoine District UMW's 2023 Personal Growth Retreat will be held at Griggsville UMC on Tuesday, March 21 beginning at 9:00 am. The members of the Griggsville UMC will serve light breakfast treats before the meeting and provide beverages for lunch. Bring finger foods to share for lunch. No reservations are needed.

Our speaker will be Alan Bradish, Chaplain with the Jacksonville Police Department. He will share information about the needs of individuals in the community including those who are homeless. Contact Rusti Cummings or Martha Vaché about carpooling.

UWF Garage Sale

UWF members are planning to have a garage sale in the pavilion the last weekend of April on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Please save your "treasures" for us. Since spring salad luncheon was canceled, UWF members who are able to do so are encouraged to make a pledge to Centenary UWF to help make up the shortfall in our treasury.

Tidbits from Terri Benz

UWF E & I Coordinator

Information about United Women in Faith as well as an excerpt from AARP's 60 Ways to Live Longer, Stronger and Better. The hope is that the healthier we are the better we will be able to serve others.

UWF – Bold action, like faith, takes courage. United Women in Faith works for justice through compassionate serve and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems that harm women, children and youth – from racial and gender injustice to economic inequality, climate issues and more.

60 Ways to Live Longer, Stronger and Better – Once a week, try something new. Listen to new music, learn some words in another language or sign up for a lecture. Lifelong learning is associated with brain health and delaying any onset of cognitive decline.

UWF Mission Woman of the Year

Linda Tribble was recognized as Centenary's Mission Woman of the Year by Rusti Cummings, UWF Co-President, on UWF Sunday. She was given a UWF pin and certificate. In addition, a donation was given to UWF in her honor.

Linda has been an active member of For Heaven's Sake Circle and United Methodist Women. She helps with VBS and Sunday School and is on the hospitality team. She has quietly worked behind scenes to help clean the church, provide nursery coverage, and provide meals. In the past she chaperoned on mission trips to Red Bird Mission.

Linda is kind, thoughtful, caring, and considerate, especially of the elderly experiencing health issues. She visits people in hard times, makes phone calls, sends cards, and delivers surprises of sweet treats. She is an amazing Christian role model to not only her family but to others with her loving support and actions.

Future UWF Dates

UWF Business Meeting:

Wed. Mar. 1, 1:00 pm, parlor

LaMoine District UWF Personal Growth Retreat:

Tuesday, March 21, Griggsville UMC, 9:30 am

LaMoine District UWF Spring Meeting:

Sat. Apr. 15, Rushville UMC, 9:30 am

Centenary UWF Garage Sale in the Pavilion:

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

Sat. April 29 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm



*New members
always welcome!*

March Circle Meetings

For Heaven Sake Circle:

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 pm,
Hostess: Diana Phillips Location: TBA

Hope Circle:

Thursday, March 9, 11:45 pm
Location: Lunch at Kim's Place Café
followed by visits to Centenary friends

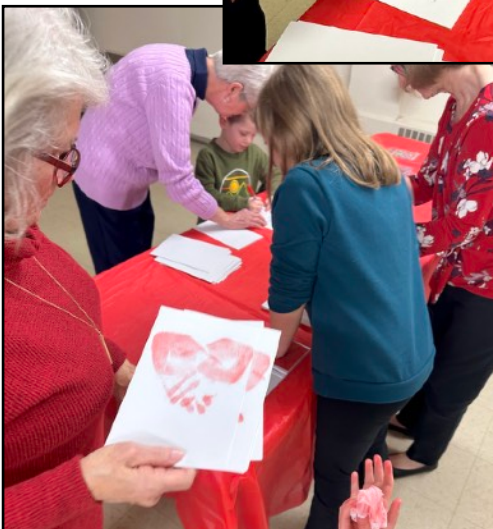
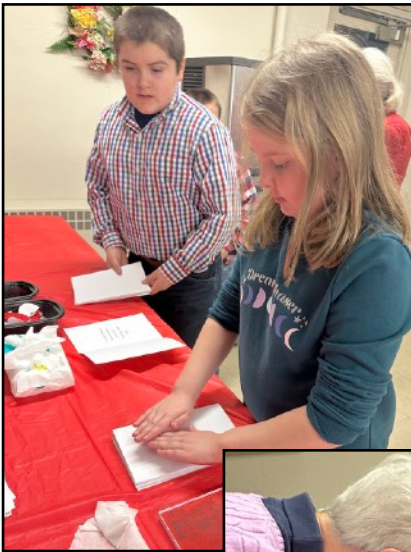
Spirit Circle:

Wed. Mar. 8 at 6:00 pm, at Mulligan's

Valentine Cards Created with Love to Share Love

On Sunday, January 29, students, teachers and volunteers combined their efforts to create beautiful and heartfelt Valentines that were either delivered by UWF ladies on their Love Visits or mailed.

The students used stamps pads to color their hands red, then stamped the cover of each Valentine Card. Stickers and other decorations were also used. Each card was signed by a Sunday school child.



United Women of Faith

UWF Sunday

Centenary United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) celebrated UWF Sunday on January 29th. Brooke Watson from Cunningham gave a very inspirational message and shared information about the youth that Cunningham serves.

Pat Pennell, LaMoine District UWF Spiritual Growth Coordinator, installed our new officers. UWF members helped with various parts of the service that day. (see additional photo on front page.)




Pictured above are Brooke Watson (L) and Pat Pennell (R). Brooke, from Cunningham Children's Home, was the special guest speaker for UWF Sunday and Pat Pennell is the LaMoine District UWF Spiritual Growth Coordinator. They are holding a sample of a quilt that each child who comes to Cunningham receives.

UWF Business Meeting

The next UWF business meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 1:00 pm in the afternoon in the parlor. We will finalize plans for our garage sale and Mother's Day Banquet. All women are invited. If you are interested in participating via Zoom, contact Martha Vaché.

Centenary acknowledges Super Bowl Sunday with Some Dress Up Fun

On Sunday, February 12, Centenary members and friends were encouraged to dress in the apparel of their favorite football team in acknowledgment of the Super Bowl. Below are some of these who got in on the fun.



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.

Quote of the Month
"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us"
– Augustine

Centenary welcomes Troop 103



Scouting Sunday

Recognized at Centenary

On Sunday, February 12, Centenary welcomed Troop 103 to be part of the morning's worship. The scouts presented the U.S. Flag and the Christian Flag at the beginning of the service, then lead the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Troop 103 Scoutmaster, Nate Hoyle, gave a short presentation on what the scouts have been up to and what is coming up.

Pastor Mel addressed the changes in how Troop 103 is chartered. Centenary is no longer the charter for the troop, instead the two parties have signed an affiliation agreement. This local change is due in large part to the new agreement passed down from the governing bodies of both institutions.

Centenary is glad to continue the Centenary/Troop 103 86 year relationship.



Troop 103 Food Drive

Scout Troop 103 will be conducting a food drive during the last couple of weeks in March. The donated non-perishable food will be given to the Jacksonville Area Community Food Center. Please bring your donations to the church.

PASTOR

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the very worst thing about relationships . . . vulnerability. Babies might take most of our freedom in time and energy, but they still don't command it verbally.

A grown up Jesus does make commands. In exchange for an eternity of freedom, we seemingly need to surrender in this world and give ourselves up for the cause of Christ. I think that is how a child views it this way, because they cannot view a relationship the way adults do.

Good for them. Adults take far too many agendas into their relationships and too often expect more out of a relationship than they are willing to pour in themselves. Before a child's heart is broken due to the darkness of this world, they are far more willing to share love and give of themselves.

That is at the heart of Jesus' relationship with us. Far more willing to give to us than we are willing to give in return. Maybe that is at the core of why we seem to celebrate one holiday more than another. What is ironic is that on Christmas we receive a savior and on Easter a savior receives us.

For many people, receiving is difficult. I can't tell you how many good Christian people I have ministered too who were in need, yet refused to accept when help is offered.

I believe the grown up savior gives the same love as the baby, yet we know the love we receive on Easter is not deserved because it comes with great sacrifice; but isn't it also true that an infant grants love freely?

Maybe it is that word right there that is the difference – sacrifice. Christmas does not require us to come to terms with a heavy word like sacrifice, Lent and Easter do. Easter asks us to stop being in love with an infant and instead asks us to come to terms with loving a grown up savior.

We need to come to a place where we find a way to accept all that God has done through Jesus from the foot washing to the betrayal to the cross and finally to the empty tomb. Lent and Easter can be like a roller coaster ride, but it is a ride we must be willing to take.

Easter Blessings
Pastor Mel

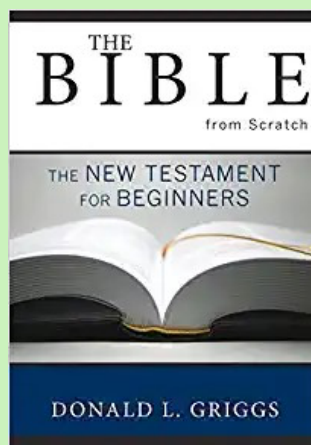
Bibles Around the World

Let's do it again! Some years ago, Centenary delivered hundreds of pounds of Holy Bibles and other Christian materials to Love Packages in Butler, IL to be sent, via semi-trailers and ships, to countries across the globe.

Bibles, Christian books, devotionals, reference materials, children's books, Sunday School materials are all accepted. Beginning immediately, we will collect all of the above in a large box in the narthex to be later taken to Butler for distribution.

This is our opportunity to make bibles available to those who have such a great desire for them. As we find inspiration for ourselves this Lenten Season, let's consider this a privilege to join in this great mission.

The Bible From Scratch



New Testament Bible Study for Beginners

Tuesday Nights at 6 p.m. beginning Tuesday, April 11 through Tues., May 30
This course will cover the basics of the New Testament to give you a broader view and prepare you for other more advanced Bible Studies.

This course is intended for Beginners

Led by Pastor Mel Location: Parlor

Books are free
Please sign up with the Pastor or church office before Mon., March 20

