

The Janesville Bridge

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

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February 2020 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Dear
JUMC
Family,
GOD
spoke
through
the
prophet
Isaiah ⁶¹



Pastor Audrey

“The Spirit of the Lord
is upon YOU and ME:

*to speak good news to
the poor,

*to bind up the broken-
hearted,

*to proclaim freedom
& release from darkness
for the captives

*to COMFORT all who
mourn, and provide for
those who grieve,

*to bestow on them oil
of JOY instead of
mourning,

*and a GARMENT OF
PRAISE instead of a
spirit of despair.

*to renew ruined cities.

YOU will be ministers
of our God...everlasting
JOY will be yours.

For I, the Lord, will
reward my people and
make an everlasting
covenant with them.

For GOD has clothed
me with garments of
SALVATION and the
ROBE OF HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

Thank you for the
vacation time to visit my
sister, Jo, in Texas who
recently lost her
husband. He was ready
to be with our Lord and
his earthly suffering to be
over. So was she.
However, no matter how
prepared we are for the
loss of a loved one, there
is still grieving to do.

A couple weeks after
her husband died in
November my divorce
was final. I find myself
still grieving too.

We talked, we laughed,
we talked, we cried, we
talked more, we read
devotionals, we talked
even more, went out to
eat and ate quietly at her
home then talked more.

In the above words
from the Lord in Isaiah,
we received COMFORT
and JOY, and can more
often wear that promised
GARMENT OF PRAISE
and SALVATION as well
as God’s ROBE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

I was also blessed to
spend some days with
our cousin, Sue, and her
husband, while my sister
continued her usual
bridge playing. Sue and I
taught Sunday school
together at Faith UCC in

Tripoli when I was in high
school.

I went to the Children’s
Haven International
orphanage (CHI) in
Reynosa, MX with Sue.
She is retired but full-time
involved in ministry with
the 49 children who live
there. I was excited to
see the children’s bright
eyes & receive their hugs
of hospitality in Christ.

One good thing about
American companies
building factories just
over the border into
Mexico, is that it does
provide employment for
local Mexicans.

Row upon row of nice
looking concrete block
apartments have taken
the place of discarded tin
and wood huts with dirt
floors and no running
water or electricity.

Mexicans and their
resident immigrants of
Central and South
America, are remaining in
Mexico, crossing the U.S.
border legally into the
U.S. frequently to spend
time and money here.

In the last couple years
the CHI school has more
than doubled in size with
tuition-paying students
from those workers’
families. There are now

16 rather than four local
Mexicans who are
educators there.

Mexican families and
companies are donating
to CHI, along with
Americans and
Canadians, many who
volunteer there and at the
headquarters in Pharr
Texas. I spent a few days
volunteering in the office
and attended a CHI
fundraising concert.

What a joy to hear
stories from “Winter
Texans” who sponsor
CHI children whose
health and welfare have
improved greatly.

CHI’s 40+ years of
ministry have, in recent
years, graduated
educators, a dentist, a
lawyer, and many good
Christian citizens back
into their community to
improve the health and
welfare of others and has
kept them from the drug
cartel, sex trafficking, and
illegally immigrating into
the U.S.

A new church start has
begun on the CHI
campus with 80 attending
worship, not including the
orphans who go to
church with their families
(if possible) in Renosa.
(Continued on page 3...)

February 2

9:15am Sunday School
10:00am Fellowship
10:30am Worship with Communion

February 4

9:00am Shepherds
11:00 am Service for Elaine Walters
1:00pm Finance

February 6

1:00pm UMW

<[see Circle schedules page 3](#)>

February 8

8:00am Men's Breakfast in Dining Hall

February 9

9:15am Sunday School
10:00am Fellowship
10:30am Worship
with Wartburg Worship Band
11:30am Ad. Council

February 11

1:30pm Pastor at Sub-District meeting
7:00pm Trustees

February 12

6:00pm Kids decorating cookies

February 16

9:15am Sunday School
10:00am Fellowship
10:30am Worship with Kids Singing
11:30am Kids Selling Valentine Cookies
and UMW Fellowship Dinner

February 23

9:15am Sunday School
10:00am Fellowship
10:30am Worship

Ash Wednesday, February 26

February 27

1:00pm Z-Team



Study & Support Group

Tuesdays at 10:00 am.
February 4, 11, 18, 25

Pastor Audrey @ Hudson

Wednesdays
February 5, 12, 19, 26

Quilters

Wednesdays at 9:30 am.
February 5, 12, 19, 26

Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 5:00 pm.
February 5, 12, 19, 26

MEN'S BREAKFAST 



On Saturday, February 8, men of all ages are invited to the Men's Breakfast at 8 am, for a free will donation that will help to cover cost of the community picnic the men will host in August.

Last month we heard from Dr. Ben, pediatrician who explained how important those of us who have lived through the measles, mumps and polio, the immunization-preventable diseases, can pass on the experiences to millennials so they are encouraged to immunize their children for their sake as well as the children around them.

This month, the new mayor of Janesville, Dave Beenblossom, has been invited to give a "State of the City" address to the group the men.

All men and youth are invited.

+
A S H
Wednesday



Sunday School

Sunday School Classes for the kids are on Sunday mornings at 9:15 - all children are welcome.

February 12

The kids will be decorating Valentine cookies at 6:00 to sell for a fund raiser for Angel Tree gifts for Christmas in December.



February 16

The kids will be singing during worship and selling their cookies after worship.

UMW and Circle Meetings for February

UMW - Thursday, February 6 @ 1:00 pm.

Naomi - February 13 @ 2:00 pm.

Esther - February 19 @ 1:00 pm.

Rebecca - February 19 @ 7:00 pm.

MaryDeborah - February 20 @ 1:00 pm.



Youth Group

Youth group will continue to meet on designated Wednesdays at 7:00 in the church basement, under the guidance of Melissa Eibey and Morgan Charley.

Dear JUMC Family, continued from page 1

It may not have been the kind of vacation that some people would choose, but it was good for me. Thank you again for the time away from winter.



Pastor Audrey

I kept track of you on Facebook and the weather up here and prayed for your safety and warmth daily.

A new month is before us with digging into the Gospel of Matthew for Sermons.

Now I invite you to go back and read the *Isaiah* passage again, to see how two sisters in flesh and in Christ, as well as we at JUMC and all the supporters of the CHI have made a huge difference in the lives of children and youth in our respective communities as it promises. Thanks and praise be to God. (Pastor Audrey:)

(Want copies of my Sunday messages? Let me know.)



Thank you for the Christmas box.

It was appreciated.

I would also like to thank the Shepherds for their visits to me.

I really enjoy their time spent with me.

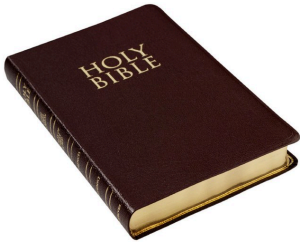
Florence Shepard

Merry Christmas & Happy 2020

May all God's gifts be yours
this Christmas.

Thank you for all your visits and prayers.

Esther Lageschulte



Gospel of Matthew
Series of
Sermons for February

February 2 - Matthew 5: 1-12
The Ingredients of True Happiness

February 9 - Matthew 5: 16-17
Salt and Light

February 16 - Matthew 5: 17-48
Understanding the Law

February 23 - Matthew 5: 17-48
Fulfilling the Law

Invite Someone to Church TODAY
Family, Friends, Neighbors, Co-workers*

Sunday, February 9
Wartburg College Praise Team
Led by our own Jacque Batz
for 10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Administrative
Council meets

St Valentine was a clergyman in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried at a Christian cemetery to the north of Rome on February 14, 496 A.D. which has been observed as *Saint Valentine's Day*.



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.



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Church Partners

We appreciate the continued support and partnerships!

American Lutheran Benevolence Fund
 Bethel Lutheran Church
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 Dysart Community Vacation Bible School
 First Baptist Church
 First Congregational Church
 First Presbyterian Church - Cedar Falls
 First Presbyterian Church - Waterloo
 First United Methodist Church - Waterloo
 Harvest Vineyard Church
 Heritage United Methodist Church
 Immanuel Lutheran Church
 Iowa Annual Conference of the UMC
 Janesville United Methodist Church
 Kimball Avenue United Methodist Church
 Nazareth Lutheran Church
 Orchard Hill Church
 Prairie Lakes Church

Redeemer Lutheran Church
 Republic Community Church Ionia
 St. Edward Catholic Church
 St. John Lutheran Church - Cedar Falls
 St. John's Lutheran Church - Greene
 St. Mary Catholic Church
 St. Patrick Catholic Church
 St. Paul Lutheran Church
 St. Paul United Church of Christ
 St. Paul's United Church of Christ - Mt. Vernon
 St. Peter Lutheran Church
 St. Timothys United Methodist Church
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 United Methodist Church - Sumner
 Unity Presbyterian Church
 Westminster Presbyterian Church



**Looking for ways to start or expand our partnership?
 We'd love to chat with you!**

**Contact Andrew Finnegan, Advancement Director, at 319-235-9946 (or)
afinnegan@webuildhabitat.org.**



Please keep in your prayers
with health concerns:

Tom & Char Brickman
Wendy Brace
Chelsey Brace
Johnny & Esther Folkerds
Ben Huber
Del Shepard
Cindy Dobbs

Prayers for our homebound
church family, who are visited

by our Shepherds:

Flo Shephard
Evelyn Wubbena
Marlys Cook
De & Carol Dix
John & Sandy Brucher
Georgia Eibey
Linda Stroud
Sandy Brucher
Marilyn Taylor

Please pray for:

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



Worship Assistants for February

February 2 - Communion:

Greeter - Tom/Christena Charley family

Reader - Confirmation Volunteer(s)

Ushers - Tom & Christena Charley, Brad Ruth

Communion Servers - Jean & Melissa Eibey

February 9 - Wartburg Worship Band:

Greeter - Bill Bloker & Nancy Millsap

Reader - Confirmation Volunteer(s)

Ushers - Dick & Karen Funk

February 16:

Greeters - Matt & Amy Shook

Reader - Confirmation Volunteer(s)

Ushers - Scott & Kim Knapp

February 23:

Greeters - Dave & Nancy Beenblossom

Reader - Confirmation Volunteer(s)

Ushers - Gary Shaulis, Dave Beenblossom

February is full of things to celebrate:

National Black History Month, a time for all Americans to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and recognize their central role in American history.

National Children's Dental Health Month brings together dental health professionals, caregivers, parents, & teachers to give children the best start on oral health. Give Kids A Smile Day is February 6th.

National Library Lover's Month! dedicated to the people who love whole buildings devoted to the reading, housing, organizing, categorizing, finding, studying and otherwise loving books.

Presidents' Day with the birthday anniversaries of George Washington (2/22/1732 - William Harrison (2/9/1773) Abraham Lincoln (2/12/1809) Ronald Reagan (2/6/1911)

February 26 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The ashes smudged on us during worship remind us of our mortality and call us to repentance-seeking God's forgiveness for our sin, both the things we have and have not done. As the smoke rises up a fire,, know your prayers and life in Christ are rising to God as well.



February Birthdays

Laney Eibey	2/1
Becca Burr	2/3
Ryan Johnson	2/4
Delaney Buchholz	2/4
Vlasis Stratiou	2/4
Wesley Renner	2/6
Chris Coffman	2/7
Kyranna Stratiou	2/8
Jason Lockett	2/9
Brenda Immerzeel	2/10
Aaron Johnson	2/10
Kendyl Destival	2/11
Eric Johnson	2/14
Mary Peters	2/15
Melvin Johnson	2/16
Grady Barr	2/18
Holly Conradi	2/19
Gerry Tarter	2/20
Leah Johnson	2/22
Marvin Bliss	2/23
Sharon Barr	2/26
Scott Destival	2/29

February Anniversaries

Larry & Lisa Borglum	2/14
Gene & Virginia Robinson	2/14
Brad & Shelly Osborn	2/22



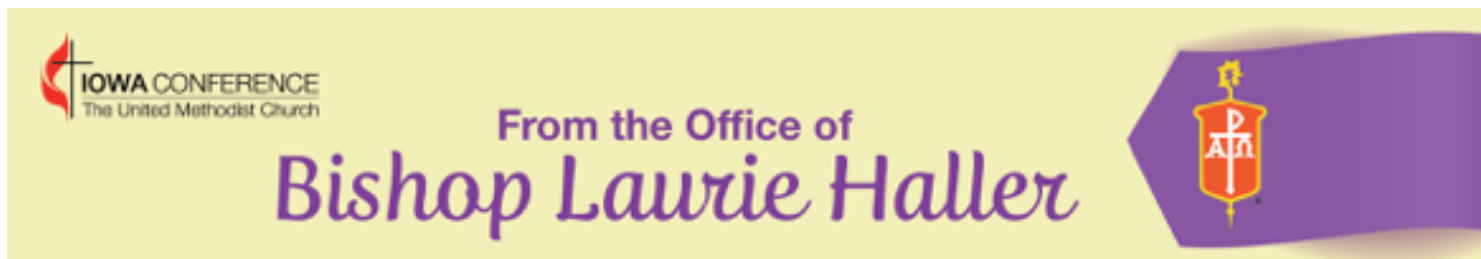
Updated Officer List for 2020 - page 1 of 2

<u>Administrative Board</u>		<u>JUMC Leadership</u>	Updated 01/2020
Administrative Board Chair	Brad Ruth		Page 1 of 2
Administrative Board Vice-Chair	Sue Stapleton		
Lay Leader	Mary Burkes		
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Lolita Huber		
Treasurer	Barb Hamlyn		
Financial Secretary	Rita Ruth		
AND CHAIRPERSONS OF ALL COMMITTEES			
		YEARS	TERM
Finance Virginia Rep from PEC	Virginia Robinson	2020-2022	
Gary Shaulis - Chair	Mary Harrold	2018 - 2020	Second term
Could include-SPRC Rep & a Trustee Rep	Gary Shaulis	2019-2021	
Ad Board Chair	Brad Ruth		
Financial Secretary	Rita Ruth		
Auditors	Esther Folkerds/Gerry Tartar	2019-2021	
Treasurer	Barb Hamlyn		
Lay Leader & Lay Member to Conference	Mary Burkes	Lolita Huber	
Trustees	Gene Robinson	2020-2022	
Dave Beenblossom - Chair	Dave Beenblossom	2020-2022	
Shelly Osborne is rep to PEC	Shelly Osborne	2020-2022	
	Will Schuldt	2018 - 2020	
Could include Finance Rep	Nikki Haan	2018 - 2020	
Trustees can serve unlimited terms	Bob Barr	2018 - 2020	
Permanent Endowment Committee-PEC	Virginia Robinson	2018 -2021	2nd/last term
Virginia Robinson - Chair & Rep to Finance	Tom Charley	2019 -2022	2nd/last term
Restricted to six members	Shelly Osborn, Trustee	2018-2021	2nd/last term
<u>Can do only two 4yr terms, then off 4 yrs</u>	Mike Weinhold	End-other persons 2020	
	Nancy Beenblossom	End-other persons 2022	
	Lolita Huber, At large	2020-2023	2nd/last term
By virtue of office & non-voting inc- Pastor	Lay Leader Mary Burkes	Ad Chr Brad Ruth	no term limit
Memorial Committee Jean Eibey, chair	Jean Eibey	Kathy Whitney	
SPPRC -			
Nancy Beenblossom Chair	Nancy Beenblossom	2020 -2022	
May serve only two 3 yr terms than off 1yr	Cindy Dobbs	2020 -2022	
	need one	2020-2021	
Lay Leader & Lay Leader to Conference	Mary Burkes	Lolita Huber	
Nomination Committee	Dave Beenblossom	2019-2021	First Term
Pastor serves as chair	Dick Funk	2020-2022	First Term
Could include 3-4 members	need one	2020-2022	First Term

Updated Officer List for 2020 - page 2 of 2

Worship		Sue Stapleton		(Page 2 of 2)
Sue Stapleton, Chair	Cindy/Pianist	Cindy Spencer		
Music Ministry-		Jacque Batz	2020-2021	
Communion Stewards-		Margaret Shepard	2020-2022	
		Esther Folkerds	2020-2022	
Banners/Paraments-		Gene/Virginia Robinson	2020-2022	
Could include a Tech Committee rep				
Head Usher		Dick Funk		
Lay Leader & Lay Member to Conference		Mary Burkes	Lolita Huber	
Tech Committee (serving since 2018)		Jim Hamlyn	Sue Stapleton	
Jim Hamlin - Chair		Rita Ruth	Barb Hamlyn	
Z- Team (Congregational Development & Ministry)		Rita Ruth	Janet Destival	
		JoAnne Dierks	Virginia Robinson	
		Barb Hamlyn	Jean Eibey	
Lay Leader & Lay Member to Conference		Lolita Huber	Mary Burkes	
		Rachel Coffman	Lisa Kiene	
		Nikki Haan	Chloe Kiene	
Music Ministry		Jacque Batz		
Missions Committee Cindy Spencer, chair		Cindy Spencer	Deb Weinhold	
			Karen Funk	
<u>OTHERS, NOT OFFICIAL OFFICERS</u>				
<u>Sunday School</u>		Jean Eibey	Melissa Eibey	Wendy Brace
Music Ministry-Jacque Batz		Rachel Coffman	Nikki Haan	Emily Schuldt
		Sue Stapleton	Shelly Osborn	Lisa/Chloe Kiene
<u>Youth Ministry</u>		Melissa Eibey	Morgan Charley	
<u>Mens Prayer Breakfast</u>		Gary Shaulis	Dick Funk	
<u>Vacation Bible School</u>		Nikki Haan	Rachel Coffman	
<u>Shepherd Ministry</u>		Janet Destival	And any others	
<u>Mary Burkes - Lay Leader & Chair</u>		JoAnne Dierks	Dick Funk	
Card Shepherd-Karen Funk		Lolita Huber	Mary Jane Stanhope	
Others always welcome		Karen Funk	Carol Jennings	
<u>Piece makers (aka - quilters)</u>		Cindy Spencer	Pam MacKay	
Others always welcome		Lolita Huber	Mary Harrold	
<u>Study & Support</u>		JoAnne Dierks	Esther Folkerds	
Others always welcome		Lavonne Dorman	Lolita Huber	
		Dorla Dutcher	Pam Mackay	
<u>Safety Members: Trained in Fire/ Rescue</u>		Lance Woodyard	Dave Beenblossom	
<u>Law Enforcement, Military</u>		Cindy Spencer	Will Schuldt	
Dave Beenblossom - Chair		Virginia Robinson	Jim Hamlyn	
<u>JUMPies Committee</u>		Rita Ruth	Lolita Huber	
Others always welcome		Cindy Spencer	Christina Charley	
		Jane Destival	Margaret Shepard	
		Lolita Huber	Gerry Tartar	

This letter is regarding the PROPOSED separation of UMC. The GENERAL (worldwide) UMC will vote on this and other proposals at the May 2020 General Conference. A dozen members of the Iowa Annual Conference will attend as our representatives. Pastor Audrey



January 23, 2020

To the Saints of God in Iowa,

Grace and peace! As we experience snow and bitter cold in Iowa, I am reminded of the graciousness and warmth of spirit that I witness in every corner of our state. In the midst of uncertainty and anxiety about the future of The United Methodist Church, you are engaged in transformative ministries in your local communities and around the world that are changing hearts and saving lives.

I'd like to share some thoughts about our Iowa Conference's Vision 2032 that will have an impact both now and beyond, as well as some observations about a proposal for the future of the UMC that will come before the General Conference in May.

Vision 2032

By the end of this week, I and conference staff will have been to all of the districts for a second round of conversation around a vision for the future of the Iowa Annual Conference. Dreaming ahead to the year 2032, I imagine a church where:

- Relationships will be more important than theological convictions
- Innovation, creativity, and imagination will be more important than stagnation, rigidity, sacred cows, and the status quo
- Our primary focus will be on the Great Commission and the Great Commandment: to go out into the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ and to love God and our neighbor in all that we do.

We have difficult decisions to make around restructuring, rightsizing our budget, but we will do it in light of the mission and vision of our conference.

Mission:

Inspire, equip, and connect communities of faith
to cultivate world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ

Vision:

God's hope for the world made real through faithful leaders,
fruitful communities, and fire-filled people

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The Protocol

At the same time as we dream and plan for the future, United Methodists in Iowa are also looking ahead to the 2020 General Conference, where important votes will be taken in regard to human sexuality. I'd like to share my perspective on ***The Protocol***, a new proposal to General Conference 2020 that relates to human sexuality.

On January 3, 2020, The Council of Bishops issued a press release on behalf of a group of sixteen United Methodists, representing many parts of our worldwide connection as well as caucus groups representing various theological viewpoints. This group issued a document called [***Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation***](#).

The group met throughout the fall of 2019 in order to help The United Methodist Church move past our impasse around human sexuality. I admit that I recoiled when I first saw the word "separation" in the title of the document. I have always believed that we could find a way to honor our differences around human sexuality without separation. I love being part of a church that has varied convictions about matters of faith. However, in light of what seem to be unsolvable differences, I have come to see the wisdom of offering a way forward that undergirds separation with grace and reconciliation by all parties.

Primary features of ***The Protocol for Separation of the United Methodist Church*** include:

1. A "*respectful and dignified*" separation is proposed, with the possibility of continued cooperation around matters of shared interest.
2. ***The Protocol*** provides a way for us to keep mission, outreach, and evangelism at the center of who we are.
3. At the heart of the ***The Protocol*** is the formation of a new Methodist Traditionalist denomination. After separation, the current "post-Separation" United Methodist Church would still continue.
4. Annual conferences, by a 57% majority, could vote to join a new Methodist denomination. If an Annual Conference does not take a vote on affiliation, it will remain part of the post-separation United Methodist Church.
5. Central conferences could vote to join a new Methodist denomination by a two-third majority vote.
6. Local churches could choose to join a different denomination than the one their conference joins by either a simple majority or a two-third majority vote. They would retain their property assets, and liabilities. Not voting at all implies remaining in the post-Separation United Methodist Church.
7. Local churches that choose to affiliate with a new denomination must maintain their connectional responsibilities until the separation is official.
8. \$25 million would be paid over four years to a new traditionalist denomination with no further claims to UM assets.
9. \$2 million would be reserved for other denominations that may be formed.
10. \$39 million over eight years would be designated to support ethnic ministries worldwide as well as Africa University, Zimbabwe, Africa.
11. Pension plans would remain in place for all clergy and lay employees regardless of where they affiliate.
12. ***The Protocol*** requests that all judicial and administrative complaints around LGBTQ matters be held in abeyance.

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General Conference legislation for ***The Protocol*** is currently being written. All of the proposals around human sexuality will be open for amendments at the 2020 General Conference.

I believe that ***The Protocol*** offers a viable way to move forward in vital ministry as we share the transformative love of Jesus Christ with the world. Written by United Methodists representing a variety of groups and US and Central Conferences, the proposal is an expression of grace and reconciliation that will allow United Methodists to more faithfully share God's love and hope.

We are, indeed, at a time of impending change in The United Methodist Church. It is also a time of great opportunity for United Methodists to witness to the world that we can acknowledge our differences through separation at the same time as we express grace and reconciliation toward one another.

If *The Protocol* is passed at the 2020 General Conference, we have scheduled a tentative date of Saturday, October 10, 2020 for the Iowa Annual Conference to vote on whether to become a new Methodist traditionalist denomination or continue to be The United Methodist Church where all prohibitions are removed in regard to human sexuality.

In the meantime, I have vowed to hold in abeyance all administrative and judicial processes related to LGBTQ prohibitions as we move through General Conference 2020.

I am asking you to do four things in the coming weeks and months.

1. Pray for The United Methodist Church as General Conference approaches.
2. Pray for our General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates who will be voting on many petitions, including human sexuality.
3. Continue to find new and creative ways to share the good news of Jesus Christ through evangelism, mission, and outreach to your communities.
4. Please make a diligent effort to stay current in your local church apportionments. The only way we can change the world is to be faithful in the ministry that we have committed to share together.

Thank you for the privilege of being your episcopal leader. I pray for our laity, clergy, and congregations continually. Together, may our God lead us into a future of hope, as we blanket the state of Iowa and our world with love, faithfulness, and compassion. I leave you with the words of Psalm 40, which was one of the lectionary passages from January 19.

*So I said, "Here I come!
I'm inscribed in the written scroll.
I want to do your will, my God.
Your Instruction is deep within me."
I've told the good news of your righteousness in the great assembly.
I didn't hold anything back—as you well know, Lord!
I didn't keep your righteousness only to myself.
I declared your faithfulness and your salvation.
I didn't hide your loyal love and trustworthiness from the great assembly.
So now you, Lord—
don't hold back any of your compassion from me.
Let your loyal love and faithfulness always protect me.*

**Blessings,
Bishop Laurie**