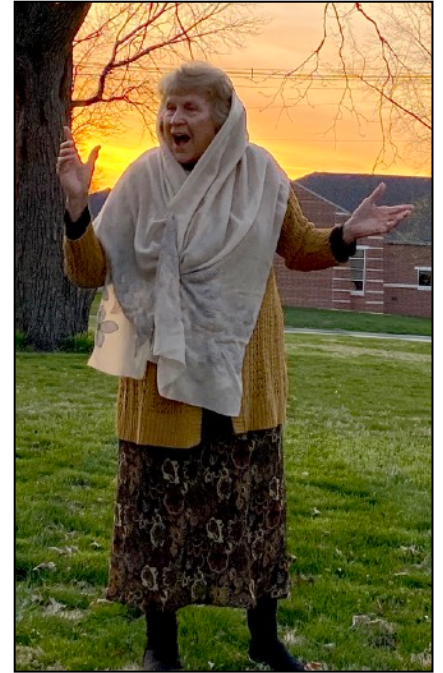


# The Messenger

Lifting Up Jesus In The Heart Of Jacksonville



A Beautiful Sunrise was matched by a beautiful message by guest speaker, Mary Magdalene, (Barbara Wooldridge) at Centenary's Easter Sunrise Service. A dozen people came out early to watch the sunrise in the east and hear an excited Mary tell us of the risen Jesus.



See more Holy Week and Easter photos inside this issue!



Another Easter has come and gone, but the Risen Savior is forever. To review, we got off to an unfortunate start to Lent, with the canceling of the Ash Wednesday Service at Cedarhurst. We got back on track with the Big Questions Sermon Series on each Sunday in Lent. Palm Sunday saw 60+ people fill 1,800 rice bags at Grace UMC and Centenary featured a Christian Seder Meal for Maundy Thursday.

Easter Eggs were 'hunted' by the kids on March 26. On Good Friday 80 or so people gathered at Central Christian for a community Good Friday Service. A Sunrise service was held on the parsonage lawn early Easter morning and finally a beautifully decorated sanctuary welcomed family and friends at the 9 a.m. service Easter morning at Centenary. It was a busy but a blessed time. There are pictures of most of these activities inside this issue. It can be fun to look back at recent memories and share fun times, but we need to move away from the tomb and venture forth back into a world that is not very receptive to Christian ideals.

Instead of leaving Easter 'behind' why not take it with us. After all, the Easter season continues until Pentecost, (and beyond) where the church began, so let's go right on making the church the same priority those first disciples did. Working with the poor, healing, advocating for the betterment of human condition became their main focus in building the church. The church was Jesus in action.

The new life we receive on Easter is supposed to be a changed life from inward focus to outward focus. Where do you see areas that we can be more outwardly focused?

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

**IN MEMORY**

John Gotschall .....Tuesday, April 4

**WEEKLY WORSHIP**

Weekly Worship Service .....9 am  
Sunday School for all ages.....10:15 am  
Fellowship Hour.....Before and after Service

**SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS**

Holy Communion.....Sunday, May 7  
Pennies For Hunger.....Sunday, May 28

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Messenger Deadline .....Wed., May 24, 9 am

**BIBLE STUDIES**

Tuesday Morning  
Bible Study.....May 9 & 23 9:30 am  
*In the Parlor*  
Beginner’s Bible Study..... Tuesdays, 6 pm

**CHURCH MEETINGS**

Outreach Team .....Mon., May 1, 6 pm  
Visitation Team .....Mon., May 8, 1 pm  
JACC .....Wed., May 10, 4 pm  
Ad Council .....Wed., May 24, 6:15 pm

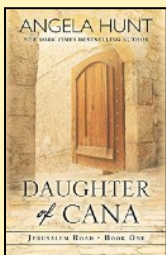
**SMALL GROUPS**

AlAnon Meeting .....Wednesdays, 7:30 pm  
Chancel Choir practice.....Mondays, 7 pm  
Prayer Gathering .....Wednesdays, 10:00 am  
Ladies Book Club.....Wed., May 24, 6:00 pm

**UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH**

UWF Business Meeting.....Wed., May 3, 1 pm

***Ladies Book Club***



The next Ladies Book Club will meet on Wednesday, May 24, 6:00 pm in the Narthex.

The featured book will be “*Daughter of Cana*” by Angela Hunt

**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



### MAY ACOLYTES

- 5/7 - Otto and Clyde Zang
- 5/14 - Aspen Hayes and Max Hrynewych
- 5/21 - Molly and Delaney Ruyle
- 5/28 - Avery and Hudson Woodrum

### 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

### ***Thank You***

Many thanks to Martha Vaché for offering good advice at the Rice Packing Day at Grace UMC. We appreciated it.

*Debbie & Kris Earp*

## ***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.

## ***May Lessons***

**May 7th** The Lost Son Returns Home

(Luke 15:11-32)

**May 14th** Jesus Challenges the Pharisees

(Matthew 23:1-12, 23-26)

**May 21st** Jesus Challenges the Pharisees

(Matthew 22:34-40; 23:1-12, 23-26)

**May 28th** Jesus Talks With a Rich Man

(Matthew 19:16-30)

**Memory Verse** - "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'" (John 14:6)

## ***Thanks for Donations***

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.

## ***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***

VBS – June 12-16, 9-11:45 am

## May Birthdays

- 2.....Matthew Prosser
- 4.....Bonnie Waltrip
- 6.....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
- 22.....Joseph Cummings
- 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

### ***Thank You***

Jerry and I would like to thank our Centenary family for prayers & concerns on our behalf during this most recent Covid diagnosis.  
We also send appreciation for the cards and prayers for Jerry's Brother's passing.  
In Christian Love  
*Jerry & Rhoda Walker*

### ***Thank You***

We really appreciated all the women and men who helped with John Gotschall's funeral dinner April 13th.  
Thanks for all the wonderful salads and desserts as well as all the good help preparing, serving and cleaning up.  
The family really appreciated it and so did we.  
- *Debbie and Pat*

## ***Upcoming Worship Schedule***

The following is a tentative worship schedule for May 2023

**Readings & Message are subject to change.**

### **May 7**

5th Sunday of Easter  
Holy Communion Sunday  
Altar Color - White  
Sermon Series: A New Church  
Sermon Title: Stephen's Plea  
Scripture Reading: Acts 7:55-60

### **May 14**

6th Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day  
Altar Color - White  
Sermon Series: A New Church  
Sermon Title: *Paul's Plea*  
Scripture Reading: Acts 17:22-31

### **May 21**

7th Sunday of Easter  
Altar Color - White  
Sermon Series: A New Church  
Sermon Title: *A Plea from Jesus Through Prayer*  
Readings: John 17:1-11

### **May 28**

Pentecost  
Altar Color - Red  
Sermon Series: A New Church  
Sermon Title: *Church for the Common Good*  
Readings: 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

### **June 4**

Trinity Sunday  
Altar Color - White  
Sermon Series: Our Summer in the Hebrew Bible  
Sermon Title: *In The Beginning*  
Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

## Missions

### *Donate Blood*



Blood donations are accepted on the 1st and 2nd Mondays each month (May 1 & 8) 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/>

### *Flea-Esta Dates Announced*

The Salvation Army Auxiliary's annual Flea-Esta Sale will be held on Friday, May 26 from 8 am to 4 pm and Saturday, May 27 from 8 am to noon in the 4-H Building at the Morgan County Fair Grounds. The auxiliary uses the proceeds of this annual sale to support projects of the Jacksonville Salvation Army. Volunteer helpers are welcome.

Donations for this giant "garage" sale can be delivered to the 4-H Building starting on May 22. Donations of used but still useful furniture and other items are wanted. (No clothing, shoes, or electronics.) This would be a great place to take any items that are left over from our pavilion sale.

## United Women of Faith

### *UWF Beliefs*

UWF – We support the Deaconess/Home Missioner program, an order in the UMC for laity who feel a lifetime call to vocations and ministries of love, justice, and service.

### *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.

### *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.



Pictured above, L-R, are: Rusti Cummings, Martha Vaché and Barb Keehner who volunteered at Midwest Mission recently.

### *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](http://www.jaxcentenary.org). The completed form is due back to the church office by June 1.

### *Golden Cross Offering*

The annual Golden Cross Offering will be received on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14. Golden Cross is a collection of older adult, pastoral care, and children and family ministries within our Illinois Great Rivers Conference.



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.

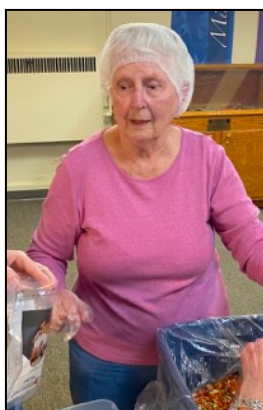
## Missions

### *Holy Spokes Cluster Group fills 1,800 Rice Bags on Palm Sunday*

Sixty-eight volunteers from the 11 United Methodist Churches in the Holy Spokes Cluster packed 1,800 rice meals in less than two hours on Palm Sunday at Grace UMC. Each meal will serve a nutritious meal to 6 people. That means our efforts could feed 10,800 people.

The churches in our cluster donated a total of \$3,899.32 towards the cost of the meals. We will be notified later where the meals will be sent. However, the last time the rice meals were sent to Ukraine.

As you can see from the pictures, it was a wonderful day of service and fellowship. Thanks to everyone who helped.



## 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.

*The For Winds – A Novel*, by Kristin Hannah (Social Action) Bestselling author Kristin Hannah delivers a powerful epic about love, heroism and hope during the Great Depression, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them.

Centered on Elsa Wolcott, married to a Great Plains farmer whose land is ravaged by dust storms and drought, each day has become a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive. Elsa must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west in search of a better life for her family.

The Four Winds is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it – the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and have-nots. (This book is available at the Jacksonville Public Library and several Centenary members have copies.)

*Daughter of Cana (Jerusalem Road, Book 1)*, Angela Hunt, (Spiritual Growth) Thomas and Tasmin, twin siblings hired to oversee a wedding feast in Cana, worry when the host runs out of wine – until a guest tells Tasmin to have the servants fill the pitchers by the gate with water from the cistern.

Reluctantly, she obeys and is amazed when rainwater turns into the finest wine ever tasted in Cana. When Thomas impulsively decides to follow the teacher from Nazareth, he and Tasmin argue.

Tasmin can't accept losing her brother to some magician-prophet.

She decides to follow the Nazarene's group, do whatever she must to mend the fractured relationship with her brother, and bring him home.

(This book is available at the Jacksonville Public library and several Centenary members have copies.)

### *Mother's Day Banquet*

Our United Women in Faith's 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 responsibilities for the banquet have been divided between the circles: FHS Circle: Program; Spirit Circle: Food; Hope Circle: Set-up/Decorations. 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. Men should let Rachael Borgman know they can help.

*Women's*  
**Circles**

*New members  
always welcome!*

**May Circle Meetings**

**For Heaven Sake Circle:**  
Wed. May 10, 6:30 pm  
Hostess: Mary Tomlin

**Hope Circle:**  
Thurs. May 18, 1:30 pm, parlor  
Finalize plans for Garden Walk

**Spirit Circle:**  
Wed. May 10, 6:00 pm, at Los Rancheros

## United Women of Faith

### *LaMoine District Spring Gathering Held April 16*



At the United Women of Faith Spring Meeting at Rushville, Connie Wieck gave a very interesting presentation about her years of teaching in China. She taught us a little Chinese, gave examples of those whose faith had encouraged her, and encouraged us to share our faith. The day closed with a performance of the “Holy Thursday Drama”.

Diana Phillips conducted a Memorial Service for all members who passed away during 2022 including Centenary members: Margaret Little, Donna Tolbert and Jackie Wilham.

Martha Vaché, LRD President, presented 2022 Unit Awards. Centenary UW Faith was honored for achieving Rainbow status based on our giving and was recognized as a “Love” unit for achieving 8 goals.

Debbie Nielsen, Program Resources, gave certificates to those who participated in the UW Faith Reading Program. Centenary members who received certificates for reading several books included Glenda Eldridge, Barb Fernandes, Shelby Pennell, Cheryl Terhark, and Rhoda Walker. Jane Masters, Debbie Nielsen, Diana Phillips, and Martha Vaché were recognized for achieving Level 2 (reading 10 books).



### *Hope Circle Garden Walk*

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. Watch for more details.

### *Future UWF Dates*

**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. June 2 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sat. June 3 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Details at <https://www.cunninghamhome.org/>

### *“Do Not Disturb”*

60 Ways to Live longer, Stronger and Better – Take a daily “do not disturb” break. Whether at your desk, in your kitchen or on a deck outside, close your eyes and do not open them for anyone. Even five minutes will feel wonderful! Submitted by Terri Benz, Coordinator of Education and Interpretation





## *Fun Times at Centenary's Easter Egg Hunt*

More than a dozen children came out to hunt a few hundred Easter Eggs on Sunday, March 26. Thanks to all who donated and filled the eggs.



# 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

The message of the risen Christ did not stay in the upper room or in Jerusalem or even in Israel, it spread through the known world, eventually it spread to Jacksonville, Illinois. Despite this wonderful spreading, some still have not heard.

I would like to hear from you on how you see the dots of ‘outward focus’ and ‘sharing the Gospel’ being better connected right here in Jacksonville. What gifts has God bestowed on Centenary that can be more fully utilized in bringing these dots closer together?

If you have an idea or a vision about this, I invite you to the next Outreach Team meeting on Monday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m. or you can come see me anytime. The Mission of God, “Miss Dei” was to bring the entire creation into righteousness through Jesus so we may all be saved.

God does the righteous making and the saving, we are the modern day disciples who are challenged to make outreach and evangelism a priority in their lives, the same as those early church-building disciples.

There are times that we may feel all hope is lost, but don’t forget the Easter message that tells us we have already won. So, I encourage you to carry the message of the empty tomb with you wherever you go. Can any of us leave the empty without being changed at least a little bit? I don’t think so.

The season of Lent reminded us to carry our crosses, and we will until our new life in Heaven. Even more, we need to carry the message of Godly Hope that we discovered at the empty tomb. Trust in the ‘church -building’ power of the Holy Spirit to build in us a message of encouragement for those people God puts in our path.

Don’t forget the new prayer gathering is underway on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. During this gathering we will be praying for the future of Centenary; we will also be praying that God allows us to see at least a part of the unseen plans The Lord has for us.

Blessings and Peace  
Pastor Mel

## Troop 103 News



**Pictured above is Troop 103 member, Noah Borgman, who helped Centenary collect 375 pounds of food for the Boy Scout Food Drive. That is a \$1,875.00 value!**



**Troop 103 held their “Court of Honors” in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 13. Scouts were presented with the badges they worked hard to earn. Congratulations!**

# MAY 2023

	MON., MAY 1	TUES., MAY 2	WED., MAY 3	THUR., MAY 4	FRI., MAY 5	SAT., MAY 6
<b>MEETING LOCATION KEY</b> S - Sunday school room N - Narthex F - Fellowship Hall P - Parlor O - Pavilion C - Chapel X - Online	6 pm - Outreach Team Meeting (N) 7 pm - Choir	6 pm - Beginner's Bible Study (P)	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 1:00 pm - UWF Business Meeting © 7:30 pm - AIAnon (N)			
<b>SUN., MAY 7</b>	<b>MON., MAY 8</b>	<b>TUES., MAY 9</b>	<b>WED., MAY 10</b>	<b>THUR., MAY 11</b>	<b>FRI., MAY 12</b>	<b>SAT., MAY 13</b>
9 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 Sunday school Holy Communion	1 pm - Visitation Mtg.(P) 7 pm - Choir	9:30 am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6 pm - Beginner's Bible Study (P)	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 4 pm - JACC (N) 6:00 pm - Spirit Circle 6:30 pm - FHS Circle 7:30 pm - AIAnon (N)			
<b>SUN., MAY 14</b>	<b>MON., MAY 15</b>	<b>TUES., MAY 16</b>	<b>WED., MAY 17</b>	<b>THUR., MAY 18</b>	<b>FRI., MAY 19</b>	<b>SAT., MAY 20</b>
9 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 Sunday school Mother's Day Golden Cross Offering	6 pm - Mother's Day Banquet	6 pm - Beginner's Bible Study (P)	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 7:30 pm - AIAnon (N)	1:30 pm - Hope Circle		
<b>SUN., MAY 21</b>	<b>MON., MAY 22</b>	<b>TUES., MAY 23</b>	<b>WED., MAY 24</b>	<b>THUR., MAY 25</b>	<b>FRI., MAY 26</b>	<b>SAT., MAY 27</b>
9 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 Sunday school	7 pm - Choir	9:30 am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6 pm - Beginner's Bible Study (P)	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 6:00 pm - Ladies Book Club (N) 6:15 pm - Ad Council (P) 7:30 pm - AIAnon (N) <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>			
<b>SUN., MAY 28</b>	<b>MON., MAY 29</b>	<b>TUES., MAY 30</b>	<b>WED., MAY 31</b>			
9 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 Sunday school Pennies For Hunger	7 pm - Choir Memorial Day - <u>Office Closed</u>	6 pm - Beginner's Bible Study (P)	10:00 am - Prayer Gathering (P) 7:30 pm - AIAnon (N)			