



Janesville United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 358
424 Sycamore Street
Janesville, IA 50647

Phone: (319) 987-2596
Email: janessvilleumc@gmail.com
<http://janessvilleunitedmethodistchurch.weebly.com>

January 2023 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Highlights in this issue:

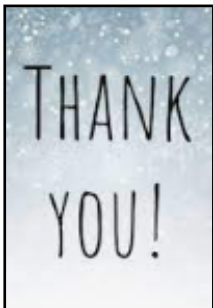
- A Note from the Pastor page 2
- January Celebrations and Prayer Requests . . page 3
- Finance/Apportionments News page 4
- 2022 Mission Giving Report page 5
- UMW News page 6
- PEC/2023 Grant News page 7
- January Volunteers. page 8
- Z-Team Harvest News page 8
- Sunday School Christmas Pictures page 9
- Sunday School & Youth Group News. page 10

This month's Newsletter is special. It is a smaller version, since we are mailing it out, along with offering envelopes for January, February, and March. It's the same great information as usual, just fewer pictures (to save space)! It will still be emailed out for those of you who want an online copy.

JUMC Office Hours - Mondays thru Thursdays from 7:30 to 10:30.

The SPPRC would like to share that, over the past 6 months, since Pastor Laurie has been with us, we have witnessed an increase in attendance, giving, and activities within the church.

We encourage all to continue to be witnesses for our Lord.



Thank you for the many ways you have blessed me during December as I celebrated my 1st birthday and 1st Christmas with you. The gift cards, the money, and the meals have all been a blessing to me. However, the greatest blessing to me has been the many ways you have welcomed me into your faith community and showed me that you share Christ in your community. Thank you so much for this gift.

I look forward to our ministry as we continue our journey into 2023.
Pastor Laurie



A Note from the Pastor

When a certain great Rabbi saw misfortune threatening the Jews it was his custom to go into a certain part of the forest to meditate. There he would light a fire, say a prayer, and a miracle would be accomplished and the misfortune averted.

Later when his disciple had occasion to say the prayer, he would go to the same place in the forest and say " Master of the Universe, listen! I do not know how to light the fire, but I am still able to say the prayer." And, again, a miracle would be accomplished.

Still later, his disciple in order to save his people would go into the forest and say: "I do not know how to light the fire, I do not know the prayer, but I know the place, and this must be enough." Once again, a miracle saved the people.

Then it fell on the disciple of this disciple to overcome misfortune in the community. Sitting in his armchair, his head in his hands, he spoke to God: "I am unable to light the fire and I do not know the prayer; I cannot even find the place in the forest. All I can do is to tell the story, and this must be enough." And it was enough.

In the last month in our church we have prepared for the coming of Christ. We have prepared our church with beautiful decorations. We have sung some of our favorite songs. We have heard the story of Christ's coming shared in many different ways.

Together we have celebrated one of the greatest stories of our faith, the birth of Christ. However, it is not a onetime story it is a story that has come to us from many generations back so that we could learn of God's love for us. It is a story that we relive every year as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

However, it is a story that dies out if we don't help the story continue. For the birth of the Christ child is not the end of the story but just the beginning and without the beginning Easter can never happen.

Today let us be like the disciple who only knows the story for we were not there when the story happened. We were not around when the Early Church continued to tell the story. We may not all have the opportunity to journey where the story first happened.

But we can all continue to tell the story to those who may not have heard the story and we can all live out the story in our lives so that on Easter we will really have something to celebrate.

See you in worship,
Pastor Laurie

January Birthdays

Elizabeth Widner	1/2
Chole Kiene	1/3
Karla Whitney	1/3
Zac Wrage	1/4
Justin Shook	1/5
Esther Folkerds	1/6
Del Shepard	1/6
Trevor Lafrentz	1/8
Cecilia Baldwin	1/8
Laurel Stratiou	1/9
Justin Lockett	1/10
Dylan Wrage	1/10
Austin Conradi	1/11
Myron Destival	1/11
Owen Manning	1/11
Jean Eibey	1/12
Gina Destival	1/15
Betty Jean Borgwardt	1/16
Kathy Whitney	1/16
Blake Destival	1/17
Mark Herbst	1/18
Jeremy Johnson	1/18
Brandi Immerzeel	1/19
Brad Ruth	1/19
Charlotte Brickman	1/20
Shari Kirkpatrick	1/20
Lisa Borglum	1/22
Tim Nisius	1/23
Jodi West	1/24
Janet Destival	1/25
Ethan Ver Steeg	1/25
Reid Woodyard	1/25
Gary Folkerds	1/27
Jennifer Brickman	1/28
Stanley Saunders	1/28
Cynthia Spencer	1/28
Dustin Brocka	1/29
Amanda Dobbs	1/30

January Anniversaries

Dennis & Laurie Dilley 1/10

In Our Prayers

Please pray for our Shepherds and those who are served by them:

Flo Shepard
Marlys Cook
De & Carol Dix
Georgia Eibey
Marilyn Taylor
Harriet Schares
Lorraine Hallberg
Lolita Huber
Lavonne Dorman
Char Brickman
Betty Betsinger
Sylvia Johnson

Please keep them in your prayers:

Tom & Char Brickman
Dan & Wendy Brace
Kim Knapp
Velma Rice & her family
Sylvia Johnson
Evelyn Turner

Shepherd News

The Shepherds will be meeting on Tuesday, January 3 at 9:30 am.



Finance News

We did it again!!!! Due to the generosity, hard work, and dedication of **all** our congregation and constituents (plus some carryover from last year when we did not have as many expenses), we have been able to pay our 2022 Apportionment obligation and our District Asking - **100%**!

Our 2022 obligations were:

General Church Apportionments	2,887
Conference Ministries	6,556
Conference Mission Giving	<u>1,659</u>
Total 2022 Apportionment	11,102

2022 District Asking **930**

Our 2023 obligations will be even less:

General Church Apportionments	2,742
Conference Ministries	6,409
Conference Mission Giving	<u>1,575</u>
Total 2023 Apportionment	10,726

2023 District Asking **1,071**

Our successful fund raisers for the year were:

Rummage & Bake Sale	1,566.55
Easter Breakfast	140.00
No Turkey Dinner Fund Raiser donations	2,941.75
Cranberry Relish Sales	286.00
Turkey Sales	733.33
Sowing Harvest	<u>1,336.00</u>
Total Fund Raising for 2022	<u>7,003.63</u>

Thank You to EVERYONE!!! We have come together and kept our church strong and moving forward. You are all responsible, in so many ways, for keeping things moving in a positive direction!

100%

Thank You!

100%

Missions News

2022 Mission Giving

To date this year, we have given the following to mission work throughout the world:

MONETARY DONATIONS:

UMCOR Sunday	285.00
UMCOR-Ukraine	575.00
UMCOR-tornado relief	295.00
Food Bank (Easter)	445.00
Food Bank (Christmas)	350.00
Food Bank-backpack program	175.00
Blanket Sunday	530.00
Relay for Life American Cancer Society	1,125.00
Imagine No Malaria	245.00
Good Samaritan Fund	<u>411.00</u>
	\$4,436.00

IN-KIND DONATIONS:

The approximate value of in-kind giving is:

Ingathering kits (80 kits)	\$920.00 plus \$240.00 shipping costs
Mitten Tree	\$340.00
Angel Tree	\$1,761.00
United Way Christmas in July	\$127.19
VBS school supplies to Janesville School	\$262.36
Sunday School Food Pantry Holiday fundraiser	\$562.00
Waverly Food Pantry	\$55.35
Friends of the Family	\$26.00
Food Bank (produce)	\$12.16

Thank you so much for all the Mission Giving this year!
The Mission Committee

The December UMW meeting was held on Thursday, December 1st at 1:00 PM in Court Chapel with eleven members and Pastor present.

Prayer concerns were shared for church members.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Thank you correspondence was read for recent donations to local organizations.

Eleven cards were sent since last month.

Circle Reports were given. Mary Deborah ate out at Pizza Ranch. Naomi Circle made angels for the Angel Tree and finalized plans for the dinner after the Christmas children's service. Rebecca Circle updated their information for the yearbook.

The Piecemakers are still working on the train throw and making plans for their next project.

The Veteran's Dinner went well and there was a \$561 profit.

The Angel tree is up in the sanctuary. It was suggested that if there was a large number of teddy bears and other stuffed animals that some be donated to the Bremer and Black Hawk Sheriff departments as well.

Jingle on Main will be December 7th 5-8:00 P.M. The Piecemakers will be contributing quilted items. Other craft items, baked goods, and cranberry relish will be available for sale.

Pastor installed the officers for 2023.

Rebecca Circle gave devotions from the Program Book and shared "The Deck of Cards"-a small deck of cards that represents important portions of the Bible and our faith. Two fun games were played.

Our next meeting will be January 5th at 1:00 PM. Rebecca Circle will hostess. Naomi Circle will share the Response Moment and the Prayer and Self Denial program. There will be an offering for Prayer and Self Denial as well.

Members brought Christmas treats to share following the meeting. They were really delicious and of course free of calories.

MESSAGE FROM THE PEC COMMITTEE

Just a reminder from the PEC Committee that persons/groups receiving PEC grant awards in 2022 have until February 28, 2023, to use those funds. Unused funds remaining at that time will be returned to the endowment funds and may be included in funds to be awarded in 2023.

The deadline for turning in applications to the PEC committee for consideration of 2023 grants is February 28, 2023. Completed applications may be placed in the PEC mail slot just inside the door of Court Chapel, they may be mailed to the church, or they may be emailed to Nancy Beenblossom at nlb217@gmail.com

Applications will be accepted even if they are not completed on a formal application blank. They must include the following information:

- Name of Person/Organization Submitting Application
- Value of Grant being requested
- Purpose of the need for the grant
- Contact information (name, phone number and/or email address) for the person who can be reached regarding the grant application

Any person/organization wanting to know how many funds they have remaining in the account from their 2022 grant awards may contact Barb Hamlyn.

We want to encourage any person and/or organization who has a financial need that falls under the requirements of the PEC Guidelines to complete an application and submit it for consideration.

PEC Committee members include the following persons. Questions or concerns regarding the application process may be addressed to any of these members:

Eugene Robinson, chairperson
Nancy Beenblossom, committee treasurer
Mike Wienhold
Melissa Eibey
Katie Johnson
Dick Funk

Dare to Dream

Grant application forms can be found by the
front office door or front sanctuary door.

Deadline for submission is February 28, 2023.

January Volunteers

Liturgists

January 1
Brad Ruth

January 8
Margaret Shepard

January 15
Nancy Beenblossom

January 22
Gary Shaulis

January 29
Sharon Heiser



Ushers

January 1
Brad Ruth

January 8
Dick & Karen Funk

January 15
Dave Beenblossom

January 22
Gary Shaulis

January 29
5th Sunday Volunteer



Z-Team News

The next Z-Team meeting will be Tuesday, January 24 at 1:00 pm.

Z-Team Sowing Harvest Project Amounts

Last spring, the Z-Team handed out \$20-bills as “seed” money to any volunteers who wanted to invest the money in a project and reap a harvest for the church. On Sunday, December 11, the Z-Team did a Yuletide Harvest of all the fruits of everyone’s labor.

As a result, we collected **\$390.00** as gift-in-kind donations from volunteers who donated their time as subs for Sunday services, and **\$180.00** from ink cartridge recycling, and **\$300.00** from sales at the Jingle in Janesville, and **\$362.00** from cash donated from the harvest.

Our current total for the 2022 Sowing Harvest is **\$1,336.00**, which will be given to the General Fund of the church for bills, upkeep, etc.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

On December 18, our Sunday School children provided “A Manger Scene” as our worship service for the day. They also entertained us with lots of singing. Here are a few pictures from the day:





Sunday School News

The Sunday School kids sponsored a food drive in November to collect non-perishable items to donate to the Food Bank for holiday dinners. Thanks to everyone's help, they were able to collect and donate over \$560 worth of food!!!! They also donated \$790 worth of toys for the Angel Tree.

There will be no Sunday School on January 1. It will start up again for the new year on January 8 at 9:15.

Youth Group News

Thanks to everyone who donated food and drink for the Youth Group kick-off meeting in December! Your support is appreciated and will help to make this city-wide program a success, not only for our JUMC kids, but for the kids of the whole Janesville Community!

This group will begin meeting regularly in January with a schedule to be announced soon.

