



The Janesville Bridge

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

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September 2020 Newsletter

Janesville United Methodist Church

Dear JUMC and HUMC Families,

The original pandemic plan of the Iowa UMC Conference advised us to follow the “**Three Simple Rules**” of founder John Wesley:



1.2.3. Simple Rules

1. *Do no harm.*
2. *Do good.*
3. *Remain in love with God.*

Our two churches have been especially careful to *do no harm* simply because the great majority of those who attend worship are in the at-risk-age group including your pastor, leaders and workers at worship. No one wanted to take any chances of the church being responsible for someone contracting the virus and possibly dying by attending in-person Worship.

The IUMC policy advised waiting until there had been a 14 day decline in cases in our county before reopening, as long as precautions are taken with disinfecting, distancing, masking, etc.

Black Hawk and Bremer Counties have not even had a 14 day decline during the entire time. As a matter of fact, there were three more deaths this past week. God bless them and their loved ones.

Many of you have expressed your desire to return to worship. Your leaders completely understand, yet feel responsible for *doing no harm*, since our threat remains as high as ever, and may become worse now that other places have opened including schools and universities.

This whole thing is a guessing game with very high stakes when we also consider the increased cases and deaths in our counties and we don't know the after effects of COVID19. We're not sure it's a one-and-done virus or if it hangs on in the system, for example, like chicken pox to give us, “shingles,” (or something) in the years to come. Antibodies remain in the system for only 90 days so presumably you can have “it” repeatedly. Vaccination seems the only way to avoid it or reduce its symptoms. God help us.

Our church leaders do their best to *do good*. We want to thank Sue Stapleton for her music ministry and Rita Ruth for the many hours with the tech ministry. JUMC has now had fiber optic installed so we are to have faster, more reliable, upload speed for live-streaming on Sunday mornings,(at same cost as before) but that hasn't proved to be true...yet. No system is keeping up with all the online work now.

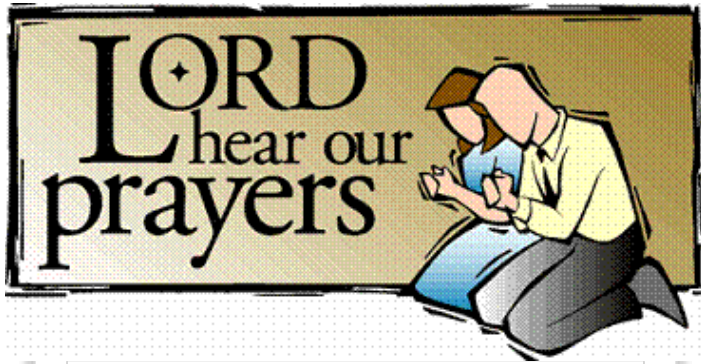
So...since this pandemic has lasted over five months and many of you are asking to return to in-person worship to *remain in love with God*, we are hoping to **re-open for World Communion Sunday, October 4, UNLESS** the **LOCAL** case and death numbers jump significantly (as they did when JUMC tried in August.) On-line Worship will continue.

Please continue to watch for emails and facebook postings from the churches or my personal email at pastorayoung@gmail.com for updates.

Don't worry, GOD IS WITH US.

Pastor Audrey:)

(Stats on page 5)



Please keep in your prayers
with health concerns:

Tom & Char Brickman

Wendy Brace received
her kidney transplant

Chelsey Brace had last surgery

Johnny & Esther Folkerds

Fred & Lorraine Hallberg

Ruth May Hamilton

Jan Guzman

Chester, Nikki Haan's dad

God bless the marriage of
Bill and Nancy Bloker on August 14
Birthday Blessings on new grandson,
Oliver, to Dan & Wendy Brace.

COVID-connected updates

NO Community Picnic by JUMMen

NO Rummage Sale in Sept.

NO Turkey Dinner, but will be able
to order Cranberry Relish and
Fruit Pies closer to the holidays.

Do you have new or used flats &
rings for relish jars to donate?

OCT 11, 2 pm Charge Conf at HUMC



Please pray for:

Students and Educators & Staff

at schools and universities

All Nursing Home Residents

All Veterans & Military &

their loved ones

Fire & Rescue

First Responders

Medical Staff-NURSES

Those working essential jobs

Our Pastor

Our District Supt., Bishop, Cabinet

The United Methodist Church

Patti Baldwin

Scott Turner

Prayers for our homebound
church family, who are contacted

by our Shepherds:

Flo Shephard

Evelyn Wubbena

Marlys Cook

De & Carol Dix

Georgia Eibey

Linda Stroud

September Birthdays

Samantha Reid	9/1
Florence Shepherd	9/1
Renee Timion	9/1
Jillian Jones	9/2
Lance Woodyard	9/2
Mackenzie Whitney	9/3
Jerod Fisher	9/4
Amber Heiser	9/4
Matt Westendorf	9/8
Robert Fisher	9/9
Robert Bertram	9/10
Neal Moses, Jr.	9/11
Terri Fisher	9/11
Landon James Destival	9/12
Donovan Erbes	9/13
Karen Funk	9/14
Sharon Heiser	9/14
Season Buchholz	9/15
Tracy Graves	9/15
Jenifer Cooper	9/16
Kim VerSteeg	9/17
Kathy Kessel	9/17
Alan Fisher	9/18
JoAnne Dierks	9/19
Melanie Fisher	9/20
Darlys Saunders	9/20
Chelsey Cooper	9/21
Walt Tarter	9/22
Lawrence Mau	9/23
Jaden McGhee	9/25
Michelle Osborn	9/25
Walt Ruth	9/26
Dave Beenblossom	9/29
Evelyn Turner	9/29
Elizabeth Foelske	9/30



SEPTEMBER

Aster



Love and patience

The name aster was derived from the Greek word for "star" and in the past it was believed that the perfume from burning the leaves of the plant could drive away evil spirits.

NEW ADDRESSES

Mary Burkes

811 4th St NW
Austin, MN

Lolita Huber

121 Bremer Ave Unit 15
Denver, IA 50622

To our JUMC Family,

We would like to thank you all for your kind words, prayers and cards at the passing of my daughter Cyndi. This was such an unexpected loss. Cyndi was only 47. I guess God needed a special angel. She loved her church and her church family. She got to visit the Holy Land last year with them. She will really be missed. I pray God will be with us all during this very difficult time.

Thank you, Bill and Nancy Bloker

September Anniversaries

Jack & Delberta Fisher	9/2
Rich & Karen Borglum	9/3
Tom & Mary Harrold	9/3
Aaron & Sandra Johnson	9/12
Andrew & Lindsey Eibey	9/14
Chris & Rachael Coffman	9/16
Lance & Amie Woodyard	9/20
Lawrence & Cindy Mau	9/21
Walt & Gerry Tarter	9/21
Robert & Sharon Barr	9/22



Scrap Metal and Electronics Drive

Saturday, September 26 from 9 am to 3 pm

Open to Public inc. surrounding communities.

Bring items to Janesville RR Event Center.

Sponsored by Janesville Lions Club

A-Line Iron & Metals, 1500 David St, Waterloo, sponsors "Scrap Drives" throughout the summer for non-profit organizations.

July 27, 2020

To Pastor Audrey, Administrative Council and members of Janesville United Methodist Church

I will soon be leaving this community and living in an apartment within the home of my daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and Stan Miller.

I will appreciate your prayers as I make this transition, which won't be an easy one for me, as I have been a member of this community and this church for 50 + years. Bill and I built our home and raised our children here. Through the years and at various stages in our lives, we have been involved with various community organizations and most especially with this church. We both participated in many committees, Men's and Women's group, Shepherd Ministry, Bible studies, Pie Making and many dinners and other activities. The church has always been at the forefront in our spiritual lives, and very supportive of our family, and of me at the time of Bill's death in 2013, and my hope is that we have been able to pay back some, also.

I do not plan to withdraw my membership at this time, though I know I will eventually become part of the membership of another church. I would like to continue participation in some activities from time-to-time, as I won't be that far away. (I can be here in a couple of hours if pies need to be made or Naomi Circle needs an extra set of hands)

I must resign from my position as Lay Leader at this time and trust that somebody else will be able to provide some new insight and ideas for this position. To my great regret, I cannot continue in my role with the Shepherds but will make myself available if needed.

This church has been a huge part of my identity and will always be present in my thoughts, prayers and memories.

Thank you, dear friends in Christ.

Mary Burkes



Ingathering Update

Saturday, November 7, 2020

Due to the COVID virus many of the Ingathering activities will not be held this year. The event has been reorganized and **WILL ACCEPT mission kits with social distancing precautions.**

The Mission Committee WILL BE taking kits to the event. Please have your mission kits to the church by Sunday, October 25th for consecrating and packing.

A reminder-there are new packing guidelines this year for some of the kits. If you don't have the current lists, contact Pastor Audrey or Cindy Spencer.

Be sure to shop soon-there may still be some bargains out there for school supplies!

For details, go to "<http://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects-patterns/midwest-mission>." Donate there or grateful for checks to the church with *Ingathering* in memo line also.

UMWomen and Circles

will not meet in September

September UMW Scripture

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58



Sunday School

We are hoping to begin our Sunday School classes on Oct 4. Depends on number of COVID cases in Janesville public school. If school is not held on Friday or Monday, there will be no church activities on Sunday. We want the kids and teachers to be safe.

Just in case you are wondering:

Black Hawk County COVID Statistics

- 4464 & 74 on 8/30 (52 & 1 death)
 - 4412 & 73 on 8/29 (46)
 - 4366 & 73 deaths on 8/28 (122 & one death-2 days)
 - 4244 & 72 on 8/26/20. (17 & 1 death)
 - 4227 & 71 on 8/25/20 (11 & 1 death)
 - 4216 & 70 on 8/24/20. (25 & 1 death)
 - 4191 & 69 on 8/22/2020 (91 & 2+ deaths in 2 days)
 - 4100 & 67 on 8/19/2020 (74)
 - 4026 & 67 on 8/18/20 (17)
 - 4009 & 66 on 8/17/2020 (44)
 - 3965 & 66 on 8/15/2020. (49)
 - 3916 & 66 on 8/14/20. (24)
 - 3892 & 66 on 8/13/20. (29)
 - 3863 & 66 on 8/12/20. (27)
 - 3836 & 66 on 8/11. (8)
 - 3828 & 66 on 8/10 (8)
 - 3820 & 66 on 8/09/20 (31 & 3 deaths & 1 in Bremer)
 - 3789 & 63 on 8/07/20. (22)
 - 3767 & 63 on 8/6/20. (34)
 - 3733 & 62 on 8/5/20 (26)
 - 3707 & B62 on 8/04/20 (10)
 - 3697 & 62 on 8/03/20 (17)
 - 3686 & 62 on 8/02 (17)
 - 3669 & 62 on 8/01/20 (18)
- (18 cases in Janesville last 2 wks)

Stewardship from Iowa Bishop Laurie Haller

Financial stewardship is an essential part of our life as disciples of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:7b-8, *“God loves a cheerful giver. God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work.”* Rev. Ron Carlson, Northwest District Supt, has a passion for stewardship.

What is it that you love? I have a favorite quote that is by Amy Carmichael, *“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.”* Are you giving to those things that you love? Do you love building new churches, preparing clergy and lay leaders for ministry, helping missionaries, expanding Bible studies, providing leadership for youth ministry, cooperating and dialoging with other faith traditions through interdenominational and ecumenical work, or advocating for peace and justice? These things and more are supported by your **General Church apportionment**.

Do you love camps, higher education, mission and ministry programs, advocating for women and minorities, developing leadership and disciples, caring for those in need or affected by storms? These things and more are supported by your **Iowa Conference Missions apportionment**.

Do you love your local church, your pastor, and lay leaders in your local church and around the conference? And do you love knowing about what is going on in the conference and the denomination? These things and more are supported by your **Iowa Conference Ministries apportionment**.

As we enter the last quarter of 2020 and plan for 2021, our stewardship in the form of apportionment-giving takes on an even more significant role in our conference. Covid-19 and other financial difficulties have reduced our cash reserves, and our 2021 budget no longer includes an allowance for unpaid apportionments, making our apportionment giving now more important than ever. **Over 78 percent of apportionment offerings stay here in Iowa working to support the mission and ministries of local churches, districts, and the Annual Conference.** These dollars support work that truly reflects what we love. >>>>^

>>>> I love the connectational nature of our Church because together we do so much more than any one of us can do alone. Together we will navigate this time and come out on the other side, stronger as a church more faithful as disciples and closer to our God and neighbor.

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.