

# The Janesville Bridge

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

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**Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf**

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April 2020 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Dear JUMC Family, **Holy Week services are subject to postponing, but not cancelling.**

Have you heard the message,



It refers to the Crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, His facing sin, death, and hell over Holy Saturday and His Glorious Resurrection on Easter Morning.

This year, with the new coronavirus during flu and cold season, “Friday” has come early. Even the season of Lent has been stolen from us and perhaps Easter Sunday being held on April 12 has too.

Actually every Sunday morning is a “Little Easter” because on each we are reminded of Christ’s gift of forgiveness and eternal life through His actions 2000 years ago, but even those have been temporarily taken from us.

**I’m proposing we celebrate Easter in 2020 on the Sunday we choose, after this virus threat passes and we can meet in groups again.**

My “Friday” concerns include how this unusual virus season is going to affect our mental and spiritual health. Remaining home and inside, will avoid exposure to viruses, but slights us emotionally. This is not a winter storm when we must remain inside to be safe. It’s okay for us to go outdoors, while practicing six foot social distancing to avoid sharing infectious diseases with each other. And not gather in large groups at all. This all makes sense for many reasons.

It’s good for us to go outdoors for a walk and to play. Science and common sense tell us that physical exercise increases our feel-good hormones to help combat the depression that may set in otherwise. Getting regular rest, eating nutritionally and moving around through-out the day indoors, helps too. Visiting on the phone and social media will help us remain connected with one another. No one should face this unusual season alone.

While reading God’s Word, the Bible, and pausing to listen to God through prayer and meditation each day, God will guide us to what it is we need to hear from God. The Old Testament Psalms and Prophets tell of Bible times when life was tougher than we have it today and how God carried His people through it all. Let those stories bring you hope.

Reading the New Testament gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, will bring us all the hope we need to face any circumstances. However, if you feel you need additional help, you can call 211 on your phone, which provides a shortcut through what can be a maze of health and human service agency phone numbers. 211 refers, & 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 any of 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

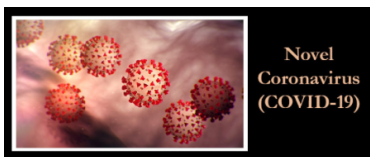
**“It’s Friday.**

**But Sunday’s Coming!”**

God bless you, Pastor Audrey:)



Pastor Audrey



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all upcoming events for April may be postponed until later.

Here is our original schedule, which is now subject to change (please stay tuned for updates)

Watch of Live-Streaming Sundays at 10:30am on JUMC facebook &/or videos

Holy Week Services are subject to postponing, but not cancelling.

We may have Easter in May or June; wouldn't that be fun?

**April 5 Palm/Passion Sunday**

Procession of Palms  
Sunday School Kids Singing  
Communion

**April 9 Holy Thursday**

7:00 pm Worship at JUMC

**April 10 - Good Friday**

7:00 pm Ecumenical Worship at JUMC

**April 12 Easter Sunday**

Sunday School Kids Serving Breakfast  
Live Flower Cross  
Lilies in Honor/Memory

**April 25 Rummage Sale / Bake Sale**

No Z-Team Sponsored Lunch

**April 26 Sowing Sunday**

Z-Team Sponsored Light Lunch and Presentations of Sowing Ideas you can make and order for YOUR Sowing Project



The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.  
Psalm 23:1-3 NIV



ALL SUBJECT TO POSTPONING OR CANCEL

April 2

1:00pm UMW

<see Circle schedules below>

April 5 - Palm Sunday / UMCOR Sunday

9:15am Sunday School

10:00am Fellowship

10:30am Worship with Procession of Palms &  
Communion

April 7

9:00am Shepherds

1:00pm Finance

April 9 - Holy Thursday

7:00pm Worship with Communion

April 10 - Good Friday

7:00pm Ecumenical Worship at JUMC

April 11

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

April 12 - Easter Sunday

No Sunday School

9am Sunday School Kids serving breakfast

10:00am Fellowship

10:30am Worship

April 14

1:30pm Pastor at Sub-District meeting

7:00pm Trustees

April 19

9:15am Sunday School

10:00am Fellowship

10:30am Worship

April 23

1:00pm Z-Team

April 24 & 25

City Wide Rummage Sales (No lunch at JUMC)

April 26 - Sowing Sunday

9:15am Sunday School

10:00am Fellowship

10:30am Worship

11:30am Z-Team Fellowship Lunch & Displays



ALL SUBJECT TO POSTPONING OR CANCEL

**Study & Support Group**

Tuesdays at 10:00 am.

April 7, 14, 21, 28

**Pastor Audrey @ Hudson**

Wednesdays

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Quilters**

Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Choir Practice**

Wednesdays at 5:00 pm.

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

ALL SUBJECT TO POSTPONING OR CANCEL

**UMW and Circle Meetings for April**

UMW - Thursday, April 2 @ 1:00 pm.

Naomi - April 9 @ 2:00 pm.

Esther - April 15 @ 1:00 pm.

Rebecca - April 15 @ 7:00 pm.

MaryDeborah - March 19 @ 1:00 pm.



## **Sunday School IS CANCELLED**

### **until further notice**

Sunday School Classes are usually held on Sunday mornings at 9:15. All children, 3 years through 5th grade are welcome.

Usually the S.S. kids sing on Palm Sunday which will likely be postponed later than April 5.

Usually the S.S. kids serve a 9am Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday, which will likely be postponed later than April 12.

Please remain alert for postponements of Palm & Easter Sundays by reading emails and other info from JUMC and Sunday School Supt, Jean Eibey's facebook.

## **Z-Team Announces Annual**

### **Sowing Sunday, April 26**

(unless postponed)

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:



## **Youth Group**

Youth group meets on designated Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the church basement, under the guidance of Melissa Eibey and Morgan Charley.



Let's all send a shout out to our Confirmation Class:

**Grady Barr**

**Cael Coffman**

**Kole Haan**

**Isaac Jones**

**Talan Pletz**

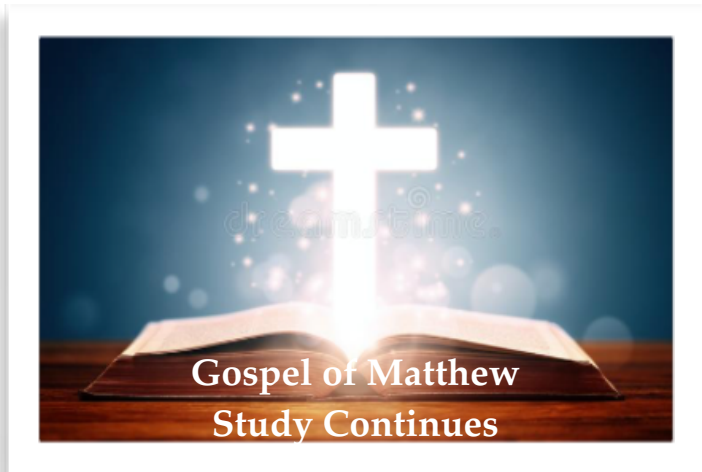
And their dedicated leaders:

**Rachel Coffman**

**Nikki Haan**

You are ALL doing such a great job, and you are truly an inspiration to us all.

We love seeing you in church every Sunday!



If you would like a printed copy of Sunday's message, please let Pastor Audrey know and she will provide one for you.



There are for you Hy-Vee and Kwik Star cards in the office to stop by and purchase **Monday-Thursday mornings**. When you purchase Kwik Star & Hy-Vee gift cards (aka - scrip) through our church, **you receive cards for the face value of your purchases**. As a fundraiser for the church, in addition, our church receives 5% for all Kwik Star purchases and 3% for all Hy-Vee purchases. An added bonus - if you use your Kwik Star card **INSIDE** the store, our church receives an additional 10% of the value of that purchase.

## **April Scripture and Sermons**

*may be viewed on-line*  
*Watch email & facebook info*

**April 5 - Palm & Passion Sunday**  
**Scripture-Matthew 21:1-10**  
**Lamb of God**

**April 9 - Maundy Thursday**  
7pm Worship at JUMC

**April 10 - Good Friday**  
7pm Ecumenical Worship at JUMC



**April 12 - Easter Sunday**  
**Scripture-Matthew 27**  
Christ is Risen!

**April 19**  
**Scripture-Continue Study of**  
**Matthew**

**April 26 - Sowing Sunday**  
**Scripture-Luke 19**  
Message-Sowing like Zacchaeus  
**Distribution of Sowing \$20 Seeds**



## Apportionments are “A Portion Meant for Others”

If you have not yet received your “church bank,” you can pick up one at the church. Please write your name on the bottom of your bank if you want credit for giving.

We encourage you to take a bank home and put it in a prominent spot where you regularly see it and be reminded to drop your loose change (and bills, if you like) into it. Checks are also welcome.

On the Third Sunday of each month, **“A Portion Meant for Others” Offering** opportunity will be given to bring your banks and checks to worship.

You can empty your bank into a baggie with your name on it or you can bring your bank to church and we'll empty it, record your donation and return your bank to you the same day, so you can receive credit on your giving statement.

Apportionments are “A Portion Meant for Others.” This money will help to pay our 2020 apportionments, which are used to help others.

What do you think?

Can we “bank” on your support throughout the year?

As always, your generosity is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
The Finance Committee

## For What Are Some Apportionments Spent in Iowa?

Commission on Ministries with Persons with Disabilities strives to heighten awareness of disability issues in the Iowa Conference and local UM Churches. It is a resource to District Church Location & Building committees and provides seed grants for funding for the improvement of accessibility to buildings and activities.

Commission on Religion and Race monitors, evaluates, advocates, empowers, and tries to enable the church in all levels to pursue and achieve racial inclusivity as a way of life.

Commission on the Status and Role of Women advocates for women to claim their rightful place within the church and in society.

Council on Age Level Ministries encourages the church to include all ages in planning, implementation and participation in programs as well as sensitivity to the needs, interests, and abilities of all individuals and families.

District Councils on Ministry provide local churches access to needed resources, provides training along with spiritual formation events for leaders of local churches and identifies potential areas of ministry growth within the district.

Matthew 25 Fund provides grants to mission and ministry programs within each district to assist local churches engage directly in hands-on ministry which propels us as the body of Christ towards the Kingdom of God.



## **UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief**

*It's called the "Red Cross" of The UMC!*

Palm Sunday is **UMCOR Sunday!** Gifts given on this Sunday cover the costs of doing business so UMCOR can respond when and where it is needed most, working to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing. *[Copy and paste blue print in search box for more information.]*

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the [United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry](#) of relief and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

Gifts to the [UMCOR Sunday offering \(formerly One Great Hour of Sharing\)](#) cover

the costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. UMCOR has no source of revenue for administration except from UMCOR Sunday.

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that 100%, of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

Most congregations celebrate UMCOR Sunday on the fourth Sunday in Lent (March 22 in 2020), but it can be celebrated at another time if a congregation wishes, like Palm Sunday, which has been our JUMC tradition.

Have questions? [Ask The UMC](#) and check out other [recent Q&As](#) or talk with Pastor Audrey.

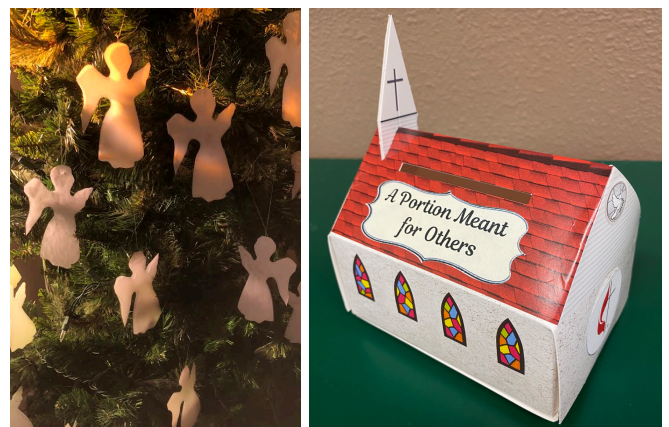
## **What to Do about Missed Offerings?**

Summer time is usually the time when the Finance Committee wonders how we'll make ends meet with folks off camping and vacationing. Though winter comes in a close second with its snow birds and snow cancellations, but this coronavirus thing is way off the charts.

If you can find your way to make gifts to any of the offerings that you'd normally give to in March and April, it would be greatly appreciated.

Not to mention that NE Iowa Food Bank has a donor matching every dollar given through March 31.

There's the Children's Offering for Christmas Gifts on the Angel Tree.



And "A Portion Meant for Others" Church Banks.

The greatest need will likely be in our general fund for covering utilities, expenses and wages etc.

Please help as you can. God will bless you for it.



The March UMW meeting was held on Thursday, March 5th at 1:00 p.m. 16 members attended. Lindsey Eibey presented us with info on the Food Pantry that she has started in Janesville. Circle attendees brought approximately \$210 worth of items from a list of needs supplied by Lindsey. It was a very informative program.

Naomi Circle had the devotions on "Angels were Silent!" Scripture from Mathew 27 which reflected on the Lenten season.

Prayer concerns were shared for members and from the Prayer Calendar.

The February 16th fellowship dinner was discussed. The profit was \$527.14 thanks to many food and monetary donations from our members.

Circle reports and a Response Moment from the July/August Issue were given.

The quilters reported they hope to have the Paper Doll Quilt done by Easter.

Mission kits were discussed. Monetary donations are accepted but mission kits are preferred. Student kits cannot be packed in ziplock bags this year. If a member does not have bags for their items, pack **complete kits** in a box or bag and the Mission Committee will repack them in school bags if available or in bulk for delivery.

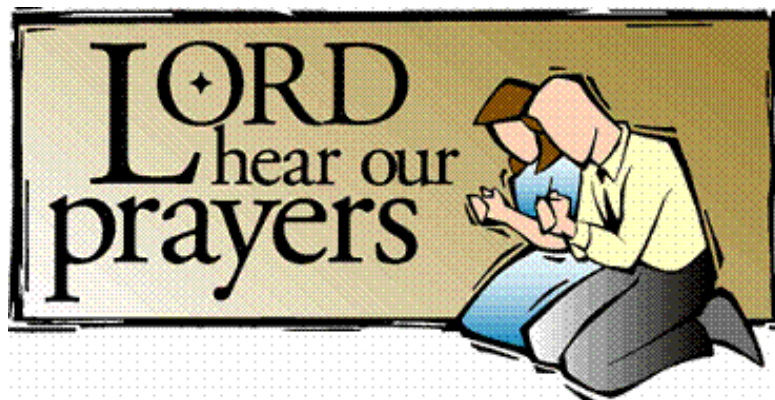
We received the 5 Star Mission Certificate again this year.

Very pretty May Breakfast Invitations made by Carol Jennings and Mary Jane Stanhope and will be mailed by the end of the month.

March 23 is the 151st Anniversary of the UMW and a motion was made and carried that our unit donate \$23.00 towards the Legacy Fund.

It was suggested we ask the Union Carolers back for our December meeting and try to increase our donation for their entertainment.





Please keep in your prayers  
with health concerns:

Tom & Char Brickman

Wendy Brace

Chelsey Brace

Johnny & Esther Folkerds

Ben Huber

Karen Borglum



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

**Please pray for:**

All Nursing Home Residents

All Veterans & Military &  
their loved ones

Fire & Rescue

First Responders

Students and Educators

Our Pastor

Our District Supt., Bishop, Cabinet

The United Methodist Church

Patti Baldwin

Scott Turner

Dennis Osborn & family

Marge Grandon



**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

**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 VerSteeg	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



Welcome to the newest member of  
our JUMC family!!

Parker William Schuldts was born on  
February 26 at 6:19 pm.

Congratulations to Will and Emily  
and, of course, big sister,  
Madaline!!!!



### **Ink Cartridges Please**

Remember when we started asking for your used printer ink cartridges? We are still collecting them, but the website that we use is very restrictive on cartridges they will accept. So, to help us out, Cindy Spencer has been turning them in and giving the money to the church. It is a slow process and it does not amount to a lot (this month, Cindy gave \$20.00 to the church from recycling), but it's better than nothing and it keeps the cartridges out of the landfills! It is a win-win for everyone, so keep bringing them in to the church office, and we will continue to recycle them.

**THANK YOU CINDY!!!**



### ***Our Sympathies***

are with the family of  
Sandy Brucher  
who passed away in March.

Thank you to Karen Funk for her dedication to our church's card ministry. She makes sure everyone knows we are thinking of them by having cards set out to be signed on Sunday mornings and making sure the cards are delivered.

Thank you to all my church family for all of the Birthday cards, calls, messages, and smiles. You made turning 80 fun! I feel that God has much more for me to do yet, and I will strive to follow His lead for whatever time He gives me!

Mary Burkes