

The Janesville Bridge

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

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March 2020 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Dear JUMC Family, Ever wonder how to observe a Holy Lent?



Pastor Audrey

Traditional ways include *self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and *reading and meditating on God's Holy Word"

United Methodists are each encouraged to find our own method of *confronting our sinfulness, *remembering our mortality, and *giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Here are some other ideas to re-orient to God. Fasting is giving up something for Lent, i.e., chocolate, social media, shopping, for example.

Bible reading
The Upper Room Daily

Devotional Guide can help. It provides a scripture passage and thought-provoking and spirit-enriching material to read and think about each day. Or look online. The Iowa UMC Conference provides a daily reading by an Iowa Pastor at iaumc.org.

Prayer

Find more time for prayer, experiment with different ways to pray or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying.



Participate in a small group like Thursdays at 10 am Lenten Study viewing Holy Land sites and talking about what happened to Jesus at each. Or Tuesdays at 10 am for Bible Study.

Service

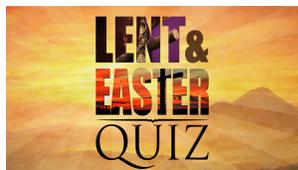
Adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, making special financial gifts to service organizations,

singing in the choir, read or usher at Worship.

Rest

Find moments during an ordinary day to be still in God's presence; a few minutes during lunch with a desktop meditation, listen to sermons on your commute, or read a poem that feeds your spirit.

Challenge yourself:



The Daily Lent Quiz by UMCommunications is a great way to be reminded of the season and learn more about it.

Practice

Think of creative ways to collect coins each day or make small "sacrifices" like a family, like skipping a weekly movie or meal out, and giving that money instead to the Children's Offering on Sundays for Angel Tree Christmas shopping or the Church Bank for



“A Portion Meant for Others.”

Learning

Discover another way to celebrate: an Alaskan Easter Totem Pole may be fun.

Worship

Ash Wednesday Worship begins at 7 pm on February 26, 2020. Every Sunday morning at 10:30 we gather for “a little Easter” celebration as Sundays are not included in the 40 Days of Lent.

This 40-day journey called Lent is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith, find your path of self-reflection and spiritual discovery, and invite others to join you as you seek to observe a Holy Lent.

God bless you, Pastor A.

March 1 First Sunday of Lent

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

March 3

9:00am Shepherds
1:00pm Finance

March 5

1:00pm UMW

<[see Circle schedules below](#)>

March 8 Second Sunday of Lent

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

March 10

1:30pm Pastor at Sub-District meeting
4:00pm PEC to meet and discuss grants
7:00pm Trustees

March 14

8:00am Men's Breakfast

March 15 Third Sunday of Lent

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

March 22 - 4th Sunday of Lent - [UMCOR Sunday](#)

<[\(see info on Missions page\)](#)>

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

March 26

1:00pm Z-Team

March 29 5th Sunday of Lent

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



Study & Support Group

Tuesdays at 10:00 am.
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Pastor Audrey @ Hudson

Wednesdays
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Quilters

Wednesdays at 9:30 am.
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 5:00 pm.
March 4, 11, 18, 25

UMW and Circle Meetings for March

UMW - Thursday, March 5 @ 1:00 pm.
Naomi - March 12 @ 2:00 pm.
Esther - March 18 @ 1:00 pm.
Rebecca - March 18 @ 7:00 pm.



Sunday School

Sunday School Classes for the kids are on Sunday mornings at 9:15 - all children 3 years through 5th grade are welcome.



A Great Big Thank You to everyone who came to hear the Kids sing in February and bought their decorated heart cookies. They raised \$320 for purchasing Angel Tree gifts this Christmas.



Youth Group



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

They are planning to attend a professional sport event and have a lock-in at the church. Wonder what Sunday they'll show up in worship in PJS!



Lenten Study

Thursdays in March - 10 am

Visit the Holy Land on video and hear what happened to Jesus at that site.

Then share a discussion about it.

March 5 & 19: 11:30 am Free Lunch at the Roose follows.

Copies of our 2019 JUMC Statistics for the Iowa Annual Conference are available upon request. If you would like to see what our church reported for the year, stop by the office and Barb can give you a copy. These reports include our membership, income, and expense numbers for 2019.



You are cordially invited to attend the joint senior vocal music recital of Crystal Spencer and Dakota Anderson on Thursday, March 12th at 6:00 P.M.



They will be performing in Davis Hall which is on the right-hand side of the lobby area as you enter the main doors of the Gallagher Bluedorn. Free admission and light refreshments to follow.



Velma Rice has a new address:

**% Heritage Court
1501 Office Park Road
West Des Moines, IA 50265**

**We Welcome Our New Custodian
Galen Haan from Shell Rock.
He also cleans other businesses
in Janesville and is happy
to add our church to his schedule.**



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.

**Gospel of Matthew
for Lent
Son of God video**



March 1 - Matthew 9:1-8
Son of Man

March 8 - Matthew 9:11;11:16-19
Friend of Sinners

March 15 - Matthew 13: 44-48
Anointed One

March 22 - Matthew 21: 1-9
The Coming King

March 29 - Matthew 27
Man of Sorrows

April 5 - Lamb of God
Palm and Passion Sunday

April 9 - Maundy Thursday 7 pm

April 10 - Good Friday ?pm

April 12 - Easter
Christ Is Risen!

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



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.

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

Apportionment 2020 Update

JUMC's 2020 total apportionments of \$17,686 are 8% less than our 2019 of \$19,285.

- * 22% or \$3,762 supports the General Conference fund that connects us to the UMC around the world.
- * 61% or \$10,871 remains here in Iowa to support Conference Ministries such as Conference staff and the Center; the District Superintendents and staff, and the workings and meetings of the Iowa Annual Conference in June and through-out the year.
- * 17% or \$3,053 goes to UMC Missions in the state of Iowa including those listed you may remember from our December bulletins.
- * In case you're wondering, the NE District Askings are not part of Apportionments, but collected as "Askings" that remain here in NE Iowa for UM missions. In 2019 our children filled "Jesus-O-Lanterns" through Noisy Offerings in the autumn.

UMC Lay Servant Ministries Course

What if we had an adult version of the confirmation class that our youth take? If we did, it would look a lot like this: a five-session, UMC-approved course designed to get you thinking about your own personal life of ministry in a more intentional way.

During Lent, Pastor Scott Kobe, FUMC, CF, will be leading the Basic Course in Lay Servant Ministries. In the Basic Course, topics such as servant and spiritual leadership, caring ministries, basic communication skills, sharing your faith, and leading meetings will enhance your knowledge and skill as a leader. This course is not designed to prepare you to preach. Those who have gifts for preaching may take the advanced course on preaching after this course.

This Basic Course will equip you to better lead and work with others, not only in the church, but also in the community and the world. Five, two-hour sessions begin Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00 pm at First UMC in Cedar Falls.



UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief

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

UMCOR Sunday is March 22! 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.



Showers Bring Flowers

Help us "shower" the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in March with monetary donations and make the "flower" grow on our "recording" station in the entryway. There is a **\$1 for \$1 match** again this year for all money donated in March. Please make your check out the church and write "Food Bank" in the memo part.

Let's take advantage of the matching funds and stretch our dollars to help our neighbors!

Special Offerings Update

At the February 9, 2020, meeting the JUMC Board was reminded that the UMC Discipline has for many years included that UM Churches shall make opportunities available through-out the year for participation in Special Offerings of the UMC.

These include:

- Human Relations Day on Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr Birthday.
- Peace with Justice Sunday in June.
- World Communion Day in October.
- United Methodist Student Day for UM College and Seminary students in November
- UMCOR Sunday during Lent.
- Native American Ministries-Lent.

The Missions Committee offered the suggestion that we each give to the specific offerings that touch our hearts & not feel obliged or guilty for not giving to all of them.

MORE MISSIONS

across the street & around the world



A Thank You from *In-Mission Together*

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV.

We're in awe of the "cheerful" givers at JUMC. Generous donations to the Angel Tree provided approximately \$2,135.00 worth of items that were delivered to North Star, Bremwood, and Friends of the Family.

You will see some changes in our missions this year. First of all, our name has changed from *Rainbow Covenant* to *In Mission Together*. The United Methodist Church has challenged us to find more missions that go beyond simply donating money, and to invest our time and efforts, providing a physical presence to assist in programs that help spread the word of God and make disciples of Jesus Christ. *In Missions Together* is looking forward to supporting our congregation's missions on local, conference, national, and international levels, through giving, sharing and partnering, to fulfill Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." and Matthew 28:19 "Go into the world and make disciples..."

Cindy Spencer *In Mission Together* chair

Do Babies, and Children Belong in Worship Services? Yes, Absolutely!

A note to kids: We're glad you're here. We hope you have fun every time you are in our building, singing and praying and learning about Jesus. Thanks for coming! Be sure to check out the kids bags with coloring sheets and quiet games you can do during the service.

A Note to Parents: Our church enthusiastically welcomes your growing family to fully celebrate with us. May we suggest:



- Relax. God put the wiggle in children; don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house. If you need a little more wiggle room, it's OK to get up and move.
- Sit towards the front or an aisle where it is easier for young ones to see & hear. Quietly explain the parts of Worship.
- Sing the songs, pray the prayers and say the responses. Children learn from us.
- If you feel as though you must leave Worship with your child, please come back! Remember, Jesus says, "Let the children come to me", Matthew 19:14

A Note to All The presence of children is a gift to our church. Like all of us, they are members of the Body of Christ and a reminder of the growth and future of our church. Please welcome our children and their parents, and give them big smiles of encouragement.





The February UMW meeting was held on Thursday, February 6th at 1:00 P.M. 12 members were present. Mary Deborah Circle led devotions entitled “Let There Be Light” which included four programs being sponsored by UMW members throughout the country this year and reciting the purpose.

Prayer concerns were shared for members and from the Prayer Calendar. Several get well and sympathy cards.

Esther and Naomi Circles did not meet. Mary Deborah met and discussed the upcoming fundraising dinner, collected pledges, and suggested a future program about the Janesville Food Pantry. Rebecca Circle had their Christmas party and have a new member, Wendy Brace.

The Response Moment from the January-February issue which included information about past reorganizations of the Methodist Church and UMW and a bible study on Deborah.

The quilters reported they are still working on a Paper Doll Quilt and have a buyer for it. They are also making more denim potholders. Cookbooks and crafts are available in the craft booth. The Reading Program Books are ready to be checked out.

The Fundraiser Dinner for February 16th was discussed. The menu will be beef stew, cornbread, assorted jello and bars. A freewill offering will be taken.

A grant application to help cover the cost of our year end giving has been turned in to PEC.

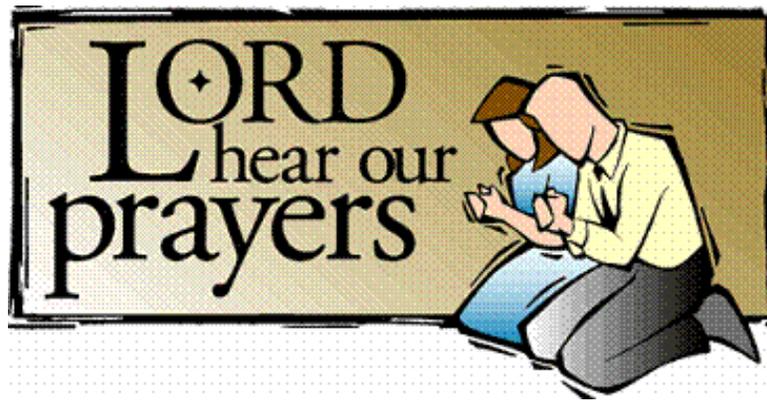
Mission kits were discussed. Sheets were distributed with the new kit requirements. There are several additional items required for personal dignity kits (health kits) this year. The student kits (school kits) must be in one handle bags or shipped in bulk. The fabric in kits cannot be camouflage or have hand, foot, or paw prints. Two of the kits are: *(Please keep this page for future reference)*

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| <p>Personal Dignity Kit (\$15 Value)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Bath Hand Towel - No kitchen towels 1 Bath Washcloth - No kitchen dishcloths 1 Comb - sturdy - No rattail or picks 1 Razor - with guard 1 Nail Clippers - No nail files or emery boards 10 Band-Aids - 3/4" x 3" 1 Adult Toothbrush – No multipacks 1 Toothpaste - 2.5 oz. or larger 1 Bar Soap - 3-4 oz. 1 Shampoo - 15-18 oz. 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz. - stick, roll on, or pump <p>Place items in 1-gallon resealable plastic bag</p> |
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| <p>Student Kit (\$16 Value)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8"x 10 1/2" 1 Ruler - 12" long with metric 6 Pencils - unsharpened 1 Pencil Sharpener 1 Pencil Eraser - 2" or larger 1 Box 12 Colored Pencils 1 Box 24 Crayons 1 Pair of Scissors - student <p>Place in one handle cloth bag <i>pattern online</i>
JUMCers who sew, will provide cloth bags for those who do not sew.</p> |
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All Kits collected will be sent along to Annual Conference in June or November Ingathering

Lindsey Eibey will be speaking at our March meeting about the Janesville Food Pantry. A Shower of food and personal hygiene products is planned. Each circle was given a list of needed items to bring to the March 5 meeting.



Please keep in your prayers
with health concerns:

Tom & Char Brickman

Wendy Brace

Chelsey Brace

Johnny & Esther Folkerds

Ben Huber

Del Shepard

Cindy Dobbs

Karen Borglum



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

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
March



March 1 - Communion:

- Greeters** - Tom/Christena Charley family
Reader - Gary Shaulis
Ushers - Tom & Christena Charley, Brad Ruth
Communion Servers - Janet Destival, Karen Funk

March 8:

- Greeters** - John & Esther Folkerds
Reader - Margaret Shepard
Ushers - Dick & Karen Funk

March 15:

- Greeter** - Sharon Heiser
Reader - Nikki Haan
Ushers - Scott & Kim Knapp

March 22:

- Greeters** - Dick & Karen Funk
Reader - Rita Ruth
Ushers - Gary Shaulis, Dave Beenblossom

March 29:

- Greeter** - Carol Jennings
Reader - Sharon Heiser
Ushers - Fifth Sunday Volunteers

Three-Ten-Connect Here's an easy way to welcome our guests in Sunday worship: 3-10-I Connect. It's simple: in the first three minutes after worship has ended, look around in a 10' radius and see if there's someone you don't know. If so, stick out your hand and say "Hi." Make a little conversation. Ask them if they have any questions about our church, and if so, volunteer to introduce them to pastor, or someone you know to have the answer. Then, be sure to say that you, personally, are glad that they are here, and that you hope to see them again. It's that easy. 3-10 Connect.

March Birthdays

Luke Brace	3/1
Christena Charley	3/1
Bryce Knapp	3/1
Bradley Johnson	3/4
Josh Renner	3/9
Mary Burkes	3/10
Grant Destival	3/11
Kayla Kolaas	3/13
Katie Johnson	3/14
Shelby Murley	3/16
Allan Johnson	3/18
Marina Stratiou	3/18
Gary Shaulis	3/19
Marge Grandon	3/21
Jodi Charley	3/23
Melissa Eibey	3/24
Tyler Brace	3/25
Trent (T.J.) Cooper	3/25
Pam MacKay	3/26
Jesse Grovier	3/26
Thomas Charley	3/27
Amanda Stark	3/28
Gayle Robinson	3/28
Sue Stapleton	3/28
Anna DeMott	3/29
Cindy Mau	3/30
Nancy Millsap	3/30
Delberta Fisher	3/31



March Anniversaries

Sylvia & Melvin Johnson	3/10
Weylon & Amber Heiser	3/10
Jim & Kathy Whitney	3/12
Willy & Nikki Haan	3/13
Jeremy & Sydnie Johnson	3/19
Tim & Jodi West	3/20
Scott & Kim Knapp	3/22



New “Circuit Model” Unveiled in Cedar Falls Event (text compiled from IAUMC Communications and First UMC Media staff) After considering suggestions from the

Vision 2032 listening events last fall, the Bishop’s Operational Team has proposed that changes be made to make the Iowa Conference of The UMC a stronger conference beginning as early as 2020. One of those changes is a shift to the proposed Circuit Model of churches.

A Circuit is a grouping of local churches, related by geography or mission, led by a Circuit Elder (lead pastor) with laity, licensed local pastors, and other clergy. A pilot Circuit was launched in Delaware County in July of 2018 under the leadership of Pastor Phil Rogers. Pastor Keith Pitts was then appointed to be part of a voluntary circuit of pastors who choose to engage around a focus on worship excellence. The proposed transition for the entire Conference would be July 1, 2021, with Circuit

Elders appointed then. Training and transition planning are ongoing. What this means for us is that we may find ourselves sharing leadership, resources, programming, and ideas with other UM Churches in a formal way. It should lead to greater connectivity between local UM churches.

Rev. Bill Poland, Iowa UMC Director of New Communities of Faith says, “This model of being the church is not new: It is the model under which most of our congregations in small towns and villages were formed. Each congregation will have someone to lead worship, preach the word, & give leadership to the congregation. They may be clergy, a supervised Lay Servant, or a Certified Lay Minister who is part of the leadership team of the circuit. The idea is to preserve autonomy while engaging connectionally in ministry and mission.” The entire presentation can be viewed at www.iaumc.org/vision2032. You may contact the Bishop’s Operational Team by emailing vision2032@iaumc.org or go to iaumc.org/freshexpressions. Just announced: meeting in Ankeny on April 18.

