



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

Pastor Mike Carey

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-12:30
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. (Sept. thru May)
Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.
Worship - 10:30 a.m.



7 Suggestions for Welcoming a New Pastor ... by Dr. Barry Howard

When a congregation welcomes a new pastor, it is an exciting time, a new beginning for both the congregation and the new minister. To maximize this new beginning, it is important to prepare spiritually, cognitively, and emotionally for a new chapter.

Once a call to a new pastor is confirmed, there are a few things you can do to prepare personally and congregationally to follow a new spiritual leader:

¥ **Pray for your new pastor.** In most of the churches I know, members pray for the Pastor Search Team throughout the search process, and they pray for the pastor even before they know the identity of their new minister. And they pray for their new pastor in the pastor's inaugural days of ministry. However, I suggest making a commitment to pray daily for your pastor throughout the duration of his or her ministry. Once the honeymoon period is over, and the daily grind of ministry begins, praying for your pastor will strengthen your pastor's ministry and will fortify your bond with your pastor.

¥ **Send your pastor a welcome note or email.** Be careful not to make this correspondence a lengthy epistle and certainly don't make it a diatribe itemizing your personal expectations or agenda. Just offer a brief note, introducing yourself and/or family, and offering a heartfelt welcome. When I moved to my last pastorate, I received over a 100 such notes, and these notes confirmed and intensified my excitement about my new place of service.



¥ **Mention your name on your first several encounters with your new pastor.**

Once your new pastor arrives, make sure to offer your name in each greeting for the first few weeks. Learning names is important for pastors. And be sure not to embarrass the pastor by quizzing, “Do you remember my name?” Give your pastor the opportunity to learn your name, and over time, to learn a part of your life story.

¥ **Embrace the uniqueness of your pastor.**

Your pastor has a distinct personality, a unique set of spiritual gifts, and a diverse set of experiences. When the Spirit leads a church to a new pastor, the Spirit seldom leads a church or committee to a person just like the previous pastor or the beloved pastor from the church’s history. To compare your new pastor to any other is to disrespect the Spirit’s role in guiding you to your new pastor in the first place.

¥ **Be prepared to follow.**

A pastor who is worth his or her salt must lead in both optimal and challenging situations. And the kingdom of God is enriched when we as a congregation follow our pastor and embrace our mission with enthusiasm. As a veteran pastor, I am quite aware that there is a small minority of pastors who are “wolves in sheep’s clothing,” whose motives are deceptive and whose methods are manipulative, and they need to be held accountable. However, the vast majority of pastors I know provide proactive leadership that is Spirit-led and mission focused. Don’t be a backseat driver. Serve with your best gifts.

¥ **Give your pastor permission to fail.**

The best pastors don’t succeed 100% of the time. A few weeks into one of my pastoral assignments, a sincere church member said to me, “I am glad you’re here. Every pastor I have had has disappointed me. I hope you never disappoint me.” I quickly countered, “Let me just disappoint you right now and get it out of the way. Like you, I am an imperfect human being who will make mistakes. But if we forgive one another as God has forgiven us, we will get along just fine.” I must admit, I think my response disappointed this well-intentioned member. Don’t hold your pastor to a standard of perfection that is impossible to maintain. Allow your minister room to make mistakes.

¥ **Speak positively about your pastor publicly and privately.**

One of the ways we bring out the best in our ministers is to speak well of them publicly and privately. With most pastors, it is easy to find something to criticize, because every minister has weaknesses. “He is too loud.” “She is too soft-spoken.” “He uses big words I don’t understand.” “She is not a people person.” However, every pastor has more strengths than weaknesses. A healthy pastoral tenure is nurtured when we magnify around our pastor’s strengths, and then minimize and compensate for our pastor’s weaknesses.



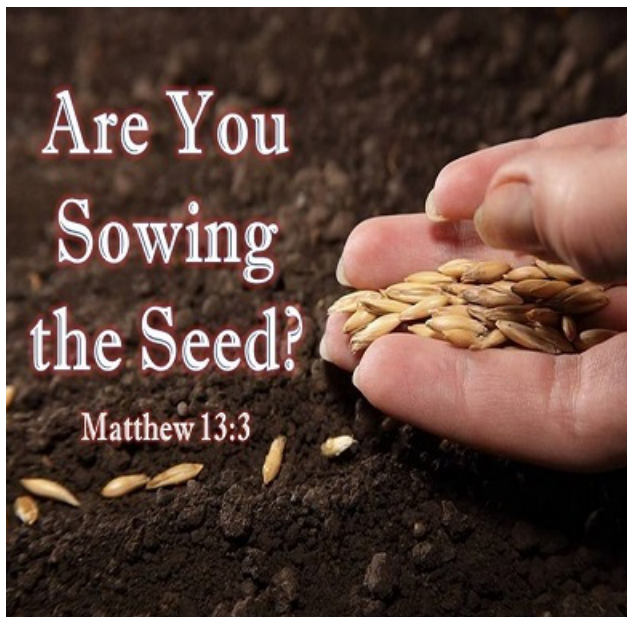
There are many other ways to welcome your new pastor and to launch your pastor into an effective and healthy tenure. If you compare them to your favorite football coach and expect them to “win every game,” not only will you be disappointed, you will make your minister miserable and ultimately ineffective.

But if you receive your new pastor as a spiritual leader sent to encourage your faithfulness, challenge your presuppositions, and to bring out God’s best in you, the relationship between your pastor and your congregation will be vibrant and effective.

A few years ago, one of my colleagues and mentors, Hardy Clemons, reminded a group of us of the peculiar role of serving as a pastor:

“Our goal is to minister: it is not to show a profit, amass a larger financial corpus or grow bigger for our own security. The ultimate goals are to accept God’s grace, share the good news, invite and equip disciples, and foster liberty and justice for all.”

And as church members, we are privileged to co-labor with our pastor in this transformative work of demonstrating grace, sharing the good news, and equipping disciples.



Sowing Projects

If you have started on your sowing projects or have an idea that you want to start with your \$20 seed money – GOOD FOR YOU!!!

We just wanted to let everyone know that we have reserved a table at the Waverly Flea Market on November 1 – 2.

So, if you have more items to sell at that time, just bring them to the church and we will sell them and harvest them for you.

Thank you for your participation,
The Z-Team



**Welcome
Pastor Audrey Westendorf Young
our new pastor**

The joint SPPRC Committee has met our new pastor - Audrey Westendorf Young. She is familiar with the Northeast District, having grown up on a farm near Sumner, and having connections to New Hampton, Dunkerton, Tripoli, and Waverly. She is very excited about the opportunity of the Janesville/Hudson appointment.

She is a very vibrant, warm, outgoing, and approachable person, and we feel you will be as impressed with her as our joint committee was.

She has 20 years of ministry background which includes 10 years at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Newton, followed by 2-point charges including Lennox/Victor and most recently Mitchellville/Santiago.

She has two children - a daughter in Illinois and a son in Dunkerton who is married to a young lady who works as a loan officer in the State Bank here in Janesville. She does have grandchildren who she says she **may** mention "occasionally"!

She has a faith-based life story and told us of her true "God calling" to ministry. She looks forward to living in the parsonage and being present in the community.

She is aware of **some** of the challenges we are facing and knows she has big shoes to fill, but is totally up to the task. You will enjoy getting to know her and soon realize the **many gifts** that she brings, which will bless our fellowship and ministry at JUMC.

We are encouraged and confident that, as we work together, Pastor Audrey will lead us forward in our mission to serve others in Christ's name, and we will grow in Christ's love.

There are many details to be taken care of before she arrives and the SPPRC is working on them. We will keep you updated.



C A T

Congregation Assessment Tool

We are asking all members of the congregation to fill out a survey, which will provide key indicators of our congregational health, in addition to areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist in our church and the possibilities, willingness, capacity, and energy for moving our ministry into the future. Additionally, this information will be helpful to our incoming pastor as she becomes acquainted with our congregation and prepares to help us move forward in our ministry.

You can either pick up a printed copy to take home and fill out and return to the church, or you can go to this website and do the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JanesvilleUMC>

If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact Barb at 319-987-2596 or janesvilleUMC@gmail.com.

We recognize everyone's life is busy, making it difficult to fit in "one more thing." It is our hope that you will be able to dedicate just 30-40 minutes to complete the survey. It will be available 24 hours per day / seven days per week (thru May 18) to allow you to fit it into your schedule at a time that is most convenient for you.

CAT Facts

- This entire process, which costs \$3,000 - \$5,000, is covered by apportionments – it costs us **nothing**.
- Surveys will be available to complete online or a paper version, which will be entered into the online system.
- **All responses are confidential.**
- Surveys are approximately 90-100 questions and will take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete.
- The Z-Team will be coordinating the assessment and providing status updates to everyone.

CAT Timeline

April 28 - May 18
Members Can Fill Out Surveys

May 18 - June 1
Holy Cow Consulting will analyze the survey data and create a presentation for church leadership

June 2 (4:30 - 6:30)
Presentation to church leadership
(Ad. Council members)

Date to be determined
Church leadership presentation
to church members

MAY



April 24 thru May 4

Pastor Mike on vacation

May 2

9:30am UMW May breakfast

May 5

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Communion

May 7

10:30am Pastor Mike @ Hudson for

9:00am Shepherds meeting

7:00pm Finance

May 10

Pastor Mike @ Des Moines for meeting

May 11

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast



May 12 - MOTHER'S DAY

BLANKET SUNDAY

GRADUATION SUNDAY

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

May 14

7:00pm Trustees

May 19

9:15am Last Day of Sunday School
until fall

10:30am Worship - last day of choir
until fall

2:00pm - Pastor Mike speaking at
Hudson's baccalaureate

May 26

10:30am Worship

Study & Support Group

Tuesdays at 10:00 am.

May 7, 14, 21, 28

Pastor Mike at Hudson

Wednesdays

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Choir Practice

Thursdays at 6:00 pm.

May 2, 9, 16

(May 19 will be the last
choir performance until
fall)



Weddings!!!

May 25

Struve - Sorge Wedding

June 1

Elzinga - MacKay Wedding



To Those Who Bring Small Children to Church:

There you are at church. Your baby or toddler is restless. Perhaps even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the church. All the while you're a little embarrassed, maybe a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid."

I want you - mothers and/or fathers - to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The elderly woman who often feels alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. Seeing young parents and their small children brighten her day; she may have just received bad news about her health but seeing the vitality of young ones removes - if but for a moment - her fears. The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of goodness. But he sees you - a young family - in church every week. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the Church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to church.

Bring your children to church! If we don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should.

- Author unknown

For many years, Cheryl Immerzeel blessed so many people with her beautiful hand-made quilts. So what better way to pay her tribute than displaying some of her many quilts during her Celebration of Life on April 23.

Here are just a few:



Thank you, Cheryl





We have donated to the following amounts to recent missions events:

Food Bank-\$585 which is \$1170 with the matching grant

UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)-\$260

Flood Relief (to date)-\$50

**Thank you for your generous donations.
Missions Committee**

Blanket Sunday

Mother's Day (May 12th) is our annual Blanket Sunday fundraiser. Warm, sturdy blankets are purchased with our donations and delivered by UMCOR during disaster relief. Please make your check payable to the church and write "blankets" in the memo area. Also, fill out a form if you wish to donate in memory or in honor of someone and include it with your check. Forms will be in the bulletins on April 28th and May 5th.

Thank you,
Missions Committee



UMW News

The monthly meeting of the JUMW was held in Court Chapel on April 4th at 1:00 p.m. There were thirteen members present.

Mary Deborah Circle presented the devotions.

Numerous prayer concerns were noted and discussed. Prayer calendar requests were for missionaries in Ecuador and The Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Correspondence included an invitation to Bremwood Spring Salad Luncheon April 12th and an invitation to the Finchford Ladies Fellowship Salad Supper April 29th. A note was received from Alpha PSI Master Sorority announcing discontinuation of the Fall Craft Sales.

Numerous cards were sent last month. A new card chairman for April/May/June is needed.

Circles reported on their last meetings. The future of our UMW unit was the main topic. The consensus reached was that we continue to strive to be a five-star unit and find ways to replace our now defunct craft sale/lunch proceeds. Rebecca circle suggested a "non-craft" craft sale which was met with enthusiasm by members. They also suggested a dinner after the Veterans Sunday service in November. Proceeds would go to the UMW. Veterans were consulted and were supportive of this idea. In addition, their June "Shower" will be for the church.

Interesting and heartwarming highlights from a June 2018 Response magazine. Notably, Iowa UMW's ranked third in the nation in conference giving in 2018!

Old Business: The Piecemakers continue quilting on the embroidery block quilt. We continue to have cookbooks and craft items for sale. New craft ideas are always welcome.

Mission Kit changes were discussed. A reminder that combs must have 6 inches of "teeth" which prohibits pocket combs and most combs with a handle.

New Business: Due to the loss of income from the Sorority Craft Sale, it was decided to decrease our monthly pledge to the District UMW in 2020 to \$50. Donations to Bidwell-Riverside, Shesler Hall, Hawthorn Hill, and Mission U were reduced to \$40 for this year which still meets the \$1 per member request. The requested \$1 for the Magazine Fund was approved.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

UMW News - continued

It was approved to reimburse the Sunday School up to \$25 if supply costs exceed the approved PEC grant for the Easter Breakfast.

The Spring Garage Sale was discussed. Volunteers are needed. Pop donations and baked goods will be needed. Sign up sheets will be passed in church.

Vacation Bible School was discussed. It will be July 22-25. Meals will be prepared and served by the Women of Messiah Lutheran on Monday and Tuesday of that week. Janet Destival volunteered to be the kitchen attendant for them on Monday and Rita Ruth will be there on Tuesday. Rebecca Circle will prepare and serve meals and provide a kitchen attendant on Wednesday and Naomi will do so on Thursday. A donation of \$50 was approved for VBS.

Plans were made for the May Breakfast on May 2nd at 9:30 A.M.

The next regular meeting will be June 6, at 6:00 p.m. Hostess will be Rebecca Circle and The Church will be honored with a Shower.



The family of Arvylla Fink would like to extend a heartfelt thanks for everything done for Arvylla and the family.

I wish to thank my church family for all of the prayers, calls, and cards following my knee replacement surgery. I am home now and doing very well - looking forward to being back in church next Sunday. While I am grateful that I was able to be with my daughter and family in MN during my convalescence, I really missed my church and church family. Also, I appreciated all of the birthday cards sent my way. They eased the sting of growing older!

- Mary Burkes

Prayer Requests

Prayers for our shut-ins visited by our Shepherds:

Roberta Rockwood
Dick Purdy
Jean Altenheim
Richard Wireman
Flo Shephard
Evelyn Wubbena
Marlys Cook
Milton Dobbs
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
Fred Hallberg
Patti Baldwin
Scott Turner
Marilyn Taylor
Dennis Osborn & family

God Hears
Prayer



Please keep

Char Brickman
Jane Fauser
Wendy Brace
Chelsey Brace

in your prayers as they
deal with health
concerns.

Greeters, Ushers, & Liturgist Volunteers

May 5 - Communion:

Greeter - Carol Jennings

Liturgist - Lolita Huber

Ushers - Tom & Christena Charley, Brad Ruth

Communion Servers - **NEED VOLUNTERS!!**



May 12 - Mother's Day/Blanket Sunday:

Greeters - Bob & Sharon Barr

Liturgist - Virginia Robinson

Ushers - Dick & Karen Funk



May 19:

Greeters - Dave & Mary Peters

Liturgist - Kathy Whitney

Ushers - Scott & Kim Knapp



May 26:

Greeters - **NEED VOLUNTERS!!**

Liturgist - Rita Ruth

Ushers - Gary Shaulis, Dave Beenblossom





May Anniversaries

Bryan & Gina Destival	5/8
Earl (Hap) & Cynthia Spencer	5/8
Chris & Angela Robinson	5/11
Myron & Janet Destival	5/24
Jim & Emily Stensland	5/27
Todd & Elizabeth Foelske	5/28

May Birthdays

Ally Eibey	5/1
Kiley Shepherd	5/2
Rachel Knapp	5/3
Jeff Baker	5/4
Jean Carlisle	5/5
Kendyl Sorge	5/6
Megan (Borglum) Hartwig	5/8
Joan Ackerson	5/9
Dick Funk	5/9
Barb Hamlyn	5/9
Jim Stensland	5/9
Alec Amosson	5/9
Teague Lafrentz	5/10
Mike Wienhold	5/11
Janeen Hubbell	5/12
Mildred Christensen	5/13
Sadie Baldwin	5/13
Ruth Hamilton	5/14
Robert James Baldwin	5/16
Callie (Angove) Kramer	5/17
Dennis Dilley	5/18
Cody Nielsen	5/18
Emily Ruth	5/18
Adam Conradi	5/19
Jack Fisher	5/21
Emma VerSteeg	5/21
Mary VerSteeg	5/21
Rita Ruth	5/22
McKayla Hinz	5/22
Katlyn Haan	5/22
Tawnya Cary	5/23
Marilyn Miller	5/24
Keith Reid	5/27
Nikki Shook	5/27
Ty Lafrentz	5/27
Dave Peters	5/28
Rachael Coffman	5/29
Helen Dettmer	5/30
Lolita Huber	5/31

Financial Update - January 1, 2019 thru April 21, 2019

In an effort to help the congregation understand our financial status throughout the year, we will be providing monthly updates in each Newsletter.

This report is based on weekly offerings (and additional fund raising) vs. our expenses from our annual budget, which include the amounts we would need to pay, monthly, to cover all of our projected expenses including apportionments.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

		<u>2019 Budget Amount</u> <u>\$120,370 - total for the year</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>Excess or Deficit</u>
<u>Offerings</u>		<u>MONTHLY AMOUNT</u>	
	These totals do not include any special deposits (such as money from special year-end giving, Memorials, or Scrip Accounts) * unless noted *	The monthly budget amount includes salaries, payroll taxes, pastor's pension, health, & mileage, utilities, operating expenses, apportionment obligation, etc.	
1/6/19	2,878.00		
1/13/19	1,351.00		
1/20/19	706.00		
1/27/19	1,639.00		
direct deposits	880.00		
Jan total	7,454.00	10,031.00	-2,577.00
2/3/19	929.00		
2/10/19	1,334.00		
2/17/19	705.00		
2/24/19	0.00		
direct deposits	880.00		
Feb total	3,848.00	10,031.00	-8,760.00
3/3/19	2,881.00		
3/10/19	1,964.00		
3/17/19	2,387.00		
3/24/19	1,512.10		
direct deposits	880.00		
Mar total	9,624.10	10,031.00	-9,166.90
3/31/19	837.00		
4/7/19	2,086.00		
4/14/19	1,888.00		
4/21/19	1,455.00		
4/21-Easter Bkfst.	423.00		
direct deposits	880.00		
Apr total	7,569.00	10,031.00	-11,628.90
04/28/19	pending		