

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for the family of **Wayne Hilts** (Cynthia Wise's stepfather) who passed away November 30.

Please pray for **Janice Cox** (step-daughter of Peggy Peters) who will start another series of chemotherapy this week.

Please pray for **Kendra** (Connie Timmon's granddaughter.) She is expecting her first baby in January and she is having contractions.

Please pray for **Ed Minor** who had surgery on his shoulder.

Please pray for **Sharon** (Janet Hargis' cousin) who has a torn retina and had laser surgery.

Please pray for **Hazel Wyckoff** (Ann Roedl's mother) who had surgery.

Please pray for **Stephanie Smith** (Freddie Smith's daughter) who had oral surgery this week.

Please pray for **Mitchel** (friend of the Ken Ballard family) who has seen a doctor for a cancer diagnosis.

Prayers for the family of **John Looman** (friend of Sharon Wolfert) who passed away last week.

Events

Quilters Christmas Sale: Our Quilters will be selling items with the proceeds going to the Church Building Fund on **December 9-10**. Hand made items include: clutch purses, dish rags, scarves, toys, quilts and baby quilts. The quilters will gratefully accept an order for quilts at any time.

Blue Christmas: Blue Christmas is the name of a worship service designed for observing the Christmas season and recognizing that for some of us the holidays are far from happy due to grief and loss of varying kinds. We will be holding such a service in the connection area on Thursday, **December 14 at 6:00 p.m.** All are invited to this time of prayer and reflection.

TLC: Tuesday Lunch Club will be held **December 12 at noon** in the Fellowship Hall. The sign-up sheet is in the Connection Area. **The cost is only \$7.00!**

For Your Consideration: Year-End Giving

Some retirement plans require that you annually withdraw a minimum amount of money. Often, year-end planning is the ideal time to consider how to use this money. This year, remember to keep in mind that you can gift some of these funds directly to the church. In many cases such a gift would help reduce your tax-liability. Please prayerfully give consideration to using this financial tool.

2018 PLEDGES

Please remember to turn in your 2018 Pledges to the Office, or put them in the offering plate.

2018 Pledges (so far)

89 Pledges Made
General Fund: \$250,296
Capital Improvement: \$13,789
Building Fund: 30,370
Recycling: \$7,281

2017 Pledges

101 Pledges Made
General Fund: \$241,346
Capital Improvement: \$16,768
Building Fund: \$38,222
Recycling: \$8,322



The mission of Centenary United Methodist Church is Knowing Christ...Growing in Christ...Showing Christ...and Becoming the Difference.

Nursery care is staffed and available for children up to age 4 every Sunday morning during the 9:00 a.m. worship service as well as the 10:15 Sunday school class. The nursery is located on the first floor, room 14.

Coloring books, crayons, and activity bags are available on the register in the back of the sanctuary. A **coloring table** is also available in the connection area for use by any supervised child.

Gluten-free communion elements are available for those with allergies. If you prefer gluten-free, please let your communion server know. It is the tradition of the United Methodist Church to serve **grape juice** for communion.

Sunday morning fellowship time is 10:00 a.m. Coffee, juice, and cookies are served in the connection area at the back of the sanctuary.

Transportation is available for our Sunday worship service. Call the office at 342-2030.

Our **Handicapped Accessible Elevator** is available from the north and south entrances.

Bathrooms with changing tables are available on the main floor with one closest to the elevator and two at the far end of the hall. There are also two changing tables in the nursery.

For those who prefer to read music, **songbooks** are available from the greeter.

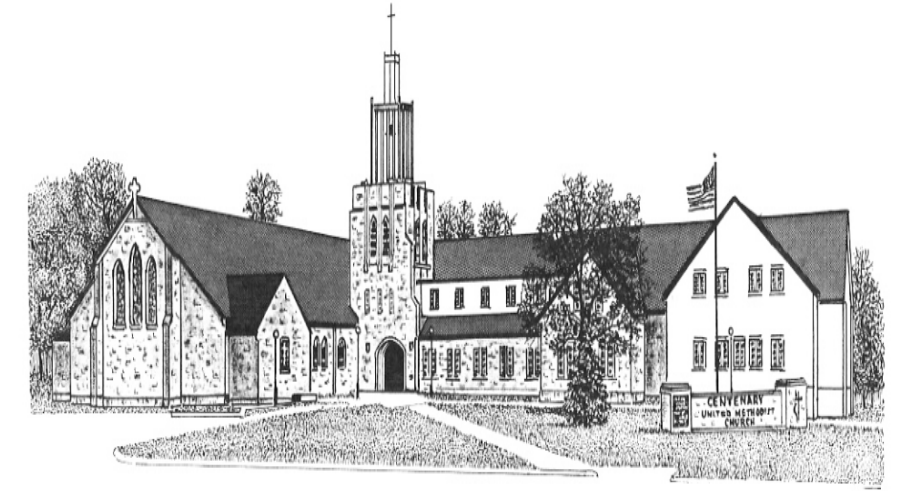
Electronic Giving Options are available. A reminder to everyone that you can give to Centenary UMC online. On our website, the page called GIVE ONLINE will step you through making one time or repeating online donations. Also, Chris in the office can help you set up Automatic Withdrawals directly from your bank account. There are options for weekly, bi-weekly and monthly giving to all of the different funds that support our ministry. Please contact Chris, 342-2030, or chris@effinghamcumc.com, for more information.

Church Camp

Spring is just around the corner and it is time to think about Church Camp! There are camps for biking, horseback riding, art, water, sailing, beginners, and everything in between. The early registration deadline is April 16, 2018, if you register before this date you will receive a \$25 discount. There are several other discounts available as well. Centenary UMC has scholarships to help and there are scholarships available through the Conference Camping Office as well. There are camp brochures at the Welcome Center for you to begin your adventure today. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Jessica.

Pastoral Care

In order to make the best use of pastoral time and to ensure that we don't miss opportunities to offer pastoral care, we are asking that you contact the church office (217) 342-2030, Pastor Jessica (217) 652-2225, and/or Pastor Christine (618) 251-4879 directly if you or a loved one is in the hospital or if you have a need for some other form of pastoral care.



Effingham Centenary United Methodist Church
203 E Grove Ave ♦ Effingham IL 62401
217-342-2030 ♦ www.effinghamcumc.com

December 9 & 10, 2017

5:45 p.m. Saturday Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Connection Time
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Rev. Christine Cunningham, Directing Pastor
618-251-4879 christine@effinghamcumc.com

Rev. Jessica Baldyga, Associate Pastor
342-2644 jessica@effinghamcumc.com

Ann Roedl, Music Ministries Coordinator
ann@effinghamcumc.com

Chris Prince, Handbell Choir Director
663-0804 chris@effinghamcumc.com

Linda White, Organist
Chris Prince, Office Manager
chris@effinghamcumc.com

Kim Mersman, Secretary
kim@effinghamcumc.com

Jeanlyn Stockman and Andrea Sills, Nursery Staff
Connie Wieck, our United Methodist Covenant Partner Missionary

Centenary United Methodist Church

Welcome to Worship!

Greetings

(Please complete the pew pad and pass to center aisle.)
(If you wish, please fill out a Prayer Request card to place in the offering plate.)

Prelude "Ring We Now of Christmas" Handbell Choir
"Carol of the Bells"

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Saturday) Larry & Jeri Ensign
Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Sunday) Keith & Rebecca Sutterfield

Advent Candle Lighting (by Rev. Amy Wake)

Reader: "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'" (Luke 2:8-10).

Reader: Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

People: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

Reader: On this second weekend in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

+Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Hymnal no. 234 (vs. 1-4)

The Immigrant Apostle's Creed—see insert

Centenary Prayer

O God Who Hears Every Prayer, we give you thanks for bringing us to this expectant moment. Transform our lives into a living prayer to you. Empower us to see how your Holy Spirit is pushing us out of our comfort zones, commanding us to take risks for your kingdom and glory. Open us to your Spirit's leading. Move us to courageous action in response to what we hear...

Children's Sermon (Sunday) Pastor Jessica
"Away in a Manger" Hymnal no. 217 (vs. 3)

Handbell Choir "Manger Reflections" and "The First Noel"

Offering

Offertory Music "Mary, Did You Know?" Handbell Choir

+Doxology Hymnal no. 95

+Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, you are trustworthy and kind to all who seek you. Thank you for comforting us when we are afraid about what the future may bring. Send us patience through your Spirit so that we will cheerfully bear with one another as a community of faith. Help us to grow in wisdom as we wait for your purposes to be fulfilled in the world. Accept our offerings in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer Song (sing twice) Hymnal no. 204
"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Congregational Prayer (Migration Sunday Prayer for Illumination)
Loving God, whose light brings hope to the world, send your Holy Spirit to illumine our way on your bright path, so that we may live in harmony with our neighbors from every nation until you gather all earthly migrants into your heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. (continue in silence)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Handbell Choir "Repeat the Sounding Joy"

Scripture Matthew 2:1-8, 13-16
Pew Bible pg. 783 and Deep Blue pg. 1070

Message Pastor Christine

+Hymn "Joy to the World" Hymnal no. 246 (vs. 1-3)

+Prayer Requests and Opportunities and Announcements

+Benediction and Response Hymnal no. 246 (vs. 4)
"Joy to the World"

Handbell Choir "Christmastime"

Be sure to give a warm "thank you" to all of your Centenary Handbell Ringers who have worked very hard this year to bring you the music of the season.

Chris Prince (Director)

Deena Ballard	Laurie Borrelli	Trisha Katt
Debbie Lappin	Larry Lappin	Bev Phelps
Kathy Phillips	Jean Sporleder	Bill Totten
Nancy Totten	Barb Tull	Beth Wattlelet

This Week at Centenary December 11-17

Monday, 11

9:00 a.m. Quilters (Room 19, first floor)
6:45 p.m. Trustees (MR)

Tuesday, 12

9:00 a.m. Brookstone Estates Bible Study
10:00 a.m. The Women of Christmas Bible Study (MR)
10:30 a.m. The Glenwood Bible Study
12:00 noon TLC: Tuesday Lunch Club (FH)

Wednesday, 13

Childcare provided 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Rm. 14)
9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Conf.)
10:30 a.m. Dulcimers (B3)
11:00 a.m. Coloring at Advent (MR)
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study (MR)
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (YR) (FH) (6:00-8:00 p.m.)
7:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata Rehearsal
8:00 p.m. Parent/Volunteer Meeting

Thursday, 14

6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service (Connection area)

Saturday, 16

5:45 p.m. Christmas Cantata/March to the Manger
Worship Service

Sunday, 17

**Christmas Cantata/March to the Manger
Childcare provided 9:00-11:15 a.m. (Rm. 14)**
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Connection Time
10:10 a.m. Confirmation Meeting for Parents (B7)
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
Faith Basics Class with Pastor Christine in the Chapel during Sunday School hour
2:00 p.m. Junior Youth Group (FH)

Abbreviations

FH = Fellowship Hall **MR = Meeting Room** **S = Sanctuary**
Conf. = Conference Room **YR = Youth Room** **K = Kitchen**