



The Janesville Bridge

“To be a bridge of caring relationships connecting people to God & each other.”

424 Sycamore Street PO Box 358 Janesville, Iowa 50647

janesvilleumc@gmail.com

319-987-2596

janesvilleunitedmethodistchurch.weebly.com

[facebook.com/Janesville.UMC](https://www.facebook.com/Janesville.UMC)

Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf

Cell phone for calls or text.(641) 840-0119 or email at pastorayoung@gmail.com

Also “Friend” on FaceBook at “Audrey H. Westendorf”

January 2021 Newsletter

Dear JUMC Families from Pastor Audrey:)

IT’S CHRISTMAS until EPIPHANY SEASON begins January 6

With the long-awaited birth of Christ our Savior, came a thrill of hope! And the weary world rejoiced at the breaking of a new and glorious morn! Think of it!



It was a holy night when all anyone could do was fall on their knees, hear the angels’

voices, and worship the newborn King!

When we really think about it, we may become as excited as the shepherds on the first Christmas Night and want to tell everyone who will listen about what had happened and what the angels had told them.

It might be helpful to take some time this year’s end to reflect and record our own God-stories. Acknowledge the challenges, especially things we thought we couldn’t survive but did! This can be a powerful tool for the future when we need a reminder of how resilient we truly are with God’s help.

And a great read for our grandchildren and others when they want to know about Jesus and us. After all, we are making

history every day we endure this pandemic and we have God-stories to tell!

Those stories are important to fellow Christians of our JUMC family too. In order to survive, we need the support of other Christians who share our spiritual journey.

It is as important for faith communities to support one another as much as any other family.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it’s how much the people in our lives, including our church family, mean to us, so let’s spread some happiness.

Let’s write down how much the persons we love mean to us & let them know. Short notes or long letters, phone calls, texts or emails will lift their spirits & ours too.

And what about our loved ones and church family who are mostly home and isolated? Call ahead to tell them you are walking or driving by and make sure they see you. Pause in their driveway and wave. Or tell them you will honk your horn each time you drive by to share God’s love.

Watch and share our Worship online and know when *we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another*, whether we are in-person or online.

Know that most weeks, through-out these nine months, there have been new “likes” or “views” of our online efforts. *(continued...)*

Pastor's article continued...

We are reaching others with God's messages. It seems more family members are "attending" games and concerts online so we're all learning this together.

When we are online, there's no need for a mask, so show your face, smile lots and enjoy what can't be done in person.

And then do it on a regular basis; start a Bible study or a book club or share devotional thoughts. With winter weather upon us, continue to "meet" online to remain in touch.

It is wise to be kind to ourselves too. Look for ways to enjoy each day. Accept that the pandemic caused life to look different than usual and make the best of it, like so many Christians through bad times before us.

Spread joy. Let's smile beneath our masks; people can see our eyes twinkle. Greet store clerks and bank tellers, servers and passers-by with a "Hello." Wear masks with bright or colorful designs or draw a smile on disposable ones. Spread the joy of Jesus everywhere you go.

This pandemic has forever changed our lives, even similar to the way lives were changed that first Holy Night. We can still bring the warmth and joy of Jesus into our own hearts and the hearts of others, including our church family, because we know the true meaning of that first Holy Night!

O Holy Night

The stars are brightly shining

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!

Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices.

... O night when Christ was born.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.

So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the wise men from Orient land.

The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend.
Truly He taught us to love one another.
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave
is our brother

And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy
in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.

WATCH your email and facebook for any in-person Worship announcements.

Local Church Leaders will decide after we hear from our Conference leaders who issued the "no in-person worship directive" through January 10.

We will be here for you with online worship, through phone, text, and internet as always. You can stop by the office and easily 6+' distance while conversing.

The Conference recently sent out these thoughts in the *360° Communications*: More than ever, we need hope and good news and the grounding of our faith to keep us going. Many have rediscovered that the church is who we are, rather than a place we go.

Like early Christian communities who centered worship in their homes, we have the opportunity to help each other to embrace a faith that extends beyond an hour on Sunday morning.

One of the core messages of the Christian faith is the reminder that God no longer dwells in the temple, but among us. It is the promise we proclaim each Advent as we prepare our hearts for Emmanuel, God-with-us. And so in this moment in the life of our community when it is prudent to refrain from gathering, that good news of God's presence with us wherever we are has never felt more vital.

Epiphany - January 6, 2021

How do United Methodists celebrate Epiphany / Three Kings Day?

(submitted by Barb H.)

Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It occurs on Jan. 6 every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word *epiphania*, means appearance or manifestation.

The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.

An even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, Epiphany originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christ's baptism. After the late fourth century, as Advent developed as a season of baptismal preparation in addition to Lent, Epiphany became associated with baptism. This is why we see images of the three Magi on many older baptismal fonts.

In many Hispanic cultures, Epiphany is a day of great rejoicing and celebration, often kicked off by a parade the night before in which people dressed as the three kings or carrying statues of the three kings pass through the towns and villages throwing out candy and small gifts to all around. Families and children alike look forward to Día de Los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) as a time for presents, feasting and celebration.



Attending church services that include the celebration of communion is also common in many of these cultures, even for those who may not attend worship regularly.

In England and some other European cultures, Jan. 5 is known as Twelfth Night, the culmination of the 12 days of Christmas feasting and partying. On Twelfth Night, many families gather in homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing and gifts. It is at these Twelfth Night celebrations that "[Chalking the Door](#)," asking God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live there, is most often observed.

In New Orleans, Twelfth Night begins another season of celebrations that comes to fulfillment at Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday). Epiphany itself, Jan. 6, becomes the kickoff day for that season, but is also often observed with a full celebration in church, complete with incense, elaborate processions, choral celebrations, and Eucharist.

Some United Methodists in the United States, who are not part of these rich traditions, tend to recognize Epiphany on the Sunday nearest Jan. 6. There may be a pageant of the three kings as part of worship that day and a small party afterward.

In whatever ways you decide to celebrate Epiphany this year, remember at the heart of your celebration are the Magi kneeling, worshipping and offering gifts to Jesus, Messiah for all people.

Let us pray for

All affected by COVID
Pastor Audrey & family at loss of her
step-mom to COVID in December.
Sharon Heiser's daughter & family home
was severely damaged
Nikki & Will Haan family
Stroud and Brucher families
Beverly Boeck
Lorraine Hallberg
Tom & Char Brickman
Wendy Brace
Johnny & Esther Folkerds
Ruth May Hamilton
Jan Guzman
Velma Rice
Dennis Osborn & family
Marge Grandon
Evelyn Johnson
Flo Shephard
Evelyn Wubbena
Marlys Cook
De & Carol Dix
Georgia Eibey
Helen Dettmer Any others?
For persons to fill leadership positions

January Anniversaries

Dennis & Laurie Dilley 1/10

Marriage Blessings

Brandi (Immerzeel) & Josh Sernett on
12/5/20.

Human Relations Day

Observance and Special UMC Offering
is always the Sunday before Martin
Luther King Jr's Birthday..
That's Sunday, January 17, 2021.

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
Jean Eibey	1/12
Gina Destival	1/15
Marilyn Lee	1/15
Betty Jean Borgwardt	1/16
Kathy Whitney	1/16
Blake Destival	1/17
Mark Herbst	1/12
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
Jennifer Brickman	1/28
Stanley Saunders	1/28
Cynthia Spencer	1/28
Dustin Brocka	1/29
Amanda Dobbs	1/30

Updated Church Directory Available

Two attachments were included in an email that was sent from the church office recently with the names and mailing addresses on one and the emails and phone numbers on the other. If you need a printed copy, stop by to pick up copies from the table just inside the church office doors.

UMW News

UMW is pleased to announce the Mission Awards for this year.

The Gift in Mission Award was presented to Janet Destival. A donation to Global UMW Missions was made in her honor.

The Special Mission Recognition Award was presented to Kathleen Knapp. A donation to Global UMW Missions was made in her honor. She was also presented with a certificate and pin. This award is extra special because it is the policy of our unit that a person can receive the award only once. Congratulations, ladies!!



To the JUMW: What a nice surprise when Cindy gave me the Certificate and lovely pin for Special Mission Recognition.

Thank you so much for remembering me for the nice honor!

As Always, Kathleen Knapp.

To the JUMW: Thank you for choosing me this year to receive the Gift In Mission Award. I was very surprised and feel very honored that a donation to the UMW Global Missions was made in my name! Everyone of you helped me to achieve this honor! Thank you all so much!

God Bless! Janet Destival

Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness. It is greatly appreciated and will always be remembered. We are so proud of Nick and how he was able to connect with so many people to inspire them to love, laugh and live life to the fullest. Thanks again, Nick Ni\$iu\$ Family

Thank you for your lovely gifts, greetings, and prayers from Pastor Audrey and staff. They are all greatly appreciated.



A HUGE Thank You goes out to all of you who have given so generously to JUMC for general expenses, apportionments, Christmas Offerings and especially the special offerings. We have met all our year-end obligations with funds to get us comfortably into the new year. Our JUMC treasurer and pastor say we ought to celebrate! Since the monthly return offering envelopes have been so helpful to so many, we are including them in this newsletter.

JUMC received thank you from North Star, LSI-Bremwood and Friends of the Family for the Christmas Offerings given in lieu of actual gifts from the Angel and Mitten Trees. A check for \$580 was sent to each. We also received a **thank you** from the NE Iowa Food Pantry. JUMC also helped two families-in-need this Christmas.

Thank you notes were received from those who received one of the 24 Nativity Ornaments sent by JUMC Worship & Z-Team.



New Address Melissa Eibey,
720 1/2 W Barrick Rd, Janesville

MESSAGE FROM THE PEC COMMITTEE

Just a reminder from the PEC Committee that persons/groups receiving PEC grant awards in 2020 have until February 28, 2021 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 | 2021.

We recognize that many events where grant funds would have been used did not take place in 2020. However, those funds may be used to purchase needed non-perishable supplies for the up-coming year.

The deadline for turning in applications to the PEC committee for consideration of 2021 grants is February 28, 2021. Completed application may be placed in the PEC mail slot just inside the office entrance door, 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 2020 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:

- Virginia Robinson, chairperson
- Nancy Beenblossom, committee treasurer
- Tom Charley, Shelly Osborn, Mike Wienhold, Dick Funk, Pastor Audrey.



The prayer chain goes out to all circle members but if there is anyone else that would like to be called, please call Cindy Spencer and we'll get them on the list. This can be just temporary now while we aren't seeing each other

CHURCH OFFICERS/LEADERS 2021

<u>Administra-</u>	<u>tive Board</u>		
Ad Brd Chair	Brad Ruth		
Ad Board Vice-Chair	Sue Stapleton		
Lay Leader			
Lay Member	to Annual	Conference	
Treasurer	Barb Hamlyn		
Financial Secretary	Rita Ruth		
AND CHAIR-	PERSONS ON	ALL COM-	MITTEES
		YEARS	TERM
<u>Finance</u>			
Virginia Rep from PEC	Virginia Robinson	2020-2022	Second term
Gary Shaulis - Chair	Mary Harrold	2018 - 2020	Second term
	Gary Shaulis	2019-2021	Second term
Ad Board Chair	Brad Ruth		
SPPRC Rep	Nancy Beenblossom	2020-2022	First Term
Trustee Rep.	Gene Robinson	2020-2022	First Term

Financial Secretary	Rita Ruth		
Auditors	Esther Folkerds/ Gerry Tartar	2019-2021	Second term
Treasurer	Barb Hamlyn		
Lay Leader	and Lay Member to	Annual Conference	
<u>Trustees</u>			
Dave Beenblossom - Chair	Dave Beenblossom	-2017	
Shelly is rep to PEC	Shelly Osborne		
Gene Finance Rep	Gene Robinson		
	Will Schuldt	-2018	
	Nikki Haan	-2018	
Trustees can serve unlimited terms	Bob Barr	-2018	
<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>PEC</u>
Virginia Robinson - Chair & Rep to Finance	Virginia Robinson	2018 -2021	2nd/last term
Restricted to six members	Tom Charley	2018 -2021	2nd/last term
<u>Can do only two 4yr terms, then off 4 yrs</u>	Shelly Osborn, Trustee	2020-2024	2nd/last term
	Mike Weinhold	2019 - 2022	First Term
	Nancy Beenblossom	2019 - 2022	First Term
	Dick Funk	2021-2024	First Term
<u>Memorial Committee</u>	Jean Eibey, Chair	Kathy Whitney	
<u>SPPRC -</u>			
Nancy Beenblossom Chair	Nancy Beenblossom	2020 -2022	First Term

May serve only two 3 yr terms than off 1yr	Chuck Immerzeel	2020 -2022	First Term
	Cindy Dobbs	2020-2022	First Term
	Emily Megan	2020-2022	First Term
Lay Leader		2020-2022	
<u>Nomination Committee</u>			
Pastor chair	Pastor Audrey		
Could include 3-4 members	Dave Beenblossom	2020-2022	First Term
<u>Worship</u>	Sue Stapleton		
Sue-, Chair	Cindy Spencer		
Pianist	Margaret Shepard	2020-2021	
Communion Steward-	Gene/ Virginia Robinson	2020-2022	
Banners/ Paraments-	Rita Ruth	2020-2022	
Tech Com rep	Dick Funk	-2019	
Head Usher	& Lay Member to	Annual Conference	
Lay Leader			
<u>Tech Committee</u>			
Rita Ruth Chair	Rita Ruth	-2018	
	Sue Stapleton	-2018	
<u>Z- Team</u>			
<u>Congregational Deve-</u>	JoAnne Dierks	Virginia Robinson	
<u>lopment &</u>	Barb Hamlyn	Rita Ruth	
<u>Ministry</u>	Janet Destival	Jean Eibey	
<u>Missions Committee</u>	Cindy Spencer	Karen Funk	
	Deb Weinhold		
<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>LEADERS</u>		

WATCH FOR & "REPLY ALL"
TO EMAILS FROM CHURCH,
PASTOR AND CHURCH LEADERS.

janesvilleumc@gmail.com
pastorayoung@gmail.com

Church "business" is being done over email with "reply all" discussions and votes. Please participate to keep our church operating and our members safe while we are not holding in-person Worship and meetings.

Cranberry Relish is still available by calling Janet at 319-231-9265.



Picture Directory Goal for 2021

At our Charge Conference last Fall one of the goals for 2021 was to complete and publish the Picture Directory that was begun awhile back. If you have an updated picture, address, phone number or social media information, you would like included, please send to janesvilleumc@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you

College Scholarships Available

Do you know anyone who would be interested in applying for scholarships?

Direct them to the Iowa United Methodist Foundation at <https://iumf.org/scholarships>

Have them read through the criteria, fill in the application and submit it along with references, etc., by February 28, 2021.

<u>Sunday School</u> Jean chair	Jean Eibey	Melissa Eibey	Wendy Brace
	Rachel Coffman	Nikki Haan	Emily Schuldt
	Sue Stapleton	Shelly Osborn	Lisa/Chloe Kiene
<u>Youth Ministry</u>	Melissa Eibey	Morgan Charley	
	Will Schult	Emily Schult	
<u>Mens Pray Breakfast</u>	Gary Shaulis	Dick Funk	
<u>Vacation Bible School</u>	Nikki Haan	Rachel Coffman	
<u>Shepherd</u>	<u>Ministry</u>		
Janet Chair	Janet Destival	Carol Jennnings	
	JoAnne Dierks	Dick Funk	
	Mary Jane Stanhope		
% Cards	Karen Funk		
<u>Piece makers</u>	<u>Quilters</u>		
Others welcome	Cindy Spencer	Pam MacKay	Mary Harrold
<u>Study & Support</u>	JoAnne Dierks	Esther Folkerds	
Others always welcome	Lavonne Dorman	Pam MacKay	
	Dorla Dutcher	Pam Mackay	
<u>Safety Members:</u>	<u>Trained in</u>	<u>Fire/Rescue</u>	<u>Law End, Military</u>
Dave Beenblossom - Chair	Lance Woodyard	Dave Beenblossom	Cindy Spencer
	Jim Hamlyn	Chris Charley	



Watch Bishop Laurie Haller's Epiphany Address live-streamed on Monday, January 4, from 7-8:00 pm on iaumc.org

As a follow up to Bishop Laurie Haller's Epiphany Address live-streamed on Monday, January 4, 2021, from 7-8:00 pm on iaumc.org, she will be hosting virtual conversations on the ministry of local church and conference finances.

These conversations will be live-streamed at four different times on two Saturday mornings. Please choose the time and date that works best for your "attendance:"

- * Saturday, January 23 at 9:00 a.m.
- * Saturday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m.
- * Saturday, January 30 at 9:00 a.m.
- * Saturday, January 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Bishop Laurie Haller invites all U-Methodists in the Iowa Conference to an Epiphany Address: *Watching Over One Another in Love*.

The address will be recorded for future viewing.

The address is based upon the Gospel Lesson for the Epiphany of Jesus Christ, Matthew 2:1-12. She intends to offer both a word of hope for the New Year and will share with you several initiatives designed to address areas of our life together as a church.

Included in these initiatives will be reports on the formation of Circuit Ministry, church finances, a process for reimagining the Conference Connectional Ministries Council, UM Camping and Retreat Ministries, and ways of caring for our clergy.

Following her address, there will be a time for questions and answers using the email address:

vision2032@iaumc.org. These conversations are for all local church pastors and lay members of local churches, especially for lay members who are key leaders in their churches.

The health of our local churches is directly related to the financial health of the members and friends of our congregations. In the same way, the health of the Iowa Conference's financial ministry is directly related to the financial health of local churches. When it comes to the ministry of Jesus Christ, we are all in it together.

Bishop Laurie will provide an opening devotion for the conversations before leaders from the Conference

Council on Finance and Administration provide information and invite questions and comments through the email: vision2032@iaumc.org.

All of these upcoming events will also be Livestreamed to the Iowa UM Church Facebook page.



Human Relations Day

Observed on the Sunday before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January 17, 2021, the offering helps to overcome injustice and empowers those struggling to survive. 90% to General Board of Global Ministries for the Community Developers Program and the United Methodist Voluntary Services Program. 10% to General Board of Church and Society for Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.