



# The Janesville Bridge

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

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**Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf**

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

**March 2021 Newsletter**

Dear JUMC family,

**LENT** is a time for growing deeper in our faith in God as we confess and repent of our sins on the way to the Cross of Christ. The wages of sin is death. We deserve to die on that Cross, but He took our sin upon Himself and died there in our stead. What wondrous love is this!



One way to grow deeper in faith is a Scripture Search Game. It can be enjoyable and enriching at the same time. It makes the internet “search” box a tool for Christ and His Church!

Here is one of my recent works. I began with Matthew 11:28 and searched: “When did Jesus say, ‘Come?’”

**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**

**COME** = Like a toddler runs with arms wide open and shouting their name when their parent arrives, Jesus’ arms are wide open to receive us whether we COME running or barely able to move. Jesus says, COME.



**TO** = Because Jesus invited in TO Paradise even the repenting prisoner who hung on a cross beside Him; surely Jesus invites every one of us. Repent and be saved. Luke 23:43

**ME** = JESUS is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6.

**ALL** = There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are ALL one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

**YOU** = For God did not send his Son into the WORLD to condemn the WORLD, but to save the WORLD through Him. John 3:17

**WHO** = 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. John 3:16

**ARE** = Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8



**WEARY and BURDENED=**

This Lent, especially with COVID lasting over a year, and all the tension in our lives, we can’t pretend we are all is fine and doing well! We must grieve in order to be well in the future.

**Naming our reasons for grief helps overcome their power to cause us pain.**

We grieve loss of close relationship, fellowship, visiting with one another, our good health, our jobs, our ability to travel. We grieve the loss of time that has past and events we have missed! We grieve the uncertainties of the future.

## *Pastor's article continued. . .*

**AND** = Jesus promised: I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you AND the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you all things AND will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14: 18, 26.

**I** = Early in His ministry, Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" And Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Matthew 16:16. Do a "search" for "Names of Jesus" and immerse yourself in His wondrous attributes.

**WILL** = Do another "search," this time type in "Jesus WILL." The promises of Christ WILL fill your cup to overflowing with all the promises of God through Christ. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if anyone hears My Voice, and open the door, I WILL come in to them, and WILL sup with them, and they with Me." Revelation 3:20.

**GIVE** = When I picture Jesus dying on the Cross, I see the FREE GIFT of God's grace in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. I sing, "He said, 'Freely, freely, you have received; freely, freely GIVE.'"

**YOU** = John wrote, I am writing these things to YOU so that YOU may not sin. But IF ANYONE does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD. 1 John 2:1-29

**REST.** = This is the same Matthew 27:28-29 verses from the new *Passion Translation of the Bible*. I like its imagery.

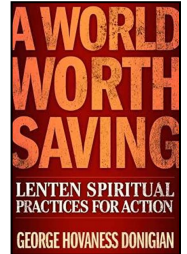
**Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Then come to Me. I will refresh your life, for I am your Oasis. Simply join your life with Mine. Learn My ways and you'll**

**discover that I'm gentle, humble, easy to please. You will find refreshment & rest in Me.**

Matthew 27:28-29

I breathed a sigh of relief at the word, "oasis." And then again at "refreshment and rest." Did you? Hope you enjoyed this Biblical "game" to deepen your faith in God during this unusual & unprecedented Lent. Let me know what you discover on your Biblical "searches."

As Lent unfolds into Easter on Sunday, April 4, it is my prayer that you will hear God's hope and be assured of God's good intentions for each of us and our world.



Please join us in person or online for our worship times, live on Sundays at 10:30, and anytime on recording. Share the video and invite others to join us in this hope-filled season. I'm excited to continue this chapter with you in our church family's life. God bless and keep you and yours. Pastor Audrey:)

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*Worship Is "LIVE!" on  
JUMC Youtube*

JUMC has invested in the ability to offer "LIVE" broadcasting of Worship at 10:30 am Sundays to be able to worship TOGETHER in-house at the same time as on-line.

This will allow us to observe the *Sacrament of the Lord's Table* TOGETHER & LIVE, as allowed by Iowa Conference UMC policy during COVID.

We're sorry for any inconvenience, but are doing our best to offer all viewers the ability to worship "virtually," as it is called.



## Regarding Live-Streaming Worship

Go to YouTube. In search bar at the top, type in UMC JanesvilleIA. This will open the channel which has all JUMC videos. It's even easier when you subscribe, at no cost, which is on the side bar, and you don't have to type in every time. Easy peasy!

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## Let Us Continue to Pray for

All affected by COVID

Amy and Matt Shook family

on loss of her mother, Betty Yokem

Dave & Mary Peters on loss

of his second younger brother, James.

Mike & Deb Weinhold on loss

of his first cousin, Dennis Weinhold

Tom & Char Brickman

Dan & Wendy Brace

Johnny & Esther Folkerds

Jan Guzman      Velma Rice

Dennis Osborn & family

Evelyn Johnson      Flo Shephard

Marge Grandon      Evelyn Wubbena

Marlys Cook      De & Carol Dix

Georgia Eibey      Helen Dettmer

Any others?

For persons to fill leadership positions  
as Lay Leader(s)

Lay Member to Annual Conference

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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 much, due to the virus, or it can be ongoing.

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Please Reply to Emails from our  
Church & Pastor (NEW address).

[janessvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:janessvilleumc@gmail.com)

[pastorahw1@gmail.com](mailto:pastorahw1@gmail.com)

Church "business" is being done in 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 meetings.

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## 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. If you have updated picture, address, phone number or social media info, you would like included, please send to [janessvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:janessvilleumc@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Thank you

## Updated Church Directory and

## UPPER ROOM Devotional Available

Pick up your copies on tables just inside either church doors.

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## UMWomen March Bible Verse

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.      Romans 8: 38-39

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## March is Women's History Month!

### Global United Methodist Women

[United Methodist Women](#) is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice. Click on [the blue box](#) to learn more.

## Want to Receive Church E-News?

At one time, JUMC had said only one email sent per household, but that is no longer the case, particularly when it comes to videos of Worship. If there are other persons in your household or family who want to receive JUMC emails & video links, please email [janesvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:janesvilleumc@gmail.com) or contact the office.

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## March Birthdays

Luke Brace	3/1
Christena Charley	3/1
Bryce Knapp	3/1
Bradley Johnson	3/4
Josh Renner	3/9
Mary Burkes	3/10
Grant Destival	3/11
Kayla Kolaas	3/13
Katie Johnson	3/14
Shelby Murley	3/16
Allan Johnson	3/18
Marina Stratiou	3/18
Gary Shaulis	3/19
Marge Grandon	3/21
Jodi Charley	3/23
Melissa Eibey	3/24
Tyler Brace	3/25
Trent (T.J.) Cooper	3/25
Pam MacKay	3/26
Jesse Grovier	3/26
Thomas Charley	3/27
Amanda Stark	3/28
Gloria <u>Howe</u>	3/28
<i>?Is this an <u>incorrect last name?</u></i>	
Gayle Robinson	3/28
Sue Stapleton	3/28
Anna DeMott	3/29
Cindy Mau	3/30
Nancy Bloker	3/30
Delberta Fisher	3/31

## March Anniversaries

Sylvia & Melvin Johnson	3/10/57
Weylon & Amber Heiser	3/10/07
Jim & Kathy Whitney	3/12/76
Willy & Nikki Haan	3/13/04
Jeremy & Sydnie Johnson	3/19/11
Tim & Jodi West	3/20
Scott & Kim Knapp	3/22/80

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## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who sent me get well, thinking of you, cards and birthday greetings. All was much appreciated.

Gerry Tartar

Thank You from Esther, John and Gary Folkerts for continued greetings, visits and prayers for their health.

I would like to Thank Everyone for their cards, calls and prayers during my stay in the hospital and now. I appreciate all your concerns!. Thanks

Dick Funk

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*Click Here* > [Lenten Study 2021 Week Two: Living to benefit the Lord](#)

LENTEN VIDEO MESSAGE SERIES 2021  
Bishop Laurie Haller and her Appointive Cabinet are providing Lenten Videos

There are many items of interest to Iowa United Methodists at the Iowa UMC Conference website. Go to [www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org).

# Have We Grown Too Accustomed to Isolation?



Has it become easier to remain at home to watch on-line worship, especially now that it is live-streamed on Sunday mornings at 10:30?

Actually we would rather have you tune-in on-line than not at all. However, we have admitted to missing one another's presence.

Now that vaccinations are available, the threat of corona is passing, just as other viruses, bacterias, polio, chickenpox, rubella & whooping cough have. Freedom is returning! The new "Normal" is settling in!

## It's time to come home to JUMC!

Sunday, March 7, the first Sunday of the month, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion and a Holy Baptism.

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### Iowa United Methodist Women Ignited for Justice – Mission u 2021

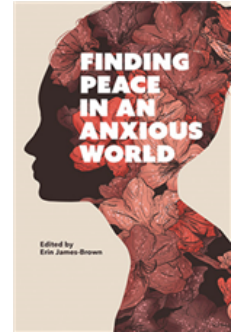
"But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing  
stream." (ESV) Amos 5:24

The Iowa Conference UMWomen offers **Mission u 2021** (formerly *Schools of Christian Mission of which our Pastor Audrey was a Dean before becoming a pastor some 25 years ago.*)

Many **Mission u** aspects will remain the same: study topics are prepared and study leaders trained & certified by the National Office. Iowa Conference UMW will offer these important topics of our current world. with a virtual experience on a Zoom platform. Studies will be offered July 2021 and/or October 2021 with these study leaders:.

Rev Laurel Capesius, Our Savior UMC in Manson, will lead the spiritual growth "*Finding Peace in an Anxious World*".

UCC Rev Paul Witmer, former pastor-Women at the Well in Mitchellville, and Rev. Dr. Sarah Rohret, St. Mark's UMC, Iowa City, will lead separate classes for the social action "Pushout".



Please see the **Mission u** flyer for more details. and consider participating and inviting friends/family to join you for this virtual experience. Linda Blazek Garvin

**Mission u** Dean 2021-2022

Iowa Conference United Methodist Women

**Studies:** *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, by the Urban Village Church, uses Proverbs and "The Serenity Prayer" as a guide to help Christians toward being more deeply rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ.

*Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique W. Morris is the 2021 Mission Study. It focuses on the plight of criminalized black women and girls.

*Pushout* shows how even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes and despair, black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities and beyond. It challenges the rest of us to do the same.

Registration fee: \$25/class or \$40/both classes Further details announced soon.

Eventually these books will be available in the JUMC Library along with other UMW recommended books. 2020 and earlier books can be checked out and read now!



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Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf

Sunday School - paused due to covid  
Fellowship - paused due to covid.  
Worship - 10:30 a.m.

**In-house and In-person Worship**  
began on Sunday, January 17, 2021,  
as long as COVID #s remain below 15%

**Here are “addresses”  
for Worship Online**

**LIVE at 10:30 am Sunday.**  
Go to *YouTube*, in search bar at  
the top, type in [UMC JanesvilleIA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJanesvilleIA)  
then “subscribe” for instant  
“on” *youtube* each time.

[janeshvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:janeshvilleumc@gmail.com)

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

**READ INSIDE for LIVE-  
STREAMING INFORMATION**