

DECEMBER 2019

B.J.U.M.C. TOWER BELL

Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF

BISHOP JANES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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A dark blue illustration of a nativity scene. On the left, a manger is silhouetted against a bright starburst in the sky. Inside the manger, the figures of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus are visible. To the right, three camels with riders are silhouetted against the same starburst. The title 'OH, HOLY NIGHT' is written in a white, elegant script font across the upper right portion of the image.

OH, HOLY NIGHT

Reflections From the Pastor's Desk

"Oh, Holy Night" is one of my favorite advent hymns. It captures the beauty and magnificence of the expectation and waiting for the arrival of Jesus. I recall a particular moment in time that caught me offguard, as I heard the words "Fall on your knees, oh hear the angel's voices." These words filled me with shivers.

What would it have been like to be a shepherd in the field when the angels came? The first words out of the Angel's mouth were "Fear Not!" At countless places in the bible, when angels appear, or people find themselves in the presence of God, they are filled with a reverent fear. This is a respect of God, an acknowledgment of the perfection of God, and our imperfect state.

In many places, the Bible recounts people falling prostrate before the Lord. Moses had to be told by God to stand up, so he could speak with him. Isaiah was cleansed by angels touching coals to his lips when he stood in the presence of the Lord in a dream.

When I hear this song, it reminds me of the Holy reverence with which we should approach Christmas. This is the time of year we remember the coming of our Lord in human form. While we often speak of God as love, or as our friend, do we give sufficient reverence to the Creator of all that is?

This Advent season, while we look forward to the great joy that is Christmas, lets also remember to approach God with great reverence. May we all fall on our knees as we hear the Angel's voices, may we fully encounter the Lord. I pray each of you has an encounter with the Lord this season. May our encounters have such an impact that we all lie prostrate in a state of awe and wonder. Amen!

BISHOP JANES UMC PRESENTS:

A SERVICE OF

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for Worship on December 15, 2019,
at 9:30AM for a service of Biblical Lessons
and Carols. We will walk through the
scripture of the Old Testament from creation
to Advent, and the foretelling of the life of
Jesus. Come join us in worship for this
musical service of praise and worship.



LITTLE LAMBS - DECEMBER 2019

Little Lambs students and teachers are busy preparing for an exciting Christmas season! In our classrooms we will learn about the birth of Jesus and all the people and animals who attended this holy event. Children's voices singing traditional sacred carols will be heard throughout our building. In addition, we will have fun with gingerbread, Christmas trees, candy canes, card making and sharing God's love with our families and friends.

At the **Winter Market** on December 7th, please stop by the Children's craft room in room 3 to make a festive ornament or craft. Little Lambs will also have a table with home baked cookies – proceeds of this sale go directly to the school's Scholarship Program.

Holidays Around the World – Our four- year -olds will embark on a world tour to learn how different countries and cultures celebrate special holidays. We will study Advent, St Nicholas Day, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Diwali and Christmas around the USA. Guests will join us to explain and demonstrate foods and customs from their country.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 11:30 in the Sanctuary. Please join us for this beautiful and traditional pageant complete with nativity costumes and music. You will see angels, sheep, donkeys a camel, and of course the holy family.

After the pageant, refreshments will be served in the narthex. Thanks so much to Art Martin for providing audio visual support, Liz Elliott for accompanying the children's choir, Vince Baker for constructing the stable and the many talented BJUMC seamstresses for creating the beautiful costumes.

Our new event, **Christmas Fun**, will take place on Friday, December 20th in Wesley Hall, from 9am-12 PM. Three and Four- year- old students will enjoy baking Christmas cookies, making Christmas crafts and playing Christmas games and activities. Ms Jan from PEP club will be on hand to provide fun tumbling activities.

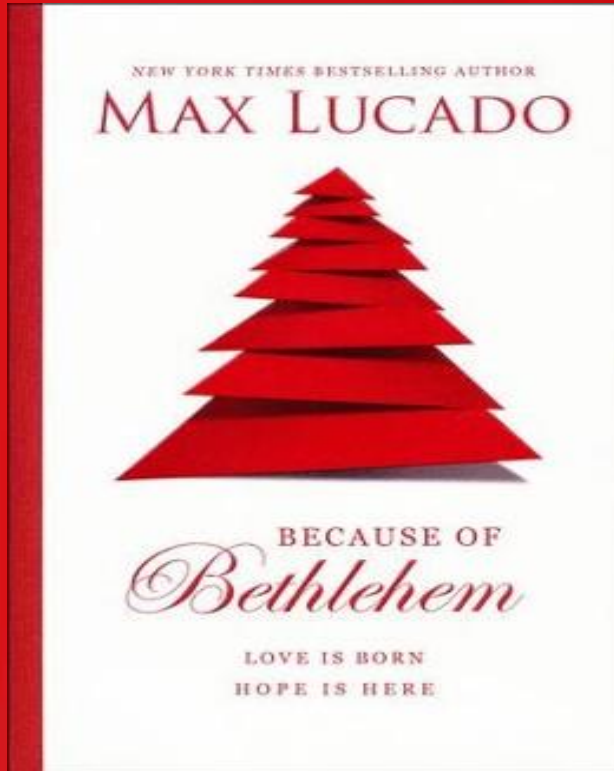
Looking ahead:

January 6 – registration for school year 2020 2021 begins!

January 20 – School is closed for Martin Luther King Day



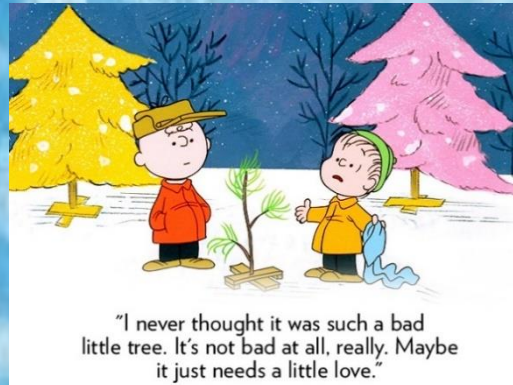
ADVENT BIBLE STUDY CLASS:



Advent is a very special time of year. We wait patiently to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who came to us in the most unexpected way; born in a manger, far away from the expectant crowds. In this four-week study, Max Lucado guides us on an exploration of how God came to us in human form, living the same life that we live, experiencing everything we do. We have the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us. More importantly, this promise lives every day, long after the Christmas decorations have been taken down.

Join us for this meaningful study after Sunday worship in the Conference Room. We'll begin December 1st and go until the 22nd. If there is enough interest we'll look to offer a class during the week or online. Signup sheets will be available in November so be on the lookout.

Serve The World Through Missions



- ❖ **take** a star with a child's name and gift idea written on it from the Camp YDP tree (located in the narthex) and purchasing a gift for a child in need. Details listed by the tree.
- ❖ **Bring joy** to a Co-op client by donating much needed items this month. Instant hot cocoa mix with marshmallows and youth winter boots (new or gently used) are the most requested items. Place donations in the Co-op bin located in the narthex.
- ❖ **Remember** our friends at the Somerset County Foodbank who especially need toiletry items. You can find the full list on the collection bin in the narthex. Men's razors / shave cream and women's personal hygiene items are especially appreciated.

Have a desire to help those in our community? Willing to share a special talent or gift with those in need? **Consider** serving on BJUMC's Serve The World Mission Team. Our next meeting will be January 15, 2020 at 7:30pm in the conference room. All are invited to share in the conversation as we discern how to be the hands and feet of Christ in Basking Ridge and beyond.

Questions? Contact Terri at dowie0101@aol.com

BJUMC YOUTH GROUP:

Our youth had a great time in November going to the Ignite Communities event at Bridgewater UMC. All Semester, we have grown together, learned together, and had a great time learning about faithfulness, false idols, and priorities.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

Dec. 8: Guest Speaker: Ryan Clements, GNJ Camping Ministry, regular schedule.

Dec. 15: End of year Christmas Party: please bring a gift, valued at no more than \$10 for a gift exchange. We will sing some songs, eat some food, exchange gifts, and play games.

Dec. 22 – No Youth Group

Dec. 29 – No Youth Group

MERRY CHRISTMAS! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



Christmas Trees Are Here!

The tree racks have been set up, 800 trees and 350 wreaths delivered to BJUMC and we've kicked off our 67th year of providing Christmas trees to the local community.

Now we need volunteers to sell the trees and wreaths - sign up online via a link on the Church website or on the sign up board in the Narthex of the Church.

Selling trees in the crisp fresh air of late fall with Christmas carols playing in the background is a wonderful experience. See the happy expressions on the faces of little children and their parents in the search of just the right tree to take home. Everyone is in good spirits and the wonderful aroma from Balsams, Frasers and Douglas Firs is in the air. A Dad who is a neighbor of the church said his three little girls loved to play around the trees so they signed up for several shifts to sell. Most customers tell us they always buy their tree from us and have been doing so for years, some as second and even third generation families.

Proceeds from the trees support local, national and international missions.

Questions? Contact Craig Morris at craigmorr@aol.com or Ian Lutes at ian.lutes@unb.ca

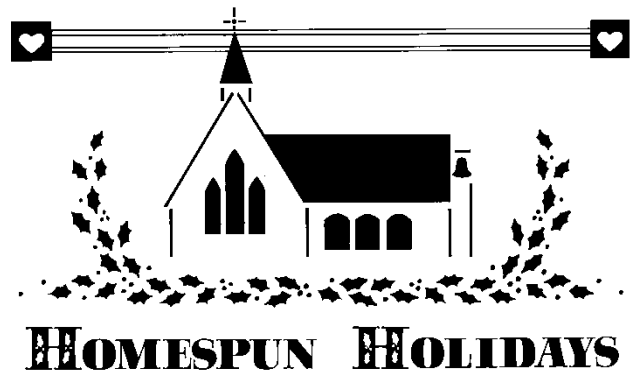


STEWARDS OF GOD'S WORD, STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE, STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN TOTALS:

Thank you to all who participated in our Stewardship Campaign, Stewards of God's Word and Stewards of God's Love. The campaign resulted in financial pledges of \$218,392, 13 Stewards committed to sharing God's word and bringing another family to church, and we received commitments of 7,601 hours of community service.



United
Methodist
Women



Saturday, December 7th
11:00am to 7:00pm

This year's Homespun Holiday Bazaar held in conjunction with the Annual Basking Ridge Business Alliance Winter Market promises to be one of the best ever! Come for lunch served in Melick Hall beginning at 11:00am to include two kinds of homemade quiche, salad, soup, chili, salad and hot dogs for kids of all ages. Come and shop! There will be Serrv International fair trade hand-crafted items, handmade and home-baked items, bake at home apple pies, Piecemaker quilts, jewelry, homemade jams and jellies, a silent auction with a variety of baskets and local merchant gift certificates, attic treasures and alternative gift giving opportunities.

Please also join us in Wesley Hall on Sunday, December 8th at 10:30am following the worship service for fellowship coffee and refreshments and last call for the bazaar.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, proceeds from this event support the United Methodist Women mission giving locally and globally as well as UMW ministries at Bishop Janes Church such as the Piecemaker Quilters and Prayer Shawl Ministry.

A last minute reminder that baked goods may be dropped off in Wesley Hall any time beginning Friday, December 6th or by 9:00am on Saturday, December 7th. If you can help during the day of the event, on Sunday, or for clean-up afterwards contact Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

Tuesday, December 17th
7:00pm

All women are invited for our December Holiday Gathering and Celebration at the home of Carol Lutes, 51 Summit Drive, Basking Ridge. Come and enjoy a time for conversation with dessert and coffee. In lieu of a gift giving exchange this year, we are collecting feminine hygiene products to be given to God's Coop Pantry in Bernardsville. New friends are always welcome. Contact person: Carol Lutes, carollutes@gmail.com

Tuesday, January 14th, 2020
7:00pm in Room 3/4

Back by popular demand!! Denise Rizvi, who conducted a meditation class for us last September will be back, but this time with a Nia fitness class. Nia cardio-dance workouts combine great music and simple dance moves with martial arts and healing arts to get you fit in 60 minutes.



More than just a great workout, Nia is a holistic fitness practice addressing each aspect of your life - body, mind and soul. Appropriate for all fitness levels, Nia will rock your body and soothe your soul! Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Class size will be limited to 15 persons. Contact person: Sonja Ryan, sonjaryan@hotmail.com



MEET THE COSTA RICA MISSION TEAM 2020!

At present we have a team of seven who will be traveling to central Costa Rica on February 29, 2020 to serve in mission with Rice and Beans Ministries. It is not too late to join us! If you are interested please contact Paul and Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com



Doug Shurts



Rick Stoker



Teresa Dresley



Cecilia Jameson



Pastor Matt Enzler



Paul and Linda Cargo

HELP US MEET OUR MISSION GOAL

One of our goals to serve in Costa Rica is to be able to fill and deliver at least 300 bags of food to families in need. Each bag will feed a family of four for one week. Please stop by the mission trip table in the church narthex following worship services in December and January to purchase and decorate a food bag (one or as many as you like!). \$20.00 per bag will help to cover the expense of purchasing food as well as some of our trip expenses. This is a personal and direct way for our congregation, family, friends and the community to participate in our mission. Another is to keep us in your prayers as we continue to fundraise and prepare ourselves for all that we will be doing.





Book Group

If you like to read and discuss books, join the BJUMC Book Group. It meets monthly from September-November and January-May, at 7:00 p.m. in classroom 3 /4. It is now held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are

considered. New members are welcome! We will be discussing Educated: A Memoir, by Tara Westover. Contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information. If you want to join the pre-discussion dinner at The Ridge restaurant at 5:30 p.m., please RSVP to Carol Lutes at (908-672-4600) or carollutes@gmail.com by January 9 at noon.

January 9, 2020: Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover (led by Barbara Kleinert)

An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

"Beautiful and propulsive . . . Despite the singularity of [Tara Westover's] childhood, the questions her book poses are universal: How much of ourselves should we give to those we love? And how much must we betray them to grow up?"—Vogue

"Westover has somehow managed not only to capture her unsurpassably exceptional upbringing, but to make her current situation seem not so exceptional at all, and resonant for many others."—The New York Times Book Review

February 13, 2020: The Grown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding by Jennifer Robson (led by Liz Elliott)

March 12, 2020: Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know by Malcolm Gladwell (led by Tami Lane)



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT

SERVICES



BJUMC CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

6:00 Family Friendly “Candle” Light Service: All children who attend will be invited to participate in the service.

7:00 All Basking Ridge Churches: Caroling on the Green

7:45 Traditional Candle Light Service with String Quartet

11:00 Candle Light Service with Communion



2019 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year, the Little Lambs School is leading the way and presenting our Christmas Pageant! **All Church Members are invited to share in this, and support the little lambs mission.**

The Pageant is **Wednesday, December 18 at 11:30 in the Sanctuary.** The pageant was written by Lisa Schofield, head teacher of the fours class. Pageant participants are the three and four-year-old classes. The fours are shepherds and angels; threes are sheep and donkeys.

Older brothers and sisters of current students play Mary, Joseph, Angel Gabriel and three wisemen. A highlight is always camel (a two person costume). After the Christmas story is told, students will sing several festive Christmas selections.

A reception for students, families and guests is held in the narthex following the program.

The pageant is hosted and narrated by Kim Dial; accompanist -Liz Elliott, audio visual - Art Martin, Stable construction- Vince Baker, program- Susan Sahler, costumes - BJUMC seamstresses.

Teachers work hard to share the Christmas story with the students as well as teach them the songs. Teachers are: Fours- Lisa Schofield and Trish Clark; Threes- Susan Sahler and Kim Starkes; Diane Reed and Robyn Laffey



ADVENT PRAYERS:

This Season can be extremely difficult for some people. Let's take time to intentionally to lift up those who are alone, who have suffered loss, who are facing uncertain futures, or are struggling with health concerns, financial hardship, or other life situations. Everybody has an untold story, let's pray for what we don't know.

While the Advent Season is traditionally a season of Hope, we lift up those who feel hope-less.

Let us, as a church, be the body of Christ. Let's be the family people need. Let's be extra invitational, going out of our way to include those who seem a little left out or alone, even if we don't know them. We won't get to know them unless we take the time to do so! What better time of year to be invitational than Advent!

Whether you are hosting any events or not, please keep our entire congregation, even our entire community, in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit move in new ways, sharing the light and love of Christ, and breaking through our human made barriers. Let us humble ourselves before God, making ourselves God's hands, that Christ's light may shine through us, and be the beacon of hope our community needs.

If you or somebody you know needs extra visitation this season, please let Pastor Matt know. Though this is a busy season, every effort will be made to visit as many as possible.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We would like to have at least one more teacher, and one or two more classroom assistants to have an optimal classroom rotation (once every 6 weeks). Curriculum is provided, you just show up and teach!

COUNTING: Help ensure proper financial procedures are maintained. For accountability, we follow “best practices” to ensure all our church funds are fully accounted for. We would like a team of 10 to create a full rotation, we currently have about 6.

MID-WEEK WORSHIP NEEDS: Beginning January 8, we will be offering a new mid-week service, Wednesday evenings 630-715. We need additional volunteers to make this work!

- **AUDIO VISUAL:** As we look towards next year, we have some volunteers already, but would like to expand this team to a more reasonable rotation
- **GREETERS/USHERS:** This will be a combined role at the midweek service. Simply hand out bulletins, greet people as they arrive, and help collect the offering.
- **MUSIC/OTHER ACTS OF WORSHIP:** If you would like to volunteer to lead our new worship, sharing your gifts, whatever they may be, please let Pastor Matt know as soon as possible!

BJUMC CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

***Please see official online calendar for most accurate calendar.**

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday, Dec 1:	9:30AM	Family Worship: Advent week 1
	11:00AM	Advent Bible Study
	4:30PM	Advent Wreath Making, Fellowship and Carols
Tuesday, Dec. 3:	9:30AM	Grace Circle
	7:30PM	Ridge HS A Capella Concert, BJUMC Sanctuary
Wednesday, Dec. 4	6:30PM	Bell Choir
	7:30PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, Dec. 5:	8:00AM	R.O.M.E.O.'s
	10:00AM	Piecemakers
Friday, Dec. 6:	8:30AM	Set up for Winter Market & Homespun Holidays
Saturday, Dec. 7:	8:00AM	Christmas Tree Unloading (100 Trees, last load)
	11:00AM	Homespun Holidays
	11:00AM	Winter Market
Sunday, Dec. 8:	9:30AM	Family Worship: Advent week 2
	10:30AM	Homespun Holidays, Last Call
	11:00AM	Advent Bible Study
	4:30PM	Middle School Youth Group
	6:00PM	High School Youth Group
Tuesday, Dec. 10:	7:00PM	UMW Monthly Gathering
Wednesday, Dec 11:	6:30PM	Bell Choir
	7:30PM	Chancel Choir

Saturday, Dec. 14: 9:30AM Healing Touch Ministry
 11:30AM Methodist Sisters Group

Sunday, Dec., 15: 9:30AM Family Worship: LESSONS AND CAROLS!
 11:00AM Advent Bible Study
 4:00PM Walk to Bethlehem
 5:30PM? Youth Group Christmas Party after Walk to Beth.

Monday, Dec. 16: 7:30PM Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 17: 7:00PM UMW Holiday Gathering

Wednesday, Dec. 18: 11:30AM Christmas Pageant
 6:30PM Bell Choir
 7:30PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, Dec. 19: 8:00AM R.O.M.E.O.'s Breakfast
 10:00AM Piecemakers
 7:00PM Church Council

Friday, Dec. 20: 7:30PM Singing Actor's Guild: Christmas Cabaret

Sunday Dec. 22: 9:30AM Family Worship: Advent week 4
 11:00AM Advent Bible Study

CHRISTMAS EVE: December 24:
 6:00PM Family Friendly "Candle" Light Service
 7:00PM Caroling on the Green
 7:45PM Traditional Candlelight Service, w/ String Quartet
 11:00PM Traditional Candlelight Service, w/Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 24: ALL DAY!

Sunday, December 29: 9:30AM Family Worship