

The Janesville Bridge

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

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May 2020 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Dear JUMC Family,



**Holy Week services postponed,
but EASTER not cancelled. WATCH
email and facebook for announcements.**

You are continually in my thoughts and prayers as we wait through this pandemic together yet apart. I've done my best to prepare worship services for online that are helpful in raising your spirits in the living hope of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope you are finding JOY in the mourning and morning.

I am still sewing masks if you are in need. Please see article under “Missions,” on page 4

I recently “attended” by internet the workshop, “After the Quarantine.” It offered some good ideas for moving forward after the quarantine. I will be “attending” the online Fresh Expressions Academy.

FREE FRESH EXPRESSIONS US/ECCLESIA NETWORK WEBINAR

RESET: START YOUR CHURCH AGAIN AFTER THE QUARANTINE

HAVE YOU EVER WISHED YOU COULD JUST START OVER? THIS MAY BE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO DO JUST THAT!

FRESH EXPRESSIONS ecclesia

IOSMAR ALVAREZ HEATHER JALLAD MATT LAKE SUSAN HARPER

I'm thinking that even when the governor opens the entire state for gathering again, we folk in Black Hawk, Bremer, and surrounding counties may not want to jump on that bandwagon too quickly. I would like to read your opinions so feel free to email. Please see “Pastor’s Ponderings” on page 8.

An Iowa UMPastor has been in a very long battle with cancer and even though her cancer

treatment is over, she is now dealing with months of wound care. She wrote on Caring Bridge:

We had a few intense days of unknown. COVID exponentially increased the difficulty of seeing medical personnel.

Waiting is hard without a plan. Patience is difficult when desired outcomes seem out of reach.

All of us are waiting. Waiting for physical distancing to be lifted. Waiting for the media to... well...just turn off the tv. Waiting for supper. Waiting for. . .each of us is waiting for some kind of miracle. Waiting for hope to be renewed.

Psalm 130:5-6 NLT

**I am counting on the Lord;
yes, I am counting on him.
I have put my hope in his word.**

**I long for the Lord
more than sentries long for the dawn.**

If you feel you need additional help, you can call 211 United Way Helpline on your phone, which provides shortcuts through what can be a maze of health and human service agency phone numbers and sometimes connects you to appropriate agencies and community organizations: for Basic Human Needs; Physical and Mental Health Resources; Work Support; Services in Non-English Languages; and Suicide Prevention which can be reached at these numbers

1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)

1-888-SUICIDE (1-888-784-2433)

Please remember every day of this unusual season, that

**“It’s Friday.
But Sunday’s Coming!”**

God bless you, Pastor Audrey:)



Pastor Audrey



Sunday School Is Out for Summer

Just like the public schools, our Sunday School classes are out for the summer.

Also like the public schools, we hope that parents and grandparents will continue the Christian Education of the kiddos.

Whether **VBS** will be held on July 20-23 is still in question.



Youth Group

No JUMC grads, but Emily Ruth and Jacque Batz are college grads. Who else? The 2020

Graduates are on our minds and in our prayers.



General Conference set for May and **Iowa Annual Conference** in June have both been postponed.

After the Quarantine Is Lifted

Until such time as we are able to return to worship in the church building in June or July, one of the "return" ideas was that families like yours could invite folk to your homes to watch the on-line videos of worship with you.

Forming relationships with neighbors, family, and friends is still the number one way to bring folks to Christ by inviting them to worship with you.

Z-Team Still Planning for a Sowing Sunday in June or July

It's every JUMC family's opportunity to receive \$20 which in turn is spent to "sow seeds" for a project that will return funds to the church's general fund.

The Sunday is to include a "Sowing" Worship time at 10:30 followed by a light lunch, served by the Z-Team and there was something about "dirt cups" for dessert?

There will be presentations with ideas for your "Sowing" project as well as opportunity to order gifts made from ceramic tile by the Z-Team for their own 'Sowing Project.' You can have your name on a Christmas ornament or pot holder trivet.

Now's the time to think of ideas for what you might want on your gift tiles, like this one:



Easter Celebration will be held at JUMC in June or July!



JUMC & Iowa UMConference begin On-Line Giving Opportunity

A link has been created on the Iowa UMConference website. Our church name is included in a drop-down list. The donor can leave a comment for specific instructions to the church.

Total gifts will be direct deposited to church's bank account twice-a-month.

Below are some answers to questions we have received regarding the local church online giving option:

1. Will it cost the church anything for this service? The Conference is prepared to allow churches to use the online giving for three months without any fees being deducted from the local church gift total. The Treasurer's Office/Administrative Services will pick up those costs. After June 30, the fees are .30 per transaction plus approximately 2.9% which is the amount charged to the Conference for the service.

3. How will the church know when a gift is made? The system, will automatically send an email to the church each time a gift is receive. The donor may use an online comment section to designate their gift. Any comments made will be included in the email.

4. How will potential donors see where to give? The online form is pictured to the right here.

8. Is this a secure site to donate through? The Iowa Conference page is handled through Braintree (a Pay Pal company) which is a secure encrypted site. At no time does any credit card information stay within the Iowa Conference system. The banking information that our church would submit to our office would be entered into the bank ACH portal and then securely stored.

For **FREE** Online Giving to JUMC
Go to <https://iaumc-reg.brtaapp.com/giving>
to fill in this form

Local Church Giving

Please enter your giving information and select your church from the drop-down list. If your church does not appear in this list please have your Pastor contact our office at 515-974-8919 to be included.

*First Name

*Last Name

*Address 1

*City

*State

*Zip

*Email

*Please select your church from this list

Hudson UMC (550914)

Janesville UMC (574340)

Gift Amount

\$

Designation to a particular program of the church (general fund, apportionments, Special Offerings)

I am not a robot BOX (to prevent automated systems from accessing this page a Captcha box is included. Simply click on the box and follow the on-screen instructions.)

Process My Gift You will receive a confirmation email.

You will then be presented with a screen where you will enter your credit/debit card information for the actual payment. Please enter this information within one hour of entering your gift. Your church will be notified for each donation received.





gg124246490 GoGraph.com

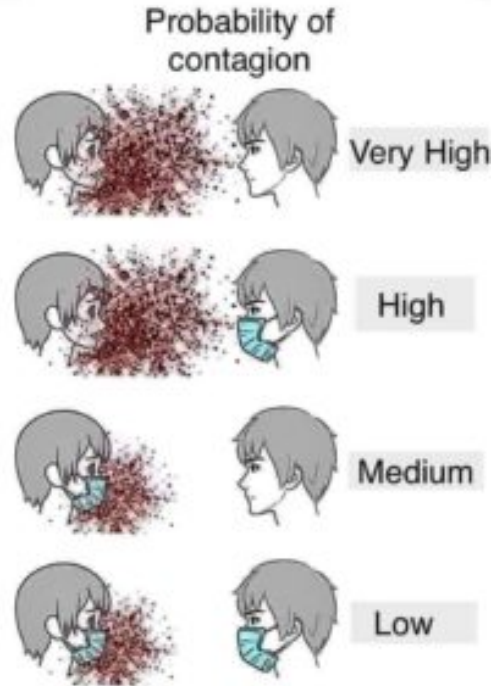
Please wear a mask when leaving your house

A New Ministry at JUMC

Some of our members have responded to the pandemic by sewing face masks and donating to groups or giving them to individuals.

If you or someone you know is still in need of a mask(s), feel free to contact Sue Stapleton or Pastor Audrey.

In theory, all masks may prevent some sprays of virus-laden fluids from entering your nose and mouth (inward protection). They are also a reminder not to touch your face. And, if you're sick, they may help keep some aerosols inside (outward protection), to protect people around you (CDC).



American Cancer Society Bremer County Relay for Life is being held online this year.



Cancer hasn't stopped. Neither have we.

With all the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, there's one thing we can be sure of: Relay for Life will continue to fight for cancer patients, who are some of the most at risk of serious illness from the virus. Even though we are suspending Relay For Life of Bremer County, let's show our unwavering support for the mission by continuing to participate virtually – by fundraising online and through the ACS FUNdraising app – and help bring hope to those who need it most.

Our mission matters more than ever.

Relay For Life is all about togetherness, and even though we can't currently be face-to-face, we'll continue fighting as one supportive community. By working together, we'll provide

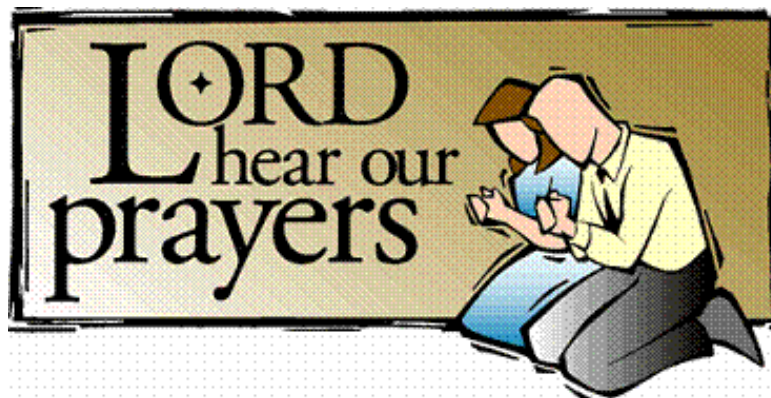
crucial information through our 24/7 helpline and cancer.org, advocate for critical health care legislation, and give hope with everything we do. Because cancer won't stop...and neither will we.

Help for those who need it most

People need support, people to talk with, resources to turn to, and reassurance that someone is looking out for them. Team up with Relay For Life and we'll continue to offer that helping hand.

JUNE 1ST - JUNE 5TH Follow on Facebook for Relay Week! Waverly, IA. SARAH FOSTER sarah.foster@cancer.org 800-227-2345

JUMC Sunday of Hope for Cancer: May 31.
You can donate or join this Rally at https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=96118.



Please keep in your prayers with health concerns:

Tom & Char Brickman

Wendy Brace

Chelsey Brace

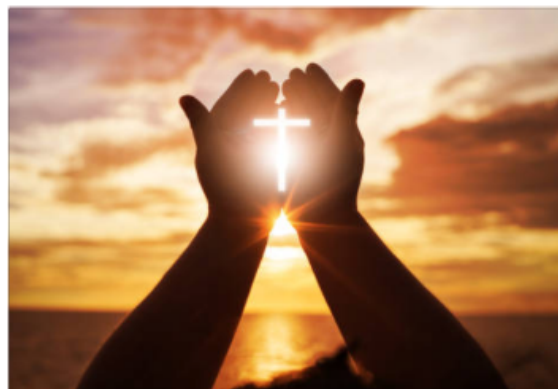
Johnny & Esther Folkerds

Ben Huber

Karen Borglum

Lolita Huber new address is
%Bruce Huber, 1002 5th St NW,
Dodge Center, MN 55927.
Her cell is 319-230-8085.

Marilyn Lee new address is
Windhaven Room 73,
5500 South Main, Cedar Falls
50613



Please pray for:

All Nursing Home Residents
All Veterans & Military &
their loved ones

Fire & Rescue

First Responders

Medical Staff-NURSES

Those working essential jobs

Students and Educators

Our Pastor

Our District Supt., Bishop, Cabinet

The United Methodist Church

Patti Baldwin

Scott Turner

Dennis Osborn & family

Marge Grandon

Prayers for our homebound church family, who are visited

by our Shepherds:

Flo Shephard

Evelyn Wubbena

Marlys Cook

De & Carol Dix

Georgia Eibey

Linda Stroud



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	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	5/18
Adam Conradi	5/19
Jack Fisher	5/21
Emma VerSteeg	5/21
Mary VerSteeg	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



May Anniversaries

Bryan & Gina Destival	5/8/
Earl (Hap) & Cynthia Spencer	5/8
Chris & Angela Robinson	5/11
Myron & Janet Destival	5/24
Jim & Emily Stensland	5/27
Todd & Elizabeth Foelske	5/28

Ink Cartridges Please

We continue to collect ink cartridges. Cindy Spencer has been recycling for the church. It's about \$20 per month, and it keeps the cartridges out of the landfills!



A win-win for everyone, so keep bringing them into the church office, and we will continue to recycle them.

THANK YOU CINDY!!!



Thank you for all the concern and cards for Chloe Kiene when she had her appendix removed. She is feeling much better!

THANK YOU Is Not Enough!

Those two words are not enough to express the gratitude of the JUMC Finance Committee for the very generous offerings received by mail and drop-off that totaled over \$7,830.37 as of April 24, 2020, a month of no worship or activities in our building because of the COVID19 Pandemic. God is smiling on JUMC because of you.

The total included
\$54.52 for apportionments (banks)
\$50.00 for Birthday/Anniversary
\$40.00 for Ink Cartridge Recycling
\$55.00 Sowing & Harvest Mask Project
\$140.85 for Blessed Living Tax
\$150.00 Light on the Hill

Pandemic

Rev. Lynn Ungar

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

Worship Broke Facebook!

On Sunday, April 26, 2020, facebook was so busy with worship, we broke facebook! Iowa UMC pastors and churches were informing one another of the problems most of the day. Facebook is a great tool for churches; it was interesting it happened on Sunday and not a weekday with so many folk working from home during pandemic.



Pastor's Ponderings during the Pandemic

*Written **April 19** in response to announcement to stop isolating at home & back to work as usual:*

As much as we all want to be in worship together inside our church building, let us be wise.

Consider how many of our church family, including our pastor, organist & worship assistants, are part of the at-risk group. If just one of them/us would become infected at church because we gathered together too soon, it could be a tragedy.

Think of our building herself as an at-risk person who needs protection by us from the virus.

Currently we hope that she has not been exposed to the virus since only at-risk persons, themselves practicing safety measures, have entered her.

She is over 100 years old, has lots of nooks and crannies, pews and door knobs, tables and chairs that can all continue to be protected from infection if we do not expose her.

Currently we don't believe she has inhaled the coronavirus into her HVAC breathing system. By waiting a few Sundays (June or July even) after the restrictions are lifted, before entering her holy doors, we will hopefully prevent her from contracting COVID-19 unintentionally from us.

Since no one knows how long the coronavirus remains active on surfaces, it just seems wise and practical to protect her and one another.

If we wait for the curve to flatten even more, we are less likely to infect her by accident. If we enter too soon and a Bremer-Black Hawk County outbreak recurs, we would need to thoroughly clean her.

And the thought of introducing chemical disinfectants to her beautiful wood surfaces and newly renovated areas that could ruin finishes, is daunting, expensive, and impossible.

One or more Sundays of staying home to watch online will continue to allow us to worship together in the spirit of the Lord and keep her and us safe for us to return in the near future.

If we can remain patient for another week or more after restrictions are lifted, then we can welcome one another more confidently that we are

not sharing the coronavirus or other germs with one another or our building.

Waiting means we can truly celebrate the Resurrection of our Risen Lord without anxiety and fear.



God's Laws on Hygiene Were Ahead of Their Time (www.jw.org)

Shortly before the nation of Israel entered the Promised Land some 35 centuries ago, God said that he would protect them against "the terrible diseases" that they had known in Egypt. (Deuteronomy 7:15) God gave them detailed instructions on disease control and hygiene.

The nation's code of laws required bathing and clothes washing.—Leviticus 15:4-27.

People who were thought to have a communicable disease were quarantined—kept away from others for a time. Before returning, those who recovered from sickness had to wash their garments and bathe in water if they were to be considered "clean."—Leviticus 14:8, 9.

Anyone who touched a dead body was quarantined.—Leviticus 5:2, 3; Numbers 19:16.

Israel's laws reflected medical concepts & views on sanitation that were far ahead of their time.

Elsewhere, primitive standards of hygiene were prevalent. Waste was deposited in streets. Polluted water, contaminated food, and other kinds of refuse created unsanitary conditions that contributed to a high rate of disease and infant mortality.

Ancient medical doctors had little or no knowledge of germs and pathogens. Egyptians used infection-causing "remedies." Water-borne parasites were common.

*Pastor Is Planning to "Attend"
as Continuing Education*

**You may also attend
Resilient Church Academy**

by Fresh Expressions US

The Pandemic has exposed the limitations of "church" as we know it.

The future is full of new possibilities to spread the gospel, but only for kingdom leaders who are ready to navigate the unknown.

Through three master classes with leading practitioners and eight in-depth tracks on relevant skills and strategies, you will learn how to leverage the constraints of the new world in which we live.

Social Media Academy | Brad Aycock/Chris Morton

House Church Academy | J.R. Briggs

Dinner Church Academy | Verlon Fosner

Mission Academy | Shannon Kiser, Heather Jallad and Mitch Marcello

Innovation Academy | Dave Bindewald, Sarah Keasler and Mitch Marcello

Transforming Congregations| Michael Beck and Matt Lake

Preaching Academy | J.R. Briggs and Bob Hyatt

Leadership Academy | Michael Beck

Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

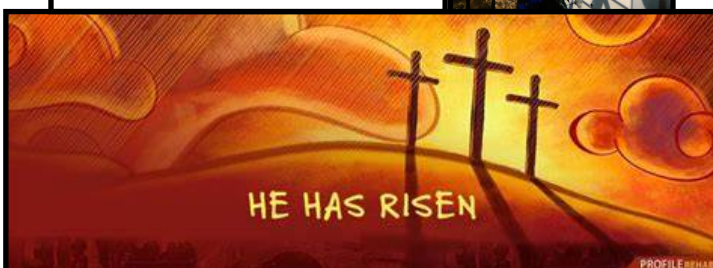
During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

Prayer: Historic Saint Paul Catholic Church, Lexington, KY

Bring flowers for our Cross

when we eventually are
allowed to meet and
celebrate the
RESURRECTION
of our LORD
in June or July



"Filling the Truck" for Midwest Missions in June 2020.

Drop off dates and locations TBA.

The ongoing mission outreach at Midwest Missions continues and is busier than ever!

In addition to Hygiene Kits, Student Desks and Sewing Machines (both pedal and electric), Midwest Missions has requested:

Flannel, "PLU" (waterproof) & Cotton Fabric Walkers, Canes, Wheelchairs and Crutches
Cloth Masks (any style)

New or Used (clean) Blankets

Plastic or Wood Small School Chairs
(children's sizes)

Thank you in advance!

Pastor Catie Newman,
IA Conf Disaster Response Chpn