

B.J.U.M.C TOWER BELL

November 2020

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

Published Monthly by:



22 South Finley Ave. Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
www.BJUMC.org

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A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

November is a month we often take time out to count our blessings. This year, this seems an even more important task. Looking at what the year 2020 has brought us, there is a lot of woe and worry that weighs heavy on our hearts. I believe, if we take time out each day, five or ten minutes or so, to specifically recount things in our lives that we are thankful for, a few different things will happen. First, by taking time out daily to specifically name the things we are thankful for, we become more aware of the blessings in our lives, cultivating an internal mindset of thanksgiving, hope, and happiness. Then, once we internalize our thankfulness, we should share our thankfulness with others. By sharing especially how thankful we are for others in our lives, we help them have something more to be thankful for, as they feel more appreciated. Ultimately, the third thing that can happen if enough people within a social circle participate in this, it will create an ethos, or culture of thankfulness. As a group, we will become uplifted, supported, internally and outwardly, growing in our thankfulness.

From this standpoint, it is easy to praise the Lord, and recognize God as the provider of our many blessings. As a community of faith, when we approach God with an attitude of gratefulness and appreciation, we properly humble ourselves and recognize God as the creator and sustainer of all that is. We share in our witness to our community at large as we become a people firmly rooted and grounded in our relation to the Lord, and our recognition of the Lord's blessings in our lives daily.

I pray that each of you finds peace this season. That you have many things to be thankful for, whether you see them at first, or not. That you can grow to be ever more thankful for the work of the Holy Spirit in your lives each and every day. We are a truly blessed community of faith. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity I have to be your Pastor. It is an honor and a privilege to work alongside you as we all continue to grow in our Christian faith. Each day, I stand in awe at the people of this church, their faithfulness through this season of life, and their willingness to bend and swerve, adapting and thriving. May God continually pour out blessings upon each of us, and may we become ever more aware of these blessings, and give God the glory for all these and more. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

PSALM 100:

Make a joyful noise to
the LORD, all the earth.

² Worship

the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence
with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is
God.

It is he that made us,
and we are his;^[a]

we are his people, and
the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with
thanksgiving,
and his courts with
praise.

Give thanks to him,
bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love
endures forever,
and his faithfulness to
all generations.



Family Ministries Fall 2020

PUMPKIN EXTRAVAGANZA UPDATE



What a wonderful evening we had on October 17th. If only we could catch the magnificent smells that came from the kitchen of those who baked! Many people learnt how Liz likes to “dump” her sketchily weighed ingredients in to a bowl and mix!! No one could believe that delicious pumpkin brownies could possibly come from such a gelatinous mess, but, hey presto! They did. The comments on the smells and the look of the finished product was amazing to behold. Many people did not follow the final instruction and wait till they were cool to try, but every one of us who couldn’t wait was rewarded in a most delightful way!

Debbie B made us all feel like calligraphy pros and what a beautiful Thanksgiving center piece the grateful pumpkin is turning out to be. Thank you so much Debbie. I am sure this will become a firm Thanksgiving tradition in many of our homes.

Then we made soup. It again filled our homes with amazing smells and I’m sure everyone will agree it was super simple too.

I will not name names of those who ate it all in one sitting.... but way to go BJUMC family!

If this has inspired you to join in our next activity, it’s not too far away. Do join us on November 14th for our Scavenger Hunt.

Exciting New Things to do in the Pandemic!

Hello everyone!

We, the family ministries team, are excited to tell you about not one, but TWO new upcoming opportunities to have fun with your church family friends.



Nov 14th Car Scavenger Hunt

Yes, here is an opportunity to get out of the house, no zoom required, and go on a Scavenger hunt in your car. Barbara H has devised a wonderful hunt for us. Thank you Barbara!

The hunt will kick off at 10am from Church. Pastor Matt will be at the church with the first clue. Then you will drive around and find the rest. If you arrive back at church with the correct answer by 12noon, there will be a gift card awaiting you (while supplies last). However, we also understand that the timings might not suit everyone, so the clues will go live on the website on Saturday 14th, and will remain available till sunset on Sunday 15th. If you email your correct answer in to the office, we will make sure you receive a gift card (while supplies last). Please observe all social distancing rules and wear a mask when you are not in your car.



December 5th Gingerbread House decorating.

We are going to have a gingerbread house decorating event on Saturday 5th December at 5pm. All ages welcome.

Don't worry, you do NOT need to make your own Gingerbread House! (Phew we hear you say). The church will be purchasing readymade kits for you to use. We will all decorate via zoom and take pictures to put on our website. No names necessary...

However, you will need to register for this activity by November 23rd, to allow us time to get the kits to you. The form to register will be available on the church website, under "events".

We hope you will join us at both, or one of the above events.
We can't wait to see you all and have fun together.

WE NEED YOU!



All age Christmas Eve Virtual Pageant

This year, the Christmas Eve family service will be virtual. So, we decided to have the whole of the BJUMC family, near and far, take part in a video. We want you to choose what you'd like to be – a shepherd, and angel or maybe a king. Your age is completely immaterial! We want all ages. 0-100+

Go to the church website – BJUMC.org and watch the story “A very Noisy Christmas”. Then, record yourself, or send a photo of the character you want to be. Use the words from the story.

If you were a shepherd, you might be asleep, (an easy one), or shouting “Wake up everybody” or “Jesus the rescuer has been born” etc.

An Angel might record “Shhhh” (you got it, another easy one), or “Peace on Earth” or “Glory to God”. Kings would say “Joy to the world” etc.

You've got the idea.

You can dress up, or not, you can film with your animals or be a modern angel - maybe cooking, or fixing a car! Anything that would be fun to watch.

Then, send your photos, or videos to: office@bjumc.org by November 28th, and we will hopefully make an amazing video for Christmas Eve.

Please please please record your video horizontally – it makes it much easier to edit! Any questions? Ask Liz at erp.elliott@gmail.com

LIVE NATIVITY

LIVE NATIVITY DECEMBER 5TH 1-3PM

Little Lambs Preschool and BJUMC are proud to present a live Nativity for the whole community, in the staff parking lot on December 5th.

Visitors will see Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Angels, Kings and Shepherds. Live animals including, sheep, goats and a donkey.

Animals provided by Swift Farms in Milford NJ and the New Providence Presbyterian Church has kindly loaned us their stable. Thank you to all the volunteers from LLTC and BJUMC.

Everyone is invited to stop by and join us in celebrating this Holy and Blessed season.



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United Methodist Women November 2020

The United Methodist Women are not able to host their annual Homespun Holiday Bazaar this year, but that has not stopped Bonnie Artell from canning her delicious homemade jams. Current flavors available for purchase: Strawberry, Ginger Peach, New Jersey Cherry, Strawberry Rhubarb, Peach Lavender, and Cranberry Orange Marmalade. Call or email Bonnie to place your order and arrange for pick up at her home at 98 Spencer Road, Basking Ridge. Email: bonnieartell@gmail.com or phone: 908-251-3886. Prices are \$4 (4-oz), \$7 (8-oz) and \$11 (12-oz).

Bonnie also has hand sewn Thanksgiving and Christmas themed table runners and placemats for sale. Contact her for more information.

Stay tuned for more Homespun Holiday favorites to be made available in the coming weeks. All proceeds will support the United Methodist Women mission



giving budget.

And The Award Goes To.....



Every year, in keeping with our Five Channels of Giving, the United Methodist Women nominate an individual to receive a Special Mission Recognition for dedication to service. For 2019, this award was given to Lyn Stake for giving of her time and talents in mission. Lyn recently stepped down from a term

with our Serve The World Ministry where she was instrumental in leading this ministry through a time of transition towards greater efficiency. She has participated in numerous mission trips around the world, most recently on one of our church trips to Costa Rica and has also supported our local UMW Holiday Bazaar by organizing Apple Pie Baking Day. **Congratulations Lyn!**

UMW CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

MONDAYS, November 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd, 9:30am, Walk and Talk at Dunham Park. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact person: Barbara Conca, conca@optonline.net or Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

Tuesday, November 3rd, 9:30am, Gathering at the home of Linda Cargo, 28 Oxbow Lane. All are invited for a time of devotion, prayer and discussion. We will meet on the back deck using church social distance guidelines. Please bring your mask. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

Wednesday, November 18th, 6:30pm, New Circle will meet for outdoors dining at the Washington House, 55 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge. All are invited for a time of fellowship and conversation. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

Tuesday, November 24th, 9:30am, Grace Circle will meet virtual on Zoom. Newcomers are welcome and invited to join in as we share our concerns, and join together for devotion, prayer and conversation. Watch for the meeting link which will be posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Gloria Walker, ghwalker1046@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 27th, 7:00pm, Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet virtual on Zoom. Newcomers are welcome and invited to knit along with us. Watch for the meeting link which will be posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

Women's Clothing Collection



The United Methodist Women are seeking donations of clothing that will be taken for consignment at **Erby's Elite Repeat Boutique** consignment shop which is conveniently located on Rt 202. Proceeds will support the UMW mission giving budget.

Items sought include seasonally appropriate (fall/winter) women's clothing of any size that is current and gently used including dresses, sweaters, tops, pants, jeans, coats, jackets, shoes. We will also accept accessories such as belts, hats, pocketbooks and jewelry. This will be an ongoing collection through the end of the year. Please contact Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com or 908-903-1834 with questions or to arrange for clothing donation pick-up. Clothing that is not consignable or does not sell will be donated to the thrift shop at Greenstone United Methodist Church in Washington, NJ.

Erby's Elite Repeat Boutique is located at 916 Kemble Avenue, Morristown, NJ and is open to shoppers Wednesday through Friday, 11am to 6pm and on Saturday, 10am to 4pm. A hand sanitizing station is located outside the door and U.V. lights are employed in the dressing room and lavatory after each use.

SERVE THE WORLD



IT'S TIME TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY TO THE CHILDREN of CAMP YDP

As in years past we at BJUMC are planning to provide a bit of happiness at Christmas by giving gifts to the children of CAMP YDP in Paterson NJ. Given all of the stresses of this year, Sherise Alleyne, the Director of CAMP, is anxious, with our help to provide a measure of stability and hope to the 60 children enrolled in the after school program.

The process of giving a gift is much the same as in years past, but with a few new ways to cope with Covid 19.

A CAMP Christmas tree will be set up in the Narthex on November 23rd, as in years past, with stars containing information about each child and their gift request. Please enter the Narthex directly from the rear parking lot.

A child's star can be taken from the tree any day, except Thanksgiving Day, from 11:30am to 4pm. Please remember to sign out any stars taken in the gift register next to the tree.

IMPORTANT COVID 19 RULES

5 persons can be in the Narthex at once Masks are required Use the hand sanitizing station when you enter the Narthex before touching **anything**

Please purchase and wrap the gift, securely attach the star, and place the gift

under the tree in the Narthex by December 16th.



If you need help selecting a star, or buying the gift, contact Peggy Shurts by email at peggyshurts4@gmail.com or by phone at 908-546-0164. Indicate gender and age preference and she will select a star from the tree for you, and give you the name, age, gender, and gift request information. Please purchase and wrap the gift, put a small sticker with the child's name on the gift, and place the gift under the tree in the Narthex by December 16th. If you would like to have the shopping for the gift done for you, Peggy will contact Gail Patterson who will arrange to purchase and wrap the gift for you, and drop it off under the Narthex Tree.

The gifts will be taken to Paterson on December 21st and distributed to the children at their Christmas party on December 23rd.

If you have any questions please contact Arthur Martin on 908-766-7275, or by Email on amartin405@aol.com.

The Serve The World Team thanks you for participating in this ministry of joy and love as we reach out to the children of CAMP YDP.



TOWER CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Our annual Christmas Tree program for Missions will proceed again this year as planned. A detailed protocol has been prepared to ensure that we can set up racks, accept delivery of trees and sell them as safely as possible.

Here are opportunities to help with the program:

Tree Rack Setup	Saturday, November 14 at 8:15 am (one week earlier than usual)
	Peter McArthur's barn 291 South Maple
	Racks will be transferred to the church set up
Unloading Canadian Trees	Saturday, November 21 - time to be confirmed (one week earlier than usual)
Unloading Pennsylvania Trees	Saturday, November 28 8:00 am
Selling Begins	Saturday, November 28
Unloading 2nd load PA Trees	Saturday, December 5 8:00 am

Around Bishop Janes UMC – November



At one time, Bishop Janes's parsonage was right next to the church itself – about where the Dutcher Center is now. It was convenient for our ministers to be so close to the church! (Probably some of them thought, from time to time, that it was too close!)

The parsonage had a pleasant, screened-in front porch, facing Finley Avenue. I spent some time there baby-sitting Jeffy, the son of Rev. Ray Harrison (1957-59). In general, though, the parsonage was old, and not very comfortable. For example, there was no heat in the kitchen (other than the stove): in winter, those working there usually had to wear overcoats and warm hats!

The space behind the parsonage was mostly taken up by the church parking lot, which did not hold many cars (particularly when Werring Chevrolet, next door, parked their cars in it). There was a garage, in the corner of that lot, that, by my time, usually held bundles of old newspapers. Boy Scout Troop 151, the troop that was based at BJUMC, held paper drives about twice a year – that was one of the few environmental activities available then, and many people got involved, donating and collecting papers to recycle. I was a member of Troop #151 myself.

One interesting event in the history of the parsonage was when a wad of Confederate currency was discovered there. Many people (including my mother) believed that this was evidence that the parsonage had been a stop on the Underground Railway, for escaping slaves. That's possible, although I'd say it was more likely that the money had been brought back by Civil War veterans.

The parsonage was finally torn down, and replaced by one on Spencer Road, during the ministry of Rev. Elmer Wilkins (1959-67).

Fall 2020 Adult Small Group Studies



Winter 2020/2021 Adult Small Group Studies

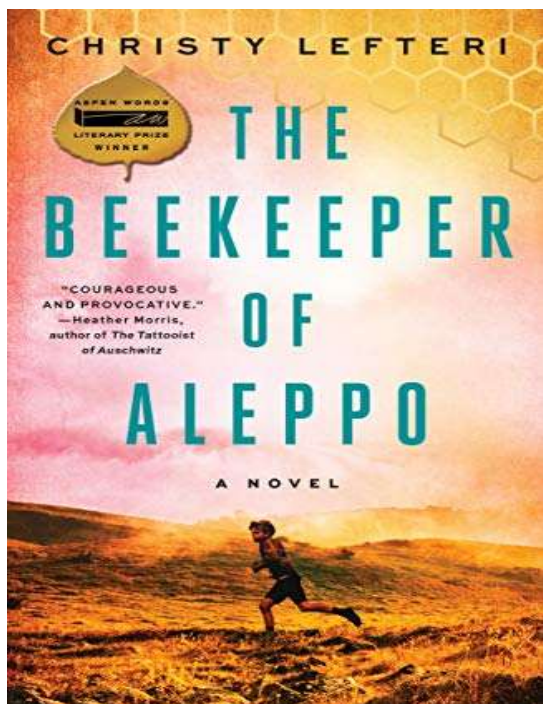
This winter we have a wide variety of education opportunities for adults and interested youth. Our gatherings are held on Sunday mornings from 11am until 12 noon. All of our fall classes will be virtual sessions via Zoom. You're encouraged to join the Fellowship Time after worship and at 11am you'll be moved into the class session. Here's what we have in store for the winter:

- **Spiritual Disciplines:** As Christians, we constantly seek to be in a closer connection with God. Over the centuries, a number of spiritual disciplines have been used by Christians everywhere. Some of these include breath prayers, walking the labyrinth, Lectio Divina. Our first exploration of spiritual disciplines will be on **Sunday, November 22nd**. We hope you will join us to learn more about growing closer to God through these practices.
- **Advent Study - Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience:** In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, video segments led by author and pastor Magrey deVega provide a springboard for exploration of Advent. In this four-week study we are encouraged to follow Christ wholeheartedly during Advent, connecting the Wesleyan heritage with traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. This DVD features four authors discussing the key ideas in each chapter of the book, including personal stories, conversation and insights on the Advent season. This program begins on the **first Sunday of Advent, November 29th** and **ends on December 20th**.
- **There will be no programs on Sunday, December 29th or January 23rd** for the Christmas/New Year's weekend.
- Beginning on **Sunday, January 10th** we begin a 5-week study of John **Wesley's 22 Questions** for self-reflection. As part of the United Methodist Church you may have heard someone ask, "How is your soul?" John Wesley actually developed a series of 22 questions that he used with his "Holy Club" at Oxford University as a means of daily personal reflection. In our discussions we will focus on how they apply to modern Christians.
- We'll explore another **Spiritual Discipline on Sunday, February 14th**. The following week begins **Lent which runs from February 21st through March 21st**. The course will be announced at a later date. We hope you'll consider joining some or all of our small group discussions. If you have any question, please contact Kevin Dresely at ddresely@comcast.net.

BOOK GROUP

If you like to read and discuss books, join the BJUMC Book Group. It meets monthly, usually on the 2nd Thursday of the month from September-November and January-May at 7:00 p.m. in classroom 3 /4. However, since social distancing is still required due to COVID, we will be meeting this month virtually on Zoom. Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are considered. New members are welcome! Please bring suggestions for books for February through May 2021. The log-in link with the password will be emailed it to all current attendees of Book Group prior to the meeting. Contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information, or if you also want to receive an email with the link. Our pre-discussion dinners at The Ridge Restaurant are still on hold.

November 12, 2020: The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri (led by Carol Lutes)



This unforgettable novel puts human faces on the Syrian war with the immigrant story of a beekeeper, his wife, and the triumph of spirit when the world becomes unrecognizable.

“A beautifully crafted novel of international significance that has the capacity to have us open our eyes and see.” —Heather Morris, author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*

WINNER OF THE ASPEN WORDS LITERARY PRIZE • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY REAL SIMPLE

Nuri is a beekeeper and Afra, his wife, is an artist. Mornings, Nuri rises early to hear the call to prayer before driving to his hives in the countryside. On weekends, Afra sells her colorful landscape paintings at the open-air market. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the hills of the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo—until the unthinkable happens. When all they love is destroyed by war, Nuri knows they have no choice except to leave their home. But escaping Syria will be no easy task: Afra has lost her sight, leaving Nuri to navigate her grief as well as a perilous journey through Turkey and Greece toward an uncertain future in Britain.

Nuri is sustained only by the knowledge that waiting for them is his cousin Mustafa, who has started an apiary in Yorkshire and is teaching fellow refugees beekeeping. As Nuri and Afra travel through a broken world, they must confront not only the pain of their own unspeakable loss but dangers that would overwhelm even the bravest souls. Above all, they must make the difficult journey back to each other, a path once so familiar yet rendered foreign by the heartache of displacement.

Moving, intimate, and beautifully written, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* is a book for our times: a novel that at once reminds us that the most peaceful and ordinary lives can be utterly upended in unimaginable ways and brings a journey in faraway lands close to home, never to be forgotten.

“This novel speaks to so much that is happening in the world today. It’s intelligent, thoughtful, and relevant, but very importantly it is accessible. I’m recommending this book to everyone I care about.” —Benjamin Zephaniah, author of *Refugee Boy*

January 12, 2021: [All Adults Here](#) by Emma Straub



Greetings in Christ from the Finance Committee,

Over the month of October, we held out annual pledge drive. We will be working to calculate totals in the coming days, as many pledges are still coming in. Due to the virtual nature of our church, a delay in receiving pledges was expected. Please help us out by getting your 2021 pledge in as soon as possible. We are excited to see the various ways our church members pledge to support the mission of Christ through our church. We take seriously our covenant relationship with the Lord, and joyfully commit not only our resources, but also our service, and in intentional effort to create discipleship relationships. Many thanks to all who have responded to date.

The month of October posted a small deficit. Over the month of October, we expensed/spent a total of \$20,205, while receiving a total of \$18,378, for a small deficit of **\$1827**. Year to date, our church has received a total of \$233,903, and have spent a total of \$239,077, for a year to date deficit of **\$5173**. It should be noted, this is well within the expected range of seasonal fluctuation for any given year at this point in the fall, and we still anticipate having a balanced budget, if not a small surplus at the end of the year. Additionally, the numbers above do not include the impact of the PPP, which would also more than make up for the seasonal deficit.

Our church has much to be thankful for. We have accomplished a lot this year, drastically changing our approach to ministry, and doing as best we can to adapt to the safety and health needs of the times. We are grateful for all the ministry teams which have worked hard to cut their budgets through the course of the calendar year. Due to Covid-19, we have had a significant drop in income related to rental fees, as well as fundraisers, a combined sum of 20-25K. Thankfully, our church is operating substantially under budget, which had made up for these losses, all the while allowing us to invest in safety protocol and infrastructure in our church building. We are also pleased to report that tithing at our church remains strong, and is outpacing our budget by a small margin. This is an incredible testament to the generosity of our faith community.

Many churches are struggling to pay their bills these days. Across New Jersey, our Annual Conference has paid out or set aside over 1 Million dollars to ensure the salaries and benefits of many pastors in churches that are unable to do so during this health crisis. Our church is poised, for the second year in a row, to pay 100% of our "shared ministries." These are the amounts that go to the GNJ Conference (regional body of the UMC) to support these ministries in struggling areas, as well as all other connectional ministries. We thank you for helping us be good stewards of our resources, as we help support the overall ministry of the Methodist Church across New Jersey and beyond. Together, we truly can support the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

Yours in Christ,
BJUMC Finance Committee



PRESERVING A HERITAGE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY AND BEYOND

NEPTUNE, NJ—October 12, 2020—The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJ) passed legislation last week to allocate \$1 million to preserve a Native American church and burial ground, and to give back church land and buildings to a Native American tribe when congregations close in two New Jersey counties, Salem and Cumberland.

Cyndy Mosley, the chairperson of GNJ's CONAM and a member of the Lenape Tribe said, "This is historic and what we have sought, a recognition that indigenous people of NJ were moved off our land to a reservation and our land was taken from us."

"The people of GNJ always seek to do the right thing when they learn about and understand past injustices," said Bishop John Schol. "The people of GNJ are committed to ending the sin of racism in our church and communities," Schol added.

GNJ will also create and dedicate a memorial at its Pinelands Camping and Retreat Center in the NJ Pinelands to the Native Americans of New Jersey. Native Americans were forced to leave their land and settle in the Pinelands where the camp is located. "The memorial will also be educational and share the history of Native Americans in NJ so that we can teach campers about the history of Native Americans in New Jersey," said Next Generation Ministries Executive Director Eric Drew.

The funding and actions for Native American heritage and preservation is part of Greater New Jersey's A Journey of Hope plan for racial justice, equity and inclusion as GNJ seeks to end the sin of racism. The full plan may be found [here](#). The \$5 million plan outlines training and education, community engagement, congregational and leadership development and addresses racism and bias in policies and procedures of GNJ.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Over the last year or two, our church has switched from a staff led model to a volunteer led model. We still have a lot of things around the church which need volunteers, in order to maintain our ministries. Most Ministry teams have modified a lot of their programming to make them more volunteer friendly. As a church, we uplift and thank all of our volunteers for the work they do to make this a wonderful place to worship, fellowship, and be a part of the body of Christ in Mission!

Just a few of the places we need more volunteers:

- **AN URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS TO RUN THE SOUND DESK, TO ENABLE LIVESTREAMING OF OUR WORSHIPS. We are seeking 3-4 new people interested in running the live-stream component.**
- **Counters**
- **Family Ministries Team (Event Planning and execution)**
- **Local Missions Teams: Foodbanks, Mask-Making, Contact/Service Team, and more!**
- **Director of Reconciling Ministries, Team Member**

Share with your Friends!



Inviting your friends to church has never been easier. With so many options to choose from: daily devotions, worship services, small groups, all you have to do is share the link with a friend.

- “Liking” is different from sharing. We appreciate the likes, it makes us feel all warm and fuzzy inside, and lets us know people appreciate our work, but sharing is a way you can profess your faith, and invite others to join you. It’s really that simple!
- To share just click the **share** button on the Facebook post, and it will be on your page, so your friends know what your interests are. It’s a simple way of sharing your faith. No longer can you say, “I don’t have the words,” all you have to do is click the **share** button, and you’re done. It’s that simple