



Janesville United Methodist Church

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Rev. Laurie L Riley, pastor

December 2022 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist

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Office Hours

Mondays thru Thursdays
7:30 am - 10:30 am

The Office will be closed
for Christmas on
Monday, December 26

*Jesus is the Reason
for the Season.*



It has been 22 years that Naomi Circle has been sponsoring the Angel Tree. Recipients of the bounty have changed over the years. Original benefactors were local families recommended by the school counselor. Then Wartburg College Social Work Club collected items that were distributed to families in Bremer County. In recent years, we have delivered to Cedar Valley Friends of the Family, North Star Community Services, and Bremwood. This year we are adding another. We are asking for teddy bears, 14 inches or less to be donated to law enforcement and first responders to have with them in trauma situations to comfort small children.

The tree will be put up on **November 26**, so come and select an angel with a suggested item written on it. **December 11** will be the final day to bring items. That is the same day as the Children's Worship and Fellowship Dinner.

Thank you in advance for your help.



I am the Christmas Spirit

I enter the home of poverty, causing pale faced children to open their eyes wide, in pleased wonder.

I cause the miser's clutched hand to relax and thus paint a bright spot on his soul.

I cause the aged to renew their youth and to laugh in the old glad way.

I keep romance alive in the heart of childhood, and brighten sleep with dreams woven of magic.

I cause eager feet to climb dark stairways with filled baskets leaving behind hearts amazed at the goodness of the world.

I cause the prodigal to pause a moment on his wild, wasteful way and send to anxious love some little token that releases glad tears- tears which wash away the hard lines of sorrow.

I enter dark prison cells, reminding scarred manhood of what might have been and pointing forward to good days yet to be.

I come softly into the still white home of pain, and lips that are too weak to speak just tremble in silent, eloquent gratitude.

In a thousand ways, I cause the weary world to look up into the face of God, and for a little moment forget the things that are small and wretched.

I am the Christmas Spirit. --- E.C. Baird.

During this season of celebration for so many I am also reminded that for some people the Christmas Season is a very hard season to face each year.

It is during this season many hardships are faced in new and painful ways.

It is during this season that many remember the loved ones lost.

It is during this season that many face the hardest financial troubles.

It is during this season that many feel so busy that they just want to give up and leave life behind.

So it is during this season that I share with you this poem about the Christmas Spirit in hopes that it will touch you where you are.

May this poem remind all of us that God is still present for us even in those times of pain, may it remind us that God is willing to touch us where we need to be touched for that is why we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Know that as you continue through this Christmas season God understands your needs; know that your church family is here for you in the ways we can be and I hope that this helps us to all find the peace the Spirit of Christmas; Jesus Christ can bring to us as we gather together during this season of Christmas.

See you in Worship,
Pastor Laurie

Volunteers for December

Liturgists in December

December 4
Brad Ruth

December 11
Sunday School

December 18
Virginia Robinson

December 25
Gary Shaulis

Ushers in December

December 4
Brad Ruth

December 11
Dick & Karen Funk

December 18
Dave Beenblossom

December 25
Gary Shaulis

December Birthdays

Kali Pletz	12/1
Camden Eibey	12/2
Lyle Piper	12/3
Peg Busch	12/6
Amie Woodyard	12/6
Nancy Beenblossom	12/7
Bryan Destival	12/7
Nick Borglum	12/7
Geary Eibey	12/8
Emily Immerzeel	12/8
Tim West	12/8
Kole Haan	12/8
Jami Jo Wilson	12/9
Tarynn Shepherd	12/9
Esther Woodyard	12/9
Stephanie Manning	12/9
Lindsey Eibey	12/11
Cindy Nisius	12/12
Barb Cooper	12/15
John Berry	12/16
Sylvia Johnson	12/19
Joseph Heins	12/20
Chelsey Bliss	12/21
Jessica Fisher	12/22/
Kolton Osborn	12/23
Aidan Heiser	12/23
Mike Barnes	12/23
Mary Harrold	12/24
Jesus	12/25
Natalie Whitney	12/26
DeAnn Bliss	12/27
Shawn Cooper	12/28
Maddisen Kolaas	12/28
Scott Knapp	12/30
Hannah Johnson	12/30
Bryce Destival	12/31

Upcoming Holiday Events

Thursday, December 1
UMW meets @1:00 pm

Tuesday, December 6
Z-Team prep for Jingle on Main

Wednesday, December 7
Jingle on Main @5:00-8:00 pm

Sunday, December 11
Sunday School Christmas Worship
Yuletide Harvest
and Fellowship Dinner afterwards

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship @6:30 pm

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Day

Monday, December 26
Office closed for Christmas

December Anniversaries

Lisa & Greg Kiene	12/01
Larry & Sue Stapleton	12/04
Stan & Darlys Saunders	12/27



Z-Team Sowing/Harvest Update

Jingle on Main - Wednesday, December 7 @ 5:00-8:00 pm

The Z-Team has reserved 2 tables for anyone from our congregation to display and sell their items - crafts, food, etc. This is available even to those who did not accept "sowing money" but have items they'd like to donate with proceeds going to the church's **"Yuletide Harvest" on December 11** in conjunction with the Children's Christmas Worship Service.



On Monday, November 7th, a group consisting of Chris Thompson and Sharon Paul from Messiah, and Nikki Haan, Pastor Laurie, and Rachael Coffman met to discuss starting up a new Youth Group for High School students.

They plan to open it up to all 9th through 12th graders, and they are planning to meet a couple times a month. They will be handing out a survey for the students to fill out at the first meeting to get a better idea of what they are interested in doing at future meetings. They are potentially planning on meeting on Wednesday nights or Sunday evenings, after activities are wrapped up for the day.

A kick off meeting is planned for Sunday, December 11th at 5:00, and they are planning to provide supper to the students who attend. The menu is maidrites, chips, bars, cookies, and water or gatorade.



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
Betty Betsinger
Sylvia Johnson

Please keep them in your prayers:

Tom & Char Brickman
Dan & Wendy Brace
Kim Knapp
Velma Rice & her family
Sylvia Johnson
Evelyn Turner
Nancy Bloker's friend of the family, Will
Mary Jane Stanhope's son, Alan



**The Shepherds will be meeting
December 6 at 9:30 am.**

If you would like more information or lists and schedules, please come to the meeting, contact the church office, or contact Janet Destival.

Remember - **anyone is welcome to be a Shepherd.** It is truly a very rewarding experience.

Thanks to Kole Haan for volunteering to shovel snow for the church this winter!

Mitten Tree

Thank you so much for all the donations to the mitten tree. We had a total of 52 hats, gloves, and scarves donated for a value of approximately \$340. These were distributed to the Janesville School, North Star, and Bremwood.

Ingathering

40 personal dignity (health) kits and 40 student kits were packed and delivered to Ingathering. With shipping costs, it came to a value of \$1,160. Thank you to all who contributed.

Time to start thinking about submitting grant applications for 2023.

Applications will need to be turned in no later than February 28th.

Application forms will be available inside the door to the church offices.

Completed applications can be sent or given to a member of the PEC Committee or placed in the PEC mail slot on the wall just outside the door to Court Chapel.

\$
Grants
for
2023
\$



Poinsettias for 2022

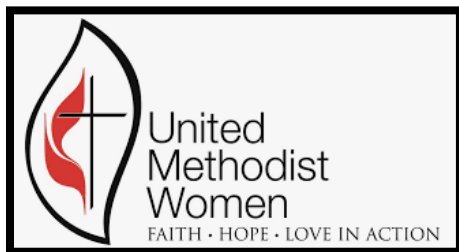
As you recall, this year we switched from live Easter lilies to artificial ones, due to various allergies, etc. and they were a beautiful addition to our Easter Sanctuary.

Because of the great success with the lilies, the Worship Committee has chosen to also purchase artificial poinsettias, which can also be used year after year.

We would still like to Honor and Remember our loved ones for Christmas, so we are asking for your donations "In Memory" or "In Honor" of loved ones, which will be used to purchase the artificial flowers for the Sanctuary. **\$10 per donation is a suggested amount, but you can feel free to donate any amount.** All money collected and not used to purchase the artificial flowers will be donated to the Food Bank.

A special flyer with your tributes to your loved ones will be included with the bulletins at Christmastime.

Please have your order form and your donation to the church office by **Monday, December 5** so we can have them ready for the Sunday School Christmas Worship Service on December 11.



UMW News

The November UMW meeting was held on Thursday, November 3rd at 1:00 PM in Court Chapel. Eleven members and a guest were present.

Prayer concerns were shared for church members. Over twenty cards have been sent since last month.

Circle Reports were given. Mary Deborah meet at church and planned the lunch for today's meeting and will be eating out in November. Naomi Circle did not meet but will be meeting this month to finalize plans for the Angel Tree and dinner for the Christmas children's service. Rebecca met at church to make cranberry relish and finished planning the Veteran's Day dinner.

The Piecemakers are still working on the train throw. They are planning to put the butterfly quilt/pillows in the Jingle on Main sale. They will add other quilting or craft items as space allows.

40 health kits and 40 student kits have been packed and will be delivered to Ingathering on Saturday. The grant money awarded to the Mission Committee was more than enough to cover the shipping and toiletry fees.

Rebecca Circle will be getting together Saturday to prepare for the Veteran's dinner after church on Sunday. The Angel Tree will be up after Thanksgiving with angels for North Star and Bremwood. Since Friends of the Family is not in need of items this year, there will also be angels for stuffed animals for the Janesville First Responders and Police Department to give to children during emergencies.

It was decided that our December 1st meeting will be at 1:00 PM. Anyone else can bring a snack and recipe if desired. Pastor Laurie has agreed to change her schedule to join us and install our officers for 2023. Rebecca Circle will be in charge of devotions, Response Moment, and games.

Our unit received Mission Study and Mission Today certificates for 2022.

Yearbook circle information was handed out to be corrected for next year's book.

Annual donations were discussed. Motions carried to give \$40 to the eleven agencies as we did last year and \$30 to the Sunday School, Youth Group, and Vacation Bible School. Our grant money will be used to cover most of the donations with the balance coming from the general budget.

Devotions were given on Grief, Jesus Way of Embracing Change and Newness. with added explanations of the Thank Offering and the new name change to United Women in Faith.

Members viewed a video of Larry and Jane Kies, missionaries from Jesup, Iowa who have worked in Zimbabwe for many years.



We still have lots of our famous cranberry relish for sale (\$5.00 per pint and \$10.00 per quart).

Contact the church office (319) 987-2596 if you would like to set up a time, during office hours, to pick some up.



Quilt of the Month

How about adding some new color to your winter decorating?

Tired of all that Christmas red and green?
What about PURPLE?!?

This beautiful 53 in. x 76 in. hand-quilted winter scene throw with snowflake backing is just what you need.

It is on display in Court Chapel, along with several others.

Have a look and see if you are interested.

Prices are negotiable.



On Sunday, November 6th, the Sunday School children helped the congregation recognize and honor our Veterans and Saints. They sang for us, presented tokens of appreciation to the Veterans, and helped Pastor Laurie light candles for our Saints.

After the service, a fellowship dinner was provided by Rebecca Circle.

Here are just a few pictures from the day!





Fundraising Card Program

PHONE 608-791-7405

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JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST
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JANESVILLE, Iowa 50647

Dear Fundraising Card Coordinator:

Effective November 1st, the Kwik Trip Fundraising Card Program will be changing. We will no longer be offering a 10% rebate for eligible in-store purchases on cards purchased through your organization. Instead, Kwik Trip will be offering a new Grocery Only/In-Store card that will be available at a 15% base discount. This card can be used toward in-store products and will be valid for the same items that earned you the previous 10% in-store rebate. Items not eligible to be purchased with the new card offering include fuel, tobacco, alcohol, gift cards, lottery/lotto, and stamps. We are excited to announce that the changes we are making will allow your organization to account for your savings at the point of purchase instead of depending on a monthly rebate check.

Regular and Fuel-Only gift cards will still be offered at a 5% base discount. The new Grocery Only/In-Store card option will be offered at a 15% base discount. Cards purchased on the previous program will continue to receive eligible rebates until further notice. Kwik Trip reserves the right to discontinue the rebate program at any time.

We are happy and proud to support over 3,000 organizations through the Kwik Trip/Kwik Star Fundraising Card Program. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you for the benefit of your organization.

If you have any questions about our Fundraising Card Program, feel free to call Sue Reynolds, Kim Kerska, or me at 608-791-7405.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Seiler
Credit & Collection Manager

OUR MISSION

To serve our customers and community more effectively than anyone else by treating our customers, coworkers and suppliers as we, personally, would like to be treated, and to make a difference in someone's life.