



The Janesville Bridge

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

424 Sycamore Street PO Box 358 Janesville, Iowa 50647

janesvilleumc@gmail.com 319-987-2596

janesvilleunitedmethodistchurch.weebly.com

facebook.com/Janesville.UMC

Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf

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

Also “Friend” on FaceBook at “Audrey H. Westendorf” or email at pastorayoung@gmail.com

June 2020 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Dear JUMC and HUMC Families,

Leaders of both JUMC and HUMC have weighed in whether to offer in person and in house worship services. The answer is, “Not yet.” The risk is still too great. We will visit the question again mid-June. See other articles in this newsletter.



Pastor Audrey

You are continually in my thoughts and prayers as we wait through this pandemic together yet apart.

Sue, Rita and I are doing our best to prepare worship services for online that are helpful in raising your spirits in the living hope of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope you are finding JOY in the mourning and morning.

Sue and I are still sewing masks if you or someone you know is in need, just let me know.

I am now “attending” six hours per week for five weeks of classes in the online Fresh Expressions Academy along with hours-long meetings online with Iowa United Methodist Bishop, cabinet and clergy. I’ve always been one to want to learn something new everyday, so I’m certainly getting my fill of good, new stuff, regulations, policies, and most of all, opinions. There is no perfect answer for every church. Truth is, we have to do what is best for ourselves at Hudson and Janesville UMC. “Not yet.”

In the meantime, I’ve come across a helpful Prayer for Everyday Worship, thanks to Rev Nadia Bolz-Weber, St Thomas Episcopal Church, St Petersburg, Florida. Let us pray:

DEAR LORD, I do not know when we can gather together again in worship. So, for now I just ask that:

When I sing along in my kitchen to each song on Christian radio or my own play list, that it be counted as PRAISE.

And that when I read the news and my heart tightens in my chest, may it be counted as a KYRIE.

And that when my eyes brighten in a smile behind my mask as I thank the person at the post office, may it be counted as PASSING THE PEACE.

And that when I water my plants and wash my dishes and take a shower may it be counted as REMEMBERING MY BAPTISM.

And that when the tears come and my shoulders shake and my breathing falters, may it be counted as PRAYER.

And that when I stumble upon a Worship video (tv channel) & hear the grace and love of You, may it be counted as hearing a HOMILY (MESSAGE.)

And that as I sit at that table in my home, and eat one more homemade meal, slowly, joyfully, with nothing else demanding my time or attention, may it be counted as COMMUNION. Amen.

Remember God’s promise from Jeremiah 29:11:

“I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for your welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

God bless you, Pastor Audrey:)



**American Cancer Society
Bremer County Relay for Life
is being held online this year.**



MAY 31: JUMC Sunday of Hope for Cancer:

You can donate or join this Rally at https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=96118.

JUNE 1ST - JUNE 5TH-Follow on Facebook for Relay Week! Waverly, IA. SARAH FOSTER sarah.foster@cancer.org 800-227-2345.



**“Filling the Truck” for Midwest Missions
in June 2020.**

Drop off dates and locations TBA.

The ongoing mission outreach at Midwest Missions continues and is busier than ever!

In addition to Hygiene Kits, Student Desks and Sewing Machines (both pedal and electric), Midwest Missions has requested:

- Flannel, “PLU” (waterproof) & Cotton Fabric Walkers, Canes, Wheelchairs and Crutches
- Cloth Masks (any style)
- New or Used (clean) Blankets
- Plastic or Wood Small School Chairs (children’s sizes)

Thank you in advance!

Pastor Catie Newman,
IA Conf Disaster Response Chpn

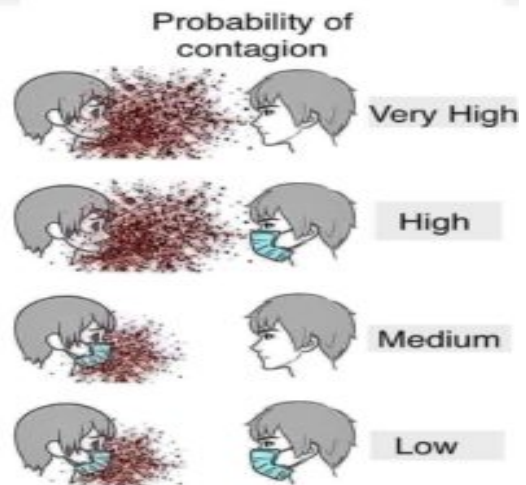


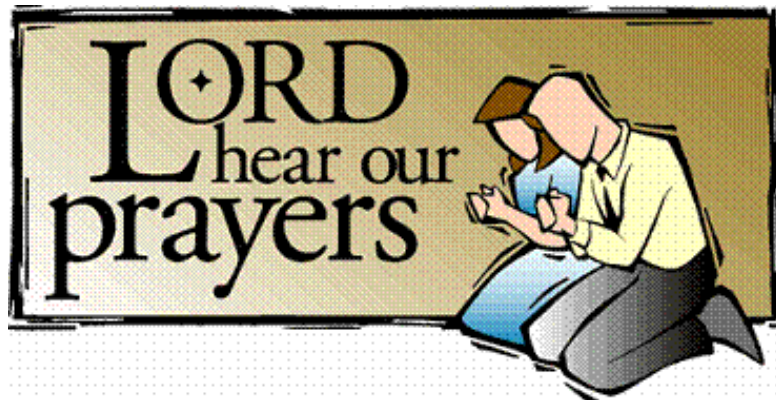
According to facebook statistics for both the Janesville and Hudson fb pages, we have been viewed over 100 times for nearly every worship service since the pandemic began.

A New Ministry at JUMC

In theory, all masks may prevent some sprays of virus-laden fluids from entering your nose and mouth (inward protection). They are also a reminder not to touch your face. And, if you’re sick, they may help keep some aerosols inside (outward protection), to protect people around you (CDC).

Face masks are still available. If you or someone you know is still in need of a mask(s), contact Sue Stapleton or Pastor Audrey.





Please keep in your prayers with
health concerns:

Tom & Char Brickman

Wendy Brace

Chelsey Brace

Johnny & Esther Folkerds

Ben Huber

Karen Borglum

Lolita Huber new address is
%Bruce Huber, 1002 5th St NW,
Dodge Center, MN 55927.
Her cell is 319-230-8085.

Marilyn Lee new address is
Windhaven Room 73,
5500 South Main, Cedar Falls
50613



Please pray for:

All Nursing Home Residents
All Veterans & Military &
their loved ones
Fire & Rescue
First Responders
Medical Staff-NURSES
Those working essential jobs
Students and Educators
Our Pastor
Our District Supt., Bishop, Cabinet
The United Methodist Church
Patti Baldwin
Scott Turner
Dennis Osborn & family
Marge Grandon

**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

New Addresses:

Lolita Huber
c/o Bruce Huber
1002 5th St. NW
Dodge Center, MN 55927

Marilyn Lee
Windhaven Room 73
5500 South Main St.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Linda Stroud
1731 10th Ave. SW Apt. 7
Waverly, IA 50677

I would like to thank our church family for their prayers, beautiful cards, phone calls, and bouquet of flowers from the Rebecca Circle, since my cancer surgery! They were all appreciated so much! Things are going well despite the coronavirus rules! I truly felt God's presence that early morning as I walked calmly into that huge hospital in Iowa City alone the day of surgery, while Myron had to stay in the car in parking ramp during the whole procedure.

I truly believe in prayer!!

Thank you and God Bless Each of You!

~Janet Destival



June Birthdays

Shelly Herbst	6/2
Gary Timion	6/3
Dawson Charley	6/5
Norm Briden	6/5
Zoey Barnes	6/5
Chris Robinson	6/6
Tom Harrold	6/8
Tara Howe	6/8
Talan Pletz	6/8
Brian Busch	6/14
Lisa Kiene	6/15
Gene Robinson	6/16
Robert Barr	6/19
Kurt Graves	6/22
Abigail Foelske	6/23
Julia Hope Baldwin	6/24
Deb Wienhold	6/24
Ayden Dobbs	6/26
Crystal Fisher	6/26
Mary Jane Stanhope	6/26
Hayleigh Heiser	6/28
Sherry Dilley	6/29

June Anniversaries

Roger & Sharon Heiser	6/11
Robert & Vicki Fisher	6/13
Fred & Lorraine Hallberg	6/15
Eugene & Helen Dettmer	6/21
Michael & Cecilia Baldwin	6/30



Janesville United Methodist Church



Financial Update!

Thanks to a special PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan from the government, due to the COVID-19 crisis, to use for salaries in April and May, we have been able to pay our bills and maintain a balance in our General Fund to continue paying bills.

As long as we can show that we used at least 75% of the PPP loan for salaries (which we did), the loan should be forgiven and we should not have to repay it.

All of your offerings are greatly appreciated and will continue to be used to pay bills throughout this crisis period.

For your information, here is a listing of our approximate bills each month:

Monthly Bills		
Pastor's Salary	2,743.14	
Staff Salaries (varies)	1,186.70	
Soc. Sec. & Medicare Payment (varies)	198.32	
Pastor's Pension & Health	2,209.41	Hudson Reimburses 1/3 = \$817.48
Insurance	260.49	
Water/Sewer	107.83	
Electric	423.00	
Phone/Internet	185.52	
Pastor's Mileage	262.50	
Data Storage Fee	35.00	
Copier Fee	108.31	
Sub-Total	7,720.22	
Minus Hudson's reimbursement	817.48	
Total	\$6,902.74	
Variable Bills		
Upper Room Subscription (every 3 months)	27.50	
Paper, Postage (as needed)	varies	
Custodial Supplies (as needed)	varies	
Apportionments (varies)	as possible	

If you do not have access to online worship viewing, would you like to still view our weekly services? We can deliver, to your home, CDs and a CD player for you to use to watch recordings of our online services. Please contact Janet Destival if you are interested.

JUMC & Iowa UMConference begin On-Line Giving Opportunity

A link has been created on the Iowa UMConference website. Our church name is included in a drop-down list. The donor can leave a comment for specific instructions to the church.

Total gifts will be direct deposited to church's bank account twice-a-month.

Below are some answers to questions we have received regarding the local church online giving option:

1. Will it cost the church anything for this service? The Conference is prepared to allow churches to use the online giving for three months without any fees being deducted from the local church gift total. The Treasurer's Office/Administrative Services will pick up those costs. After June 30, the fees are .30 per transaction plus approximately 2.9% which is the amount charged to the Conference for the service.

3. How will the church know when a gift is made? The system, will automatically send an email to the church each time a gift is receive. The donor may use an online comment section to designate their gift. Any comments made will be included in the email.

4. How will potential donors see where to give? The online form is pictured to the right here.

5. Is this a secure site to donate through? The Iowa Conference page is handled through Braintree (a Pay Pal company) which is a secure encrypted site. At no time does any credit card information stay within the Iowa Conference system. The banking information that our church would submit to our office would be entered into the bank ACH portal and then securely stored.

For **FREE** Online Giving to JUMC
Go to <https://iaumc-reg.brtaapp.com/giving>
to fill in this form

Local Church Giving

Please enter your giving information and select your church from the drop-down list. If your church does not appear in this list please have your Pastor contact our office at 515-974-8919 to be included.

*First Name

*Last Name

*Address 1

*City

*State

*Zip

*Email

*Please select your church from this list

Hudson UMC (550914)

Janesville UMC (574340)

Gift Amount

\$

Designation to a particular program of the church (general fund, apportionments, Special Offerings)

I am not a robot BOX (to prevent automated systems from accessing this page a Captcha box is included. Simply click on the box and follow the on-screen instructions.)

Process My Gift You will receive a confirmation email. You will then be presented with a screen where you will enter your credit/debit card information for the actual payment. Please enter this information within one hour of entering your gift. Your church will be notified for each donation received.



EXAMPLE OF A FACEBOOK POST OF A LUTHERAN PASTOR TRYING TO COMMUNICATE RE-OPENING THE CHURCH

Maybe you can tell that pastors are really stressed about opening the church buildings. Here is why. It's very easy to say—open your doors! Here is what that means in order to keep everyone safe:

Recommendations/Requirements for Opening for Worship, THAT DO NOT EVEN INCLUDE ALL THE UNITED METHODIST ONES.

If we were to go forward with opening up for worship what would that look like? What does social distancing look like in a worship setting?

Under the guidance of the CDC, our insurance company, and Lutheran Disaster Team for Northeast, Iowa, the following is a list of what absolutely everyone would have to agree to and abide by, if we reopen the church for worship at this time (May 31, 2020.)

The following is a list of things we would have to do and not do in order to keep everyone as safe as possible and still practice proper social distancing.

- Members would only be able to enter the building from the North door and exit only from the south and west doors. (Keep in mind this might be a very long walk back to your cars in potentially bad weather)
- Body temperatures would be checked on everyone before entering the building
- Clear paths would have to be marked on the floors for entrance, exit, etc... so persons may maintain at least 6 foot of distance from one another
- Pews would be marked with colored tape since we can't wipe down the padded pews and know that they are safe. Fredsville is large enough that we would have to have more than one service
- Members would need to sit in assigned seating and only in their family groups (of those who live within the same household) Children may not sit with friends and/or grandparents. Children must remain in their pew with their family group. Assigned seating would be minimally every other pew, in your own family groups, and at least 6 feet away from the next person.

- There would be no Fellowship time. No coffee, treats, etc...
 - There would be no singing
 - There would be no Holy Communion
 - There would be no Passing the Peace, greeters, bulletins, or shaking hands or hugging
 - There would be no passing of offering plates
 - Hymnals and ALL items would be removed from the pews
 - There would be no Children's Sermon
 - Children must stay with their family and will not be able to mingle with friends or even grandparents and others that they do not live with (this includes before and after worship)
 - There will be no Sunday School
 - The bathrooms will be closed (we can not guarantee that the bathrooms would be cleaned between each person
 - We would ask that if you are in the High Risk category and/or have a pre-existing condition, that you remain at home and continue worshiping with us on-line
 - No one would be allowed to gather or sit in the Gathering Space
 - We would have to have multiple worship services with a time to clean in between the services (who would do this cleaning?)
 - Everyone would be required to wear masks and gloves would be recommended
 - We would maintain an online worship presence
 - We would not run fans or air conditioning
 - Between services we would clean all doors, pews, hand railings, any and all surfaces that could have been touched. (UMC:+3 hours)
- As you can see, there is a great deal that needs to go into thinking about reopening, and to be as honest as I can with you, I seriously doubt our ability to have every member, regardless of their age, to be compliant with each of these items. Just one person adult or child who does not follow these guidelines simply puts everyone at risk. *(Copied with permission.)*

Iowa UMConference is continuing to update the policies as the coronavirus risks change. JUMC and HUMC are both checking with insurance companies to see requirements for coverage when we have in-house worship again.



Sunday School Is Out for Summer

Just like the public schools, our Sunday School classes are out for the summer.

Also like the public schools, we hope that parents and grandparents will continue the Christian Education of the kiddos.

Whether VBS will be held is unlikely.



2020 Graduates List Updated

JUMC grads include Lexie West & Marlee Boyle. College degrees include, Dr Emily Ruth, Crystal Spencer, Jacque Batz.

They continue to be in our thoughts & prayers.



General Conference set for May, was postponed to 2021.

Iowa Annual Conference in June will be held on-line sometime this year.

Clergy Session of the Iowa Annual Conference will be held on-zoom, instead of in-person, as scheduled for June 5, 2020.

Personal Invitations Are Important

Forming relationships with neighbors, family, and friends is still the number one way to bring folks to Christ by inviting them to worship with you.

In such time as we are able to return to worship in the church building in June or July or August one of the "Resilient Church" ideas was that families like yours could invite folk to your homes to watch the on-line videos of worship with you, if you feel safe doing so.

Bring flowers for our Cross

when we eventually are allowed to meet and celebrate the **RESURRECTION** of our LORD in June or July or Aug



Z-Team Still Planning for a Sowing Sunday in June or July

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:

