



Janesville United Methodist Church

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Rev. Laurie L Riley, pastor

February 2023 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist

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Office Hours

Mondays thru Thursdays
7:30 am - 10:30 am



Let all that
you do be
done in LOVE
1 Corinthians 16:14

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The Hudson Herald newspaper asked area pastors to share responses to 2 questions they posed to them:

1. What hopes do you have for the new year ahead?
2. What concerns you most in 2023?

See Pastor Laurie's answers on the next page.....

1. As I first contemplated my concerns and ended with praying that we find ways to be the people God calls us to be. I find hope in knowing that with God's help we can do better in meeting our neighbors needs. I find hope in the fact my church and many other churches are continuing to find ways to share God's love with those around them. I find hope in knowing that people are slowly coming out of their shells and learning how to interact with the people around them, maybe that means we are letting go of some of our Me--First--Thinking. I pray that is so.

I find hope in knowing that the God who created us truly understands us and loves us unconditionally. I find hope in the eyes of the children who look for ways to be kind to one another. I find hope in people being able to ask for help and not being shamed. I find hope watching neighbors helping one another remove snow when it is too much for one person. I find hope in seeing people smile and wave at one another when they meet on the street. I find hope in seeing stories in the news about the good things going on rather than all the bad. I pray for more of this as we journey through 2023.

My hope is that 2023 becomes a year of change as we share with one another the gift of love that God so freely gave to us in a baby born in a manger. A baby who became a man who became our savior on the cross. A savior who rose from the grave and lives again within each of us.

2. As I think about the concerns that I have for the community and the world around me as we begin 2023 the greatest concern I have is how we as a people and society seem to continue to become so self-absorbed with ourselves. So many times people seem to think that they are the only ones that matter and their rights should come before anyone else. When people don't look like us or act like us or think like us we as a society make judgements on them and that causes pain to all of us. Me--First--Thinking is destroying us rather than saving us.

I think this Me--First--Thinking has increased over the years as we have become more dependent on cell phones and the other great technology tools that have become easily available for anyone. I think it has increased in the last couple of years as we have dealt with Covid and all the fear around it. I think it has consistently increased as we have faced other fears by pushing people away and isolating ourselves from one another.

We now live in a world where we can do almost anything we want right at the time we want it with a push of a button. In this kind of world there is no time for reflection, we just act and that is not always a good thing. With Covid we learned to mask up and social distance and to judge those who chose to do something different now those responses have become very ingrained in us as humans and a society. We are leaving many people isolated, alone, and feeling judged for who they are. This causes me grief and I think it causes God to weep for those who are weeping. I pray in 2023 we can begin to do better as a people, as a community, and as the world.



On Sunday, February 12 - our Sunday School kids will be singing during worship for Valentine's Day and selling cupcakes after worship as a fund raiser for their Angel Tree shopping next Christmas.

2023 Grant Request Deadline is February 28!!

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



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

Please keep them in your prayers:

Tom & Char Brickman
Dan & Wendy Brace
Dick Funk
Sharon Heiser
Evelyn Turner
Nancy Bloker's friend of the family, Will
Mary Jane Stanhope's son, Alan

*in loving
memory*

**The Shepherds will be meeting
February 7 at 9:30 am.**

If you would like more information or lists and schedules, please come to the meeting, contact the church office, or contact Janet Destival.

Remember - **anyone is welcome to be a Shepherd.** It is truly a very rewarding experience.

In January, we lost two long-time, dedicated members of our congregation. Velma Rice passed away on January 3 and Sylvia Johnson passed away on January 8.

Please pray for their families as they deal with the loss.

These ladies will be missed.



The December UMW meeting was held on Thursday, January 5th at 1:00 PM in Court Chapel with ten members present.

Members recited the Purpose of the United Women of Faith. Prayer concerns were shared for church members and friends.

Thank you correspondence from several members and Lutheran Services of Iowa.

Our new district treasurer contacted us that Shessler Hall will be closing and we will not need to send donations for them. We have received a memorial from the Lois Boeck family. Circles should discuss possible special uses for this money and bring ideas to our February meeting.

Circle Reports were given. Mary Deborah had a Christmas party in Court Chapel. Naomi Circle met at church while preparing for the dinner after the Children's Christmas Service. They have decided they are no longer able to prepare the Christmas dinner. Circles should discuss ideas for the future of the dinner and bring ideas to our February UMW meeting for discussion. Naomi does have two new members. Rebecca Circle did not meet due to the passing of a member's mom. Several members were able to attend the services.

The Piecemakers have finished the train throw and are starting to piece a orca whale and dolphin throw. None of their items sold at the Jingle on Main.

The Naomi Dinner profit was only about \$70 mainly due to low attendance. The Angel Tree brought in about \$1700 worth of items that were delivered to charities. Approximately 80 bears were divided between the Janesville First Responders and Police and Bremer and Black Hawk County Sheriff Departments.

Velma Rice has passed away since our last meeting and the family does not plan to have a memorial service. It was decided that our unit would plan a celebration of life service for her on January 29th at 2:00 P.M. Cookies, coffee, and punch will be served. Requests for photos and personal memories of Velma will be posted on Facebook to be shared at her service.

PEC grants were discussed. Applications for year end donations and for fundraiser dinners. An application was also sent for the Mission Committee for ingathering kits shipping and extra items costs.

It was decided that we should put a year end report of UMW giving in the newsletter.

This is pledge month. There are no set pledges-it is up to each member to prayerfully decide on their own. It was suggested that members consider increasing their pledges as income is down, expenses are up, and PEC grants may not be available this year.

The program was presented by Naomi Circle for Prayer and Self Denial which was entitled "Racial Justice Time Line" and finished with members reciting a litany. Music videos were shared as an offering was collected. An article from the Response magazine about a support group for children of imprisoned parents was also shared.

Our next meeting will be February 2nd at 1:00 PM. Mary Deborah Circle will hostess. Rebecca Circle will share the Response Moment and devotions.

Rebecca Circle served a pineapple cake dessert with pretzels, nuts and drinks.

2022 UMW Giving

Janesville UMC

Pledge (\$150 per month)	\$1800.00
Vacation Bible School	\$ 30.00 (plus approximately \$210 in snack needs)
Sunday School	\$ 30.00
Youth Group	\$ 30.00
Response Magazine	\$ 24.00
May Breakfast	\$ 57.50
Food items	\$ 11.46

District UMW

Pledge (\$35 per month)	\$ 420.00
Prayer and Self Denial Offering	\$ 125.00
Thank offering	\$ 279.00
Gifts in Memory	\$ 20.00
Mission Awards	\$ 45.00
Legacy Fund	\$ 25.00
Iowa Missions (\$33 each)	\$ 99.00
Mission U	\$ 33.00
Magazine Fund	\$ 1.00

Local Charities (PEC grant covered \$398.69)

Janesville After Prom	\$ 40.00
Janesville First Responders	\$ 40.00
Janesville Fire Department	\$ 40.00
Friends of the Family	\$ 40.00 (plus \$49.00 worth quilted items)
Camp Courageous	\$ 40.00
Cedar Valley Hospice	\$ 40.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 40.00
Hillcrest Family Services	\$ 40.00
Food Bank	\$ 40.00
North Star Services	\$ 40.00
Janesville Library Fundraiser	\$ 805.00 (value of quilted items)

Rebecca Circle sponsored a shower that brought in approximately \$1000.00 worth of supplies for the church and parsonage.

Naomi Circle sponsored the Angel Tree which brought in approximately \$1700.00 worth of gift items for local charities, first responders, and law enforcement.



Thank you for the Christmas gift to get something for myself - I DID!

~ Rita

Thanks, so much, to the SPPRC and the congregation for the Christmas wishes and the gift card. I enjoy all my time at the church; whether I am working, volunteering, or attending meetings; it gives me such a feeling of fellowship and happiness. YOU ALL do that for me, and I cannot say enough how thankful I am.

~Barb



Quilt of the Month

This 58 X 84 inch hand-quilted Lionel Train throw has a solid black backing and would be a delight for any train-lover you know.

It is on display in Court Chapel, along with several others. Have a look and see if you are interested.

Prices are negotiable.



On Sunday, January 22 we celebrated the baptism of Riggs James Drewis.



