



# 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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Keeping the Light of Christ on for our community

MAY 2021

## Dear JUMC family from Pastor Audrey:)

"Anyhow," Mary said, "on my way home I saw all the cars here, and I just felt like I should come in (the church) & say thank you to God for my son's life.



"And while I'm at it, thank you, Eleanor, for being there at the right time for me and Steve. People like you are what goodness is really about. "If there were more like you, maybe I would've been brave enough to come in here and say thanks to God sooner."

You may recognize this statement from my message on April 25 (which is available in full at [youtube.com/UMCJanesvilleIA](https://www.youtube.com/UMCJanesvilleIA).)

I suggested that we clergy see this story from a different perspective than those sitting in the pews. I don't think you, church members, know how truly important your ministry is.

Some of you might say, "It's the pastor's job," as though church members are exempt from it because they pay a pastor. My perspective, along with many clergy, is that it is far more important for church members to visit one another and others outside the church like Mary in my story.

You see, pastors come and go, especially in the UMC. But church members and their families are part of the local church for generations, as witnessed by the multi-generational family of the baby baptized in attendance at JUMC.

When a church member takes the time, unpaid, to attend to the sick and dying, it is much more meaningful in the long-run. Like Mary in our story said of Eleanor, a church member that visited her and her son in ICU after a near-fatal car crash: "Well, Eleanor came into the waiting room & talked with me

just like I was her friend. She asked if we could go into his room in the ICU together so she could say a prayer for him. I'm not one for praying. You know my brothers and me run the tavern. What my life has been like is no secret in this town. But she was so nice, and her caring was so real, that I said yes.

"And when she touched Steve's hand, with all those tubes and needles hooked in it, and prayed to God that he would be all right, well, I prayed that too. I prayed for the first time I can remember in my whole life. And this morning they tell me Steve is going to pull through." She paused to compose herself and continued.

"Anyhow," Mary said, "I just felt like I should come in & say thank you to God for my son's life. And while I'm at it, thank you, Eleanor, for being there at the right time for me and Steve."

Which brings me to my second point: There are so very many more church members than there are pastors, so, as a group, you are able to touch so many more lives than one pastor alone ever could. You church members are oh so, much more important than you think you are. Please take this story to heart as though it happened in our church and listen to God for His prompting of your ministry in His Holy Name.

*"Then King Jesus will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me. For whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for Me.'" Matthew 25:34-36 NIV*

## What Could You Do with \$20?

### 2021 Sowing Project Has Begun

**1 Peter 4:10**, tells us “God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God’s many kinds of Blessings.”

And **Genesis 12:2** informs us “You will be a blessing to many others.” Just as with spiritual gifts, God wants us to use our talents and skills for the benefit of others.

On Sunday, April 18, 2021 the Janesville United Methodist Church introduced this year’s Sowing Project. We are giving away \$500 in \$20 bills.

We are asking members and friends to accept a \$20 bill, use it as “start-up” funds, then use it and your God-given talents - both those you’ve used successfully for years as well as “new” ones you may have discovered recently - to multiply what God has given you to be used to His Glory.

We will hold a “Harvest Sunday” in November when we will gather the “harvest” to be deposited in the church’s general funds to be used to God’s glory.

Maybe you are thinking, “**What will I do with \$20?**” There is no right or wrong answer. We challenge you to take \$20 and trust God to guide you.

What you choose to do with the money, how much you “harvest”, and what you choose to share with the church is strictly between you and God.

Persons of all ages may participate. What a great way to share with children or grandchildren the pleasure of working together and sharing God’s Glory.

Members & friends wanting to participate in our “Sowing” project may attend Worship, stop by the church to pick up an envelope or call the church and we will mail an envelope to you.

If your project requires more than \$20 to get started, feel free to ask for a second or third envelope. Our intent is to “sow” the entire \$500.

Let’s put **2 Corinthians 9:6** into action – “Remember this, Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

JUMC Zaccheus Team

## UMWomen May Bible Verse

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 NIV

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### Let Us Continue to Pray for

BAPTISM of Abby, daughter of Michael & Jessica Megan

All affected by COVID

BJ & Lynley Barr & family

on loss of her grandmother

Lavonne Dorman fractured ankle &

will be 10 weeks in care facility

Tom & Char Brickman

Dan & Wendy Brace

Johnny & Esther Folkerds

Velma Rice Lolita Huber

Dennis Osborn & family

Evelyn Johnson Flo Shephard

Marge Grandon Evelyn Wubbena

Marlys Cook De & Carol Dix

Georgia Eibey Any others?

For person(s) to fill leadership

position as Lay Leader(s)

### Our Thanks to Diane Schulz, Hudson,

for representing the Janesville and Hudson UMCs at the virtual 2021 NE Iowa District Conference & June 4-6 Iowa UMC Annual Conference at which Iowa’s eight districts will be reduced to five and churches will be joined together into “Circuits.”

(This will not take the place of 2-5 churches sharing one clergy in a “Charge.”)

Within a “Circuit,” six to eight “Charges” will become connected for the benefit of all clergy and laypersons in all the churches of the “Circuit.”

Clergy & Laity leaders will be trained in the L3 process: *Loving, Learning, Leading*, the base of all “Circuit” teams” said IA Conf. Assistant to the Bishop, Bill Poland.

## May Birthdays

Ally Eibey	5/1
Kiley Shepherd	5/2
Rachel Knapp	5/3
Jeff Baker	5/4
Jean Carlisle	5/5
Kendyl Sorge	5/6
Megan (Borglum) Hartwig	5/8
Joan Ackerson	5/9
Dick Funk	5/9
Barb Hamlyn	5/9
Teague Lafrentz	5/10
Jim Stensland	5/9
Alec Amosson	5/9
Mike Wienhold	5/11
Janeen Hubbell	5/12
Mildred Christensen 99th	5/13
Sadie Baldwin	5/13
Ruth Hamilton	5/14
Robert James Baldwin	5/16
Callie (Angove) Kramer	5/17
Dennis Dilley	5/18
Cody Nielsen	5/18
Emily Ruth Hogle	5/18
Adam Conradi	5/19
Jack Fisher	5/21
Emma VerSteege	5/21
Mary VerSteege	5/21
Rita Ruth	5/22
McKayla Hinz	5/22
Katlyn Haan	5/22
Tawnya Cary	5/23
Marilyn Miller	5/24
Keith Reid	5/27
Nikki Shook	5/27
Ty Lafrentz	5/27
Dave Peters	5/28
Rachael Coffman	5/29
Helen Dettmer	5/30
Lolita Huber	5/31

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## *Thank You . . .*

Rita Ruth, Margaret Shepard, Pastor Audrey & others who helped to get the "new" chairs ready up Easter.

## *May Anniversaries*

Bryan & Gina Destival	5/8/93
Chris & Angela Robinson	5/11/02
Myron & Janet Destival	5/24/64
Jim & Emily Stensland	5/27/73
Todd & Elizabeth Foelske	5/28/05

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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.

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## *Ingathering Kits Have Begun Arriving*

Someone has already donated items for School Kit Bags for Nov 6 Ingathering.

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## *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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## *JUMC Donated \$255 to NE Iowa Food Bank in March-April*

We received a note of thanks from the them saying the gift had been doubled to \$510 by matching funds which equates to 2,040 meals at 4 meals per \$1. Our gifts make a "world" of difference right here in Northeast Iowa.

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## *CWS Blanket Sunday Mothers' Day, May 9*

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## Buying KwikStar Gift Cards from JUMC NOW Profits Us 21%



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### Worship Is "LIVE!" on UMCJanesvilleIA @ Youtube

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

Go to *YouTube*, in your search box, enter *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, so you don't have to type in every time. Easy peasy!

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Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf  
Sunday School paused until Fall  
Fellowship - 10 am Coffee only **Worship - 10:30 am**  
In-house and In-person Worship is being held with self-regulated covid guidelines. Here are "addresses" for Worship Online on  
[youtube: UMCJanesvilleIA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJanesvilleIA); [janessvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:janessvilleumc@gmail.com)  
[janessvilleunitedmethodistchurch.weebly.com](http://janessvilleunitedmethodistchurch.weebly.com)  
[facebook.com/Janesville.UMC](https://www.facebook.com/Janesville.UMC)

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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 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.

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