



The Janesville Bridge

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

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Pastor Mike Carey

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-12:30
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. (Sept. thru May)
Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.
Worship - 10:30 a.m.



Mike's Musings

Page 1 of 2

Spring at last! After this winter, we thought it would never get here. Hallelujah!

By now, you have heard that I will be moving and becoming the next pastor of First United Methodist Church in Nevada, Iowa, effective July 1. Nevada is 10 miles east of Ames (Go Cyclones!) on Highway 30. It's a nice town of close to 7,000. The church is downtown, a nice physical plant with parsonage across the street. The church is between 725 – 750 membership with an average worship attendance of about 180 with two worship services: one contemporary and one traditional. They seem like an upbeat group of people and I look forward to the opportunity to serve them.

To answer your question of why is this happening now; it is a move that I requested. Why? Short answer is that I have done my job here and it is time for the next challenge. I am not the kind of person to come into a situation and stay long term. My skill set is more of a shorty term fix-it guy. There is nothing wrong. No one said or did anything to make anybody mad. It's just time for me to move on and the Bishop and cabinet agreed with me.

Will everything we have done fall apart once I am gone? I hope not because that will mean I have failed in a very important area. That is a church should never, ever be pastor focused or driven. Pastors come in, give leadership, help shape the vision but the congregation has to buy into that vision and carry it forward. People need to be committed to and love their church and church family. It helps if you like the minister but it is not mandatory. You do need to love Jesus and one another. If you do, the rest will take care of itself. We are not building personality cults. That is never a good thing. We are lovers and followers of Jesus Christ. He is our focus and ultimate leader. Pastors come, pastors go, but the church remains. Be the church.



What is the process from here? Our Staff/Pastor Parish Committee is meeting with our District Superintendent on April 1 at the District Office to do what is called a church profile. They will talk about strengths and weaknesses of the parish and what kind of gifts the next pastor should have to meet those. If you would like to have input on that, talk to a member of the Staff/Pastor Parish Committee (Margaret Shepard, Nancy Beenblossom, Brad Ruth, Mary Burkes, and Lolita Huber), maybe even write some things down that they can take to the meeting to share. Our Superintendent is Rev. Paul Wilcox. I know Paul personally and he is a good guy, has been a good and faithful pastor in our conference for many years. He takes his job seriously and will work diligently with the committee. He will take the profile information back to the Bishop and the rest of her appointive cabinet to discuss and pray for the needs of our parish. They will consider all available clergy and decide on the next person who will be brought to the SPPRC for an interview and "put in". There is no time line at this point other than they will take over effective July 1 and there will be someone to take my place. That is the United Methodist way.

Let me close by saying it has been an honor and privilege to serve this parish. We have not always seen eye to eye on everything but we have accomplished a lot that you should be very proud of. I know I am and I am proud of all of you for your commitment and service. Continue to love Jesus and one another. With that, you cannot go too far wrong.

Yours in Christ's service
Pastor Mike Carey



Be on the lookout



The Z-Team will be sponsoring a drawing for 2 pairs of tickets to a 2019 play at the Old Creamery Theater.

Chances to win will be \$5 each or 5 chances for \$20.

More details will be coming soon. We will draw on April 28.

If you would like to see the 2019 lineup, just go to their website or come to the church office (we have a copy of their 2019 brochure).



C A T

Church Assessment Tool

What is CAT? It stands for Church Assessment Tool, and you will be hearing more about it in April. Here is a brief explanation of CAT, what we are going to do, and how it will help our congregation. More detailed information, with a timeline for the process, will be coming to you in the near future.

It provides the congregation and the Iowa Conference with objective, organizational information that includes energy level, satisfaction/wholeness, flexibility, and ministry priorities. Members of the congregation complete a survey, which is then reviewed by professional consultants (Holy Cow Consulting), and an assessment is presented to our church.

The Z-Team will be coordinating the assessment, and answering any questions you may have after you receive your informational letter/email.

FACTS

This entire process, which usually costs \$3,000 - \$5,000, is covered by apportionments – it costs us **nothing**.

Surveys will be available to complete online or a paper version, which will be entered into the online system.

All responses are confidential.

Surveys are approximately 90-100 questions and will take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete.

The Z-Team will be coordinating the assessment and providing status updates to everyone.

The results of the survey will tell us, as a church, where we are and what our next steps can be. It will also help us to work with our new pastor so we can all excel together!

April 2

1:00pm Finance

1:30-3:30pm Pastor Mike

@ Clergy Sub-District - Heritage UMC

April 4

1:00pm UMW

April 7 - SOWING SUNDAY

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Communion

April 9

Pastor Mike @ Continuing Education
in Ames

9:00am Shepherds

7:00pm Trustees

April 11

Pastor Mike @ District Office for
Meeting

April 13

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

**** HOLY WEEK BEGINS ****

April 14 - PALM SUNDAY

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Procession of
Palms & Kids Singing

UMCOR Sunday

11:30am Ad. Council

April 18 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00pm Worship at JUMC

April 19 - GOOD FRIDAY

7:00pm Ecumenical Worship
with Messiah at JUMC

April 21 - EASTER SUNDAY

9:00am Kids Serving Breakfast

10:30am Worship

April 23 - May 3

Pastor Mike on Vacation



Study & Support Group

Tuesdays at 10:00 am.

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Pastor Mike at Hudson

Wednesdays

April 3, 10, 17, 24

Choir Practice

Thursdays at 7:15 pm.

April 4, 11, 25

(no practice on Maundy
Thursday)

April 25

1:00pm Z-Team

April 27 - CITY-WIDE RUMMAGE SALES

JUMC Rummage Sale / Bake Sale /
Luncheon

April 28

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

11:30am CAT Survey Kick-Off



Holy Week

Remembering and Making Present

Palm Sunday, April 14

10:30 am Worship Service

Procession of the Palms
Sunday School kids singing
UMCOR Sunday
Administrative Council meets after worship

Maundy Thursday, April 18

Worship Service with Communion

7:00 pm at JUMC

Good Friday, April 19

Ecumenical Worship Service with Messiah

7:00 pm at JUMC

Easter Sunday, April 21

Sunday School Kids will be serving Easter
Breakfast

9:00 am at JUMC / Fellowship Hall

Worship Service with Communion

10:30 am at JUMC



Showers Bring Flowers
Food Bank Collection

Help us “shower” the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in March and April with monetary donations and make the “flower” grow on our recording station in the entryway. There is a \$1 for \$1 match again this year for all money donated in March and April. Please make your check out to the church and put “Food Bank” in the memo part.

Let’s take advantage of the matching funds and stretch our dollars to help our neighbors!

UMCOR Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing is now called UMCOR Sunday. As in the past, these donations cover the administrative costs of running UMCOR which allows 100% of other money donated to UMCOR to go to the specified cause. Special envelopes will be in the bulletin on Palm Sunday, April 14th. Checks can also be dropped off in the church office. Please make your check out to the church and put “UMCOR Sunday” in the memo part of your check.

(NOTE: If you would like to support UMCOR’s assistance to the victims of flooding in Nebraska, make your check out to the church and put “flooding” in the memo portion.)

Thank you,
The Missions Committee

SOWING SUNDAY
April 7, 2019

Sponsored by the Zacchaeus Team
(aka: Z-Team)

In Matthew 25: 14-30 Jesus tells the parable of the master who entrusted three of his servants with talents (keep in mind at that time one talent represented more than 15 year's wages of a laborer). Two of those servants put the talents they'd been entrusted with to work and gained even more talents. But the third servant, being fearful, buried his talent. What kind of servant is each of us?

Following God's example, the Z-Team is sponsoring our fifth annual "Sowing and Harvest" project. The results of past years have been highly successful as members of this congregation have put their talents to use and multiplied an initial \$500 investment by as much as more than 850 times!

2 Corinthians 9: 6 reads: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." The Z-Team is giving away \$500 in \$20 bills. We are challenging everyone to accept a \$20 bill, put your talents to use, and multiply what God has given you; to be used to His Glory.

April 7 will be our first "Sowing Sunday". We will follow up on Sundays until we have sown all the \$20 bills. We will work with our new in-coming pastor to set a date in November for "Harvest Sunday" at which time the "harvest" will be gathered and become part of the church's general fund.

You might be thinking, "What will I do with \$20?" There is no right or wrong answer. 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 accept this challenge. In past years we've had members of the Sunday School invest \$20 and reap more than \$100 as well as adults who've done the same. Projects may be done on an individual basis or feel free to join forces with multiple people or groups and invest your talents jointly.

Members of the Z-Team will pass through the congregation with envelopes containing \$20, and hand them out to anyone wishing to accept this challenge. If you have an idea that you believe will require more than \$20 to start up, feel free to take a second \$20 bill.

If you know of someone you believe would like to participate in this challenge and did not get an envelope, feel free to take one and pass it along to them.

Our congregation has set the bar high, but we believe our church is up to the challenge. Let us leave you with this thought:

Your talent is God's gift to you - What you do with it is your gift back to God.



We will, once again, be participating in the Janesville Citywide Garage Sales
April 27, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Adult clothing items WILL NOT be accepted
We are also asking for donations of baked goods.

The sale will be held in the lower level in Fellowship Hall.

Please bring all items to Fellowship Hall in the lower level
(do not leave them in Court Chapel or upstairs)
beginning Monday, April 22
(do not bring anything prior to that date),
and place articles on the tables in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like a specific price put on an item, it must be marked when you bring it in. Otherwise, all items will be sold as “good will offering”.

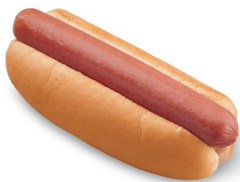
Everything must be at the church by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

All proceeds will go to the General Fund of the Church.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP in organizing the sale and on the day of the sale.

If you need help getting your items to the church, if you can help volunteer, or if you have any other questions, contact the church office at 987-2596 or Esther Folkerds at 987-2665.

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: The Janesville Lions Club will be Sponsoring a Scrap Metal Drive :
: from 9:00 until 3:00 on April 27. See the city website for more :
:



The Z-Team will be serving lunch and pies in Fellowship Hall, during the Rummage Sale again this year (all proceeds will go to the General Fund).

Serving times will be:
Saturday, April 27 from 10:00 to 1:00

Menu:
Sloppy Joes / Hot Dogs
Chips
Drink
Cookie

We will also be selling slices of pie for additional cost.

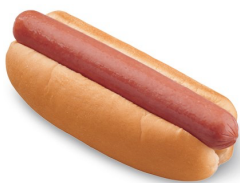
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP

for 2 - 2.5 hour shifts

8:30 - 11:00 /set up and serve

11:00 - 1:30 / serve and clean up

We will also be asking for donations of 12-packs of soda.
Sign up sheets will be coming around - anything you can do to help
would be greatly appreciated!



Janesville United Methodist Women - News

The monthly meeting of the JUMW was held March 7, in Court Chapel at 1:00 p.m.

Our annual Prayer and Self Denial Program was presented. The UMW has advocated for women, children and youth for 150 years both nationally and internationally. The funds collected are used to support the basic needs of women and children. Organizations have formed that have addressed needs such as shelter, education, child care, nutritional and medical needs, safety, and others. As we enjoy our individual blessings and freedom from “want” this offering is an opportunity to respond to others less fortunate in Christ's love.

Only two circles met in February. Mary Deborah planned hostess duties and Naomi enjoyed a film on the Orphan Train and had a meal of soups.

The card chairman reported sending 15 get well, sympathy, and thinking of you cards.

The Response moment is now a bimonthly publication. Of interest was an article on the Bible study of ESTHER and also an item about a “Day Spa for Clergy”.

Old Business: The Quilters are continuing to work on the embroidery block quilt, having missed many work days due to weather. There are still cookbooks for sale. We are in need of ideas for craft items.

The new criteria for Mission kits were distributed. There are numerous changes for kits this year.

A letter of confirmation was received for a \$24 credit from the New World Outlook magazine subscription has gone to our UMCOR donation. The magazine is no longer being published.

New Business: The Alpha PSI Sorority will NOT be sponsoring a fall craft sale this year due to the extensive construction at the school. There is also a possibility that they will not be having any in the future due to changes in their membership. Discussion took place regarding the loss of funds received from this event and how it will affect our overall financial commitments in the future. Several ideas for various ways to raise funds were mentioned. This will be an ongoing discussion in the months ahead.

This year the UMW celebrates 150 years of service. The Legacy Fund was established to support the ongoing mission of our organization. It was moved and seconded to give \$50 again this year.

March 23 will be the Mission Study at Shellrock. Those wishing to go are to take a sack lunch. The topic will be the book “What about Our Money Mission Study Book?”

Our Unit has again received the Five Star Award. The certificate will be displayed in the Education foyer.

The next meeting will be April 4 at 1:00 p.m. in Court Chapel with Naomi circle as hostess and Mary Deborah circle leading devotions. Discussion will continue regarding the future of JUMW. The May Breakfast will also be planned.



Janesville United Methodist Church

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The issue of employee/parishioner safety has been the topic of discussion for quite some time. I can remember the time when the Church was open 24-7 and we did not think anything of it. Unfortunately, times are changing and the incidences involving bad things happening in the places that we should feel most safe are happening every more and more.

While we cannot protect against every instance every day, there some changes made in the day to day operation of the church to try and provide a better level of security for all.

Tech Committee chair, Jim Hamilyn suggested of having security cameras installed on the front office door and the back lower entrance. Those cameras would provide a vast range of useful tools to aid in the security and safety.

At the last Trustee Meeting it was approved by unanimous vote to purchase the cameras. Jim was contacted and he graciously offered to see to the installation.

Over the past few years the only door unlocked throughout the weekdays has been the front office door during the time the church is occupied. That policy has been reviewed.

For the purpose of being able to control access to the building, the door now will remain locked. If you wish to enter and don't have a key it will be necessary to knock (or push the new doorbell) and someone will come and let you in. I realize that some will see this as an inconvenience, However, there are a lot of times that there may be only 1 or 2 people in the building, and they should be given the opportunity to make sure they are comfortable with those who enter the building or given the opportunity to call 911 if they are not. This safety measure is for all, whether it is the custodial staff, secretary, organist, the pastor, groups of one or 2 people, or even large groups everyone will be offered the same level of protection.

While I realize the ability to guaranty safety in Public places a 100% of the time is not possible, it is my hope that these actions will improve our current situation.

Dave Beenblossom

Trustee Committee Chair



Dear Colleagues,

Although I know you are people who go to more meetings and events than others can imagine, I'm writing to ask you to consider attending one more! Laity Day with the Bishop offers a special opportunity for hearing from Bishop Laurie and for interaction about issues that concern us all. Additionally, there is a Mission Focus exploring a missional response to faith. Plus, it is an opportunity for you, as a conference leader, to network and hear from local church leaders. The paragraphs below describe this year's Laity Day in some detail. If you can make time, I think you will find it to be a really good experience.

Please consider joining other lay people from across Iowa for a stimulating Laity Day with the Bishop on Saturday, April 6! It's at Collegiate UMC in Ames with registration and refreshments beginning at 9:00. The bookstore will be open and display tables ready to explore. The program begins at 9:45 in the Sanctuary.

Bishop Laurie's sermon, which will be part of **Morning Worship**, is titled "**The Same But Different.**" She will also participate in a discussion of GC19 and an afternoon Q and A. The current situation in the United Methodist church will be explored in a morning session, "**The UMC: Taking Stock and Looking Forward.**" Compare the purposes of GC19 with what actually happened, learn what we do and don't know and most importantly, what do future scenarios look like? Hear from delegation chair Phil Carver, members of Iowa's GC delegation, and Bishop Laurie. There will be opportunities to discuss feelings and ideas with other lay people.

The Missional Focus at Laity Day this year is titled "**Practicing Love with Women at the Well**" led by Rev. Lee Roorda Schott, the pastor of Women at the Well. Rev. Schott will lead us to consider how we "get to" to practice love through this United Methodist congregation inside the women's prison at Mitchellville:

- as we learn about the circumstances and humanity of these women who are incarcerated
- as we discover through them what it looks like to love well, inside the prison and in our own churches
- as we live out this love through relationships, reentry, and our support for this mission congregation

Again this year, there will be short "Information for Leaders" sessions about School for Lay Ministry and the work of the volunteer UM Advocacy Team.

The day will close with a Communion Service celebrated by Bishop Laurie.

Although there is no fee (just a free will offering), **pre-registration will be appreciated** to help planning for materials and lunch. Register now using this [link](#) or by calling Barb at 515-974-8905.

For those not able to participate in person, [Livestream](#) will be available

If you have any questions, feel free to email or call me or Barb Mann.

Blessings,

Margaret Borgen, Chair

Iowa Conference Board of Laity

General Council Update

Things are in a turmoil across the denomination and that was to be expected, no matter what decisions were made at the Special General Conference held the end of February in St. Louis. To recap - by a narrow vote, the restrictive language regarding human sexuality was retained. Also, clergy cannot be practicing homosexuals and we cannot perform gay weddings, even though state law in Iowa says we can. Everything that was passed by the Special Conference has been referred to the Judicial Council, which is our church's Supreme Court, to determine constitutionality - that will happen the end of April. Irregularities in voting at the Special General Conference have also been discovered and there is an investigation of this going on. No word on a time line for that at this point, although it seems certain that irregularities did exist.

Actions that have happened as a result of the action of the Special General Conference: UMC in the German Annual Conference have already said they will not abide by the decision. The same is true of the New York and New Jersey Conferences. I would not be surprised if the entire Western Jurisdiction did the same. A number of clergy in the Minnesota/Dakotas Conference have signed a letter indicating they will not abide by the decision, as have a number of Iowa clergy, as well.

So, what does it all mean? It means we are at a point of significant disagreement. What happens next? I don't know. We will have to wait and see how the process plays out. The regularly scheduled General Conference will be in 2020 in Minneapolis. Things will get very interesting by the time we get there. Stay tuned.

Pastor Mike



Janesville United Methodist Church

Help us spread our news!

Be sure to "LIKE" us on Facebook

Prayer Requests

Prayers for our shut-ins visited by our Shepherds:

Roberta Rockwood
Dick Purdy
Jean Altenheim
Richard Wireman
Flo Shephard
Evelyn Wubbena
Marlys Cook
Milton Dobbs
De & Carol Dix
John & Sandy Brucher
Georgia Eibey

Please pray for:

Nursing Home Residents
All Veterans
(past, present & future)
Fire Fighters
First Responders
Students and Teachers
Fred Hallberg
Patti Baldwin
Scott Turner
Marilyn Taylor
Dennis Osborn & family



God Hears
Prayer

Please keep

Char Brickman

Jane Fauser

Wendy Brace

Aidan Heiser

(Sharon's grandson)

Chelsey Brace

in your prayers as they
deal with health
concerns.

Greeters, Ushers, & Liturgist Volunteers

April 7 - Communion:

Greeter - Christena Charley

Liturgist - Sharon Heiser

Ushers - Tom & Christena Charley, Brad Ruth

Communion Servers - Jenna Lafrentz and
Barb Hamlyn

April 14 - Palm Sunday:

Greeters - Dave & Mary Peters

Liturgist - Nikki Haan

Ushers - Dick & Karen Funk

April 21 - Easter Sunday:

Greeters - Dave & Nancy Beenblossom

Liturgist - Emily Schuldt

Ushers - Scott & Kim Knapp

April 28:

Greeter - Colleen Liming

Liturgist - Lorraine Hallberg

Ushers - Gary Shaulis, Dave Beenblossom





April Birthdays

Bradley Woeste	4/1
Sarah Brown	4/4
Andrew Eibey	4/4
Earl (Hap) Spencer	4/6
Jim Hamlyn	4/6
Joni Clemens	4/10
Carter Herbst	4/10
Seth Reid	4/11
Weylon Heiser	4/11
Pastor Mary Schnepf	4/11
Mindy Yochum	4/13
Cadence Coffman	4/19
Daniel VerSteege	4/19
Michael Baldwin	4/20
Mackenzie Carlisle	4/21
Emma Baker	4/21
Marileigh Fisher	4/21
Natalie Brace	4/22
Albert McFadden	4/22
Grace Cornish	4/23
Zach Dobbs	4/26
Isabel Barnes	4/26
Patricia Yochum	4/27
Sydney Johnson	4/28
Morgan Charley	4/29

April Anniversaries

Bradley & Kayla Johnson	4/4
Matt & Amy Shook	4/11
Del & Margaret Shepard	4/19
Joe & Kathy Kessel	4/22
Trevor & Jenna Lafrentz	4/23
Thomas & Christena Charley	4/24
Charles & Cheryl Immerzeel	4/27

Holy Week

April 14 - Palm Sunday
 April 18 - Maundy Thursday
 April 19 - Good Friday
 April 21 - Easter Sunday

