

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

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.

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

Please pray for **Jim Fleshman**, (friend of Scott & Libby Moeller) who was in a car accident.

Please pray for **Dale Phelps**, (classmate of Bev Elving) as he continues cancer treatment at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Please pray for **Ron**, (Bill Elving's brother-in-law) as he will be getting information on treatment for bladder cancer.

Please pray for **Lawrence Wolfert** who is having knee replacement surgery in Florida.

Continued prayers for **Kathy Tensen** and the concern for her problems with vision.

Prayer Praise for **Danielle Hansen Moore**, (granddaughter of Gail Fisher), who safely delivered twin boys.

Please pray for **James Barnett** (Bob & Judy Lee's son-in-law's father) who passed away December 14.

Financial Peace University

January 18th: A 9 week course starts at Centenary United Methodist Church from 6:00-8:00 p.m. A limited number of discounted memberships are available for purchase in the church office.

Events

December 31, 2017: Will be the last day for this year's giving to be recorded on your 2017 giving statements. Any giving received after December 31 will be included in your 2018 giving.

Souper Bowl and Talent Auction: is Sunday, January 28 at 11:15 a.m. Watch for upcoming information and sign-up sheets!

Thank you to all who participated in the Salvation Army bell ringing.

Bev Phelps

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)

91 Pledges Made

General Fund: \$252,296

Capital Improvement: \$13,789

Building Fund: \$30,420

Recycling: \$7,431

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.

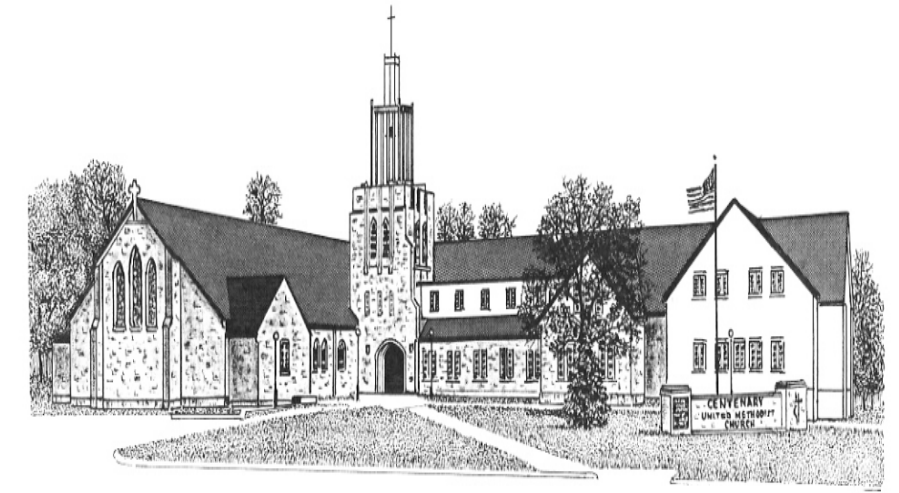
Electronic Giving Options are available. A reminder to everyone that you can give to Centenary UMC online. On our website, the page called GIVE ONLINE will step you through making one time or repeating online donations. Also, Chris in the office can help you set up Automatic Withdrawals directly from 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 16 & 17, 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 and Opportunities and Announcements

(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 *"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"*
"Gabriel's Message"

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Saturday) Bushur family
Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Sunday) Laurie & Jim Borrelli

Advent Candle Lighting (by Rev. Amy Wake)

Reader: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

People: Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

Reader: On this third weekend of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

+Hymn *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* Hymnal no. 221

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

Offering

Offertory Music *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*
Hymnal no. 218

+Doxology Hymnal no. 95

+Prayer of Dedication

Bountiful God, we rejoice in your goodness! You have done wonderful things for your people through the ages. We are grateful for your precious gift of being forgiven through Jesus Christ. You brought us out of sadness and into joy, as you tenderly wiped away our tears and gave us laughter. Let our gratitude overflow in love and kindness for people who are near and far away. Use our gifts and offerings to bring hope and happiness to our neighbors through the mission of this church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Congregational Prayer (based on Isaiah)

Emmanuel, we await your coming, and as we wait we hear the echo of your prophet of old:

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord anointed me to bring good news to the poor he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn."
God with us, we await your coming. (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.

Scripture *Luke 1:26-56*
Pew Bible pg. 830 and Deep Blue pg. 1137

Message Pastor Christine

Cantata and March to the Manger: *"This Little Child"*

+Prayer Requests

+Benediction and Response
"Have Yourself a Blessed Little Christmas"

THIS LITTLE CHILD

1. Unto Us
2. What Child Is This?
3. Give Glory To God
4. Bethlehem
5. What Did You Say Was The Baby's Name?
6. Is This My Child?: Duet - Judy Wolfe and Larry Lappin
7. March to the Manger
8. King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Narrators: Larry Lappin, Laurie Borrelli, Barb Tull

Drums: Bob Devall

Guitar: Russ Howard

March to the Manger: CUMC youth

Baby Jesus: Daniel Quast (Saturday); Anthony Grames (Sunday)

Projector: Conni Cash

Sound: Craig Wise

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Christmas cantata.

I appreciate each of you greatly.

Merry Christmas!

Ann

This Week at Centenary December 18-24

Monday, 18

9:00 a.m. Quilters (Room 19, first floor)

Tuesday, 19

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

Wednesday, 20

Childcare provided 6:00-7:00 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)
11:00 a.m. Lakeland Rehab & Health
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study (MR)
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party

Saturday, 23

5:45 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, 24

Childcare provided 9:00-10:30 a.m. (Rm. 14)
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Connection Time
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship (Childcare provided)
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

Abbreviations

FH = Fellowship Hall
Conf. = Conference Room

MR = Meeting Room
YR = Youth Room

S = Sanctuary
K = Kitchen