



# The Janesville Bridge

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

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**Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf**

Cell phone for calls or text.(641) 840-0119 or email at [pastorahw1@gmail.com](mailto:pastorahw1@gmail.com)

Also "Friend" on FaceBook at "Audrey H. Westendorf"

## Dear JUMC family from Pastor Audrey:

I always wondered about Joseph of Arimathea and his connection to Jesus that he would publicly and bravely bury the body of Jesus in his own tomb as it states:



*"Joseph took the body...and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away."* (Matthew 27: 59–60)

Mary Magdalene and the other women are not the only ones who show faithfulness to Jesus in His death. Matthew tells us Joseph was, "a disciple of Jesus."

Joseph is from Arimathea, 22 miles northwest of Jerusalem. This Arimathean has secretly followed Jesus (John 19:38), probably because his seat on the Sanhedrin (Mark 15:43) would be in jeopardy if the other council members found him out. The reverent acts of Joseph and the Pharisee Nicodemus, who helps Joseph provide Jesus with a proper Jewish burial, show that the Jewish clergy at the time do not universally oppose our Lord. (Matthew 27:57–61; John 3:1–21; 19:38–42).

It is human nature for us to "generalize" and assume in our statements about a group of persons, that all agree. Of course, that is rarely true. It's certainly not true of the United Methodist Church, especially as it pertains to LGBTQ issues, about which

we are still arguing. And now, because of the pandemic and inability for world travel, the General Conference, who decides such changes to the UMBook of Discipline, is not scheduled to meet until Aug-Sept of 2022!

Neither was it true in the case of Joseph and Nicodemus, both members of the day's high court for political and religious affairs, the Sanhedrin.

Joseph and Nicodemus only have three-hours to accomplish this work before Sabbath begins. Yet there will remain more work to be done, which is why the women return to His tomb on the first day of the week (Mark 16:1).

The burial of Jesus' body in a rich man's tomb is yet another fulfillment of prophecy (Isaiah 53:9). In coming forward to bury Jesus, both Nicodemus and Joseph identify themselves as believers in Christ and risk the Sanhedrin's fury. After years of following Jesus behind closed doors, Joseph makes his true allegiance known.

This is an encouragement and model for us today. Besides the two men's faithfulness in our Lord's burial, note that Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph are also present when Jesus is laid to rest: "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb." (Matthew 27:56, 61). I pray that during Lent your love of God has deepened and that today your love for Jesus would increase and that neither shame nor fear would keep you from following Him.

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

Easter is finally here and it is my continued prayer that you will experience God's hope and be assured of God's good intentions for each of us and our world.

Please tune in online to our worship times, live on Sundays at 10:30, and anytime on [youtube.com/UMCJanesvilleIA](https://www.youtube.com/UMCJanesvilleIA). Share the video and invite others to join us. I'm excited to continue this chapter with you in our church family's life. God bless and keep you and yours. Pastor Audrey:)

## *Worship Is "LIVE!" on UMCJanesvilleIA @ 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 with 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!

## *UMWomen April Bible Verse*

*Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again, rejoice.* Philippians 4:4 NIV

## *Let Us Continue to Pray for*

BAPTISM of Luke Curtis,  
son of Zachary and Jessica Dobbs

All affected by COVID

Mary Burkes on the loss  
of her brother-in-law, Bob Kunkle

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



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.

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

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

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

Church "business" is still 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 meetings.

## April Birthdays

Bradley Woeste	4/1
Sarah Brown	4/4
Andrew Eibey	4/4
Jim Hamlyn	4/6
Joni Clemens	4/10
Carter Herbst	4/10
Seth Reid	4/11
Weylon Heiser	4/11
Mindy Yochum	4/13
Cadence Coffman	4/19
Daniel VerSteege	4/19
Michael Baldwin	4/20
Mackenzie Carlisle	4/21
Emma Baker	4/21
Marileigh Fisher	4/21
Natalie Brace	4/22
Albert McFadden	4/22
Grace Cornish	4/23
Zach Dobbs	4/26
Isabel Barnes	4/26
Patricia Yochum	4/27
Sydney Johnson	4/28
Morgan Charley	4/29

## April Anniversaries

Matt & Amy Shook	4/11
Del & Margaret Shepard	4/19/1968
Joe & Kathy Kessel	4/22/2000
Trevor & Jenna Lafrentz	4/23/2011
Thomas & Christena Charley	4/24/1966

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## Thank You

Thank you to Wendy Brace who has volunteered to come in to clean and sanitize the Sunday School rooms & supplies, chapel and offices. What a blessing!

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## Picture Directory Goal for 2021

We still have the list of those of you who signed up to pay \$10 for a Picture Directory and will be getting them printed soon.

## UMCOR - Compelled by Christ

As the humanitarian relief & development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief or UMCOR, assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need.

UMCOR Special Offering serves the Administrative expenses of UMCOR so the 100% of our UMCOR donation reaches your chosen mission project or ministry. Give through "JUMC" or directly here:

**GIVE NOW**



**LEARN MORE** about UMCOR's purpose, vision and goals. Go to <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/> to learn even more.

Last week's winter storm—unofficially named Winter Storm Uri—led to winter weather alerts for 170 million people. The state of Texas was hit particularly hard, resulting in power outages and broken pipes. As the snow and ice melted, flooding became a significant problem. Iowans are familiar with winter's worst, but Texans are not. They were ill-equipped.

UMC & other churches served as warming shelters and food bank. If that wasn't enough damage, the same storm system spawned tornados in the Carolinas, destroying home and properties.

UMCOR, working with Conference Disaster Relief Coordinators, works to provide immediate funding to assist annual conferences and long-term support once the damage is fully assessed. Your help is needed, today. [Please make a gift, today, to UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response.](#)

## 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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## At the NE Iowa Food Bank \$10 = Approximately 40 meals.

Can you believe it? At a time when \$1 can't even buy a cup of coffee we at Northeast Iowa Food Bank are able to take \$10 and provide approximately 40 meals.

You see, we partner with a network of food distributors, grocers, farmers, fishers, and shipping companies, all working to bring healthy, nutritious food to hungry people in NE Iowa. The number of hungry people in our region is growing. We see families where both parents work two jobs, yet after fixed expenses such as utilities and rent are paid, there is nothing left over to buy food.



Our senior citizens are having to choose between their prescriptions & food. We know children who are afraid that tonight will be another night of going to bed with their tummies aching from hunger.

Send your gift to (JUMC) and make a real difference in our community. A group of anonymous donors have set a challenge: all donations made to the NEIowa Food Bank through the end of April will be matched up to \$10,000. The next time you think \$1 is insignificant, think about the number of meals we can provide with \$1.00...then remember what else your donation is doing.

With gratitude,  
Barbara Prather, Exec Dir.,



## Buying Gift Cards from JUMC Profits Us 21% Right Now from K!



And costs YOU nothing!

When you purchase Kwik Star & Hy-Vee gift cards (aka - scrip) through our church, **you receive cards for the face value of your purchases.** As a fundraiser for the church, JUMC receives 21% for all Kwik Star purchases and 3% for all Hy-Vee purchases using the cards.

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## Letter of Appreciation

On the following page, you can read a letter of appreciation from our NorthEast Iowa District Superintendent Moody Colorado. It's nice to have our gifts be acknowledged.

## Great News!

JUMC's continued giving through-out the past difficult year, as well as the forgiven PPP loan, has allowed us to submit the entire amount of our 2021 *General Conference* portion of apportionments of \$2,920.



Apportionments are the fundamental method the UMChurch uses to fund mission and ministry beyond the local community.

“United Methodists, from our beginning, has been a denomination that believes congregations are to fund both local ministry and ministry beyond its own community to the world parish. For the followers of John

Wesley, ministry has never been one or the other, but always both," wrote Iowa Conference Treasurer, Maggie Biggs.  
Thank you & Congratulations JUMC!

*Have a blessed Easter!*



Mailing Address: 2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, IA 50321  
Phone: 515.832.2784

Laurie Haller  
Resident Bishop, Iowa Area

Rev. Dr. Moody Colorado  
Conference Superintendent  
moody.colorado@iaumc.org

Alanna Warren  
District Administrative Assistant  
alanna.warren@iaumc.org

March 2, 2021

Pastor Audrey Westendorf  
Janesville UM Church

Dear Faithful Servants of Christ,

The Peace and Joy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I commend you for your faithfulness to our Lord. I remember the Parable Lesson that when you are faithful to the Lord with what is given you, it is multiplied.

Apportionment remittance has defined faithfulness in the state and global ministries of the Iowa Annual Conference. We are living in difficult times and those of you who excelled in giving must be commended. There was a huge reduction in the Annual Conference budget which should be reflected in the Apportionment assigned to every local church for the year ahead. This is a relief for all churches.

I encourage you to rediscover the promised blessings of God in Malachi 3:10 *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, 'says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."* Our God is the faithful Heavenly Father who loves and provides for God's faithful children.

Congratulations for your accomplishment for 2020 and may the year ahead be more fruitful for you through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.



Rev. Dr. Moody M. Colorado  
Northeast District Superintendent



*Calendar of April Sundays  
at 10:30:*

**4th-** Easter Celebration

**11th-** Holy Humor Sunday when Christ has the last laugh on hell and death!

**18th-** Sowing Sunday with Zacchaeus Team

**25th-** Baptism of Abby Megan

*It's Time for  
Musical Chairs.*

Which ones goes where?



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Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf

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

**In-house and In-person  
Worship continues as long as  
COVID #s remain below 15%**

**Here are “addresses”  
for Worship Online on youtube  
[UMCJanesvilleIA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJanesvilleIA)**

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

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**READ INSIDE for LIVE-  
STREAMING INFORMATION**