



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>

Rev. Laurie L Riley, pastor

March 2024 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Highlights in this issue:

A Note from the Pastor.	page 2
March Volunteers and Celebrations.	page 3
Shepherds News / In Our Prayers.	page 4
Thank You's	page 5
Thank You's	page 6
UWF News	page 7
Upcoming March/Easter Events	page 8
"February Happenings" Pictures	page 9
"February Happenings" Pictures	page 10

Office Hours

**Mondays thru
Thursdays**

8:00 am - 11:00 am



Throughout Lent (February 18 – March 31)

The Sunday School kids will be collecting your loose change during each Sunday's Offering. Your donations will help the kids with their Angel Tree Project to purchase Christmas gifts for less fortunate children.

We will be collecting donations In Memory / In Honor of Loved Ones.

All donations will be given to the Food Bank (with a \$1 for \$1 match).

Order forms and information can be found in the Sunday bulletins or you can put your information on a slip of paper and include it with your check - "In Honor/ Memory" in the memo portion.

If you would like your In Honor/Memory included in an Easter flyer, please have your order form and check to the office by **Tuesday, March 26**. But, we will continue to collect donations for the Food Bank \$1 for \$1 match until **Tuesday, April 9**.

A note from the pastor....



As I write this newsletter article, we have just begun the season of Lent and I am reminded of how sometimes we want to run from the one who actually saved us, so I share with you this story.

One evening a woman was driving home when she noticed a huge truck behind her that was driving uncomfortably close. She stepped on the gas to gain some distance from the truck, but when she sped up, the truck did too. The faster she drove, the faster the truck drove.

Now, scared, she exited the freeway. But the truck stayed with her. The woman then turned up a main street, hoping to lose her pursuer in the traffic. But the truck ran a red light and continued the chase.

Reaching the point of panic, the woman whipped her car into a service station and bolted out of her auto screaming for help. The truck driver sprang from his truck and ran toward her car. Yanking the back door open the driver pulled out a man hidden in the backseat.

The woman was running from the wrong person. From his high vantage point, the truck driver had spotted a would-be attacker in the woman's car. The chase was not his effort to harm her but to save her at the cost of his own safety.

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

It seems that many of us want to run from God's love, for us by trying to convince ourselves that we are not that bad and other people sin more than we do.

It seems that we are fearful that, if we see who we really are in God's eyes, then God is going to do something to us. We tend to forget that God's plans for us are good - not evil, that God wants to rescue us from the hidden sins that endanger our lives.

At times, it seems that we are like this woman - running from the one who is there to help us.

This Lent, I invite each of us to slow down and really look at ourselves so we can find out how God is there for us, just as God was there for those gathered at the cross.

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

See you in worship,

Laurie

Volunteers for March

Liturgists in March

March 3
Brad Ruth

March 10
Margaret Shepard

March 17
Nancy Beenblossom

March 24
Gary Shaulis

March 31
Barb Hamlyn

Ushers in March

March 3
Brad Ruth

March 10
Dick & Karen Funk

March 17
Dave Beenblossom

March 24
Gary Shaulis

March 31
EASTER
5th Sunday volunteer

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
Gayle Robinson	3/28
Sue Stapleton	3/28
Anna DeMott	3/29
Cindy Mau	3/30
Nancy Bloker	3/30
Delberta Fisher	3/31

Agape Supper on Good Friday March 29 at 6:00 pm

“During the meal, there may be informal conversation in Christian fellowship, or the leader may direct the conversation by suggesting matters of mutual concern, or there may be spontaneous witnessing and praise. If there is food left over, it may be taken as an expression of love to persons not present.”

At our Agape supper, I am inviting each of you to bring something to share with all who gather together. The items do not need to be large -- fruit or crackers, or breads, or cheese or sausage, olive, pickled herring, deviled eggs, cookies; you get the idea -- a finger food or simple food pot luck. All who want to come are invited to come; this includes children, if parents want to include them in this service.

I will begin the service; we will enjoy a simple meal together, I will serve Holy Communion (the only major difference between this meal and an actual Agape meal) and then I will conclude the service.

Pastor Laurie

March Anniversaries

Weylon & Amber Heiser	3/10
Jim & Kathy Whitney	3/12
Willy & Nikki Haan	3/13
Jeremy & Sydnie Johnson	3/19
Tim & Jodi West	3/20
Scott & Kim Knapp	3/22





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

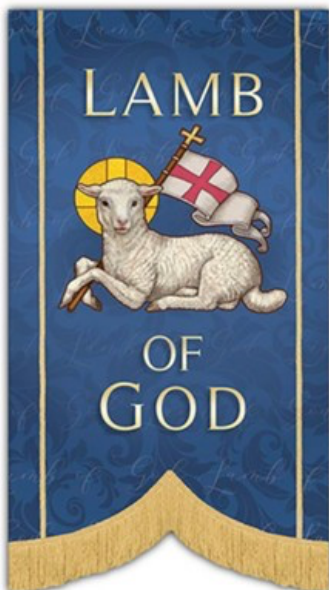
- Georgia Eibey
- Marilyn Taylor
- Harriet Schares
- Lorraine Hallberg
- Lolita Huber
- Lavonne Dorman
- Char Brickman
- Bev West
- Pam MacKay
- Kathleen Knapp
- Jan Guzman

Prayers for healing are requested for:

- Colette Ruth
- Pam MacKay
- Char Brickman
- LaVonne Dorman
- Esther Folkerds
- Wendy Brace & family
- Evelyn Turner
- Karen Funk
- Esther Woodyard
- Kathleen Knapp
- Virginia Robinson's sister, Beverly Boyer

The Shepherds will meet on **Tuesday, March 12 at 9:30 am.**

Remember - everyone is invited to join the Shepherds to visit shut-ins. It is a rewarding experience for those who visit AND those who are visited!



We would like to welcome another member into the fold. Wendy Brace has joined the Shepherds.

Welcome Wendy!!!!



THANK YOU!

Thank you for the thoughtful donation to help students in need with the cost of meal purchases! Breakfast and lunch meals are essential to helping our students be successful in the classroom and throughout their day at school.

We are so grateful for your generosity and kindness.

Becky Prostine MPH RDN/LD
District Food Service Director/ Dietitian
Waverly-Shell Rock Schools

Thank you so much for your generosity! We appreciate your help with providing lunch and snack to our students in need.

North Cedar Staff

To: Janesville UMC



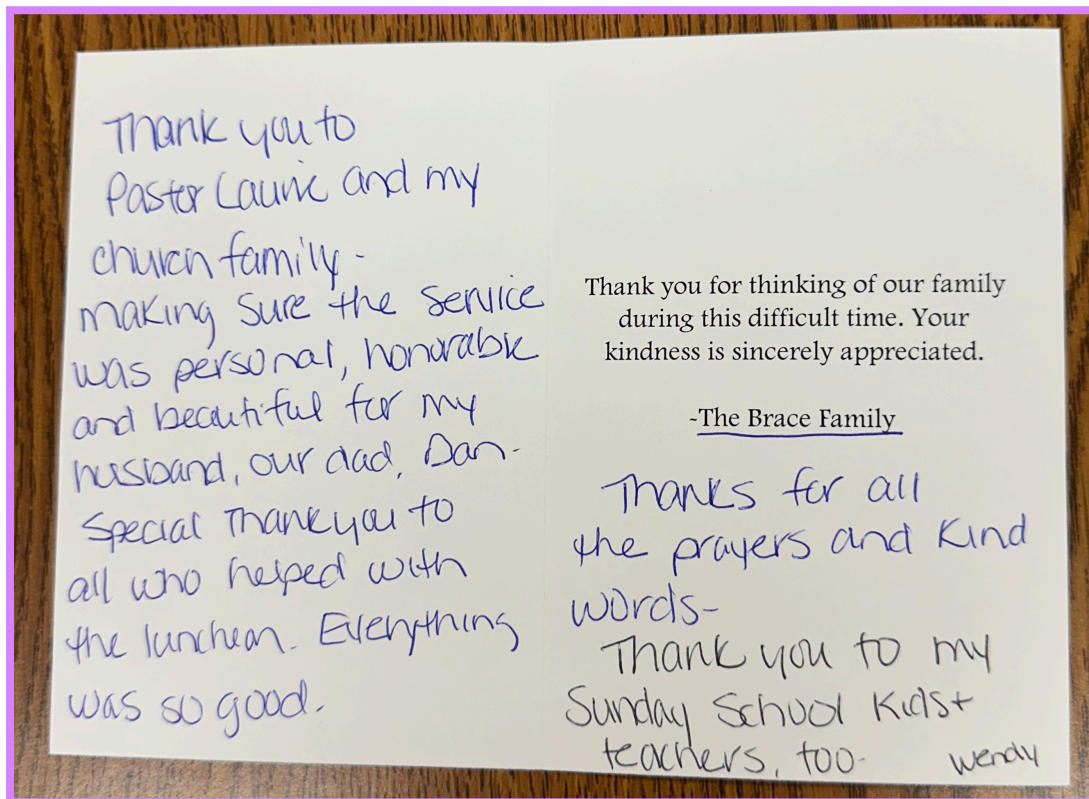
Thank you all so much for the donation of kids cloths for the school supply. I have already needed to use some of them for students. Having extra cloths to borrow here at school allows for quick clean up getting students back to class sooner. The blankets are perfect. They are small enough to be easily washed, soft and have cut patterns.

Thanks and God bless you all!
Tammy Jensenius RN, Janesville School Nurse



Many thanks go out to:

- * Everyone who supported the kids and bought cupcakes after our Valentine's celebration on February 11th. The kids have added **\$383.00** to their Angel Tree fund for Christmas.
- * Everyone who donated food and personal items for the Food Bank Super Bowl Food Drive. Whether your team won or not, the Food Bank was a big winner - **\$350.00** was donated.
- * RADA Cutlery, who donated **knives and kitchen utensils** to the church.



**New Contact Information
for Kathleen Knapp**

New Aldaya - Room #109
7529 University Ave.
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613



The February UWF meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 1st at 1:00 PM in Court Chapel with 12 members and Pastor present.

Prayer concerns were shared for church members and friends. Correspondence was a thank you from Friends of the Family for our year end donation. Five get well, sympathy, and think of you cards. A card chairman for April through June is still needed.

Circle Reports were given. Mary Deborah Circle cancelled their meeting due to multiple conflicts. Naomi Circle reported they distributed all the physical items from the Angel Tree to their designated places before Christmas and the monetary gifts for the school lunch programs to the schools after Christmas break. Rebecca Circle discussed Sunday School treats for February and lunch for today's meeting.

The Piecemakers have 10 baby quilts to be blessed on Sunday and delivered to the Waverly Hospital's birthing center. They will be starting some Cover Them with Love Quilts for Ingathering soon. There are still craft items and cookbooks for sale.

It was suggested that we provide a pie booth for the Janesville Days for 2024 (175th). Members outside of JUMP and UWF would need to be recruited for assistance with the event.

A report on the Veteran's dinner was given. The remaining cranberry relish will be sold for a freewill offering.

Our funeral lunch fee will be increasing to \$150. Several other corrections and changes needed to be made to the policies for funerals and other events at the church. The final draft has been submitted to the Trustees for approval.

JUMP is about half done with the pie making for the Sorority fundraiser. The next pie making day is Monday, February 5th at 9:00 AM.

PEC grants have been submitted for UWF year-end mission donations and for the Mission Committee for shipping and toothpaste cost.

Our group received our 5 Star Certificate for 2023.

Pastor Laurie explained the Food Bank Football Challenge that will be going on the next two Sundays. Monetary donations along with nonperishable food, paper, cleaning supplies will be collected. Cindy volunteered to deliver them to the NEICAC food pantry.

The changes for this year's Ingathering kits and donations were discussed. New guideline sheets were distributed. New prayer coloring sheets for the student kits have been printed and will be in the UWF box. Cindy will print new prayer cards for the personal dignity kits and leave those in the box as well. Pastor Laurie talked about the Mat Marathon being hosted by Cedar Fall UMC in March where sleeping mats will be made out of plastic grocery bags.

We have money designated for kitchen needs in the Memorial fund. The Piecemakers have funds available that could be used as well but would like to keep some funds to help cover supply costs for the baby quilts and Ingathering quilts they have been making. It was suggested that we get three bids for replacing the counter tops in the kitchen. JUMP funds available as well that could be used for the project.

Permission was given for use of the kitchen on Saturday, February 10th to make cupcakes for the Sunday School Valentine fundraiser.

The Mission Committee has been asked to find a different mission project to replace Imagine No Malaria. Members felt that the WASH Global Project (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) would be a good choice.

Our next meeting will be March 7th at 1:00 P.M. Rebecca Circle will have devotions and Response Moment. Naomi Circle will hostess. Program to be announced.

Upcoming March/Easter Events

Thursday, March 7

UWF Meeting at 1:00 pm

Tuesday, March 12

Shepherds Meeting at 9:30 am

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday
UMCOR Sunday
Procession of Palms
Kids Singing during Worship

Thursday, March 28

Holy Thursday

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

**Agape Supper at 6:00 pm
followed by worship**

Sunday, March 31

**** time change ****

Easter Sunday

**

Live Flower Cross

**

Kids serving Easter
Breakfast at 9:00 am
Worship at 10:30 am



UMCOR Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing is now called UMCOR Sunday. As in the past, the donations cover the administrative costs of running UMCOR. This allows 100% of other money donated to UMCOR to go to the specified cause.

Special envelopes will be in the bulletins **on Palm Sunday, March 24th.** Checks can also be dropped off in the church office or mailed.

Please make your check out to the church and put "UMCOR Sunday" in the memo part of your check.

Thank you!



2023 Agape Supper



2023 Live Flower Cross

February Happenings - Page 1

Quilts Blessed to go to the Birthing Center



Food Bank Super Bowl Food Drive



February Happenings - Page 2

Valentine Celebration

