



The Janesville Bridge

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

424 Sycamore Street, PO Box 358, Janesville, Iowa 50647

[janesvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:janesvilleumc@gmail.com) 319-987-2596

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

Pastor Mike Carey

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-12:30

Sunday Worship:

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Fellowship: 10:00 AM

Worship: 10:30 AM

## Mike's Musings

(editorial from the Des Moines Register)

### Will the LGBTQ debate splinter the United Methodist Church?

by Kyle Munson April 21, 2018

Page 1 of 4

There would be easier topics for me to tackle during my last week as the Iowa columnist. Perhaps some cute critter being born at the local zoo? Instead, I decided to write about sex and religion.

Here's my motivation: If I've learned anything during my 24 years as a journalist meeting Iowans face-to-face in the communities where they live, it's that difficult conversations make us stronger. If we can maintain civility and mutual respect, we're better for having been blunt and honest with each other — even if afterward we still don't agree. It's not very Iowan, I'll grant you. We tend to worship at a common altar of passive-aggressiveness. But let's set that aside, because this one cuts deep not only for me but for 158,000 Iowans among more than 12 million members of the United Methodist Church in communities from here to Africa.

Last Sunday afternoon I ended up in the middle of a couple hundred or more Methodists at New Hope United Methodist Church in Des Moines. The mainline Protestant denomination is being rocked by a tense global conversation about how the church relates to what has been euphemistically described as “human sexuality.” I say euphemistically because nobody's really talking about all the complications introduced into the Christian church by heterosexuals. Even in this era of #MeToo, that's not on the agenda. This controversy was triggered specifically by greater recognition of gay rights and same-sex marriage. Why that would seem threatening mystifies me. No less an authority than Pope Francis famously said five years ago, “If someone is gay and searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?”

Sunday's discussion was one of several regional meetings held in Methodist churches around the state. In the wake of a 2016 debate, Methodists formed a 32-member global "Commission on a Way Forward" to try to work beyond the impasse.

A special conference looms in February 2019 to focus only on this. Even the lack of legislative action at that time could be seen as a tacit decision that splinters the church.

Let me clarify that I face the same tricky situation as when I write about racial issues. So I will try not to stand too tall on my privileged soapbox. I'm a married straight guy who can't claim to know what it's truly like to walk in the shoes of my gay friends. But I did grow up in the Methodist Church in rural Iowa. My parents got me into it, and as an adult I've stayed for the fellowship and Jell-O salad. Seriously, I'm a proud member of a small-town Methodist congregation. What I believe beyond the existence of God can get complicated. Sometimes I feel like I accumulate more questions than answers. I try to be guided by love and humility.

One of my cherished tenets of Methodism is its "open table": The core sacrament of holy communion is available to everybody — member and visitor alike, of any age. There's no ID or litmus test required before you grab your bread and grape juice. It's easier in Iowa to access this sacred ritual than to exercise your right to vote. But now with sexuality, the Methodist Church is on the verge of following a path similar to the Lutherans, Mennonites and other denominations. And the "tradition" in question — at least in terms of the doctrine as printed not in the Bible but in the Methodist Book of Discipline — is fairly recent. The modern United Methodist Church didn't take shape until 1968. Language on homosexuality was introduced four years later. "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" remains a key sentence included in the section on ordination, the ground rules for becoming a minister.

Sunday's session was a mix of information from the bishop, open Q&A (journalists love that) and small-group discussions. And a hymn sing, to suggest that we still can become one voice. A self-described conservative minister said it's unfair to label him a hater just because he believes in established Biblical doctrine. His concept of loving his neighbor, he said, includes speaking the truth. And doing so with all due compassion should not be equated with hate. Members on the left said they can't believe that Methodists still debate this. We would not be having such a sober and deliberate dialogue about the potential exclusion of other minorities. To give you context, the Book of Discipline already explicitly welcomes everybody based on "race, color, national origin, status or economic condition." Must we really delay any longer before "sexual orientation" is added to the list?

There's also the recent example of a campus Methodist minister in Iowa City who was charged within church hierarchy for performing a same-sex wedding. That dispute was resolved but also added fuel to the broader debate. Still others on Sunday lamented the potential loss of all the good humanitarian work done by a unified church, such as a crucial lifeline of \$17 million for disaster relief in Puerto Rico.

Two main plans are being contemplated by the commission:

- The “**one church model**” would remove the "restrictive language" from the Book of Discipline and give local churches and pastors latitude to set policy.
- The “**branch model**” would replace geographical jurisdictions with three theological divisions based on this issue: Traditional, contextual and progressive. But to do so would require a staggering 28 constitutional amendments — a high hurdle even for Methodists who cling to their Robert's Rules of Order almost as tightly as their Bibles.

So the year ahead looks daunting, to say the least. And that's without considering how this plays out in foreign countries lacking similar secular protections for civil rights.

Meanwhile, factions already have been forming.

- A Reconciling Ministries Network of Methodist churches explicitly welcomes LGBTQ worshipers.
- The Wesleyan Covenant Association has strung together an initial coalition of more conservative churches.
- Uniting Methodists is trying to occupy a middle ground and support the one church model.

Imagine for a minute if the church tried to separate into three branches based on a more innocuous factor: Coffee. There would be categories for regular, decaffeinated and no coffee. (This almost sounds like something Methodists would contemplate.) Some people would have strong feelings on coffee, especially the caffeine content. Some wouldn't care if it's even served. Some would look at any dispute over coffee as petty when there are more urgent matters. Regardless, there would be immediate disruption about where the new divisions would be drawn between friends and neighbors who until then had provided crucial support for each other in times of crisis. And that would be sad.

Part of what motivated me to write this was the recent death of Donna Red Wing, the former head of LGBTQ advocacy group One Iowa. She succumbed to lung cancer after an eight-month struggle. One of her signature moves in recent years was to engage in public conversations with her perceived “enemy,” Bob Vander Plaats, whose Family Leader organization fought same-sex marriage so hard that it helped unseat Iowa Supreme Court justices. When I heard them speak together in person, it gave me hope.

Similarly, Sunday's session featured a video conversation by a pair of young Methodist ministers from my stomping grounds in southwest Iowa. The man and woman were on opposite ends of this issue that threatens to tear apart the church. But they've maintained not only their mutual respect but their friendship. They had a beautiful and enlightening conversation.

Also on Sunday, a pair of eighth-grade girls from a confirmation class stood up to address the crowd. They made the excellent point that even if the church was to splinter into branches based solely on this issue, young worshipers of various sexual orientation would emerge in all three branches to force some Methodists to confront the very same reality they had tried to avoid. Sometimes adults make "organized religion" more complicated than it should be — if not an oxymoron.

**I am the church! You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus,  
all around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together!**

**The church is not a building;  
the church is not a steeple;  
the church is not a resting place;  
the church is a people.**

**We're many kinds of people,  
with many kinds of faces,  
all colors and all ages, too  
from all times and places.**

**Sometimes the church is marching;  
sometimes it's bravely burning,  
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding;  
always it's learning.**

**And when the people gather,  
there's singing and there's praying;  
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes,  
all of it saying:**

**I am the church! You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus,  
all around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together!**



**John 15.12:**

**'This is my  
commandment, that  
you love one another  
as I have loved you.**

May 1

6:00am VBS Planning Meeting

7:00pm Finance

May 3

9:30am UMW May Breakfast

7:00pm Finance

May 6

9:00am Adult Sunday School

9:15am Kids Sunday School

10:30am Worship

2:00-3:30pm Pre-Conference Meetings  
at Trinity in Waverly

May 7-16

Pastor Mike on Vacation

May 8

9:00am Shepherds

7:00pm Trustees

May 12

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

May 13 - Mother's Day (Karen Sage)

Blanket Sunday

9:00am Adult Sunday School

9:15am Kids Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Kids Singing

May 15

1:30pm UMW Planning Meeting  
for hosting District Annual Meeting

May 20 - Graduation Sunday

9:00am Adult Sunday School

9:15am Kids Sunday School

(last class until fall)

10:30am Worship

May 22

1:30-4:30pm Pastor Mike at Oelwein  
for Cont. Ed.

May 24

1:00pm Z-Team



**Study & Support Group**

Tuesdays at 10:00 am

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Pastor Mike at Hudson**

Wednesdays

May 2, 23, 30

**Bible Study**

Thursdays at 9:00 am

No Study on May 3, 10

May 17, 24

(will resume in the fall)

**Choir Practice**

No practice in May

(will resume in the fall)

May 27 - Memorial Sunday

9:00am Adult Sunday School

NO Kids Sunday School

10:30am Worship

May 28 - Memorial Day

Office Closed

May 29

Pastor Mike out of office for holiday



On Sunday, June 3, we will be celebrating a “Sunday of Hope” as part of the American Cancer Society’s annual Relay for Life. The Relay for Life is a celebration of HOPE in the fight against cancer. As part of our Sunday of Hope, we will be including luminaria, candles lit inside bags filled with sand, each one bearing the name of a person touched by cancer. We are giving you the opportunity to order a luminaria “In Honor of” or “In Memory of” a loved one. These luminaria will be used to decorate our sanctuary for this special service. Please fill out the form (that you will find inserted in the bulletins on May 20 and 27) and return along with your donation (checks made payable to the American Cancer Society). The deadline for donations will be Monday, May 28.

If you would like to learn more, contact Lisa Kiene or the church office.



The Trustees are now taking orders for memorial bricks. These engraved bricks will be placed in the Memorial Garden that is being constructed in front of the church around the new bell tower.

**Bricks may be purchased for:**

**\$60.00 - 4 X 8 brick (up to 3 lines/  
13 characters per line)**

**\$85.00 - 8 X 8 brick (up to 5 lines/  
13 characters per line)**

If you are interested in purchasing a brick, you can get an order form from the church office, fill it out, and return it with your donation.

**May Scripture & Sermons**

If you would like to read the scripture for each Sunday, in advance, as part of your own personal devotions, here is the upcoming list for May:

May 6

Matthew 18: 21-22  
Arthritis of the Spirit

May 13

Guest Speaker  
Karen Sage

May 20

Luke 12: 51  
Family Values

May 27

Luke 24: 30-31  
Blessed Brokenness



The UMW met in Court Chapel on April 5 with only eleven members present. Esther Circle hosted this meeting with Naomi Circle giving devotions honoring Dorothy Fisher who passed away on April 3. A pillar candle was lit in her memory to burn the entire meeting.

As Secretary of Program Resources, Dorothy had selected the devotional program for the month of April, from our UMW 2018 Program Book. Ironically, it was entitled, "The Sacred Space of Grief and Hope", with the objective being to find a space of hope in our personal lives and with others, even in the midst of pain and grief. The devotions summarized the end of Lent and Easter Sunday, focusing on the hope of the Resurrection. We also learned more about the unimaginable grief and deep pain that the women who journeyed with Jesus felt with his crucifixion. Our grief and pain was also about the loss of Dorothy. Rita Ruth, Mary Burkes, Christena Charley, and Sharon Barr read several Scripture verses promising the presence of God in our grieving and hope. We remembered Dorothy for all of her work and commitment to the United Methodist Women, especially with our Reading Program and mission studies. She was a dedicated member and will be missed very much.

Naturally, the Fisher family was included in our prayer concerns as well as Lolita Huber, Fred Hallberg, and other extended family of our members. We were asked to also pray for one of our own UMW missions in Des Moines, Hawthorne Hall and Operation Hope in Kenya, Africa; the latter of which is a 2 year program for 48 widows living with HIV and caring for a total of 75 children. They receive livelihood skills training and stress reduction techniques.

Correspondence included a thank-you to Naomi Circle from the Sunday School children for Easter treats and a belated thank-you from the Community Center for our June, 2017 kitchen/utility shower, hosted by Rebecca Circle. The treasurer's report had a checking account balance of \$3,387.60 and savings account balance of \$2,772.08.

Reports were given by officers, mission coordinators and Circles. Karen Funk announced that the June "shower" honoree will be the Janesville School, and more information will be distributed to the Circles and church members next month. She also reported on sending many cards for the unit: sympathy, get well, thinking of you, etc., and the UMW will be serving the meal planned for 150 attendees following memorial services for Dorothy Fisher on Saturday, April 7.



Esther Folkerds gave the “response” moment telling about an article on Climate Justice and reading another about Jesus’ work in the communities he frequented. UMW members are encouraged every month to be a reader of this magazine.

JoAnne Dierks reported that she and Dorothy Fisher attended the Northeast District Mission Study on Climate Justice presented by Rev. Dick Clark at the Gladbrook UMC on March 17. She said the study was non-political, but served as a critical reminder of the need to take care of God’s earth. It will require a cultural shift of values, priorities and public policies at all levels and members were asked to begin on the personal level of recycling, reusing, etc. Some of the churches present at this meeting have already made commitments such as: not purchasing/using any paper or plastic plates, cups, or plastic tableware and resorting to using existing church china, and washing dishes.

The president updated the group on several ongoing miscellaneous items (i.e. the sale of cookbooks, crafts, possible kitchen remodeling, etc.). The Trustees have not yet accepted/approved hanging the quilted cross made by the Piecemakers as a gift to the church.

There were no bills presented to be approved. Esther Folkerds reminded the unit of the upcoming all-church garage sale on April 28. Members were asked to sign up for work hours and also for donations to the bake sale. Rita Ruth announced that the Zacchaeus team planned to offer a simple lunch menu (sandwiches, chips, cookies, slices of pie) as a fund raiser during the garage and bake sale, and also asked for donations of pop, etc.

Members then made plans for the annual May Breakfast which will also be our next meeting. Members of the Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, May 2 at 9:00 a.m. to make preparations, decorate tables, etc.

The may Breakfast will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The menu will be a breakfast casserole, juice, fruit cup, muffins, and coffee. Devotions will be given by our UMW Shepherdess, Emily Pearce, of Washington Chapel UMC, and musical entertainment will be provided after the meal by members of the Janesville Vocal Music Department. All ladies of our JUMC are cordially invited.

# MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



## Blanket Sunday

Mother's Day (May 13th) 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.

Thank you,  
Missions Committee

Our DVD library continues to grow!!! If you would like to view a DVD of a previous service (from March 11 thru the current week), please come to the church office to check out a copy.

If you know of someone who would like to view the DVD but does not have a player, the church may be able to loan you one for them to use.

The DVD of the Bishop's visit also has a 3 minute slide show of congregation members that day.

We welcome any comments or suggestions!!!

Thank you,  
The JUMC Tech Team





# Prayer Requests

Prayers for our shut-ins visited  
by our Shepherds:

Roberta Rockwood  
Virginia Stensland  
Dick Purdy  
Robert & Jean Altenheim  
Richard Wireman  
Bob Rice  
Flo Shephard  
Evelyn Wubbena  
Marlys Cook  
Milton Dobbs  
John Boeck  
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  
Patti Baldwin  
Scott Turner  
Dennis Osborn & family  
Themis Stratiou & family

DON'T

FORGET

***Please remember to call the church office if  
you know of anyone who needs visits from  
the Shepherds and/or the pastor.***

**319-987-2596**

***Also - please inform the office when it is OK  
to remove anyone from the prayer list.***



W  
E  
L  
L  
C  
O  
M  
E  
E

**May 6:**

**Greeter** - Christena Charley

**Liturgist** - Gary Shaulis

**Ushers** - Tom & Christena Charley, Brad Ruth

**Communion Servers:** Jean Eibey, Janet Destival

**May 13:**

**Greeters** - Bob & Sharon Barr

**Liturgist** - Virginia Robinson

**Ushers** - Dick & Karen Funk

**May 20:**

**Greeter** - Linda Stroud

**Liturgist** - Kathy Whitney

**Ushers** - Scott & Kim Knapp

**May 27:**

**Greeters** - Matt & Amy Shook

**Liturgist** - Sharon Heiser

**Ushers** - Gary Shaulis, Dave Beenblossom



### **May birthdays**

Ally Eibey	5/1
John Boeck	5/2
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
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
Ayden Dobbs	5/26
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



### **May Anniversaries**

Bryan & Gina Destival	5/8/93
Earl (Hap) & Cynthia Spencer	5/8/82
Chris & Angela Robinson	5/11/02
Myron & Janet Destival	5/24/64
Jim & Emily Stensland	5/27/73
Todd & Elizabeth Foelske	5/28/05



## **Who Was Haym Solomon?**

Read this fascinating history of the \$1 bill – all the way to the bottom to know about Haym Solomon. You may be in for quite a surprise!

On the rear of the One Dollar bill, you will see two circles. Together, they comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the west or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the Capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

'IN GOD WE TRUST' is on this currency.

The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, 'God has favored our undertaking.'

The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, 'a new order has begun.'

At the base of the pyramid is the Roman numeral for 1776. (MDCCLXXVI)

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most heroes' monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield there is a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor.

We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak you will read, ' E PLURIBUS UNUM' meaning, 'from many - one.' Above the Eagle, we have the thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

An (untrue) old-fashioned belief says that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will almost never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this:

America, which relies on God (not a number) to direct and lead, boldly chose:

- 13 original colonies,
- 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence ,
- 13 stripes on our flag,
- 13 steps on the pyramid,
- 13 letters in 'Annuit Coeptis',
- 13 letters in ' E Pluribus Unum,'
- 13 stars above the eagle,
- 13 bars on that shield,
- 13 leaves on the olive branch,
- 13 fruits, and if you look closely,
- 13 arrows.

And finally, notice the arrangement of the 13 stars in the right-hand circle. You will see that they are arranged as a Star of David. This was ordered by George Washington who, when he asked Haym Solomon, a wealthy Philadelphia Jew, what he would like as a personal reward for his services to the Continental Army, Solomon said he wanted nothing for himself, but he would like something for his people. The Star of David was the result. Few people know it was Solomon who saved the Army through his financial contributions...then died a pauper. Haym Solomon gave \$25 million to save the Continental Army, money that was sorely needed to help realize America's -our- freedom and independence from England. Therein lies America 's Judeo-Christian beginning.

Most American children do NOT know any of this. They are not taught because their history teachers do not know this. [They were not taught!]

On America's Freedom:

Too many veterans gave up too much to let the meaning fade. Many veterans came home to an America that did not care. Too many veterans never came home at all. They served, they died for you ... for me.

Please share this page with many so they can learn about the UNITED STATES DOLLAR BILL, and what it stands for. America is at a critical juncture. Let's do whatever we can to save her while never, ever forgetting: **It is God in whom we put our trust!**



Thank you to the SPPRC (and the whole church for the card and flowers, but, mostly, your kind words thoughts, and appreciation for the job I am doing as your church secretary.

Believe it or not, I have been doing this for almost 2 years!!! And I am still loving it!!!

Many thanks to everyone!!!

Barb

I wanted to personally thank the church for your most excellent efforts regarding the Bishop's visit on April 22. The Trustees worked hard to finish up some last minute things (more on that below) and we did our Sowing Project via the Z-Team (thanks team!) so the Bishop could see us in action. You all exhibited and practiced bodacious hospitality (it's a word - look it up)!

I can tell you that the Bishop was not only impressed with what we have done here (the word she used was "spectacular") but she was also impressed with all of you. She called you loving and energetic. That's a good word coming from someone who runs marathons! Well done, beloved community of faith, well done!

Pastor Mike

Our Trustees continue to work on "perfecting" our renovation project ("perfecting" is a good Methodist word - it means "moving it forward").

We have had a number of people stumble on the step going up to the lectern so the Trustees have installed rails for both the lectern and the platform. I have been in several different churches (large churches) lately, and I have not seen that anywhere else. Once again, we are ahead of the curve.

Nice Job, Trustees!