



The Spire

September
2020

It dawned on me the other day that I've spent half of my time since coming to Centenary in various forms of quarantine. About three months ago, we returned to in-person worship in the Family Life Center. It's been going fairly well, and attendance has crept up and almost doubled since we first returned. Nearly every week people who haven't been back before have come back, and we've even had first time guests.

Of course worship is different with everyone wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and not singing as a congregation (we have had special music). Of course, we all want to be back in the sanctuary.

A group from the Trustees (Patrick McDonner, O.D. Putler, Andy Shepherd) met with Ben Kempf and me to review the precautions we'd need to take and the feasibility of returning to the sanctuary.

If we return to the sanctuary, we still would have to maintain social distancing, wear masks, and have no congregational singing as recommended by the CDC, the Indiana Conference, and the United Methodist Church. We would have to skip two rows of pews, seats would have to be marked to maintain not only six feet in the same pew but in front and behind as well. Ushers would have to escort persons to seats depending on the size of a family unit or group. The closest analogy would be like seating at a restaurant. People would not necessarily get to sit in "their" spot. And once a person or group was seated, there could be no changes due to keep the seat clean.

A chart was drawn up, seats were marked off, and T-shirts were placed in open seating to visualize what this would look like. A special section was set up to accommodate a bigger family.

It was determined the sanctuary could hold 50 people plus a large family. If all the larger seating areas would be taken, or more people would show up than we have space for, there would have to be some sort of overflow with logistic concerns at each overflow section.

With the soft surfaces in the sanctuary, cleaning would need to be enhanced. Bathroom usage would likely increase, which presents its own concerns, and there would be more areas for people to "drift" into—meaning more weekly cleaning.

One entrance would need to be used for entrancing, and another for exiting, and seating would need to be coordinated to prevent too many people gathering in the narthex. Also people would need to be dismissed by rows and led out the exit door. We would have to record who was sitting where in case contact tracing needed to be done in the event someone comes down with the virus.

A group is looking at the feasibility and cost of putting up plexiglass barriers of some sort, which would increase the number of people who could be in the sanctuary.

Air flow is another issue as this is an airborne virus. The airflow in the sanctuary isn't as efficient or as open as it is in the FLC creating another area of concern.

No one supported the idea of taking reservations for seating (as some churches are doing), and we currently do not have the means to take reservations smoothly.

The group decided that we don't gain anything by returning to the sanctuary, and we in fact lose flexibility of seating and numbers of people we can accommodate. So, it was decided we would stay in the FLC for the time being.

How long will this be? No one knows. We continue to monitor infection rates, the guidelines from the CDC, Conference, and General Church. We will return to the sanctuary as soon as we possibly can.

Until then, we're ahead of where we were three months ago by having the facility to safely have in-person worship. Many churches are still online only or have returned to online only as they've had infections occur in worship. Some churches are still meeting outside.

At the end of the day we have to remember the church is not a building; it's the people. Wherever worship happens is sacred space. We all long to return to as much "normalcy" as we can, but until the infection rate drops, treatment and testing increases, and a vaccine is found, we have to adapt a lot of our lives.

I am grateful beyond words to Patrick, O.D., Andy, Ben, and the rest of the Board of Trustees as well as other leaders of the church who have gone above and beyond to help us continue to have in-person worship and to make the decisions we've had to make and will make in the future.

We will get through this. Someday COVID-19 will be a memory. Until then, let us continue to follow the God who loves us and leads us through our wilderness into the Promised Land.

Peace and Good!
Tim



October Scripture Readings

- October 1—Therese of the Child Jesus—Job 19:21-27; Psalm 27:10-18; Luke 10:1-12**
October 2—The Holy Guardian Angels—Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:1-5; Psalm 139:1-17; Luke 10:13-16
October 3—Columba Marmion—Job 42:1-6, 12-17; Psalm 119:169-176; Luke 10:17-24
October 4—18th Sunday after Pentecost—Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
October 5—Francis of Assisi (transferred this year from October 4)—Galatians 1:6-12; Psalm 111:1-6; Luke 10:25-37*
October 6—William Tyndale—Galatians 1:13-24; Psalm 139:1-14; Luke 10:38-42*
October 7—John Woolman—Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Psalm 117; Luke 11:1-4
October 8—Galatians 3:1-5; Psalm 89:19-29; Luke 11:5-13
October 9—Robert Grosseteste—Galatians 3:7-14; Psalm 111:4-10; Luke 11:14-26*
October 10—Paulinus—Galatians 3:21-29; Psalm 105:1-7; Luke 11:27-28
October 11—19th Sunday after Pentecost—Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
October 12—Wilfrid of Ripon—Galatians 4:21-5:1; Psalm 138; Luke 11:29-32
October 13—Edward the Confessor—Galatians 5:1-6; Psalm 119:41-48; Luke 11:37-41
October 14—Callistus I—Galatians 6:1-10; Psalm 32; Luke 11:42-46
October 15—Teresa of Avila—Ephesians 1:1-10; Psalm 98; Luke 11:47-54*
October 16—Thomas Cranmer—Ephesians 1:11-14; Psalm 33:1-12; Luke 12:1-7*
October 17—Ignatius of Antioch—Ephesians 1:15-23; Psalm 8; Luke 12:8-12*
October 18—20th Sunday after Pentecost—Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
October 19—Luke (transferred this year from October 18)—Sirach 38:1-15 (Isaiah 35:5-8); Psalm 147; 2 Timothy 4:5-11; Luke 4:14-21*
October 20—Ephesians 2:11-22; Psalm 85:8-13; Luke 12:35-38
October 21—Ephesians 3:4-12; Psalm 122; Luke 12:39-48
October 22—Fred Pratt Green—Ephesians 3:14-21; Psalm 35:1-11; Luke 12:49-53
October 23—James of Jerusalem—Acts 15:12-22a; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Matthew 13:54-58*
October 24—Sarah Crosby—Ephesians 4:7-16; Psalm 122; Luke 13:1-9
October 25—21st Sunday after Pentecost—Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
October 26—Alfred the Great—Ephesians 5:1-8; Psalm 37:27-33; Luke 13:10-17*
October 27—Ephesians 5:21-33; Psalm 128; Luke 13:18-21
October 28—Simon and Jude—Isaiah 28:11-16; Psalm 116; Jude 17-24; John 14:18-24*
October 29—James Hannington—Ephesians 6:10-20; Psalm 144:1-10; Luke 13:31-35*
October 30—Philippians 1:1-10; Psalm 111; Luke 14:1-6
October 31—Philippians 1:12-26; Psalm 42:1-7; Luke 14:1, 7-11

Dear Centenary Family,

Many thanks for your kind support during our mother's (Lois Unfried's) recent passing. Your calls, cards, memorial gifts, and the beautiful angel are all reminders of your love. All have meant so much to us, and Mother would be crying happy tears to know that you loved her and are there for her family.



In Christ,
Mike & Cheryl Lasher & Family
Pam & Paul Schuler & Family

If you have an article or pictures you'd like to see in the Spire, please contact Donna in the office at 812-867-3920 or centenary@mw.twcabc.com



Friendly reminder that the recycle and trash dumpsters in the back of the FLC are for church use only unless you make prior arrangements by calling the church office. Thanks for your cooperation.

Surprise – She's Turning 90!

Loretta Gore will be turning 90 on Saturday, October 3rd. We would like to SURPRISE her on her special day with cards from her friends and church family.

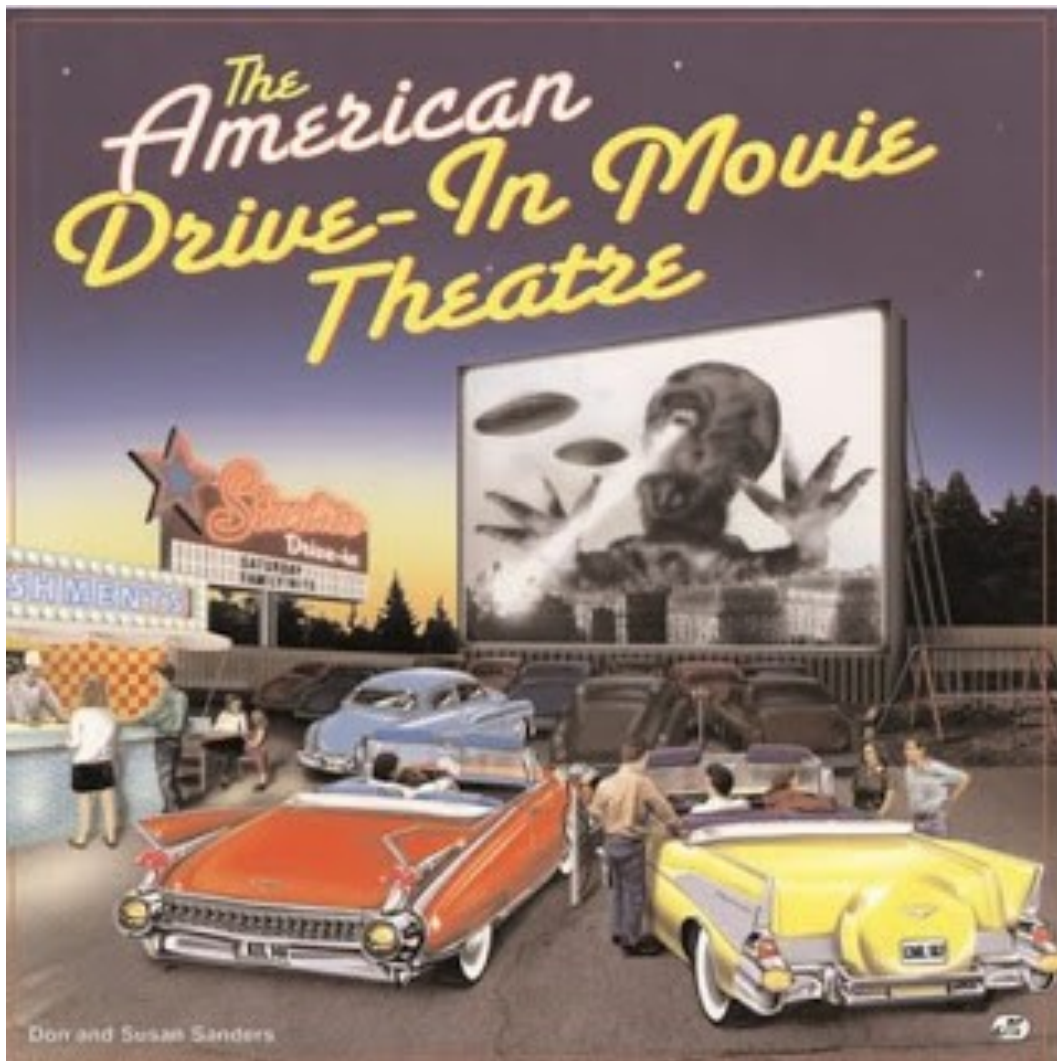
If you would be willing to participate, you can mail her a card to : 1167 St. George Road, Evansville, In 47711.



"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
Gal 5:22-23

DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 19
7:00 PM
SHOWING: "INSIDE OUT"

Bring your own snacks and drinks and enjoy a family movie under the stars. Back Porch Cinema will be doing our set up. You can set up a lawn chair in your parking space if you want. We do ask that everyone maintain social distancing.



September Birthdays

September Birthdays

1 - Ally Kempf
1 - Brad Marchand
1 - Katherine Sharp
2 - Carolyn Hortin
3 - Sylvia Seibert
3 - Marsha Stocker
4 - Hannah Otto
10 - Malisse Stocker
12 - Judy Hendrix
13 - Tensley Jackson
13 - Nicole Jackson
13 - Bob Freeman
14 - Bobby Robinson
15 - Pat Hewig
16 - Greg Beasley
19 - Sam Hall
19 - Nicholas Wahl
20 - Dan Walters

20 - Sterlen Stocker
22 - Gloria Schneider
22 - Madeleine Gish
24 - Bev McDowell
24 - Bonnie Tindle
24 - MacKenzie Stocker
25 - Kiersten Wingerter
26 - Natalie Jackson
26 - Debbie Putler
26 - Tony Bowden
27 - Gayle Martin
27 - Jennie Fuhrman
27 - Natalie Jackson
28 - Ellen Powers
29 - Laura Freeman
30 - Brooklyn Crow



September Anniversaries

9 - Tom & Deb Wilson
9 - Larry & Alene Taylor
11 - Dan & Melba DeMuth
12 - Adam & Missy Stocker
17 - Jerry & Joan Carnahan
17 - Dan & Susan Elpers
17 - Sam & Judy Frederick
25 - David & Debbie Driggs
28 - Brad & Robin Marchand



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! If you find any discrepancies in our Birthday/Anniversary listings, please call the office or email us. This would include names that are missing or misspelled, as well as wrong dates.

Attendance includes in person and virtual attendance

October Birthdays

2- Morgan Falconer
3 - Loretta Gore
4- Ben Neely
4 - Keith Woods
6 - Kathy Egnew
7- Otis Ferguson
7- Corrine Schwartz
8- Dava Cobb
9 - Susan Elpers
9 - Brenda Gore
9 - Sadie Bottoms
11 - Felicia Bowden
11 - Gayla Kempf
12 - Larry Powell
13 - Ron Johnson
13- Chris Haywood

13 - Brad Smith
15 -Craig Vieira
17 - Mida Creekmur
19 - OD Putler
20 - Darrell Resler
21- Hannah Grossman
23 - Greta Jackson
25 - Missy Stocker
25 - Aaron Kaucher
27 - Colin Falconer
30 - Suzanne Seibert
31 - Gina Riley



October Anniversaries

4- Amanda & Nicholas Wahl
7 - Bob & Lee Crow
14 - Terry & Sharron Brace
22 - Shawn & Gina Riley
23 - Steve & Gloria Schneider
30 - Darrell and Janet Resler









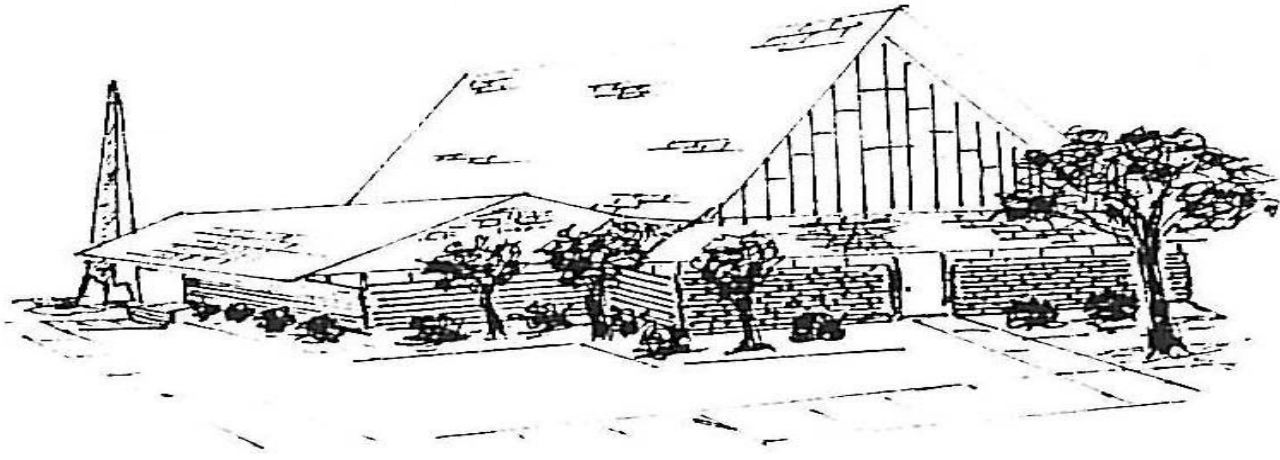
A Record of Our Faithfulness

Date	Attendance	General Fund Offering
7/5	122	3915.00
7/12	100	1920.00
7/19	65	
7/26	75	
8/2	73	1248.00
8/9	85	3045.00
8/16	83	4270.00
8/23	82	
8/30		

Prayer Concerns: Rosie Ritchie, Callie Graves, Dave Heavrin, Rosemary Rudolph, Wayne Aldridge, Debbie Young, Jackie Arman, Cris Brunson, Mary Edmondson, Jim Fleming, Joan Davis, Lee Crow, Shawn Jackson, Roger Huebner, Sr., Miriam Seibert, Ellen Frederick, Nancy McCutchan, Mary Anna Fanok

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
			9:00AM Prayer 6:00PM Prayer 			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30AM Service	Labor Day 		9:00AM Prayer 6:00PM Prayer			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30AM Service 			9:00AM Prayer 6:00PM Prayer			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30AM Service			9:00AM Prayer 6:00PM Prayer			
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
			9:00AM Prayer 6:00PM Prayer			



CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation;
everything old has passed away, see,
everything has become new!" 2 Corinthians 5: 17

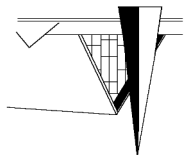
"Seeking God and God's Kingdom First"
"Seeking to Live as Disciples"

"Seeking to Be the Body of Christ, the Church"
"Seeking to Discover the Joy of God"

Church Office: 812-867-3920
Fax: 812-867-3723
Office e-mail: centenary@mw.twc.bc.com
www.centenaryevansville.com

Centenary United Methodist Church
14340 Old State Road
Evansville IN 47725
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The Spire
"Pointing Life in the
Right Direction"



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