



The Janesville Bridge

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

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December 2020 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Dear JUMC Families from Pastor Audrey:)

It breaks my heart to write there will be no Sunday School or Worship services until COVID numbers in Black Hawk and Bremer County have held below 15% for two weeks.

So, likely no in-person Christmas Eve.

I pledge to do my very best for you, to offer meaningful worship during this difficult season. And I hope you will watch on-line with anticipation of hearing God’s word for you.

Usually it’s great to be among the top 10, but Iowa has been fifth in the nation, the whole USA, for COVID cases since the first week in November. Until there is a vaccination available and it has had time to work, it doesn’t look very hopeful that we will be worshipping in-person for some time. That’s what is safest and best for our physical beings.

However, it may not be what’s best for our emotional and spiritual beings unless we each take responsibility for ourselves, especially with the short daylight of the winter months upon us. That may sound a bit like “pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps,” however we are not in this alone. First, God is with us and has been with His family

through every imaginable crisis of humankind through all the ages.

We have loving and caring leadership in the UMC. Our Iowa Bishop Laurie Haller offers these practical suggestions to pastors and you:

- Read a good book.
- Watch a movie at home.
- Walk or ride bike on one of our wonderful Iowa trails.
- Get enough sleep.
- Take a regular day off every week and do not apologize for it. And a Sabbath day too.
- If you are feeling overly stressed, talk to a good friend or make an appointment with your doctor.
- Stay connected with family and friends
- Limit the watching of news.
- Exercise regularly.
- Eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
- Recognize that you cannot be all things to all people.
- Relax.

And I am as close as your phone or internet with a text, call, email or fb message. God bless us everyone.

LOVEJOYHOPEPEACE

DECEMBER-JANUARY PLANS

Thanks to Gene for setting up the outdoor nativity set

Unless the covid % attains and remains below 15% for the two weeks before said date, services will be on-line only. John Wesley, founder of Methodism set for us these

"Three Simple Rules:"

1. *Do no harm.*
2. *Do Good.*
3. *Remain in love with God.*

Sunday, Nov 29: First Sunday of Advent. The Faith of St Nickolas

Sunday, Dec 6, 2020: 2nd Sunday of Advent, No Children's program. Theme is the Faith of Joseph

Sunday, Dec 13, 2020: **3rd Sunday of Advent.** The Faith of the Shepherds

Sunday, Dec 20, 2020: **4th Sunday of Advent.** The Faith of Whoville and the Grinch

Christmas Eve, Dec 24, 2020: 6 pm Service. Will Schuldt family as Nativity.

Sunday, Dec 27, 2020 is the Faith of the old man Simeon in the Temple

Epiphany Sunday, Jan 3, 2021, the Visit of the Magi to the Christ Child

Instead of poinsettias we suggest you give a donation to NE Iowa District UM missions in memory and/or honor of your loved one(s) thru JUMC. Indicate so on your check. Will publish names in Christmas Letter

**WATCH FOR & "REPLY ALL"
TO EMAILS FROM CHURCH,
PASTOR AND CHURCH LEADERS.**

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Church "business" is being done over email with "reply all" discussions and votes. Please participate to keep our church operating and our members safe while we are not holding in-person Worship and meetings.

#GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2020

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following the widely-recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday celebrates the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. To learn more about #GivingTuesday, visit GivingTuesday.org.

We Gather in Spirit, If Not Body

Like Worship, there are no **Sunday School** classes until COVID holds below 15% for at least two weeks.

There WILL BE AN ONLINE Christmas Eve Worship like we offer for Sundays, whether in-person or not.

With the "two weeks below 15% covid advisement," we would need to be at or below 15% in Black Hawk & Bremer Counties on or before December 10 in order to celebrate in person at a 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship time. Just like so many other things in 2020, time will tell how our lives will go.

Be safe dear JUMC family.



We can listen to
Christian Christmas
music at 101.9 FM



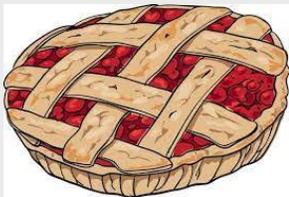
You and the public can now pick up

Cranberry Relish

by calling Janet at
319-231-9265.



Fruit Pies by calling Rita
at 319-231-7274.



Cherry
Apple
Strawberry-rhubarb
Peach

There can be space for YOUR article HERE
next month. Email your news to
janesvilleumc@gmail.com
about what's happening at JUMC.

December UMWomen Scripture

“Glory to God in the heavenly heights.
Peace to all men and women on earth
who please Him.”

Luke 2:14 The Message Bible

No December UMW or Circle meetings.

Have You Answered the Birthday and Anniversary Challenge?

A decade ago, the idea began to give opportunity for church family members to give \$1 per year for their birthday and wedding anniversaries. The humorous part is that the ones who offered the idea are now teasing because it's getting expensive! Each year, this gift challenge has provided over \$2,000 to the church's general fund. Thank you.



Thank you for offering
your monetary gifts for the
**COMBINED ANGEL &
MITTEN TREE**

Because of COVID, the three organizations to
which we usually give actual Christmas gifts are
suggesting gift cards instead. They are...

Bremwood at LSI.

North Star Community Services

Friends of the Family

The deadline for donating cash or check
through JUMC, in lieu of actual gifts is
Tuesday, December 1. JUMC will purchase gift
cards, divide and deliver them to the three
groups. We have also been offered the
opportunity to support a family or two in need.

Donations for District Askings instead of
poisettias are due by December 31, 2020.

Our Thanks to Lolita for the
beautiful quilted cross wall hanging



**Apportionments and District Asking
ARE PAID**

100%

We were helped this year by receiving a forgivable PPP loan through our local bank that was guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration because of COVID, as a way to help pay our staff. But it was mostly your generous giving that allowed us to pay our apportionments & askings, as well as all our local expenses to date with a bit of a balance to carry over. Thank you to all those who have generously given.

The JUMC Finance Committee

Our 2020 Apportionments

were \$1600 less than 2019

General Church -	\$ 3,762
Iowa Conference Ministries -	\$ 10,871
Iowa Conference Mission	\$ 3,053
Total for 2020	\$ 17,686
NE District Asking -	\$ 949

Some Iowa Conference UMC Missions and Ministries we support include:

Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Women at the Well United Methodist Church behind the wires at ICIW, Mitchellville
Relieving Hunger and poverty here in Iowa with after school programs/backpacks...
Iowa Volunteers in Mission here in Iowa, in the U.S. and around the world.
South Sudanese UMC from Africa moved to Des Moines to save their lives
Parish and Congregational Development
Lay Ministries. Justice for our Immigrating Neighbors. Health and Wellness.
Disaster Recovery here in Iowa from flooding, tornadoes, storms.
Camping and Retreats. Higher Education
Wesley Foundations like 3House at UNI



Advent - Christmas Theme is FAITH

Nov 29: The FAITH of St Nickolas, aka Santa Claus, will be the focus of our worship time with enjoyable stories for children, youth and adults. Find out the true story of how one man's faith, became a world-wide tradition.

Dec 6: The FAITH of Joseph, the man God chose to be the earthly father of His Son.

Dec 13: The FAITH of the Shepherds.

Dec 20: The FAITH of Whoville & the Grinch

Dec 24: Christmas Eve

Dec 27: The FAITH of the old man Simeon

Jan 3: The FAITH of the Wisemen.

Ingathering Report.

Mission kits and items were taken to Ingathering on Saturday, November 7th.

Check for shipping kits \$140

INKIND:

20 Personal Dignity Kits \$300

7 School kits in one-handle bags \$112

46 Student Kits in bulk-no bags \$460

38 Empty One-handle cloth bags \$228

TOTAL INKIND \$1088

TOTAL CHECKS & INKIND \$1228

For details for continued Mission Work, go to "[http://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects-patterns/midwest-mission.](http://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects-patterns/midwest-mission)"

Let us pray for

The family of Lewis Boeck who passed away within days after his 95th Birthday.

The family of Linda Stroud who passed away November 5, 2020.

Lorraine Hallberg

Tom & Char Brickman

Wendy Brace

Johnny & Esther Folkerds

Ruth May Hamilton

Jan Guzman

Velma Rice

Dennis Osborn & family

Marge Grandon

Evelyn Johnson recovering

Flo Shephard

Evelyn Wubbena

Marlys Cook

De & Carol Dix

Georgia Eibey

Helen Dettmer Any others?

For persons to fill leadership positions as
Lay Leader(s)

Lay Member to Annual Conference

December Birthdays

Kali Pletz	12/1/4
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
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
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

December Anniversaries

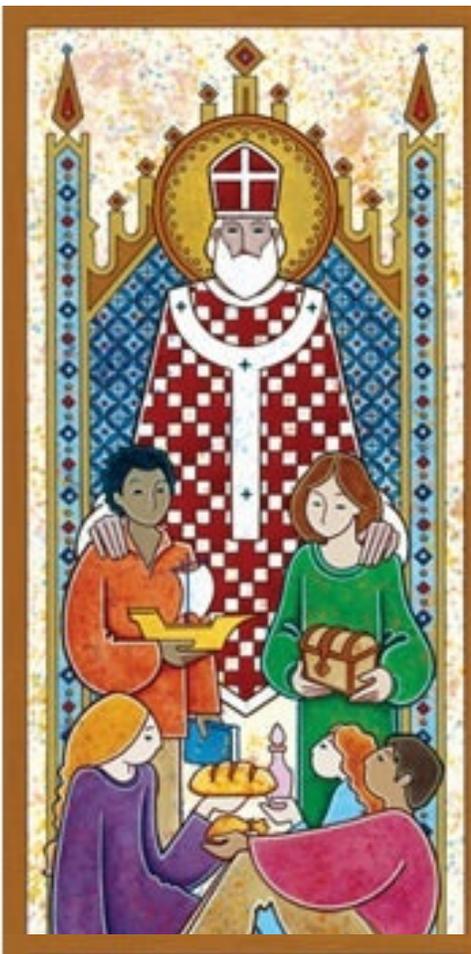
Lisa & Greg Kiene	12/01/01
Larry & Sue Stapleton	12/04/71
John & Esther Folkerds	12/14/54
Stan & Darlys Saunders	12/27/69



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.

Updated Church Directory Available

Two attachments were included in an email that was sent from the church office recently with the names and mailing addresses on one and the emails and phone numbers on the other. If you need a printed copy, stop by to pick up copies from the table just inside the church office doors.



Prayer of St Nickolas

Loving God,

thank you for St Nikolas

who shows us a good way to live.

He fed the hungry, freed the
imprisoned,

cared for those in need,

and told people about Jesus.

Make us brave, loving and strong,

so that, like St Nickolas,

we may love and serve You

as we help those in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The FAITH of St Nickolas

It is hoped that adults, youth and children alike will enjoy November 29, Worship online, especially since the story of the FAITH of ST NICKOLAS will be shared.

Parents are especially invite to have on hand to give to your children on cue of "St Nick:"

1. Treats of fruit, gum, candies.
2. Printed Prayer Card for each.
3. An Advent Wreath.



As Advent progresses, everyone is invited to **RING BELLS** and to light an **ADVENT WREATH** at home along with Pastor during online worship. There are many DIY wreath patterns online for your convenience. A simple circle made of clay or playdoh with birthday cake candles will do. Each child could make their own or there could be one to be shared by the family.

We hope these suggestions will help to make your Advent and Christmas season more meaningful for your family.

