



APRIL 2020

TOWER BELL

NEWSLETTER

B.J.U.M.C.

Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF

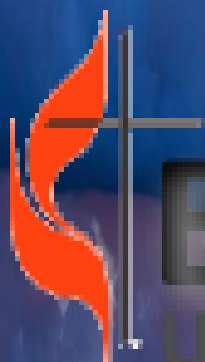
Bishop Janes
United Methodist Church

22 SOUTH FINLEY AVENUE, BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920

www.BJUMC.org

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Bishop Janes
United Methodist Church

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

EASTER 2020

Rev. Mathew J. Enzler

Each year, Easter is marked as a great day of hope, joy, and love, as we see the promises of Jesus fulfilled in his resurrection! This year may be different, but is no less cause for us to celebrate this wonderful day of remembrance!

In each of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), Jesus foretells his death and resurrection 3 times, a fitting number, a wonderful number; there are three identities of God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Jesus was laid to rest and rose on the third day, Jonah spent 3 days in the fish's belly, there are countless places the number three comes into our bible and heritage. Yet, those three days, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter are so incredibly diverse, it is hard to imagine they're part of the same story.

I always feel like I'm on an emotional roller coaster going through Holy week. I feel the intensity of Jesus' prayers on Maundy Thursday, after his final instructions and meal with his disciples, awaiting his arrest. On Friday, I always have mixed feelings, some of complete joy, recognizing the "good" God who became incarnate as a human here on earth, lived a perfect life, and freely offered himself as a living sacrifice for all, taking on all human sin as both an act of obedience to the father, but also as an act of divine love. On the other hand, I have shame, shame for my own sin which he paid the price for, shame for the ongoing sins of humanity, and I feel anger that we as people, our sin, our disobedience is ostensibly what put him up on that cross. On Saturday, I often feel a sense of loneliness, remembering our creeds, wondering what it would have been like for Jesus to "descend." But then, as if to cap of the roller coaster with a G-force of emotion, the joy of the triumphant resurrection comes storming in bright and early on Easter Morning. In His resurrection we see the promise of our own resurrection, we have hope in our salvation, and we have joy for we know that we

live in him, and him in us. Indeed, Holy week is a roller coaster of emotions for me, as each day plays a particular part of the story of our salvation, whipping us back and forth from joy to sadness to joy, and so forth.

This year, it is all but certain we will still be in our self-quarantined states on Easter. As a church, we will still celebrate Easter, and all of Holy Week, together, but apart. I hope you have been able to find our worship services online. If anybody needs help figuring out how to do that, please contact me through my email, or give me a call. We will have Palm Sunday this Sunday, April 5 at 9:30AM as we celebrate Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem, as he was heralded and praised. We will have our normal midweek praise service Wednesday at 6:30 PM. We will pick up with Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 PM, in which we recall Jesus final acts of service to his disciples, and the last supper. On Good Friday, April 10th, we will have a dramatic reading of the Gospels, walking us through the stages of the crucifixion, but then we will look at “why is it called Good Friday, when it seems so bad?” as we explore the greatness of God’s love in the work of the cross. Then on Easter, we will join together to celebrate the resurrection, and praise God for the great wonder and joy of this event, and all that it means for us.

Being apart from one another right now is hard. We are a family, and we care deeply about one another. I am humbled when I see how greatly this congregation is doing to care for each other right now, through phone trees, through online meetings, through new and innovative ministries, being intentional about meeting people’s needs, and extremely generous offers being made left and right in this time of great anxiety for many. I hope you will join us online for these events, but I also hope that once we get the all clear, and come back together later this spring, we can have a proper celebration of these wonderful events in the liturgical season. Wouldn’t it be great if that happened at around Pentecost? The Holy Spirit could come roaring through our congregation, and fill us with wonderful gifts that just overflow!

I have already seen many of these gifts in our congregation in the last few weeks that we have been closed. I am thankful for the each of you. I truly feel that the Spirit of the Lord is alive and well in this congregation, and doing amazing things. We have accomplished so much in the last year, and have recently doubled down in the face of this virus. I am truly honored to be a part of this congregation; you inspire me each and every day. I look forward to meeting with you again in person soon.





United Methodist Women

BJUMC UMW NEWS, April 2020

ONE DAY RETREAT, RESCHEDULED:

The U.M.W. One Day Retreat has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2020, 9:30am to 3:00pm at the Fellowship Deaconry, Liberty Corner, New Jersey. More

details and registration forms will be available beginning September 1st.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE, RESCHEDULED:

The Annual Rummage Sale and Clothing Sale will be a combined event and are tentatively being planned for Friday, September 18th and Saturday, September 19th in both Wesley and Melick Halls. Collection will begin on Sunday, September 13, 2020.

FROM OUR TREASURER

Joanne Johnson is happy to report that the UMW budget for 2020 was approved in February and that funds were disbursed in early March to the following UMW mission giving organizations: God's Coop Pantry, Good News Home for Women, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Jail Chaplaincy of Somerset County, Red Bird Mission, Ridge Oak Care Fund, Safe and Sound of Somerset County, Samaritan Homeless Interim Program, The Food Bank Network of Somerset County, Rice and Beans Ministry, The Maker's Place in Trenton, and United Methodist Homes. In addition to UMW District obligations, funds have also been committed to Camp YDP, Church World Service, BJUMC Youth Mission Trip, Prayer Shawl Ministry and Piecemaker Quilters.

CAN YOU HELP?

Gloria Walker is sewing medical masks that will be given to local hospitals during this time of great need. She is looking for 1/4" to 3/8" elastic and pipe cleaners. If you have any to spare please contact her at ghwalker1046@gmail.com



Thank you for doing this Gloria!!



Faith Talks

A UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PODCAST

Even in the face of fear and uncertainty, we know faith is possible. Join other women of faith for a live recording of the @UMWomen #FaithTalks podcast. To accommodate you, two separate recordings will be available on Thursday, April 2. You can join one or both sessions.

The first recording is from 2:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET on April 2 when Jennifer Farmer will interview United Methodist Women Executive for Spiritual Growth & Formation [Nora Cunningham](#) and guests [Dr. Melany Silas](#), [Minister Onleilove Alston](#), [Rev. Jim Keat](#). The

session will be held via Zoom Video Conference and you can register here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WBWvUZDPR_u8rmvSSojyrg.

The second one is from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET on April 2 when Jennifer Farmer will interview [Nora Cunningham](#), [Rev. Katey Zeh](#), [Pastor Gail Dudley](#), [Valerie Ashford Brown](#). To listen to this session, which will also occur via Zoom, register here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OSQ672aPSMiGGBsCXkaF5w.

In these special #FaithTalks recordings, we will gain insights on remaining faithful in the face of fear, connecting spiritually during social distancing and strategies for online worship.

Prior to the call, you'll want to download Zoom on your phone or computer. Once you download Zoom, you'll have the option of joining via computer or phone. Should you have questions for the panelists, please email them to at jenniferr@spotlightpr.org.

GRACE CIRCLE will meet twice in April using Zoom, Monday, April 6th and Tuesday, April 28th at 9:30am. 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

NEW CIRCLE will meet for dinner on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30pm using Zoom. Newcomers are welcome and invited to join us for dinner and conversation. Watch for the meeting link which will be posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00pm using 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: Kathy Liu, kliuridge@gmail.com

PIECEMAKER QUILTERS will not be meeting until further notice. Contact person: Bonnie Artell, bonnieartell@gmail.com

BJUMC 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. Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are considered. New members are welcome! We will be discussing The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd . If the social distancing precautions are still in place because of COVID-19, Book Group will still be held, but virtually, on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Matt will set up the log-in link to join the discussion, and it will be emailed it to all current attendees of Book Group. Contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information, or if you also want to receive an email with the link.

April 16, 2020: The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd (led by Barbara Conca)

From the celebrated author of *The Secret Life of Bees* and the forthcoming novel *The Book of Longings* about two unforgettable American women. Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world.

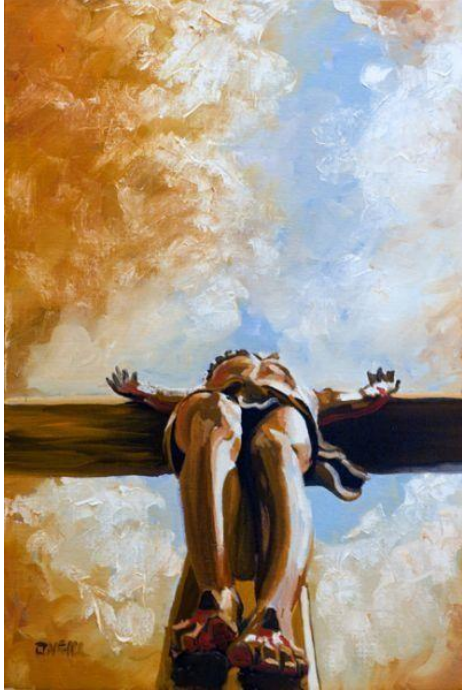
Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women.

Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.

As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements. Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented, including Handful's cunning mother, Charlotte, who courts danger in her search for something better.

This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved.

May 14, 2020: This Is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel (led by Janet Kaefer)



Serve The World Through Missions

“ We cannot face large-scale crises as individuals, we cannot carry the pain of this reality on our own, nor can we only look out for ourselves. The pain is communal and so must be the response.” – Dr. Barbara Holmes

During this challenging time, I invite you to change perspective, to listen to the Spirit and discover new ways to be the Church and help one another.

Below are several ways we can continue to be Christ for others in this great time of need. We invite you to join in this flow of mission and service.

- ✚ God's Co-op continues to distribute food, now outdoors, in compliance with CDC regulations. Consider assisting with moving food bags from the pantry to the parking lot.
- ✚ Somerset County FoodBank continues to serve as well. Please consider online donations through the following link:
https://amplify.ampyourgood.com/user/campaigns/3367?fbclid=IwAR03RbPu4nQPYG1X_eEZWHe2NUvin5rFEftCgEz6dEPp5eSKBKYL4MS1XBQ
- ✚ Please remember those in our community who are isolated and alone at this time. If you or someone you know is in need of a phone call or other connection, please let Pastor or myself (dowie0101@aol.com) know, as we have a team of folks ready to reach out and connect!
- ✚ [Follow this link](#) to help make facemasks for the residents and employees of our United Methodist Communities
- ✚ Support your church. Go to <https://www.bjumc.org/> scroll down to the “donate now” button on page one.
- ✚ Pray for Pator Matt and our Lay Leaders. Offer them words of thanks, hope and encouragement!

Stay well,
Terri Faltas, Serve The World Chair



Rice & Beans Mission Trip to Costa Rica, A Testimonial by Doug Shurts

Thank you to those who graciously supported our mission trip to Costa Rica. Your loving support came in so many ways:

purchasing and decorating the food bags, making beautiful dresses for the young girls, raising money which provided boys clothing, school supplies and toys. Your generosity, thoughts and prayers helped us to make a bigger impact on the lives of these loving people who need so much.



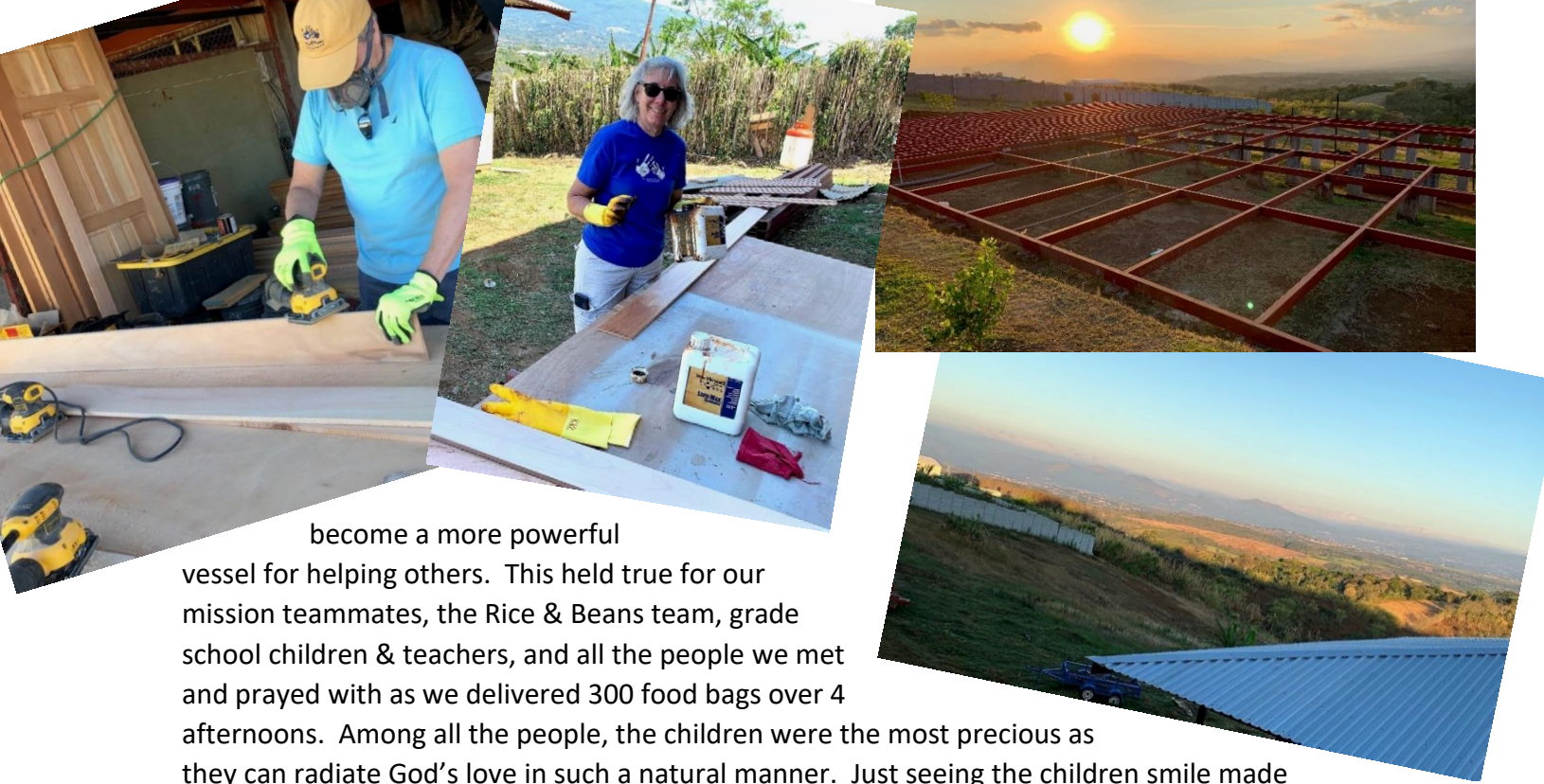
We had nine people participate this year. There were 6 BJUMC members: Linda & Paul Cargo, Theresa Dresely, Cecilia Jameson, Pastor Matt and myself, Doug Shurts. In addition, we had Rick Stoker who has joined us on earlier trips as well as Pete and Nancy Denman from Arizona. In line with our own BJUMC Mission Statement, ***Welcome ALL, Grow Closer to God, Serve the World***, this mission certainly hits the bullseye in Serving the World. However, you will see it also strongly encompasses *Welcoming All* and for all of us *Growing Closer to God*.

The main Mission related activities were: greeting, praying and providing food bags to families in impoverished areas, construction work and sharing God's word through arts & crafts projects and even some of us playing "Futball" AKA soccer with children in the schools.

This was my third Rice & Beans Mission over the five years BJUMC has sent teams to Costa Rica. What impacted me the most is the degree of poverty within which these people live. Many of their homes are basic huts with corrugated roofs and dirt floors. Their lives are much simpler and certainly less clutter free than ours. They are inviting, humble and God loving people. We found from our visits and our prayers together, they have the same joys, concerns, fears, love of family, and need for prayers of healing for family members and friends as we do. From this brief perspective, let me share with you what I personally found to be very spiritually significant as well as what our days were like.

Most powerful for me are the connections we make every day with all people through Jesus' love and the work we do with the power of the Holy Spirit. Fellowship can mean a number of things to a Christian but to me fellowship at its' elevated level, involves actively growing closer to God in doing his work as a body together. Working through the Holy Spirit, we





become a more powerful vessel for helping others. This held true for our mission teammates, the Rice & Beans team, grade school children & teachers, and all the people we met and prayed with as we delivered 300 food bags over 4 afternoons. Among all the people, the children were the most precious as they can radiate God's love in such a natural manner. Just seeing the children smile made all the time and effort worth it.

The families we visited were so appreciative of how far away these mission teams travel from to help them, spend time and pray with them. To see the joy in their eyes and the smiles on their faces showed us how not only did we "Welcome All" but they welcomed us as well.

Our days were long but extremely rewarding. We started our morning devotional at 6:30 AM and worked until about 3:30 PM. We then packed food bags, traveled to different neighborhoods to meet with families and delivered food. At the end of every day we traveled back to Rice & Beans' Director President, Fred Curry, Jr.'s home for dinner, prayers and conversation. About 7:00pm we took the short trip back to our dorms on the Rice & Beans property.

Our Bible devotions were wonderful spiritual perspectives to start each day and the sunrise and sunsets were awesome (see pictures above!)

Some of the work I did included cleaning, sanding and painting large metal beams and cross supports. Most of work included sanding and standing trim wood to be installed in the second dorm room. This work was important as this new dorm building will house many more mission people that can perform even more of God's work.

These mission trips have been memorable, life changing experiences for me. We are so blessed in our lives and God has given each of us unique talents to share wherever life takes us. Each year I rethink how I live and what changes I want to make as a Christian. If this mission experience is something you might like to try or you just want to learn more, please reach out to one of us who attended. It will be worth your time to explore this opportunity. See where the Holy Spirit leads you.

Doug Shurts



Little Lambs

TODDLER CENTER

A Ministry of Bishop Janes Church

Little Lambs has been closed officially since March 13. It's a difficult time for everyone, including the children. They do not understand what's happening and miss their friends and teachers.

The Little Lambs teachers have been reaching out via email several times per week to connect with the students and their families. They have sent craft ideas, lessons, games, songs and family activities to help keep the little ones engaged. It is still spring and the wonder of God's beautiful world is an art studio in itself!

Parents have also stepped up – sharing ideas for activities, and sending instructions for art and craft projects that can be done at home. Several parents have set up Zoom chats with class members and the children have had great fun with that as well.

One of our enrichment classes, Wee Little Arts, will start online classes on Monday, March 30. In addition to addressing the currently enrolled students, WLA will be offering all three and four -year -olds a chance to participate at reduced rates.

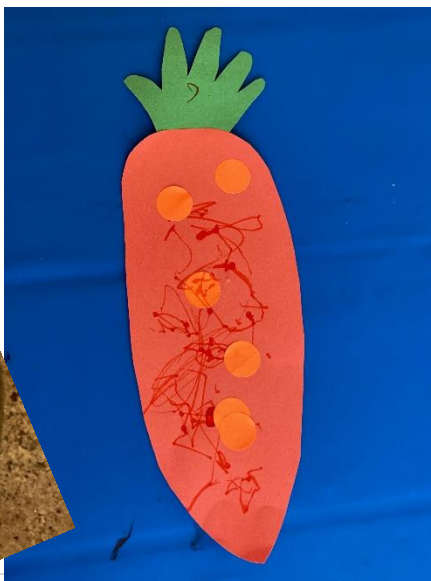
A big thank you to the Board of Directors, for establishing a plan of action for our school. We are solidly positioned to meet the needs of the school in this challenging time. Special thanks go to Diane McIntire, Board President, and Bob Parker, Board Treasurer for their many hours of hard work.

As of now, Little Lambs is scheduled to re -open on April 27. We typically follow the Bernard's Township School District schedule and will align with their re opening date. Of course, we will extend the date if necessary.

In this stressful time, we will try to remember to be thankful. I am reminded of the prayer that our fours class prays every day before snack, "God, we thank you for our food , for rest and home and all things good; for wind and rain and sun above, but most of all for those we love. Amen"

Amen to that!

Kim Dial, Director





Around Bishop Janes UMC By Ted Schroeder

Greetings in Christ! I will be writing a short piece about BJUMC for the Tower Bell (unless I get cancelled). The pieces will feature history of the church, occasional theological issues (but mostly I plan to leave that to Pastor Matt), and other miscellaneous items. This first piece is about the name of our church, or, as newcomers sometimes ask, “Who was this Bishop Jane, anyway?”

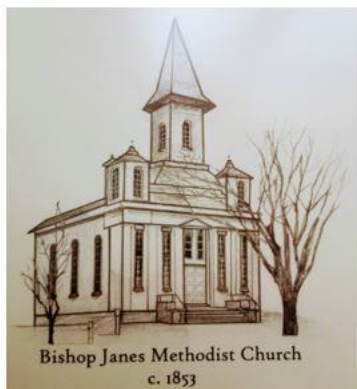
Bishop Janes played a pivotal role in the building of our first church, in the 1850s. No, there was no female Bishop in the Methodist Church in those days. But Bishop Edmund S. Janes was a very notable character, as described in pp. 3-5 of the history, “Basking Ridge Methodism”, written mostly by my father, Edward A. Schroeder III. Bishop Janes was a Doctor of Medicine and a Doctor of Law, as well as a Doctor of Divinity, so he had our Pastor Matt beat. He moved to Bernardsville in 1851, and specialized in helping to establish new churches. His duties as Bishop were not geographically limited, as they are now – he and three other Bishops covered the entire United States.

The story of the start of building our church (pp. 20-21), as told in the words of Rev. William Day, the pastor:

“We had only four male members at the Ridge, not one with means... The contract for building required that the stone for the foundation and the basement should be placed gratuitously on the site by friends of the enterprise. The pastor found it impossible to create sufficient interest in the community to do this.

“The Bishop, returning after an absence ... heard the situation of the pastor and said, ‘I will help tomorrow.’ Early the next morning the pastor ... saw Bishop Janes driving a double team of oxen drawing a large wagon loaded with stone he had gathered... Three days we worked together in this way, carting stone. By Bishop Janes’ example the stones were gathered...”

In 1854, the “new, almost debt-free church” was dedicated (p. 22). A picture is on p. 23. This wood church was very small, but it served our congregation until about the turn of the last century. Nor did Bishop Janes’ assistance end with those stones.





GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

Previously, the General Conference, which by our Polity and Discipline is required to happen once every quadrennium was scheduled to take place in early May of 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Unfortunately, due to the recent Corona Virus epidemic sweeping across the nation, and the world alike, this vital conference had to be postponed. It is uncertain at this time when the General Conference will convene, but it is anticipated that it will likely take place sometime in 2021.

This is heartbreaking news to many, as this conference has widely been seen as the opportunity for a restructuring of the church. Many proposals for the splitting of the church have been advanced over the past 6 months, and many more are anticipated to come forward.

Our Annual Conference, Greater New Jersey (GNJUMC) has taken the lead, along with several other annual conferences across the United States, to allow local churches and congregations to determine their own future, and live their own truth now.

Here at Bishop Janes United Methodist Church, we have adopted a “Welcome All” statement, which clearly states our position on full inclusivity of all persons within the church. We remain committed to this stance, and continue to live our truth to the fullest.

It is important that in the coming months we remain patient, and understand that this delay was caused by a true health emergency, not the strategic manipulation of one side or another. We need to continue to give grace to all, just as we receive grace daily. Let’s continue to let our light shine, as we live into our truth, and proclaim God’s divine love for all the world!

Additionally, our Conference (GNJUMC) has also postponed our Annual Conference which is typically held in late May. No date has presently been set for when this will take place, but we will keep you informed as this information becomes available.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE:

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

View this special service online at www.facebook.com/bjumc

We will focus on the final acts of service of Jesus, as he washed the feet of the disciples as an act of grace. There will not be communion at this service. We will participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion as soon as we are able to gather again.



GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 10, 7:00PM

Join us online at www.facebook.com/bjumc

We will remember the suffering of Jesus, through a reading of the scripture, followed by an extrapolation of God's Love, as we ask the question, why is this day called "good"? Join us to hear and understand the glory and grace of God through this service.



EASTER SERVICE

APRIL 12, 9:30AM

CHRIST IS RISEN! Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, and our hope for eternal life in Christ. The service will be livestreamed at:

www.facebook.com/bjumc



NEW EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Live Streamed, Wednesdays at 6:30

www.facebook.com/bjumc

A MIDWEEK WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Presently, All in-person services at the church are cancelled. All services will be live streamed online at www.facebook.com/bjumc. Please do not go to the Church, even if the service is being streamed from there, until the governor's order is lifted. We want to encourage everybody to stay healthy and safe, and follow best practices.

BEST SUMMER EVER!

Check out our website this fall for more information about
summer camping at Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery.



2020 IGNITE SUMMER CAMPS

July 20 – 25, 2020

CAMP INSPIRE | GRADES 6 - 12

For all kinds of artists! Come for singing, acting, photography, painting, poetry and more.

July 27 – Aug. 1, 2020

CAMP TRANSFORM | GRADES 6 - 12

Calling all world changers! Have fun and learn to put faith into action
to change your community and the world.

Aug. 3 – 8, 2020

CAMP SPROUT | GRADES 1-5

Adventure, fun and faith for elementary students.

Aug. 10 – 15, 2020

NIÑOS Y JOVENES | GRADES 1 - 12

A week of celebrating faith and Hispanic heritage! Grow closer to God
in a place where Hispanic heritage is celebrated.



IGNITE

Find out more at: www.gnjnextgen.org

Spring Adult Small Group Bible Study

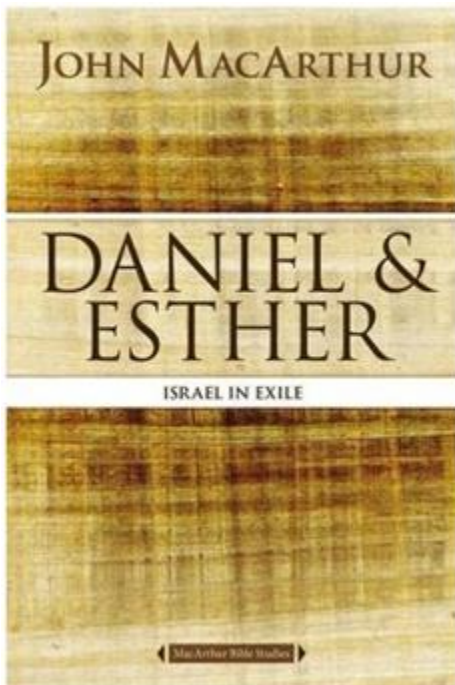
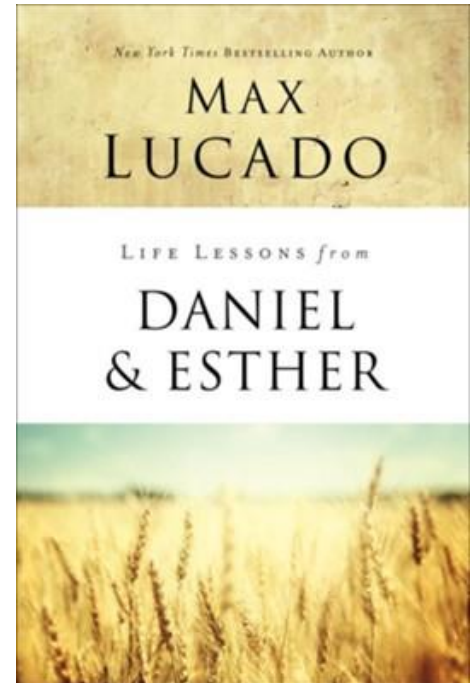
Daniel and Esther

Beginning on April 19th, our Spring small group study will focus on two books of the Old Testament; Daniel and Esther. These incredibly interesting books offer a glimpse of how the Jews struggled to sustain their identity and relationship with God during times of great upheaval—living in exile under the rule of first the Persian Empire, and later the Babylonians. Esther is a true heroine of the Old Testament and Daniel is an example of apocryphal writing in the vein of its more well-known New Testament example, Revelation.

For this study we will be working with two resource books. The first is by John MacArthur titled, "Daniel & Esther: Israel in Exile," and the second is "Life Lessons from Daniel & Esther," by Max Lucado. Each of these studies take a different approach to these books, so we'll be pulling information from both in order to take a broad look at Israel's exile through the lens of these amazing people.

Our small group will ***meet virtually via the internet*** on ***Sunday mornings from 11 am until 12 noon from April 19th through June 14th***. Access information will be provided. Feel free to invite anyone I may have missed. We'd love to have you be part of our growing small group ministry. If you have any questions, or would like to suggest a topic for a further study, please contact Kevin Dresely at ddresely@comcast.net.

If our church opens back up for public meetings before then, we look forward to gathering for this time in the Conference Room near the office. Thanks to all who have been participating in the meanwhile, it is great to connect!





lovethesoup.com

The Oldwick Soup Company is a local soup maker that has promised to do free home delivery in our area through the month of April. Additionally, if you mention that you heard about this through Bishop Janes UMC, and tell them you are a congregant of Bishop Janes UMC, they will donate \$2.00 of your purchase back to the church! If you are looking for something a little different, and tired of eating out of your pantry, consider ordering a meal from them.