

The Janesville Bridge



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

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[facebook.com/Janesville.UMC](https://www.facebook.com/Janesville.UMC)

Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf

Cell phone for emergencies or text. (641) 840-0119

Also “Friend” her on FaceBook at “Audrey W.” or email her at pastorayoung@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. (Sept. thru May)

Fellowship - 10:00 a.m. Worship - 10:30 a.m.

December 2019 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Dear JUMC family from Pastor Audrey
Consider this happening to you:
An angel appears out of nowhere!
And then he says to a virgin girl that
the Spirit will impregnate her? WHAT?
Joseph decided to divorce her.
That was it. He was walking away.
And then an angel appears to him in a dream?



By that time these two probably had enough of
change and enough of loss of control of their lives.
We can all identify with that in some way.

Then the government decides to do a census.
They had to go to Bethlehem, his family's hometown,
on foot & donkey back to register their existence.

No room. No room. No room.
And no relatives to stay with even though this was
Joseph's family's hometown.
A barn. Animals. Smells. Straw. Filth.
And the baby comes. The BABY COMES!
I cannot even imagine this happening. Can you?

**What more could happen to this young couple
to prove to them that they had no control over
their own lives? But they kept the faith.**

Having suffered through the death of my first husband
whom I dearly loved, and now a divorce, I've
learned immensely well how we actually have
very little control of our lives.

And last week I did the funeral of a 48-year-young
woman from California, thinking, my own son is 48.

Her parents and sister brought her back to Waverly
for burial in the Beebe family plot. The shocked
trio was at a loss as to the cause of their beloved's
death. But I recognized in pictures from the 4th of
July the same dark sunken eyes and death pall
that I remember on my late husband's face before
his unexpected fatal heart attack.

My brother-in-law recently passed away in Texas, my
late brother's & grandmother's birthdays were that
week as was the anniversary of JFK's assassination.

Thanksgiving Day is the birthday of my late husband.
There was certainly no “control” to be had over those
events and they “changed” our lives forever.
But like Mary and Joseph, we all keep the faith.

I tell you this only to remind you that we have very little
real control over our lives, so our only course is to join
Mary and Joseph and keep the faith. We can only
do our best and let God do the rest. And God does!

So this Christmas as you're making preparations and
sharing celebrations, I would suggest that you give up
trying to “control” much of anything. And focus on the
really important gift of the season.

**God loves us so much that God GAVE His
ONLY Son for us, not to condemn us, but
that we might have eternal life.**

So let go and let God. Ask yourself: Do I really need
to bake another batch of cookies? Do I really need
to hang another string of lights? Does the church bell
need to ring at exactly a certain time? Do the songs
need to be perfectly song and worship be perfectly
done? Of course not. We only need to keep the faith.

Let the children be noisy. Let the adults be noisy! Let
mistakes or changes be made without taking note.
Relax, enjoy, be grateful that you still have family
members with whom to gather, fellow Christians
with whom to keep the faith.

Relax. Enjoy. Read the Christmas story.
Concentrate on the truly important aspects. That Christ
came to earth for the express purpose of willingly
taking our punishments for our sins upon himself that
once and for all we would be free of our sin.

And best of all, for we believers, we will have eternal life
with him and all our loved ones who have gone on
before us into the realms of eternal life. Where
everything will be totally perfect, without blemish,
without error, and it still won't matter.
Because love is all that really matters. God's love is all
that really matters in heaven and on earth.

December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

9:00am Sunday School

10:30am Worship with

Hanging of the Greens



December 3

7:00pm Finance

December 5

NOON UMW Potluck. Bring friends.

December 10

9:00am Shepherds

December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent

9:00am Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Communion

Cookie Exchange after Worship



December 10

9:00am Shepherds

7:00pm Trustees

December 14

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Christmas Program Practice

December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:00am Sunday School

10:30am Worship with

Sunday School Christmas Program

Fellowship Dinner after Worship



December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00am Sunday School

10:30am Worship



December 24

6:00pm Christmas Eve Candles & Carols

December 29

NO Sunday School

10:30am Come, Sing Christmas Carols

December 24-27

Offices Closed for Christmas

December 31 - January 3

Offices Closed for New Year's



DECEMBER

Events



Youth Group

6-12th Graders

Designated Wednesdays at 7 pm

Study & Support Group

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

December 3, 10, 17

Pastor Audrey @ Hudson

Wednesdays

December 4, 11, 18

Quilters

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

December 4, 11, 18

Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 5:00 pm.

December 4, 11, 18

UMW and Circle Meetings for December

UMW - Thursday, December 5 @ NOON

Naomi - December 12 @ 2:00 pm.

Esther - December 18 @ 1:00 pm.

Rebecca - no December meeting

MaryDeborah - December 19 @ 1:00 pm.



#GIVING TUESDAY

December 3, 2019

#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.



Youth Group

Grades 6th-12th

Meetings are held
on Wednesdays, as announced,
at 7:00 pm. at the church.

Bring friends.



Saturday, December 7

Angel Tree Shopping & movie

Saturday, December 14

Christmas Program Practice

Sunday, December 15

Christmas Program during worship

Sunday, December 22

Christmas Program snow date

Sunday, December 29

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Epiphany Sunday, January 5

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

On December 15, Sunday School Children will present their program while we say thanks in advance to the Naomi Circle for serving a dinner of Chicken on Dressing, Mac/Cheese, Green Beans, Red Applesauce Salad, and Cindy's Christmas Cookies. The Naomi Circle will also provide treat bags for the S.S. kids that day too.



Merry Christmas Cookie Exchange

**Want a variety of Christmas Cookies
at your home this year?**

The Z-Team will be sponsoring another
Christmas Cookie Exchange
on Sunday, December 8.

To participate, bring 4 dozen cookies
(3 dozen cookies for the Cookie Exchange
and 1 dozen cookies to donate to the UMW
for Christmas boxes for the home-bound)
to Court Chapel before the worship service
on Sunday, December 8.

You can also bring a container to use
to collect your 3 dozen cookies.

Children are welcome to participate (with an adult).
What a great holiday tradition to start with them!!!

**We will do our Cookie Exchange in Court Chapel
immediately following the worship service.**



Veterans Sunday Thank You

Special thanks to Jim Hamlyn and Tom
Brickman for sharing their videos, as well
as those who provided music and gifts for
the veterans and guests on Veterans
Sunday, November 10, 2019.

Thanks to the Rebecca Circle for serving a
delicious meal too.



Upcoming Message Titles!

December 1

Hanging of the Greens

December 8

"God is Expectant"

December 15

Children's Christmas Program

"God is Jealous"

December 22

"God is Faithful"

December 29

Christmas Carol Sing

Epiphany Sunday, January 5

"God is Dangerous"

SPECIAL

**A Special Note
from the Finance Committee**

As 2019 comes to an end, please keep in mind that we need to pay our apportionment obligation (see page 9).

Your generosity, not only at the end of the year, but all through the year, is what keeps our church running. It is greatly appreciated!!

As you do your shopping and wrapping of Christmas gifts, remember to give a little extra gift to your church.

God bless you, and many thanks for your generosity.

**Merry Christmas!
The Finance Committee**

Want a Printed Copy of Sunday Messages?

If you have trouble hearing or just want a printed copy of the messages, please visit with Pastor Audrey.



Under Wraps

THE GIFT WE NEVER EXPECTED

Unwrapping God's Greatest Gift

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1, 2019, and we will begin an exciting Advent program, *Under Wraps: The Gift We Never Expected*. Prepared and piloted by Woodlands UMC, Houston, this joyful program explores some of God's unexpected qualities, presented over the four weeks of Advent, plus Christmas and Epiphany on January 5, 2020.

- 12/01/19 God is Present in our Christmas Symbols and Songs
while we are "Hanging the Greens"
- 12/08/19 God Is Expectant
- 12/15/19 God Is Jealous
- 12/22/19 God Is Faithful
- 12/24/19 A Season of Joy
- 12/29/19 Christmas in Carols and Scripture
- 01/05/20 God Is Dangerous

Just as the first wrapped gift beneath the Christmas tree marks the new season, so the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day signaled that God's hope and salvation and redemption plan had come into the world. In Jesus, God gift-wrapped himself in human flesh and was born in a stable so he could come and live among us and offer us life and salvation that we could never gain on our own.

Join us this Advent as we unwrap God's greatest gift, our Savior Jesus.



**We can listen to Christian Christmas
music at 101.9 FM Christian radio
Waterloo Cedar Rapids.**





THANK YOU...

1 Peter: 4:10 says each of us should use whatever gifts we have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

The Z-Team would like to thank everyone who used their gifts to support this year's "Sowing/Harvest" Program.

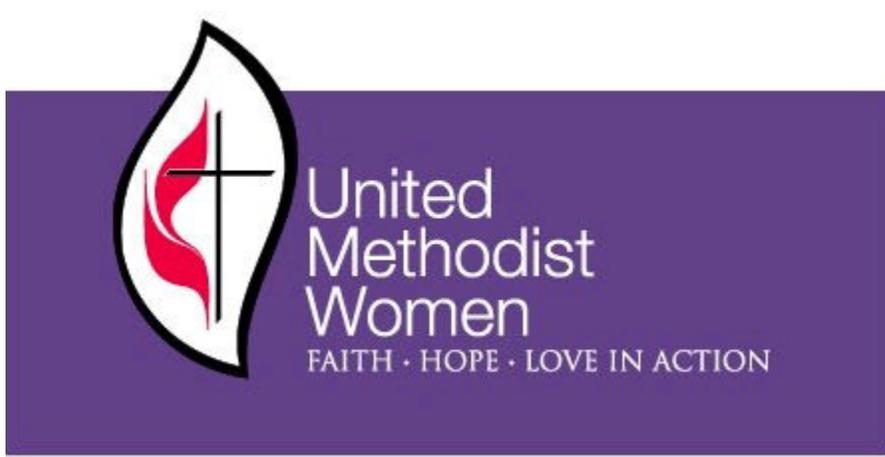
- * Perhaps you accepted \$20 and used it as "seed" money,
- * Perhaps you assisted others with a project,
- * Perhaps you purchased products or services offered by the "sowers", or
- * Perhaps you supported this project in some other manner.

We want to thank each and every one who helped to make this year's "Harvest" another success. This year's harvest resulted in a total of **\$1,290.50** (and we still have harvest money coming in). These funds will be applied to the church's general funds. Only with the support of all involved could this success be achieved.



Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

The Z-Team



Notes from November 7, 2019 Meeting

The Janesville UMW was held at 1:00 in Court Chapel with 14 members present.

Ron Zelle presented a program about his trip to Kosovo as a State of Iowa FFA adviser.

Devotions were given by Mary Deborah Circle about the World Thank Offering.

Prayer concerns were read and missionaries from the Prayer Calendar were to be remembered.

The quilt ladies are putting pictures of their quilts for sale on the church Facebook page. They are working on smaller projects and invite other members to join them.

Reading Program books will be ordered soon. \$50 was approved to be used toward books.

\$515.75 was made for the Bake/Craft Sale at the Turkey Dinner. \$22 for quilt items, \$10 for a cookbook insert, and \$12 for a Xmas tree was taken in at the Flea Market. Profits for the Bake/Craft Sale at the Lions Dinner were approximately \$200 with more coming in.

82 mission kits were taken to Ingathering on November 2nd.

The Christmas box list was updated. These will be packed December 10th.

Year End Giving for Janesville After Prom, Dollars for Scholars, First Responders, Fire Department, Friends of the Family, Camp Courageous, Cedar Valley Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, Hillcrest Family Services, Food Bank, North Star Community Services, Sunday School and Youth Group was approved.

Our next meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon on December 5th. Tater tot casserole and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The program will be the Union High School carolers. Hostesses will be the Executive Board and devotions will be Naomi Circle. Lolita Huber will do the Response Moment. Pastor Audrey will install the officers.

Apportionments and District Asking Update



The Children's Noisy Offering collected **100%** of the **\$939.00 goal** for UMC missions in our **NE Iowa** District!

As of November 23, we have submitted \$12,100 toward our 2019 Apportionments.

That leaves only **\$7,185** to go to pay them **100%** which will all be designated for **Iowa Ministries and Missions.**

The Christmas Tree will replace the Autumn tree. Still look for the "goal thermometer" to be displayed as a reminder.



Thank you to all those who have generously given.

The JUMC Finance Committee

Here Is a List of Our 2019 Apportionments

General Church - <u>paid 100%</u>	\$ 3,835
Iowa Conference Ministries - <u>paid 72% ytd</u>	\$ 11,468
Iowa Conference Mission	\$ 3,982
<u>Total for 2019</u>	<u>\$ 19,285</u>

NE District Asking - paid 100% **\$ 939**

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 Hispanic/Latino Ministries
Health and Wellness Healthy Church Initiative
Disaster Recovery here in Iowa from flooding, tornadoes, storms...
Camping and Retreats Higher Education and Wesley Foundations
and so much more.

100%



The Mitten Tree is located in the Sunday School area of Fellowship Hall. Help us decorate the tree with hats, scarves, gloves and mittens of all sizes. Adult and women's sizes are especially needed for older children and teenagers. These items will be distributed to school children, Bremwood, and Friends of the Family after



Be an Angel - Give a Christmas gift to a troubled teenager at *Bremwood* OR to a forgotten adult at *North Star Community Services* OR to an abused or neglected child temporarily housed at *Friends of the Family*.

Take angel tags from the Angel Tree in the sanctuary by Chapel door, purchase the item(s) listed on the angel, then bring your gifts back to the church with tag attached and lay it under the big Christmas tree before **December 10**, when the gifts will be delivered to the above named agencies.

We promise you will feel very good about being a Christmas Angel. *Naomi Circle*



Dear Janesville Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the 80th Birthday Wishes. They were greatly appreciated. Thank you, again.

Blessings,

Jan Schnepf (Pastor Audrey's Sis)

Prayer Requests

Prayers for our homebound church family, who are visited by our Shepherds:

Jean Altenheim
Flo Shephard
Evelyn Wubbena
Marlys Cook
De & Carol Dix
John & Sandy Brucher
Georgia Eibey

Please pray for:

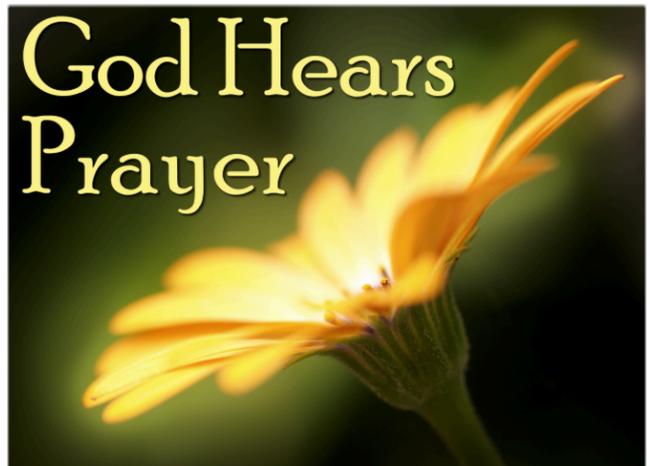
Nursing Home Residents
All Veterans
(past, present & future)
Fire Fighters
First Responders
Students and Teachers
Our Pastor
Patti Baldwin
Scott Turner
Marilyn Taylor
Dennis Osborn & family
Linda Stroud
Sandy Brucher
Marge Grandon

Please keep
Char Brickman
Wendy Brace
Chelsey Brace

Johnny & Esther Folkerds
Ben Huber

Lisa Kiene's mom, Sue Quinn
Nikki Haan's dad
in your prayers as they deal
with health concerns.

God Hears
Prayer





December 1:

Greeter - Christena Charley

Reader - Rita Ruth

Ushers - Tom & Christena Charley, Brad Ruth

December 8 - Communion:

Greeters - Rich & Karen Borglum

Reader - Karen Borglum

Ushers - Dick & Karen Funk

Communion Servers - Gene & Virginia
Robinson

December 15:

Greeters - Dave & Nancy Beenblossom

Reader - Gary Shaulis

Ushers - Scott & Kim Knapp

December 22:

Greeter - Chuck Immerzeel

Reader - Sharon Heiser

Ushers - Gary Shaulis, Dave Beenblossom

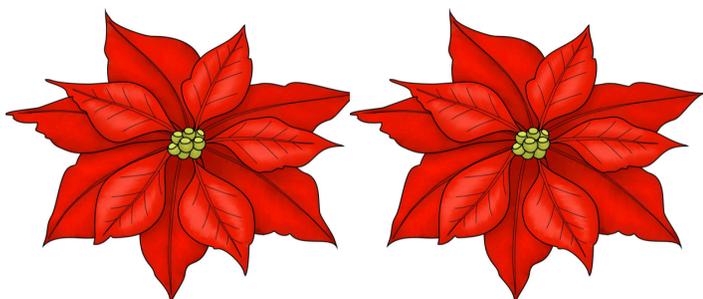
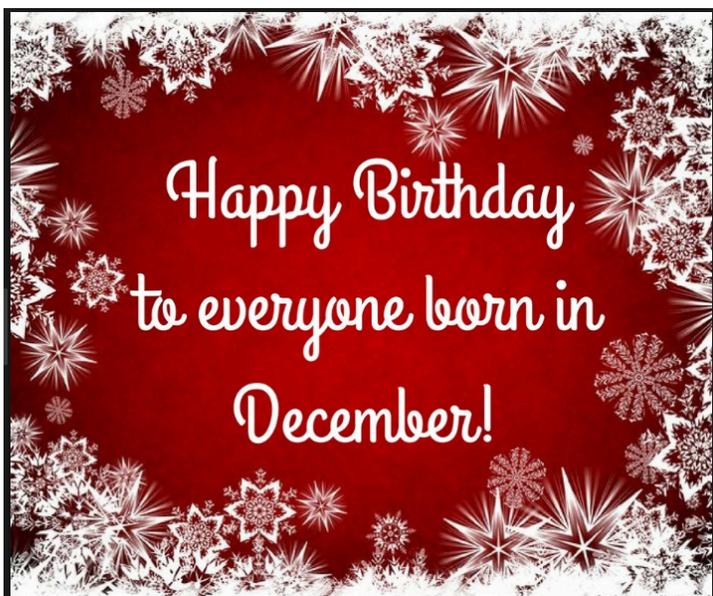
December 29:

Greeters - John & Esther Folkerds

Reader - Margaret Shepard

Ushers - Fifth Sunday - need volunteers





December Anniversaries

Lisa & Greg Kiene	12/01
Larry & Sue Stapleton	12/04
John & Esther Folkers	12/14
Stan & Darlys Saunders	12/27

December Birthdays

Kali Pletz	12/1
Camden Clay 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 Weylon Heiser	12/23
Mike Barnes	12/23
Mary Harrold	12/24
Natalie Whitney	12/26
DeAnn Bliss	12/27
Shawn Cooper	12/28
Maddisen June Kolaas	12/28
Scott Knapp	12/30
Hannah Johnson	12/30
Bryce Destival	12/31

No Meetings or activities are planned for the week of Christmas thru New Year's (December 24 thru January 3). If you have any questions, please call the church office at 987-2596.

Retirement Party

— IN HONOR OF —

NANCY BEENBLOSSOM

Sunday, December 8th

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

LSI-Bremwood

Hansen Spiritual Life Center Bldg

Waverly, Iowa 50677

Serving cake & refreshments





Scrip Cards are GREAT for holiday giving, too!

Want to increase your giving to the church but don't think your budget can handle any more expenses? **You can increase your giving without stretching your budget - not one penny!** Sound too good to be true?

Let's say, you spend \$50 per week on gas for your car at any Kwik Star. This adds up to \$2600 a year. If you paid for your gas using a scrip card purchased from the church, you would get \$2600 in gas and the church would receive \$130 for selling the scrip cards. That's right – Kwik Star pays the church 5% of the value of each scrip card sold.

What if you stop at Kwik Star every day for a \$1 coffee or soda on your way to work? You would be spending \$260 for coffee or soda – \$1 per day for 5 days per week for 52 weeks per year. If you paid for your drink (or anything else in the store, like milk, butter, eggs, bananas, potatoes, onions, sandwiches, pizza, ice cream, etc.) using a Kwik Star scrip card you would receive \$260 in drinks and the church would receive \$39 (or 15% of your total purchases inside the store using a Kwik Star card).

Using these two examples, you would have just increased your giving to the church by \$156 per year and not stretched your budget one penny! **Wow! What could be easier?**

Imagine how this would increase church giving by the end of the year if each member bought Kwik Star scrip cards from the church and used them when buying gas or other items from Kwik Star!

It's now even easier to purchase Kwik Star (and Hy-Vee*) scrip cards. We have Kwik Star and Hy-Vee scrip cards on hand in the church office.

Stop by the office from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Monday - Thursday to buy scrip cards.

REMEMBER - scrip cards are GREAT for holiday giving, too!!!

If you are already using scrip cards, THANK YOU. If not, why not consider using this opportunity to increase your giving to the church without increasing your budget.

**HyVee pays the church 3% for every \$1 spent in their store when the items are bought using scrip cards purchased through the church. (This is not intended as an advertisement or endorsement for either Kwik Star or Hy-Vee. We are only trying to encourage members to use this opportunity to take advantage of the generosity of both businesses.)*

Need some Christmas gift ideas? We are here to help!

We have some inspirational wall hangings in Court Chapel and some quilts and pillows!!

If you are interested in any of these items - contact Rita Ruth about the wall hangings and Cindy Spencer about the quilts and pillows.



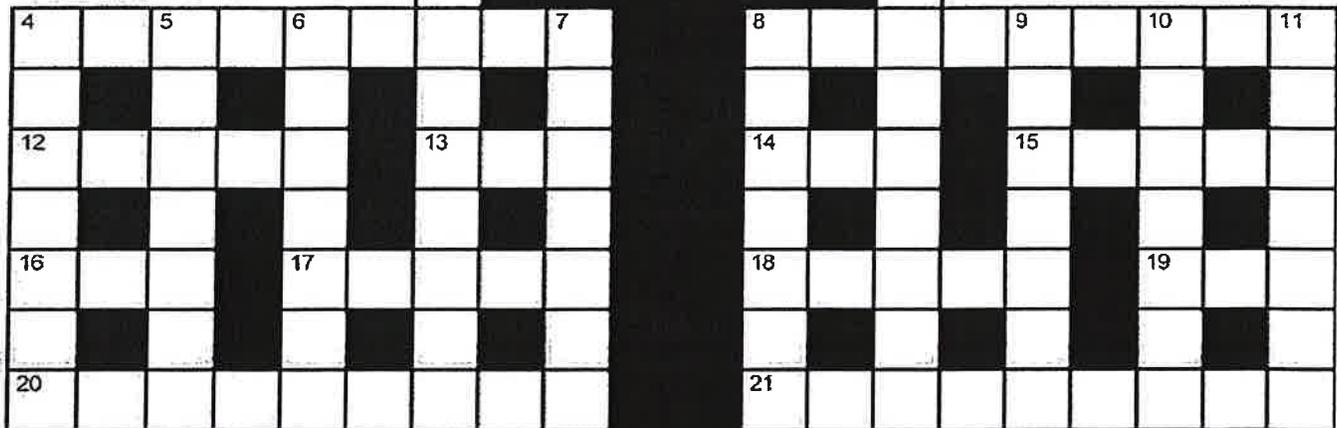
Bible Crossword X

Across

Down

- 1 Donkey (3)
- 2 Jesus' Father (3)
- 4 One of the twelve (9)

- 1 One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)
- 3 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)



- 8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)
- 12 One of David's warriors (5)
- 13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)
- 14 New Testament name for Noah (3)
- 15 Wish harm upon (5)
- 16 Hole in the ground (3)
- 17 Adversary (5)
- 18 Savour (5)
- 19 First woman (3)
- 20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)
- 21 Family of priests (9)
- 22 Third son of Jacob (4)
- 23 Hates (8)
- 26 Assurances (8)
- 30 Endured pain (8)
- 31 Return from the dead (4)
- 32 Intercessor (8)
- 35 Decorating (8)
- 39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)
- 40 The prince of Rosh, Mesech and Tubal (3)
- 42 A wise insect (3)
- 44 Dwelling place of kings (6)
- 45 Make bigger (8)

- 4 Tread down (7)
- 5 Father of Jonah (7)
- 6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)
- 7 Defensive structures (11)
- 8 Refuges (11)
- 9 Dirty (7)
- 10 Devout (7)
- 11 Pieces of money (7)
- 24 Used to listen (3)
- 25 Used to see (3)
- 26 Positions (5)
- 27 Made available (7)
- 28 Snake (7)
- 29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)
- 33 Finish (3)
- 34 Possess (3)
- 35 King of the Amalekites (4)
- 36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)
- 38 Present (4)
- 41 Unfasten (4)
- 43 Fish traps (4)

<http://biblepuzzles.org.uk>

Submitted for your enjoyment by a JUMC member.