



FEBRUARY
2020

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

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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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

For some, January was a time of new beginnings, for others it was a month that would never end. The Holiday highs seemed to flow back into a steady stream of new years goals and ambitions, or it was a season marked by coldness and being alone, the joy of Christmas too far gone. We are in the depths of winter now, the days are slowly starting to get longer, but the coldness remains, at least for now. This season is many different things for many different people. We are a diverse people, each in different stages in life, and each facing

different obstacles and challenges, yet also encouraged by different blessings and joys in our lives.

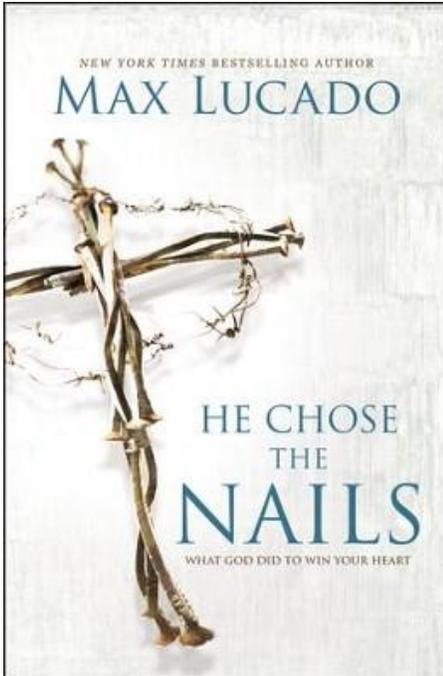
I've noticed, over my life, as the short days grow long, people's patience often dwindles, too. We feel the pressure of the shorter days to get everything in on a compressed schedule of daylight. Yet, we never know what other people are facing, what they hold in their hearts but have left unspoken. The Seasons are many, and we are all in different places, the encouraging word of God today is that every season has it's place. Winter has its place, but Spring is coming soon. In just 30 days the early birds will start appearing, in 60 days the early bulbs will break through the soil, and spring rain will be upon us, in 90 days, our grasses will be green again, and in just 180 days, we will be praying for relief from the sun.

Let's grant each other grace this season, let's even grant ourselves some grace. Let's hold to the promise that each season has it's place, and this is just one more season. If this season is filled with joy for you, embrace it fully, recognizing it's time is short. And if this season is one of drudgery, hold on to the promise that this season, like all seasons, will come to pass.

Ecclesiastes 3 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV):

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; ⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.



Lenten Bible Study

He Chose the Nails, by Max Lucado

Please join us for our Lenten Bible study, “He Chose the Nails,” by Max Lucado. This five-session study examines the gifts that Christ gave us at his crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross, but also the gift of the thorns, the nails, and the empty tomb. Our small group study begins on Sunday, March 1st at 11am and will run through the 5 Sundays’ in March. Feel free to attend all or any that you can. We’d love to have you be part of our growing small group ministry.

We are currently in the planning phase for our small group topics for after Easter. If there is a topic or part of the Bible you would like to learn more about, please contact Kevin Dresely at ddresely@comcast.net. We want to hear from you!

SOMERSET COUNTY FOODBANK DONATIONS

IMPORTANT UPDATE

The Foodbank is so very grateful for our generosity, but currently has an overabundance of pasta (a common item donated). We at BJUMC will focus our giving to what is needed most. Currently, the need is greatest for the items listed below. Please consider donating these items **EXCLUSIVELY** so we can make a bigger change in the lives of the clients:

CANNED CHICKEN

CANNED RAVIOLI

LARGER SIZE SOUP CANS

PARMALAT SHELF STABLE MILK

SPAGHETTI SAUCE IN JARS

THANK YOU FOR BEING A BLESSING TO THOSE IN NEED!

**PLEASE PLACE DONATIONS IN THE PETER EBBE BIN
LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX**



Book Group

Meets this month on Thursday, February 13, 2020
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 The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding by Jennifer Robson. Please bring suggestions for the books for April and May. 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 February 13 at noon.

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

“The Gown is marvelous and moving, a vivid portrait of female self-reliance in a world racked by the cost of war.”--Kate Quinn, New York Times bestselling author of *The Alice Network*

From the internationally bestselling author of *Somewhere in France* comes an enthralling historical novel about one of the most famous wedding dresses of the twentieth century—Queen Elizabeth’s wedding gown—and the fascinating women who made it.

“Millions will welcome this joyous event as a flash of color on the long road we have to travel.”

—Sir Winston Churchill on the news of Princess Elizabeth’s forthcoming wedding

London, 1947: Besieged by the harshest winter in living memory, burdened by onerous shortages and rationing, the people of postwar Britain are enduring lives of quiet desperation despite their nation’s recent victory. Among them are Ann Hughes and Miriam Dassin, embroiderers at the famed Mayfair fashion house of Norman Hartnell. Together they forge an unlikely friendship, but their nascent hopes for a brighter future are tested when they are chosen for a once-in-a-lifetime honor: taking part in the creation of Princess Elizabeth’s wedding gown.

Toronto, 2016: More than half a century later, Heather Mackenzie seeks to unravel the mystery of a set of embroidered flowers, a legacy from her late grandmother. How did her beloved Nan, a woman who never spoke of her old life in Britain, come to possess the priceless embroideries that so closely resemble the motifs on the stunning gown worn by Queen Elizabeth II at her wedding almost seventy years before? And what was her Nan’s connection to the celebrated textile artist and holocaust survivor Miriam Dassin?

With *The Gown*, Jennifer Robson takes us inside the workrooms where one of the most famous wedding gowns in history was created. Balancing behind-the-scenes details with a sweeping portrait of a society left reeling by the calamitous costs of victory, she introduces readers to three unforgettable heroines, their points of view alternating and intersecting throughout its pages, whose lives are woven together by the pain of survival, the bonds of friendship, and the redemptive power of love.

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

April 16, 2020 (new date!):
book TBD

May 14, 2020: book TBD



COME SIT BY THE FIRE



Our story matters. I believe we were meant to be in community to share our stories ,to listen for God in Scripture and in each other and to encourage each other on our journeys to get ever closer to Truth.

Fire is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. Come sit by the fire with together as those before us have done for centuries.

WHO: All are welcome- believers in Christ, non-believers, persons of other faith traditions, those questioning and those without a faith base

WHAT: an ongoing , weekly opportunity to meet ,talk, pray, explore through Lectio Divina*

WHEN: every Monday night 7:00-8:30 PM gatherings are independent of each other, so come and connect whenever you can

WHERE: home of Terri Faltas, 4 Wolf Lane, Basking Ridge,NJ

Confidentiality: All are expected to hold everything said in this group in confidence. However, talking with people outside the group setting about the experience of the group is encouraged .

Participation: This is a true open invitation to participate. No one should feel forced to share, pray etc., but know this will be a safe space to do so. Meetings do not build on each other, so all are welcome to come on any Monday, regardless of prior participation.

*Lectio Divina, or Divine Reading, is a traditional way of listening to the Word of God in Scripture and a way of cultivating friendship in Christ.



BACK TO SCHOOL - BACK TO CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR:

- Feb 2nd Communion Sunday - no Sunday School
- Feb 9th "Change the Water" = John 2:1-12
- Feb 16th "Born Anew" = John 3:1-21
- Feb 23rd "Jesus and the Children" = Matthew 19:13-15

- Mar 1st Communion Sunday - no Sunday School
- Mar 8th "A Boy's Lunch" = John 6:1-15
- Mar 15th "Mary Honors Jesus" = John 12:1-8
- Mar 22nd "Bartimaeus Shouts to Jesus" = Mark 10: 46-52
- Mar 24th "Jesus Breaks the Bread" = Mark 14:12-26

All Children up to 5th grade are welcome to attend Sunday school. Students will begin in the worship service, attending the beginning portions of the Call to Worship, opening Hymn, and Children's Message. After the Children's Message, children are welcome to either go to Sunday school, or sit in the pews. Families may have different comfort levels separating from their children while they are becoming familiar with our church, we welcome all in our congregation, at any age, and take great joy with the energy that our children bring us. Do what works best for you and your family, we are here to support you as best we can.



United Methodist Women

Walk & Talk: Tuesday, February 4th, 9:30am to 11:00pm at Harry Dunham Park. Weather permitting! We will meet in the parking lot off Liberty Corner Road to walk loops around the park. Every person welcome! Contact person: Barbara Conca, conca@optonline.net

Piecemaker Quilters

Our quilters meet on the first and third Thursdays every month at 10:00am in Melick Hall. This month you are invited to come share the love with them on February 6th to celebrate **Valentines Day**. **Wear your finest red colors and join them for everything red - including a homemade tomato soup lunch.** For more information contact Bonnie Artell, bonnieartell@gmail.com



Annual UMW Rummage Sale: Friday, March 27th and Saturday, March 28th. Now is a good time to start cleaning out closets and drawers. Your unwanted items can become someone else's treasures when you donate them to the rummage sale. Items sought include housewares, dishware, garden items, toys, sports equipment, pet items, kitchen items, books, small appliances, linens, tools, and electronic items. We cannot accept car seats, VHS tapes, text books. Collection will begin on Sunday, March 22nd through Thursday, March 26th in Wesley Hall. Contact persons: Karen Hayworth, karenahayworth@gmail.com and Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com



WOMEN'S RETREAT:

Save the date: Saturday, April 4th.

The United Methodist Women are planning a one day spiritual retreat from 9:30am to 3:00pm at the Fellowship Deaconry in Liberty Corner. It will be led by author and educator, Sherri Shumate who will help us examine self compassion based on scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself".

COSTA RICA MISSION UPDATE

On February 29th, our team of six will be leaving for a week in Costa Rica to participate in Rice and Bean Ministries Mission work. Your support is needed to make the week a success.

- Please keep team members and Rice and Beans Ministries in your prayers!
- Purchase a food bag that will be delivered to a family in need. Bags are available for purchase following the Sunday worship service. \$20.00 will feed a family of four for one week and help to support our trip.
- Help to decorate the bags the team will deliver. On Saturday, February 8th a breakfast will be provided from 8am to 11am in Melick Hall for those who can help decorate the bags we will deliver. Stop by anytime that morning to fuel up for the day and decorate one or as many bags as you would like. Bags, decorating supplies and inspiration will be available. Questions? Contact Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

For more information about Rice and Beans Ministries, go to www.rabmin.org

Come for Breakfast, Stay to Decorate a Food Bag
Saturday, February 8th, 8:00am to 11:00am
Melick Hall Stop by anytime to fuel up for the day and help us to decorate the food bags that team members will deliver to families in need during our mission trip to Costa Rica with Rice and Beans Ministries on February 29th through March 7th.

Bags, decorating supplies and inspiration will be available



BJUMC FINANCE REPORT – JANUARY 2020

In an effort to be more transparent with our congregation, we are committed to providing regular updates and information to our church about the financial health of our church. We want to provide the most easily understood information which helps congregants gauge the general health of our church. The format in which we provide this may change while we figure out what exactly to share, and how to share it. Here is where we are to date as of January 31, 2020:

TOTAL RECEIPTS: 27,267.85 (8.1% of 2020 Budget)

TOTAL EXPENSES: 19,013.96 (5.7% of 2020 Budget)

In full disclosure, three things need to be noted:

- 1) Each month represents 8.3% of the year. Historically, we have always fallen behind the first few months of the year, picking back up around Easter, and again at Christmas. For one month, we are very close to our budgeted expectations.
- 2) Several church expenses are annual expenses which have not happened yet. While it may look like we are operating under budget for the year, we are probably right on track.
- 3) We were extremely fortunate to have an unexpected generous December giving from our members. This balanced the 2019 budget, the first time in several years. While we usually receive several prepaid pledges for the following year, we believe that was approximately doubled this year. Time will tell how this will impact the 2020 receipts. We did make adjustments to our budget to accommodate some, but not all of this shift.

We remain committed to providing the best services we can to our church and community. Over the past year, we have moved to a more “volunteer model” of leadership at the church. Volunteerism is critical to our success both financially, but also as a model of our witness and faith in action. If you would like to volunteer to lead or assist a ministry program, please contact Pastor Matt. Numerous opportunities for volunteers continue to be available including:

- Counters
- Sunday School Teachers
- MidWeek Worship Praise Singers
- Sunday Liturgists
- Greeters/Welcome Center Attendants
- Communications Team (Tower Bell, Instagram, etc., are up for grabs)
- Technical Support (We need a lot of IT Support)
- And much much more.

We take our volunteerism very seriously, and see it as an offering of our gifts and talents to God. God has blessed us with our abilities, it is right that we share our gifts and talents, and give God the Glory. Offertory forms are available to help make our volunteer hours a “living offering” to God.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

February	2	930AM 1100AM	Sunday Worship – Communion Sunday: No Sunday School Adult Bible Study
	3	1145AM 700PM	Rice And Beans Mission Trip Team Meeting Come Sit By The Fire Small Group
	4	930AM	UMW Walk and Talk
	5	1100AM 630PM 730PM	Welcome All Subcommittee Meeting: Membership New Expressions of Faith: Midweek Worship Chancel Choir
	6	1000AM 700PM	Piecemakers Quilting Group Church Council
	8	800AM 930AM 1130AM	Rice and Beans Mission Trip Support Brunch: Bag Decorating Healing Touch Ministry Methodist Sisters Group
	9	930AM 1100AM 300PM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School Adult Bible Study Youth Group Mission at Ridge Oak Senior Living
	10	700PM	Come Sit By The Fire Small Group
	11	700PM	UMW Monthly Gathering
	12	630PM 730PM	New Expressions of Faith: Midweek Worship Chancel Choir
	13	800AM 530PM 700PM	ROMEOS Book Group Dinner Book Group
	14	ALL DAY	Valentines Day
	16	930AM 1100AM 430PM 6:00PM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School Adult Bible Study Middle School Youth Group High School Youth Group
	17	ALL DAY 700PM	President’s Day Come Sit By the Fire Small Group
	18	630PM	New Circle
	19	630PM 730PM	New Expressions of Faith: Midweek Worship Chancel Choir
	20	1000AM 700PM	Piecemakers Quilting Group Serve the World Committee Meeting
	22	5:00PM	Family Ministries: GAME/TRIVIA NIGHT!
	21	500PM	March Tower Bell Articles Due
	23	930AM 1100AM 430PM 600PM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School Adult Bible Study Middle School Youth Group High School Youth Group
	24	700PM	Come Sit By The Fire Small Group
	25	930AM	Grace Circle

		700PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	26	ALL DAY	Ash Wednesday
		630PM	Midweek Worship: Ash Wednesday Service
		730PM	Chancel Choir
	27	800AM	ROMEOS
		700PM	Welcome All Committee Meeting
	29	800AM	Rice and Beans Mission Team Leaves for Costa Rica
MARCH	1	930AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School
		1100AM	Adult Bible Study
		430PM	Middle School Youth Group
		600PM	High School youth Group
	2	700PM	Come Sit By The Fire Small Group
	3	930AM	UMW Walk and Talk
	4	700AM	March Tower Bell Publication via Midweek Minute
		630PM	New Expressions of Faith: Midweek Worship
		730PM	Chancel Choir