



Janesville United Methodist Church

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April 2023 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

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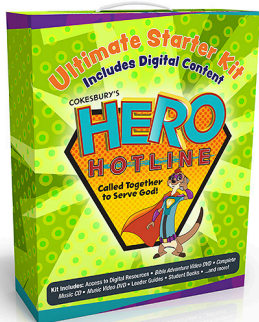
This month's Newsletter is special. It is a smaller version, since we are mailing it out, along with offering envelopes for April, May, and June. It's the same great information as usual, just fewer pictures (to save space)! It will still be emailed out for those of you who want an online copy.

JUMC Office Hours - Mondays thru Thursdays from 7:30 to 10:30.

On Monday, April 17 and Tuesday, April 18, Pastor Laurie will be having her knees replaced. At this time, it is uncertain how long she will be in the hospital and out of the office.

We have guest speakers (Rev. Jan Burnett and Rev. Moody Colorado) filling in on Sundays until Pastor Laurie returns.

Pastor Joel Higgins at Kimball UMC in Waterloo and Pastor Karen Nelson and Pastor Scott Kober of First UMC in Cedar Falls will be covering in case of an emergency. Please contact Nancy Beenblossom or the church office if you need anything.



VBS Planning Meeting April 11 at 6:00 pm at Janesville UMC

All interested people - please come.
Our theme this year is Hero Hotline.



A Note from the Pastor

On Good Friday, which this year is April 7th, I am inviting you to join me for an Agape supper and worship service. This service will begin at 6:00pm and go about an hour. This service will take place in the fellowship area so it will not be recorded.

Now, you may wonder what an Agape supper is so let me share some info with you.

The Agape Meal is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry. The modern history of the Love Feast began when Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians in Germany introduced a service of sharing food, prayer, religious conversation, and hymns in 1727. John Wesley first experienced it among the Moravians in Savannah, Georgia, ten years later. His diary notes: "After evening prayers, we joined with the Germans in one of their love-feasts. It was begun and ended with thanksgiving and prayer, and celebrated in so decent and solemn a manner as a Christian of the apostolic age would have allowed to be worthy of Christ."

It quickly became a feature of the Evangelical Revival and a regular part of Methodist society meetings in Great Britain and throughout the English-speaking world. As Methodists immigrated to North America they made Love Feasts an important part of early American Methodism.

The Love Feast includes the sharing of food and it is customary not to use communion bread, wine, or grape juice because to do so might confuse the Love Feast with the Lord's Supper. The bread may be a loaf of ordinary bread, crackers, rolls, or sweet bread baked especially for this service. The beverage has usually been water, but other beverages such as lemonade, juice, tea, or coffee can be used. Early Methodists commonly passed a loving cup with two handles from person to person, but later the water was served in individual glasses. The food is served quietly without interrupting the service.

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.

I hope you can join me for this special worship service on Good Friday as we remember all that Christ did for us during Holy Week so we can have an Easter to celebrate.

See you in worship,

Pastor Laurie

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 VerSteeg	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
Sydnie Johnson	4/28
Morgan Charley	4/29

April Anniversaries

Matt & Amy Shook	4/11
Del & Margaret Shepard	4/19
Trevor & Jenna Lafrentz	4/23
Thomas & Christena Charley	4/24



In Our Prayers

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 Brickman
LaVonne Dorman
Esther Woodyard
Sharon Heiser
Char Brickman
Dan & Wendy Brace
Evelyn Turner
Nancy Bloker's friend of the family, Will



Shepherd News

The Shepherds will be meeting on
Tuesday, April 4 at 9:30 am.



Easter Activities

April 2 - Palm Sunday

10:30 am Worship with Procession of Palms and Kids Singing
UMCOR Sunday Collection (see page 5)

April 7 - Good Friday

6:00 pm Agape Supper followed by Worship

April 9 - Easter Sunday

Bring live cut flowers for our Easter Celebration Cross
9:00 am Easter Breakfast served by Sunday School Kids
10:30 am Worship

UMCOR News

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 bulletin on **Palm Sunday, April 2nd**. 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,
Missions Committee



What is UMCOR & How is it Funded?

Wikipedia says, "The **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** is the global humanitarian aid and development organization of the United Methodist Church (UMC). UMCOR is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization operated under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries. One hundred percent of donations are directed to an earmarked project or relief effort. **Administrative expenses are funded by an annual offering collected by United Methodist churches on UMCOR Sunday.**

UMCOR works through programs that address hunger, poverty, sustainable agriculture, international and domestic emergencies, refugee and immigrant concerns, global health issues, and transitional development. These programs are categorized into three major areas: Humanitarian Relief / Disaster Response, Sustainable Development and Global Health (in collaboration with UM Global Ministries)."

Is UMCOR a good charity?

UMCOR's rating is **exceptional**.

According to www.charitynavigator.org:

"This charity's score is 90.94, earning it a **4-Star rating**. Donors can "Give with Confidence" to this charity."

Please make your checks out to JUMC with "UMCOR Sunday" in the memo portion.

Thank you!!!

The March UMW meeting was held on Thursday, March 2nd at 1:00 PM in Court Chapel with seven members present.

Prayer concerns were shared for church members and friends.

A thank you from North Star and a note from the Legacy Endowment Fund asking for a donation were read. A motion was made and carried to send \$23.00 to the Legacy Fund to coincide with the year being 2023.

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

Circle Reports were given. Mary Deborah canceled due to weather issues. Naomi Circle met after pie making and planned the lunch for today's meeting and discussed the Irish Stew Dinner. Rebecca Circle discussed the stew dinner as well.

The Piecemakers are nearly done piecing an orca whale and dolphin throw. This will be hand quilted. They are planning to make Love Quilts for Ingathering as their next project. There are still craft items and cookbooks for sale. The monthly newsletter is now featuring a "Craft Corner" with photos of different items for sale. This month featured our cookbooks and inserts.

The memorial from the Lois Boeck family was discussed again. Members were asked to continue to think about this. The property committee will look into purchasing a new large coffee pot as one of our current ones is not always dependable.

The Irish Stew Dinner was discussed. Several members volunteered for donations of cake and jello.

The Janesville Days Committee has asked if our unit would help with cooking the hamburger and chopping onions for the Taco Night at the Tap that would start in April. The motion carried.

Ideas for programs are needed. It was suggested to ask Linda McCann to come back and speak about another one of her books.

Videos of the new mission kit instructions were shown. Copies of the new instructions were distributed. The prayer cards that need to be included this year are being printed.

Mary Deborah Circle shared devotions growing seeds-growth and transformation. The Response moment included projects other units are doing, a Legacy Fund article, and a lengthy article about a unit in California that does multiple projects to help youth in their area.

Our next meeting will be April 6th at 1:00 PM. Rebecca Circle will hostess. Naomi Circle will share the Response Moment and devotions. Circles are to bring their Thank Offerings. We will be making plans for the May Breakfast.



We lost Barb Cooper on March 6. Her Celebration of Life was held at JUMC on March 13. Please pray for strength for her family and friends as they navigate through this time of loss.



April Volunteers

Liturgists

April 2
Brad Ruth

April 9
Sharon Heiser

April 16
Margaret Shepard

April 23
Gary Shaulis

April 30
Nancy Beenblossom



Ushers

April 2
Brad Ruth

April 9
Dick & Karen Funk

April 16
Dave Beenblossom

April 23
Gary Shaulis

April 30
5th Sunday Volunteer

Our children, our future, our smiles!!!!
Thanks to all the parents who share these beautiful children with us!!



First Annual
Community
Irish Beef Stew Supper

Janesville Riviera-Roose
Events Center

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Z-Team News



The Z-Team hosted a Community Irish Beef Stew Supper on March 16.

Approximately 130 people were served (with the leftovers being served on the following Sunday). A free-will offering of **\$1,100** was collected for the General Fund of JUMC.

Many thanks to everyone who participated - the organizers, the volunteer recruiters, the volunteers, those who donated food items, and those who joined us for some good old-fashioned Irish Beef Stew and good fellowship.

Here are a few pictures.



The next Z-Team meeting will be
Tuesday, April 25 at 1:00 pm.



Youth Group
Fun and Faith!!

