

The Messenger

Lifting Up Jesus In The Heart Of Jacksonville



Sunday School collects supplies for the Crisis Center

The Sunday School spent their 5th Sunday delivering supplies to the Crisis Center. The 5th Sunday is a special Sunday for the youth as they participate in a mission project. When you see them, please let our school age members know that you appreciate their efforts. Additional photo on page 3. Note from Sunday School Teachers - Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Crisis Center. The Crisis Center was grateful for the items and we are grateful for the opportunity for our Centenary Kids to be part of a mission/service project.



18 For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. **19** For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? **20** Indeed, you are our glory and joy. —1Thessalonians 2:18-20

The Apostle Paul is writing to the church in Thesolanika, and he uses some language that may seem odd. The apostle refers to these Greeks as his hope. How do we interpret his words? One way is to assume his hope has switched from Jesus to these new converts. Not very likely. The second might be that he has found his way into Heaven, by converting these folks, he now has hope of Heaven. Again, not the right interpretation, although I will get to more of this in a bit. That leaves us with the obvious, they are Paul's joy for the present and future.

Not only these Thessalonians, but also the Philippians (4:1). Paul has hope and joy of seeing his new brothers and sisters in Heaven someday. They will all stand before Jesus and rejoice, and in this Paul finds joy. Can we imagine the Apostle writing a letter to the members of Centenary with the same words, "Is it not you?" What a beautiful image to have; that we are the hope and joy of Paul. We have put in the work, we have obeyed the Word of Jesus, we have been attentive to our brothers and sisters in need, we have loved our neighbors as ourselves and we have remained in love with God? Is it not you?

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS

Holy CommunionSunday, June 4
Pennies For HungerSunday, June 25

COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Messenger DeadlineWed., June 21, 9 am

BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Morning
Bible Study.....June 6 & 20 9:30 am
In the Parlor

FAMILY EVENTS

Family/Movie Game NightSat., June 3, 6 pm

CHURCH MEETINGS

MissionsWed., June 21, 3:30 pm

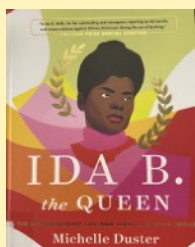
SMALL GROUPS

AlAnon MeetingWednesdays, 7:30 pm
Prayer GatheringWednesdays, 10:00 am
Ladies Book Club.....Wed., June 20, 6:00 pm

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Cunningham Quilt ShowFri, June 2, 9-5;
Sat., June 3, 9-2

Ladies Book Club



The next Ladies Book Club will meet on Tuesday, June 20, 6:00 pm in the Narthex.

The featured book will be “*Ida B. The Queen*” by Michelle Duster

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

P.O. Box 124

Jacksonville, IL 62651

Phone 217-245-8417

Email: office@jaxcentenary.org

Website: www.jaxcentenary.org

Centenary’s Missionaries

Mark and Rebecca Smallwood

Teachers at Redbird Mission

in Kentucky

Children's Ministry News



Pictured above are Centenary's Sunday youth with the donated supplies to the Crisis Center; which they helped pack and carry themselves. Good job kids!

Sunday School to study “Words of Life”

We had so many positive responses to our study on Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton that we had during Lent, that we have decided to do another Adam Hamilton study this summer. The Study is entitled

“Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten commandments Today”. We are excited to bring all of the different Sunday School classes together for this 10 week study, which will begin on July 2 and run through September 10.

Not only is the study well written and appropriate for children, but it helps enormously for our Sunday School program as we have teachers and their families taking vacations during the summer months.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of two volunteers in the Sunday school. The early elementary class is in need of a volunteer assistant on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The PreK/K class needs an assistant. Please contact Diana Phillips if interested or if you have any questions.

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. Assistants are always needed.

JUNE ACOLYTES

6/4 Jack and Noah Borgman
6/11 Matthew and Mason Hinkle
6/18 Jayden and Blake Batty
6/25 Otto and Clyde Zang

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

June Lessons

June 4 - Jonah Disobeys God

June 11 – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Stand Up for God

June 18 – Daniel Keeps Praying to God

June 25 – Esther's Courage Saves God's People
Memory Verse - I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." Hebrews 13:5

Upcoming Events

VBS – June 12-15

5th Sunday Project on July 30 TBD

June Birthdays

1	.....Dina McBride
2	.....Gary Butler Minson Jennings
4	.....Cole Harper
6	.....Phyllis Allen
7	.....Alyssa Clayton
9	.....Kathy Atchison
11	.....Annabelle Hardy
12	.....Johanna Betters Jared Cook
13	.....Kevin Hinkle Ryatt Mobus
14	.....Steve McCarty
15	.....Kelly Latham
18	.....Zachary Chamberlain
19	.....John Love
20	.....Karin Chumley Amanda Stelling
22	.....Abbie Spangenberg Mason Hinkle
23	.....Everett O'Neal Leland McAllister
25	.....Gary Ginder
26	.....Jess Spradlin
27	.....Jerry Murphy
28	.....Debbie Nielsen
29	.....Kaleb Birdsell

June Anniversaries

14	.....Todd and Kim Spangenberg
15	.....Brian and Debbie Pond
17	.....Barney and Sally Stock Tom and Diana Phillips
20	.....Robert and Bonnie Minor
21	.....Pastor Mel & Debbie Nielsen
28	.....Joseph and Alison Prosser

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative worship
schedule for June 2023

Readings & Message are subject to change.

June 4

Trinity Sunday

Altar Color - Red

Sermon Series: Our Summer
in the Old Testament

Sermon Title: In The Beginning

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

June 11

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Altar Color - Green

Sermon Series: Our Summer
in the Old Testament

Sermon Title: Abram

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:1-9

June 18

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day

Altar Color - Green

Sermon Series: Our Summer
in the Old Testament

Sermon Title: Don't Laugh at God pt. 1

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:1-15

June 25

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Altar Color - Green

Sermon Series: Our Summer
in the Old Testament

Sermon Title: Godly Gifts

Scripture Reading: Genesis 21:8-21

Missions

Donate Blood

Blood donations are accepted on the 1st and 2nd Mondays each month (June 5 & 12) 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/>

Wieck to be Supported through Centenary's Mission giving



Centenary's Missions Committee has decided to sign a Covenant Agreement to support Connie Wieck, a UM missionary, in addition to continuing to support the Smallwoods at Redbird. Connie has been a missionary

teacher in China for over 15 years.

Those who were at worship on May 21 had a chance to meet Connie and learn a little Chinese. She will not be going back to the university that she taught at in China and is waiting for a new placement from the Board of Global Ministries. Donations to help support Connie's mission work are welcome. Just make check to Centenary with "Connie" in the memo.

Members Move to Cedarhurst

May has been a busy time for moving as three Centenary members have moved to Cedarhurst. Jane Masters new address is #41 and Bob and Bonnie Minor now reside at #10. The address for both is 2225 W Morton Ave, Jacksonville, IL 62650. Please send them a card or stop in for a visit.

Midwest Mission Volunteers

Volunteers are always welcome at Midwest Mission. If you would like to volunteer contact Martha Vaché or the church office. Advance registration is required.

Lenten Offering Total

The \$750 received for the Lenten Offering will be divided between New Directions and Mark and Becky Smallwood at Redbird. Thanks for your support.

Church-wide Mission Trip to Little Grassy Camp Being Planned

Are you up for a Mission Trip to share in Service, Fellowship, and a good time?

We are considering a Church Wide Mission Trip to Little Grassy Camp and Retreat Center about 3 ½ hours south of Jacksonville.

We anticipate this will be a short trip – either three or four days in late August, early September or October. This trip will allow us to tailor our activities, schedule, and duration depending upon the number of participants and their availability, skills, and interests.

We can spend all our time at the camp or split our time between the camp and various local organizations such as soup kitchens, animal shelters, homeless, etc.

The camp provides a couple lodging options and lunch at a minimal cost. We have an option to buy breakfast and dinner or we can prepare our own. A microwave, refrigerator, and coffee pot can be available.

Let's get together and share some ideas on Wednesday, June 7, 6:00 p.m. to finalize the mission plans. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.



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.

Waltrip Goes On Honor Flight



Pictured above, top photo, is Gale Waltrip with his daughter, Susan, who accompanied dad on the Honor Flight. Bottom photo is wife Bonnie, with daughter, Jeannie who waited patiently for Gale to return from the Honor Flight on Tuesday, May 16.



Hidden 'treasures' unearthed

Pictured at left is Lance Eldred, a friend of Barb Keehner, who has been searching for lost treasures around the parsonage yard. Lance is a retired U.S. Army Colonel with 33 years of service. He finds his hobby of metal detecting very therapeutic. He thanks the church for allowing him to wander the property. He did not ask to keep any of the items he finds, but instead, returns them to the church. Left, bottom picture shows a metal coin purse that Eldred found on his most recent 'hunt.'



Pictured above, from top left; brass door plate, metal coin purse, brass keg tapper, two soda pop bottle tops, parts from an accordion, metal ring from a horse bridle, and a 1965 souvenir Lincoln/Indian Head penny.

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.

Another way to receive book credit is by watching movies of Reading Program books. Three of those available are Hidden Figures, Pushout, and The Hate U Give. In determining the category for credit, identify the category of the original book and apply credit for the film to the same category. This is also a good possibility for a circle program.

Until Unity, by Rev. Francis Chan is an offering in the category of Spiritual Growth.

If unity is so important to the heart of God, why is the church one of the most divided groups on earth? New York Times bestselling author Francis Chan calls for believers and churches everywhere to align hearts with God and start taking seriously God's numerous commands to unify. While many believe doctrine is at the root of the problem, Chan argues that the real problem is the shallowness in our understanding of the gospel. This is what desperately needs to change.

UWF Garage/Pavilion Sale

Centenary's United Women in Faith's garage sale in the pavilion was a huge success. We made a profit of nearly \$1,400. Thanks to everyone who donated items or helped with the sale. It was not only a great way to add to the UWFaith treasury, but also a time of wonderful fellowship. Remember to save your items for next year's sale.

(This book is available with the UWF books in Centenary's parlor.)

Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World by Vivek Murthy is a book in the category of Nurturing for Community and is available through the Jacksonville Public Library.

In this groundbreaking book, the 19th surgeon general of the United States Dr. Vivek Murthy makes a case for loneliness as a public health concern: a root cause and contributor to many of the epidemics sweeping the world today – from alcohol and drug addiction to violence to depression and anxiety.

Loneliness, he argues, is affecting not only our health, but also how our children experience school, how we perform in the work place, and the sense of division and polarization in our society. His message underscores the importance of human connection, the hidden impact of loneliness on our health, and the social power of community.

Hope Circle Garden Sale

Everyone who enjoys flowers and nature is invited to Hope Circle's semi-annual Garden Walk on Sunday afternoon, June 11 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Six beautiful and unique gardens will be on the walk. Tickets will be available at any of these Jacksonville gardens for a \$10 donation. Profits will be used for missions.

Filio – Woods Family's Garden,
1106 W. Lafayette Avenue

Ken and Rebecca Johnson's Garden,
1127 W. Lafayette Avenue

Linda Tucker's Garden,
403 E. Superior Avenue

Louis and Martha Vaché's Garden,
2562 Loami Road

Lawrence and Elizabeth Zettler's Garden,
1609 Mound Avenue

Ken and Karen Zumbahlen's Garden,
1203 W. State Street

United Women of Faith

Mother's Day Banquet held Monday, May 15

The United Women in Faith's Mother's Day Banquet was held on Monday, May 15. The tables were beautifully decorated in pastel colors and Hamilton's Catering provided a delicious fried chicken meal. After the meal, Diane Dietz and Terri Benz shared their musical talents. Debbie Nielsen provided the devotion.

Thanks to everyone who helped make it a special evening especially Pastor Mel and Phil Benz.



United Women of Faith

Cunningham's Festival of Quilts

The public is invited to Cunningham Children's Home's Festival of Quilts. It will be held virtually and in person on Friday, June 2 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday, June 3 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. in Urbana. Details are available at <https://www.cunninghamhome.org/>

Centenary Graduates

Congratulations to our 2023 graduates! May God bless you as you begin a new adventure!

Jesse Claussen graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing from Illinois State University. She is currently applying for jobs, and you can catch her serving ice cream at Charlie's in the meantime.

Andrew Wilbur-Dean Cooley graduated from Jacksonville High School. He will be attending Lincoln Land Community College studying diesel engine repair.

Maza Eilers graduated from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL with a double major in Biology and Animal Studies. She has future plans to teach and obtain her Master's Degree.

Lauren Stidham graduated in December from Belmont University with a double major in Business Systems & Analytics and Economics and a minor in Design Communications. She is employed by HCA Healthcare in Nashville, TN.

It will soon be time for Doorbell Dinners

Centenary will deliver Doorbell Dinners to persons who are homebound and/or have special dietary needs during the week of June 19-23. Your help is needed. If you can help drive or deliver the meals, please call Pat Baptist or Barbara Wooldridge.

Thoughts for the Month

All creation is God's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Protecting God's creation and those who are disproportionately affected by global climate change is more than our belief; it is one of our core principles.

60 Ways to Live Longer, Stronger and Better – Establish no-phone zones. Start with no phones at dinner and in the bedroom. Frequent mobile phone use has been connected to depressive symptoms and sleep problems.

– Terri Benz



Families are invited to watch Frozen in the Church Sanctuary on the BIG SCREEN

June 3 at 6 P.M.



During Intermission there will be family games, dance party, popcorn and drinks available in the Church Lobby!

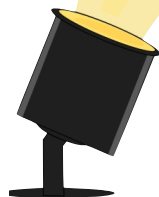
Adults!

Look for the **SPECIAL Basket** to be raffled away that night. It is filled with **Movie Themed Gifts!**

Kids!

Look for the **SPECIAL interactive activity** following intermission! You will get a chance to 'poke fun' at **Pastor Mel**

IT'S ALL FREE EVERYONE IS INVITED!
Kids! - Bring A blanket and a pillow
Every child must be accompanied by an adult



2023 VBS Announcement



Who's ready to roll into Food Truck Party VBS with me?

Our time will involve great music, fun games, adventurous bible stories and so much more! While at Food Truck Party, we will learn about how God provides, how we can turn to God for all we need, and how we can join God in providing for others! We will learn it through the words of a special mealtime prayer and by learning about some great stories from the Bible. DJ Cupcake will make special appearances to help us learn about our stories and daily specials. Let's all join in as we learn the daily specials which sounds like a prayer we say at mealtime...

God is great!

God is good!

Let us thank God for our food!

By God's hands, we all are fed!

Give us Lord, our daily bread!

Please join us and invite a friend on Monday, June 12th – Friday, June 16th from 9:00 – 11:45 for 2023 Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School! Ages 2 years – 5th grade are invited to register as our participating “Chefs” and those older are invited to join us as “Sous-Chefs”!

Call the office to register your Chefs and contact Rachael Borgman to volunteer as a “Sous-Chef”.

PASTOR

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

I prayed you answer, ‘yes’ to that question. Yes, it is me! This is not a prideful or boastful response, it is simply acknowledging the receiving of a blessed blessing. Now, we have a choice to make, we can either wait until the restoration of the Messianic kingdom, or we can accept that blessing and live like a blessed person right now.

You are not only Paul’s hope and joy, you are God’s hope and joy. On those days when we are mired in our sin, we are God’s hope and on those mountaintop days when the ministries of Jesus are flowing freely from us, we are God’s joy.

Paul tells us in Romans 8 that nothing can separate us from God’s love, nothing. Is it not you? I say, yes it is. Now, for that little bit later part. Yes, I am aware of the five crowns which are to be given to saints for faithful service, but nothing in all of Paul’s letters convinces me to believe he has immersed himself in the ministry of Jesus for a crown.

I can say the same for Billy Graham who pointed the way to Jesus for thousands of people. I can also say the same for Pastor Dick Piscatelli, who pointed it out for me. Pastor Dick was not concerned about a crown, but he was concerned for me. He wanted to share the crown with me as part of his hope and joy moment.

Paul’s heart of stone has been softened by the undying love and grace he received, which he fully knows he did not earn. His joy is in the resurrection. His and yours. Is it not you? Paul may have already been given the “Crown of Rejoicing,” but he gladly shares it with us. This who have heard the word of God through him and surrendered to the cross of life.

Paul will rejoice and share that crown with every disciple who comes before Jesus and together say, I offered you to another. I offered your body as the source of life to someone who was spiritually starving. Is it not you?

Like Paul, our hope and joy is being in Heaven, and seeing all those people who benefitted from our sharing. Crowns are great, but Heaven is the first reward and the crown is secondary. Go forth now and believe It Is You!

Blessings
Pastor Mel

Love Packages Delivered

Kevin Hinkle and Phil Benz delivered the Love Packages that were collected at Centenary recently. Thank you to all who donated items. Pictured below, top, are the donations from Centenary. Bottom pictures show all the materials donated in this area and now waits to be shipped to destinations overseas. Thank you to all who donated.



JUNE 2023

	THUR., JUNE 1	FRI., JUNE 2	SAT., JUNE 3
MEETING LOCATION KEY S - Sunday school room N - Narthex F - Fellowship Hall P - Parlor O - Pavilion C - Chapel X - Online		Cunningham Quilt Show	6 pm - Movie/Game Night Cunningham Quilt Show
SUN., JUNE 4	THUR., JUNE 8	FRI., JUNE 9	SAT., JUNE 10
9am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 Sunday school Holy Communion FHS Breakfast Peace w/Justice Sunday			
SUN., JUNE 11	WED., JUNE 7	THUR., JUNE 15	SAT., JUNE 17
9am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 Sunday school Hope Circle Garden Walk	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 6 pm - Mission Trip Planning (P) 7:30 pm - AIAnon (N)	1:30 pm - Hope Circle	
SUN., JUNE 18	WED., JUNE 14	THUR., JUNE 22	SAT., JUNE 24
9am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 Sunday school Father's Day	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 4 pm - JACC 7:30 pm - AIAnon (N)	VBS 9 - 11:45 am	VBS 9 - 11:45 am
SUN., JUNE 25	WED., JUNE 21	THUR., JUNE 29	FRI., JUNE 30
9am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 Sunday school Pennies For Hunger	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 3:30 pm - Missions (P) 7:30 - AIAnon (N)	VBS 9 - 11:45 am	Doorbell Dinners
	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	DOORBELL DINNERS	DOORBELL DINNERS
	TUES., JUNE 28	THUR., JUNE 29	FRI., JUNE 30
	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 7:30 pm - AIAnon (N)	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 7:30 pm - AIAnon (N)	
	DOORBELL DINNERS	DOORBELL DINNERS	DOORBELL DINNERS
	TUES., JUNE 27	TUES., JUNE 27	TUES., JUNE 27
	8:30 am - Clergy Breakfast	8:30 am - Clergy Breakfast	
	DOORBELL DINNERS	DOORBELL DINNERS	DOORBELL DINNERS
	MON., JUNE 26	MON., JUNE 19	MON., JUNE 12
	6:30 pm - Fox Trust (N)	VBS 9 - 11:45 am	VBS 9 - 11:45 am
	DOORBELL DINNERS	DOORBELL DINNERS	DOORBELL DINNERS
	MON., JUNE 26	TUES., JUNE 20	TUES., JUNE 13
	6:30 pm - Fox Trust (N)	9:30 am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study (F) 10 am - Clergy Covenant (N) 6 pm - Ladies Book Club (N)	9:30 am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study (F) 10 am - Clergy Covenant (N)