

## WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

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 had knee replacement surgery in Florida.

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

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

Please pray for **Dayton John Moore**, (great-grandchild of Gail Fisher), who was born December 12, 2017 and is on oxygen and not wanting to eat.

Please pray for **Sherry Wei**, who had surgery at HSHS St. Anthony Hospital.

Please pray for **JaeLyn Hepner** (friend of Debbie & Larry Lappin) as she had surgery to receive a pacemaker.

Please pray for **Don Satterlee** as he is in the hospital with leg problems.

Prayer praises for **Steve Hansen** (son-in-law of Gail Fisher) as well as Georgetown firestrike crew as they are rotated out after battling the Thomas wildfire for two weeks.

Prayers for the friends and family of **Betty White** who passed away on Tuesday, December 19, 2017.

## 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.

### 2018 PLEDGES

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

#### 2018 Pledges (so far)

92 Pledges Made  
General Fund: \$253,996  
Capital Improvement: \$14,189  
Building Fund: \$30,420  
Recycling: \$7,531

#### 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.

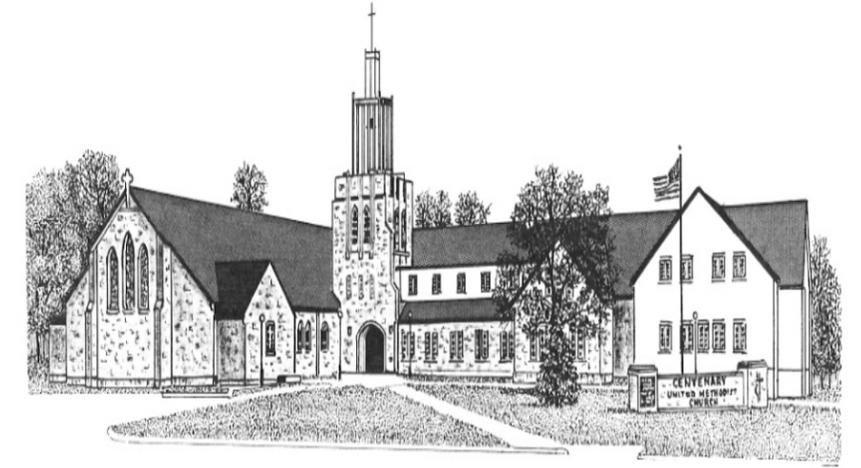
**Bathrooms with changing tables** are available on the main floor with one closest to the elevator and two at the far end of the hall. There are also two changing tables in the nursery.

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](mailto:chris@effinghamcumc.com), for more information.

## 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](http://www.effinghamcumc.com)

## December 23 & 24, 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

*"While By My Sheep"*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Saturday) John & Jayne Miller  
Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Sunday) Prince family

### Advent Candle Lighting (by Rev. Amy Wake)

Reader: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David" (Luke 2:1,3-4).

Reader: Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveler and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

**People: Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kingdom of God.**

Reader: On this fourth weekend of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

### +Hymn

*"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"* Hymnal no. 215

### 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...**

Anthem (Sunday) *"Christmas Chimes"* Evie Ballard  
Anthem (Sunday) *"Joy to the World"* Caleb Deters  
Anthem (Sunday) *"Ukrainian Bell Carol"* Casey Deters

Children's Sermon (Sunday)  
*"Away in a Manger"*

Jenny Burton  
Hymnal no. 217 (vs. 3)

### Offering

Offertory Music *"Chant du berger" (Shepherd's Song)*

+Doxology Hymnal no. 95

### +Prayer of Dedication

**O Lord, our God, we praise you for your generosity. You provided tents, safety, and sustenance for your people Israel when they followed your pillar of fire in the desert. You called them to trust and worship you alone. Today, you give us what we need to live, work, and rest in peace. Help us never to take for granted your provisions for us: shelter, food, and Christian fellowship. We give these offerings for the ministries of our church to bless people in need of your help and love. May they come to know Jesus Christ, whose kingdom will last forever. Amen.**

### Prayer Song (sing twice)

*"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"* Hymnal no. 204

### Congregational Prayer – (from *Before the Amen*, pg. 6)

**In your love, God, we have become your family. When you sent the world a teacher in Christ, we did not know that we were his sisters and his brothers. We did not understand the significance of our new place. You have adopted us, taken us in, so that even those who do not know mother or father or sister or brother on earth may have you, so that each one of us can be part of the same family, so that neighbors and enemies all may have one blood and one understanding of peace. We are so lucky, God, to call you Mother and Father, our Protector and Redeemer. Amen. (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.**

Anthem (Sunday) *"The Way He Came"* Erin Browne

Scripture *Matthew 1:18b-25*  
Pew Bible pg. 783 and Deep Blue pg. 1069

### Message

Pastor Jessica

### +Hymn

*"Sing We Now of Christmas"* Hymnal no. 237

### +Prayer Requests and Opportunities and Announcements

### +Benediction and Response

*"Sing We Now of Christmas"* Hymnal no. 237 (chorus)

## This Week at Centenary December 25-31

### Sunday, 24

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship (Childcare provided)  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

### Monday, 25

Christmas Day. The Office is Closed

### Tuesday, 26

The Office is Closed

### Saturday, 30

5:45 p.m. Worship Service

### Sunday, 31

9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Connection Time

FH = Fellowship Hall  
Conf. = Conference Room

#### Abbreviations

MR = Meeting Room  
YR = Youth Room

S = Sanctuary  
K = Kitchen

## Souper Bowl and Talent Auction

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 28th at 11:15 AM (following Sunday School)

**WHERE:** Fellowship Hall

**WHAT:** Soup and dessert, plus a Silent Auction AND the chance to vote with your dollars for the best homemade soup in the land

#### Volunteers needed for the Souper Bowl:

- 8-10 cooks to bring a crock pot of homemade soup
- 8-10 bakers to bring desserts

#### Talents needed for the Auction:

- Talented cooks/bakers to donate food items
- Talented crafters to donate gift items
- Hard workers to donate services (yard clean up, handyman/woman, pet sitting, baby sitting, etc.)
- Clever Centenarians to donate anything that people would like to bid on!

Watch for sign-up sheets in the Connection Area  
Contact Nancy Caldwell (821-6469) or Carol Martin (342-5886)  
for more information