

The Janesville Bridge

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

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(While D.S. Colorado is recovering from open heart surgery, we will be having guest speakers on Sundays and receive a “late” appointment. Prayers appreciated.)

Keeping the Light of Christ ON for our community

JUNE 2021

Pastor Audrey Westendorf is retiring. Our last day with her is Sunday, June 6.

You can watch the Iowa Conference “Service of Recognition of Retirement” Saturday, June 5 at 5 pm at www.iaumc.org or anytime thereafter.

JUMC Adm Board Meeting
Sunday, June 13 at 11:30 am.

All committee chairs are encouraged to attend as well as any interested church members.

Dear JUMC family from Pastor Audrey:)

When I came here, I intended to joyfully serve these two churches for 4-5 years, unless my health interfered. It has.



Added to my long-term ear tinnitus, this past year, other ear problems have developed, with frequent pain and discomfort leading to continued loss of hearing and other incurable symptoms.

Speaking, singing, and visiting on the phone have all become increasingly painful. Rather than serving God and you poorly, I am retiring in June. Your prayers are appreciated for me, the SPRC as they meet with D.S. Moody Colorado; and our incoming pastor (& family.) I don't currently know the date of their first Sunday with us.

This is my last official "letter" to you. It reminds me of all the letters that must have been written in the days of the early church. They make up most of the New Testament under the titles of the receiving churches: Romans; (1 & 2) Corinthians;

Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians; Thessalonians; Hebrews and fellow pastors to whom they were written: Timothy; Titus; Philemon; James; (1 & 2) Peter; (1, 2, & 3) John; Jude and even including the Revelation of John.

I considered every letter and email I wrote to you an important communication; at least as important as the letters I frequently exchanged with my parents and sisters about our lives when we lived apart and pay-by-the-minute-phone calls were avoided. I was surprised to hear that some of you also expected phone calls during COVID, when I had frequently communicated by email and letter-writing; with many of you on-line in social media and certainly, through my hour-long messages on Sunday mornings.

Especially since you all know I live alone, I wondered why more of you didn't call to check on me. It's apparently all a huge misunderstanding. Is it true that church members still believe that pastors have built-in intuition as to when a church family member needs a call? 'Tain't so, my Dears.

James 5:11-16 “You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about for him. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them in the name of the Lord. If they have sinned they will be forgiven.”

Pastor's LETTER continued. . .

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Your new pastor will very much appreciate your calls to him or her and especially being alerted to times you, or someone you know, are in need of pastoral care. And be willing to allow your SPRC folk to share your name when you have a concern. It causes great harm to complain and then with your secrecy close the circle of restoration that could happen.

So many folk no longer have land-lines and the church hasn't been able to keep up with all the updates. We even had the wrong church number on our church website for several months. Barb and Rita can't do it all alone, anymore than a pastor alone can. We need your usable phone numbers.

Our lives have been forced to change in so very many ways this past year. I hope and pray that you will do all you can to assist your incoming pastor (and family) in every positive way possible by adjusting well to church family life in our post-pandemic world. It may not be easy, but it will be so valuable. You can always say, "Blame it on COVID!" Then forgive and forget. I leave you with this benediction from the inspired Word of God:

"May the God of PEACE, who through the blood of the eternal covenant, brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

(Hebrews 13:20-21)

Report of the Joint Hudson and Janesville Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Met in May with District Superintendent Moody Colorado to plan for our transition of pastors. Rev Moody announced that Pastor Audrey's last day with us is Sunday, June 6, after which she has two weeks and two Sundays of paid vacation remaining for this Conference year.

Colorado stated that, by UMDiscipline, the SPRC is in charge during this transition period, including securing guest speakers for Sunday mornings.

If there is need for urgent pastoral care or a funeral, contact Nancy Beenblossom, SPRC chair, a retired social worker by profession, who will help you and know who to contact. Funerals do not, by law, need to be performed by an ordained clergy.

At that meeting, it was discovered that there are no UMClergy-persons available in Iowa at this time and that we, along with 4-6 other UMChurches in our District, (as well as others in the Iowa Conference) will have lay ministers/speakers as pulpit supply until "late" appointments can be made.

The next week the Bishop sent a prayer request to all Iowa UMChurches for Rev Moody who was undergoing triple bypass open heart surgery at Allen Hospital last Friday.

A District Committee headed by Cedar Falls FUMC, Rev Scott Koobler, was formed and meets June 1st, to match up certified Lay ministers/speakers with churches, at least for the summer, while Rev. Colorado recovers and "late" appointments can be made.

Members of the Joint SPRC include Hudson's Diane Schulz, Nancy Louthan, Fay Munchoff, Nancy Patterson, and Janesville's Chuck Immerzeel, Emily Megan, Cindy Dobbs, and Chpn Nancy Beenblossom."

Guest Speakers in June

Sunday, June 13: Dr Chris Eiler, New Hampton, UMCertified lay speaker.

Sundays, June 20 & 27: Rev Jan Burnett, retired UMC pastor who lives in Cedar Valley. Pastor Audrey has heard her speak at a funeral. "She's solid and I personally know her and I think you'll enjoy her."

Readers Will Be Needed for Worship

Contact Sharon Heiser at "grandmaheiser@icloud.com" with the July Sundays you are available to serve as reader during Worship.

So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

Our thanks to Margaret Shepherd for reading on June 13 and 20, and Lorraine Hallberg for June 27. Kathy Whitney has July 11. Who wants to read on July 4th, 18th or 25?

Welcome Back, Barb

Gratefully, we welcome back church secretary, Barb Hamlyn, at least temporarily. She will be in the office M-Th mornings unless "Grandma duty" calls.

Chris Tomlin's chorus added to *Amazing Grace* song: *My chains are gone. I've been set free! My God, my Savior, has ransomed me. And like a flood, His mercies reign. Unending love. Amazing Grace.*

Thank You All

Because of your generous donations and PPP loans helping us pay our staff, JUMC has already been able to submit \$8,691 of our General Church and Iowa Conference Missions of our total \$13,289 apportionments for 2021.

Let Us Continue to Pray

Our sympathies to family of Dennis Osborn who passed away in May

All affected by COVID

Lavonne Dorman fractured ankle & at Elms at Parkview Manor

[1009 3rd Street](#)

[Reinbeck, IA 50669](#)

[Tom & Char Brickman](#)

Dan & Wendy Brace

Johnny & Esther Folkerds

Velma Rice Lolita Huber

Evelyn Johnson Flo Shephard

Marge Grandon Evelyn Wubbena

Marlys Cook De & Carol Dix

Georgia Eibey Any others?

For person(s) to fill Lay Leader position

June Birthdays

Shelly Herbst	6/2
Gary Timion	6/3
Dawson Charley	6/5
Norm Briden	6/5
Zoey Barnes	6/5
Chris Robinson	6/6
Tom Harrold	6/8
Tara Howe	6/8
Talan Pletz	6/8
Brian Busch	6/14
Lisa Kiene	6/15
Abby Sue Meagan	6/15
Gene Robinson	6/16
Robert Barr	6/19
Kurt Graves	6/22
Abigail Foelske	6/23
Julia Baldwin	6/24
Deb Wienhold	6/24
Ayden Dobbs	6/26
Crystal Fisher	6/26
Mary Jane Stanhope	6/26
Hayleigh Heiser	6/28
Sherry Dilley	6/29

May Anniversaries

Roger & Sharon Heiser	6/11/65
Robert & Vicki Fisher	6/13/10
Eugene & Helen Dettmer	6/21
Michael & Cecilia Baldwin	6/30/01

UMW Mission U

"In Him we were also chosen"

Ephesians 1:11a NIV

Ignited for Justice – Mission u 2021 Online Learning—Free

*"But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."*

Amos 5:24 (ESV)

Mission u 2021 to be presented by Iowa Conference United Methodist Women offers topics to fit our current reality. The public health emergency duration has exceeded 365 days, social distancing has become a common phrase, lives changed daily due to another's perceived authority, and demonstrators took to the streets in solidarity.

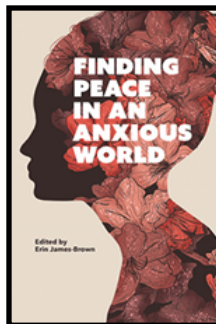
In a time such as this, UMWomen offer a study of **Finding Peace and a Study of Criminalization. Tuesday evenings and/or Wednesday evenings in July 2021** to learn, grow, and share to transform the world. Registration details can be found within this newsletter.

Mission u 2021, like many activities in our lives, has moved online. While virtual, we are still creating spaces for spiritual community, lifelong friendships, lessons that change us and our communities, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most.

Will you join us?

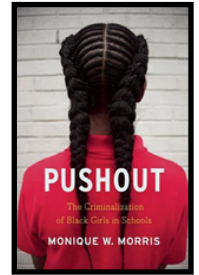
Mission u 2021 offers these studies: Finding Peace in an Anxious World 2021 Spiritual Growth Mission Study

Finding Peace in an Anxious World, the Spiritual Growth Study by staff of the Urban Village Church, uses the book of *Proverbs* and "*The Serenity Prayer*" as a guide for Christians to find their way through anxiety, worry, and fear, to move towards God's peace that surpasses all understanding. We will explore ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ.



Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools, 2021 Mission Study

Despite increased attention to the mass and over-incarceration of black men, the plight of black women and girls is overlooked, underreported and under analyzed. Monique W. Morris' *Pushout* shows how even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes and despair, black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities and beyond, and challenges the rest of us to do the same.



RSVP: Email Sally Barrett, Mission u Registrar, with the following information: (barretts@mchsi.com)

Name, mailing address, and local church

Name(s) of class wish to attend

Link to Zoom platform will be sent via email closer to start of class. There is no registration fee to participate in **Mission u 2021!**

Ingathering Kits Have Begun Arriving

JUMC Mission Committee headed by Cindy Spencer will continue collecting supplies for Kits for Nov 6 Ingathering. See your April newsletter or go on-line to www.iaumc.org and type "Ingathering" in the search box.

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.**"

(Circuits 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.

It's a "Sowing" Thing:



"Painting with Friends"

June 23, 2021 6:30-8:30 pm

Instructor: Virginia Robinson

Janesville United Methodist Church

Enjoy an evening of fun with friends, family or your spouse while painting this picture. Ideal for those who have never painted before or experienced painters.

Limited to first 20 participants to sign up. \$25 includes all supplies & refreshments. Bring an apron or wear clothes you don't mind if they should get paint on them.

All proceeds will be donated to JUMC. Payment must be included to be guaranteed a place. Register your name, phone number and email with Nancy Beenblossom, POBx 6, Janesville.

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 janeshvilleumc@gmail.com or contact the office.

Buying KwikStar Gift Cards from JUMC NOW Profits Us 21%

There are only a few left so contact Barb in the office M-Th mornings or Rita Ruth.

Worship Is "LIVE!" on UMC Janesville IA on 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, or watch recording there.

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!



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 Church

janeshvilleumc@gmail.com

Church "business" is still being done over email with "reply all" discussions and votes. Please participate to keep our church operating until in-person meetings can again be arranged.

We Are "Pictured Rocks District"

As of July 1, 2021, the former Waterloo & Mason City District, which became the NorthEast Iowa District for several years, will now become the Pictured Rocks District to commemorate the United Methodist Campground that has been sold to Camp Courageous for use by campers with disabilities.

