



Janesville United Methodist Church

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Rev. Laurie L Riley, pastor

November 2023 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

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Office Hours

**Mondays thru
Thursdays**

8:00 am - 11:00 am

**The office will be closed for the
Thanksgiving Holiday on
Thursday, November 23
and
Friday, November 24.**



Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on our lives.

You have provided us with more than we could ever have imagined.

You have surrounded us with people who always look out for us.

You have given us family and friends who bless us every day with kind words and actions.



A Note from the Pastor



This fall I have been once again enjoying all the sights, colors, smells and sounds of this time of year. One day as I was driving around on the gravel roads I passed a field full of pumpkins and it brought back memories of being a child and going to the pumpkin farm to choose just the right pumpkin to take home. But it also brought back a memory of this story.

Once there was a farmer who planted a crop of pumpkins. One day as he walked through the field of small pumpkins he came across a jug that a passing motorist had thrown into his field. As an experiment, he poked a very small pumpkin through the neck of the jug, but he was careful not to damage the vine.

Many months later, when the field was fully developed and about ready for harvesting, the farmer, making one of his periodic inspections, came across the jug. This time it was completely filled with the pumpkin he had put inside. The other pumpkins on the same vine were large and fully developed, but the pumpkin in the jug had not been able to grow beyond the confines of its prison and was shaped to the exact dimensions of the jug.

During this season of fall, the cool days begin to give back some of the energy that the summer heat took away. It is at this time that we begin to see all the things in our life that we are thankful for. It is the time that we seem to pause and offer thanks to God for the many gifts that we have received.

And for me fall is also a time to reflect. As I remember the story of the pumpkin trapped in the jug it is an example of what I don't want to become. I don't want to become trapped in my ways of doing things, I want to always be growing and expanding.

I think we in the church are called to always be growing and expanding but to do this we have to take a risk. We cannot become trapped in our ways of always doing something, the way we have always done it for that maybe the jug that traps us. When this happens the gospel of Christ is trapped for it is through us, the church that the gospel of Christ's message spreads.

So as we slow down a little and enjoy the season of fall I invite us as individuals and as the church to look and see if we have locked ourselves into a container. If we discover that we have let us ask God to help us break out of the container and grow beyond it.

Let us come to church as a community of God's faithful and worship together. Let us come together in worship so that together we are renewed and allowed to grow.

Then let us leave our container behind so that we can grow as we minister to those we meet.

See you in worship

Pastor Laurie

Volunteers for November

Liturgists in November

November 5
Sharon Heiser

November 12
Magaret Shepard

November 19
Nancy Beenblossom

November 26
Barb Hamlyn

Ushers in November

November 5
Brad Ruth

November 12
Dick & Karen Funk

November 19
Dave Beenblossom

November 26
Gary Shaulis

November Birthdays

Madaline Schuldt	11/4
Ava Marie Kolaas	11/5
Bill Bloker	11/6
Angela Robinson	11/6
Chelsey Wrage	11/6
Chris Charley	11/7
Roger Heiser	11/7
Rich Borglum	11/8
Charles Immerzeel	11/11
Colin Brocka	11/12
Wendy Brace	11/14
Lorraine Hallberg	11/14
Brooke Jans	11/14
Robin Sorge	11/15
Virginia Robinson	11/16
Will Baker	11/16
Tim Yochum	11/19
Morgan Saunders	11/19
Craig Hansmeier	11/20
Laurie Dilley	11/21
Benjamin Timion	11/21
Willy Haan	11/22
Heath Mills	11/23
Natalie Straw	11/23
Richard DeMott	11/25
Danielle Dilley	11/25
Kyle Johnson	11/26
Ryan Destival	11/29
Paula Wrage	11/30

Upcoming Events in November

Saturday, November 4
Ingathering

Tuesday, November 7
Shepherds Meeting at 9:30

Sunday, November 12
Bible Sunday - kids singing
Veterans Sunday Fellowship
dinner after Worship

Sunday, November 19
Decorating Church after Worship
Fellowship at Messiah
at 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm
Community Worship at Messiah
at 7:00 pm
Pastor Laurie leading worship





Please pray for our Shepherds and those who are served by them:

Flo Shepard
Carol Dix
Georgia Eibey
Marilyn Taylor
Harriet Schares
Lorraine Hallberg
Lolita Huber
Lavonne Dorman
Char Brickman
Bev West
Pam MacKay

Prayers for healing are requested for:

Colette Ruth
Pam MacKay
Tom & Char Brickman
LaVonne Dorman
Esther Folkerds
Flo Shepard
Dan & Wendy Brace
Evelyn Turner
Karen Funk

The Shepherds will meet on
Tuesday, November 7 at 9:30 am.

Remember - everyone is invited to join the Shepherds to visit shut-ins. It is a rewarding experience for those who visit AND those who are visited!



Please pray for the families of Sandy Laube and Marlys Cook as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

They both passed away on October 12 and Services were held at JUMC on October 18 and October 21.



This month's special Craft Corner offering is BIBS..... holiday bibs, team spirit bibs, lots and lots of bibs!!!!

Prices have been reduced from \$7.00 to \$5.00.



I want to thank you all for the many ways you have shared your appreciation of me in the last few weeks. (actually many of you do it all year) as you have celebrated Pastor Appreciation Days with me. The kind words, the cards, the gifts, and the many prayers have all humbled me, honored me, and blessed me.

Thank you and keep on being the people of God that God has called you to be as we share in this ministry together.

Pastor Laurie





Backpack Program

\$270.00 was donated to the Food Bank's Backpack Program. At the cost of \$3.25 per bag we were able to assist with over 83 bags to help hungry children in the Cedar Valley.

UMCOR Maui Relief

\$275.00 was donated to UMCOR for relief efforts in Maui after the devastating fires there.

Good Samaritan Fund

The Good Samaritan Fund is a local ecumenical fund serving our neighbors in Waverly, Shell Rock, and Janesville by assisting with basic necessities such as rent, motel stays, gas money for doctor appointments or job interviews, and emergency food. The fund depends on donations from local churches like ours and is administered by St. Mary's Church in Waverly.

On **November 19**, there will be special offering envelopes in the bulletins. Please make your check out to the church with "Good Samaritan" in the memo part. Checks can also be dropped off in the church office or mailed. Let's be Good Samaritans and help our neighbors.

Thank you for your support.
Mission Committee

"We do not inherit the earth from our
ancestors; we borrow it from our children".
Native American Proverb



The September UMW meeting was held on Thursday, October 5th at 1:00 PM in Court Chapel with 12 members and 3 visitors present.

A volunteer for AARP Fraud Watch Network, gave a presentation on scams to be aware of and how to handle them. It was very interesting and informative.

Prayer concerns were shared for church members and friends. 20 cards were sent during July, August, and September. 2 have been sent in October.

Circle Reports were given. Mary Deborah Circle planned devotions for today's meeting and are planning to eat out in November. Naomi Circle were not able to meet due to scheduling issues but did plan the lunch for today's meeting. Rebecca Circle met with 7 members present and Pastor Laurie as a guest. They planned their next meeting which will be making cranberry relish.

The AARP speaker purchased the train quilt. The Piecemakers are still working on Love Quilts (sleep mats) for Ingathering. There are still craft items and cookbooks for sale.

A report was given on the garage sale. Four cookbooks and \$75 worth of craft items were sold as well. Two duffle bags were taken to the Friends of the Family.

Janesville Days for 2024 (175th) was discussed. Members are to bring any suggestions for the event to future meetings.

A bill for the fourth quarter 2023 digital program book will be turned in when the 2024 digital program book is purchased.

The Mitten Tree is up in Fellowship Hall through the end of October. Baskets are located in the office area and sanctuary. These will be distributed to the school, North Star, and Bremwood.

The upcoming Halloween Family night was discussed. 4 members volunteered to make bars.

The cranberry relish will be available by October 19th. There are eight foil wrapped turkeys available for sale at \$4.75 a pound.

A speaker is available to do a program on a recent mission trip to Alaska. Her availability for our November meeting will be checked. The Cedar River Readers have offered to do a program for our 2024 May Breakfast.

Our next meeting will be November 2nd at 1:00 P.M. Naomi Circle will have devotions and Response moment and Rebecca Circle will hostess.

The Response Moment from the July/August issue about things units are doing for mission. The devotions were on Fall by Julie Bettenport. The meeting closed with the "Think" article from the Response magazine.



2023
Angel
Tree



Naomi Circle is once again sponsoring the Angel Tree during the upcoming Christmas season. However, changes are being made as to this year's recipients as well as the type of donations being requested. Our research has shown that there is a need for assistance in our area schools. Every school expressed an urgent need for monetary assistance with their "Lunch Fund", which helps cover the cost of meals for "at-need" students. If you would rather donate specific physical items, we were told of the following needs: underwear (boy sizes = medium & large; girl sizes = 10/12 & 14/16), socks (boy & girl sizes = medium), non-offensive, neutral-colored sweatpants ("children's" sizes = small-xlarge) and t-shirts/sweatshirts (girl sizes = 7-8 & 10-12"; adult sizes = small-xxlarge) and boxes of Kleenex (high schools only). School supplies (paper, notebooks, pencils, etc. are not needed). This year's recipients of our donations will be three area schools (Janesville, North Cedar, and Waverly-Shell Rock). If you wish, you can designate which school you would prefer your gift be given. We, hopefully, will have the Angel Tree assembled and decorated prior to Sunday, December 1. The tree will be decorated with "Angel" envelopes which you may take and use to insert your monetary gift. There will be a collection box for you to place your envelope. If writing a check, please make it payable to Janesville United Methodist Church with "Angel Tree" inserted on the memo line. Physical gifts can be placed under the tree. For physical gifts, please include a note with their price value.

Monetary donations will be accepted at any time, even if the Angel Tree is not on display.



Thanks to the many donations of “treasures” and baked goods, we were able to contribute a profit of **\$1,800.00** to the General Fund of the church.

Thanks to everyone who helped and donated to make this great success possible!

BAKE SALE



We are selling our famous cranberry relish again this year for \$5.00 per pint or \$10.00 per quart.

We also have 8 foil wrapped turkey breasts for sale (\$4.75 a pound, averaging 10 pounds each).

Please contact Barb in the office or Janet Destival if you would like to purchase one.



October Happenings



Youth Group Halloween Party



Team Colette



Mission Awards



Pastor Appreciation