



# Janesville United Methodist Church

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**Rev. Laurie L Riley, pastor**

March 2023 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

## Office Hours

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

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### Lent Prayers for 2023 by Stephen Spiewak

Here are some easy prayers you can say to feel connected to God during Lent this year:

- “God, may Your light guide my day, and your spirit bring me peace. Amen.”
- “God, may my sacrifice of today of (state your Lenten sacrifice) remind me of my dependence on You for all the blessings I enjoy. Amen.”
- ”May I stand in solidarity today with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. May we be united in your love, and may I work to build your kingdom here on earth.”
- “Heavenly Father, I’m truly sorry for the moments today where I missed the mark. I ask for your forgiveness and the strength to better follow Your call tomorrow. Amen.”
- ”God, I lift up (name of the person you’d like to pray for) today. I ask that you bless them abundantly today and throughout Lent. Amen.”
- “Oh Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything. Amen.”



As we begin the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday, I again came across this story... a father wanted his young son to really understand the importance of making right choices, by obeying his parents and doing what was right.

So, when his son made a bad choice or a wrong decision, he gave him a hammer and a nail to take out into the backyard and pound into a fence post. In the beginning it seemed that the boy pounded a lot of nails in the fence. Some days many nails were pounded into the fence and other days only a few nails were pounded in but every day nails went in the fence.

However, as the boy grew older and took time to think through his choices, he seemed to pound fewer and fewer nails in the fence. In fact, every day his son went through the whole day making good decisions and healthy choices, he'd let the boy go out and take out one of those nails.

This continued on for several years and over the years he and his dad went out and looked at the fence and saw there were always two or three nails in the post for it -seemed he'd nail new ones in as often as he'd pull out others.

However, as the boy continued to mature and make better decisions the boy and the father went to the fence one day and discovered all the nails were removed from the post. That was when his dad said, "I want you to notice something about the post." The son looked at the post for a moment and realized that all the nails that once were driven in and then later removed had left small holes in the post. The holes were the remaining effects of the nails.

His dad said," I want to tell you something about bad choices and decisions. Even though you may be totally forgiven from your bad choices or decisions, and there are no nails visible, there are the remaining effects, the consequences, of those choices or decisions; just like the holes in that fencepost.

During the Lenten season I often hear many people say Lent is a depressing time of year, I don't understand why we have to celebrate it. I don't get why we have these extra worship services to celebrate the bad things that happen? I don't want to look at myself as hard as Lent makes me look at myself. Lent just reminds me that I am sinful and I don't like that. I wish that Lent would just hurry up and end so that we can get on with the celebration of Easter.

It seems that many of us struggle with the season of Lent maybe it is because we want to convince ourselves that we are perfect and without sin or at least we don't want to think about the sins we have committed.

Maybe we are fearful that if we see who we really are in God's eyes then God is going to do something to us. Maybe we forget that God's plans for us are good not evil, and God wants to rescue us from the hidden sins that endanger our lives which is what the season of Lent is about.

This Lent I invite each of us to take in the season even though it is uncomfortable and see how God is walking this journey with us. Let us slow down and really see how God sees us. Let us see that even in our imperfectness God does not turn away from us. In fact, it is in our imperfectness that God in Christ can be there for us in the same way Christ was there for those gathered at the cross praying for us even as he hung there dying for us.

As we worship together this Lent let us realize fully what God has given for us so on Easter, we too can really celebrate the risen Christ now with us.

See you in worship,  
Pastor Laurie



The JUMC Administrative Council will meet on  
**Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00 pm.**

First Annual  
**Community**  
**Irish Beef Stew Supper**

Janesville Riviera-Roose  
Events Center

**Thursday, March 16, 2023**  
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**



Start your St. Paddy's  
celebrating with us on  
Thursday evening by  
joining us for a bowl of  
original Irish Stew!



All are welcome!

Come and enjoy  
some good food  
and good fellowship!

Free-will offering.



**Menu**

Beef Stew  
Biscuits  
Jello Salad  
Cake  
Lemonade  
Coffee



Hosted by the  
Janesville United Methodist Church



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

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  
On Tuesday, March 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 February, we lost a dedicated member of our congregation. Betty Betsinger passed away on February 2.

Please pray for her family as they deal with the loss.

Betty will be missed.



UMW met on Thursday, February 2nd at 1:00 PM in Court Chapel with ten members and 1 visitor present.

Our program was a speaker from the Decorah office of the Northeast Iowa Community Action Corp. She gave a very interesting talk about the nine programs that they offer to people with low income, disabilities, etc She also told us how much they appreciate our donations to their cause.

Prayer concerns were shared for church members and friends.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Correspondence was read from our former pastor, Phil Clinton, about how he remembered Velma Rice and that he follow our Facebook page regularly.

A motion was made and seconded to pay \$900, which is half of our yearly pledge to the church now, and pay the remaining half at a later date. Motion carried.

There were no officer reports. Many get well and sympathy cards were sent to church members.

Circle Reports were given. Mary Deborah met at church with 5 members present and planned the lunch for today's meeting. Naomi Circle met at church with 4 members present and had nothing exciting to report. Rebecca Circle met with 11 members present to have their postponed Christmas meeting.

The Piecemakers are piecing a orca whale and dolphin throw. There are still craft items for sale.

The memorial of \$245.00 from the Lois Boeck family was discussed again. Members were asked to continue to think about this. One idea was to purchase an new large coffee pot as one of our current ones is not always dependable.

PEC grants were discussed. Z team will now be in charge of scheduling fundraising events to help prevent conflicts. They will also handle grant funds so unused funds from one event can be used for other events.

Velma' Rice's Celebration of Life service was discussed. Several members had heard many nice compliments about it.

It was decided to the May Breakfast be for our own church members and not invite the school chorus.

Rebecca Circle shared devotions on the the history of Valentines Day and the Response moment. Members completed a pink doily craft to make a Valentine complete with mints to take home.

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

## **Showers Bring Flowers**

Help us “shower” the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in March with monetary donations and make the “flower” grow on our “recording” station in the entryway. There is a **\$1 for \$1 match** again this year for all money donated in March.

Let’s take advantage of the matching funds and stretch our dollars to help our neighbors!



## **Reminder**

### **Easter Sunday is April 9.**

In years past, we have collected donations In Memory and In Honor of loved ones to use to purchase flowers to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter.

Last year, we purchased artificial flowers which we will be able to use again this year.

We will still be collecting donations In Honor and In Memory of loved ones, but all donations will go to the Food Bank.

We will have special order forms attached to the weekly bulletins for your use. In the past, a \$10 donation per name was the suggested amount to donate.

ALL donations will go to the Food Bank to be included in the \$1 for \$1 match.

A special flyer listing all the honorees will also be included with our Easter Season bulletins.





### Craft Corner

(formerly known as "Quilt of the Month")

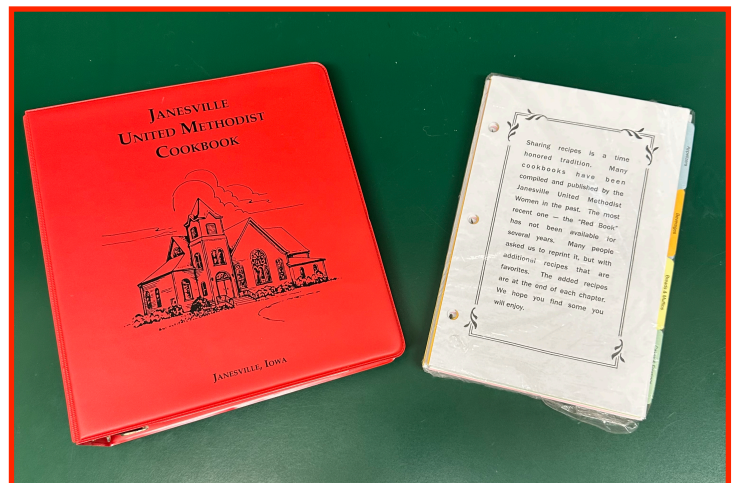
This month, we are featuring our **Janesville United Methodist Cookbooks.**

These cookbooks are **\$20 each**  
and  
the inserts of additional recipes are **\$10 each.**

If you already have a cookbook,  
you can purchase the inserts as an update  
(you do not need to purchase the entire cookbook  
again).

These cookbooks are filled with recipes from years of  
experience and are very popular....  
and....

**they make great gifts**  
(Mother's Day is coming)!







**On Sunday, February 12**  
Our Sunday School kids (and teachers) decorated some beautiful, yummy cupcakes and sold them after worship as a fund raiser for their Angel Tree project to buy Christmas gifts for less fortunate. They raised \$547.00!!

**A BIG THANK YOU to Melissa Eibey** for making what seemed like a thousand cupcakes, to the **Sunday School teachers** for dodging sprinkles and helping the kids keep most of them on the cupcakes, to the **parents** for their support, to **our dedicated “customers”** who always support the kids, and (most of all) to the **kids** who decorated cupcakes and sang for us during worship.

**What a fun day it was!**





More Youth Group shenanigans!!!!

