

B.J.U.M.C TOWER BELL

March 2021

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

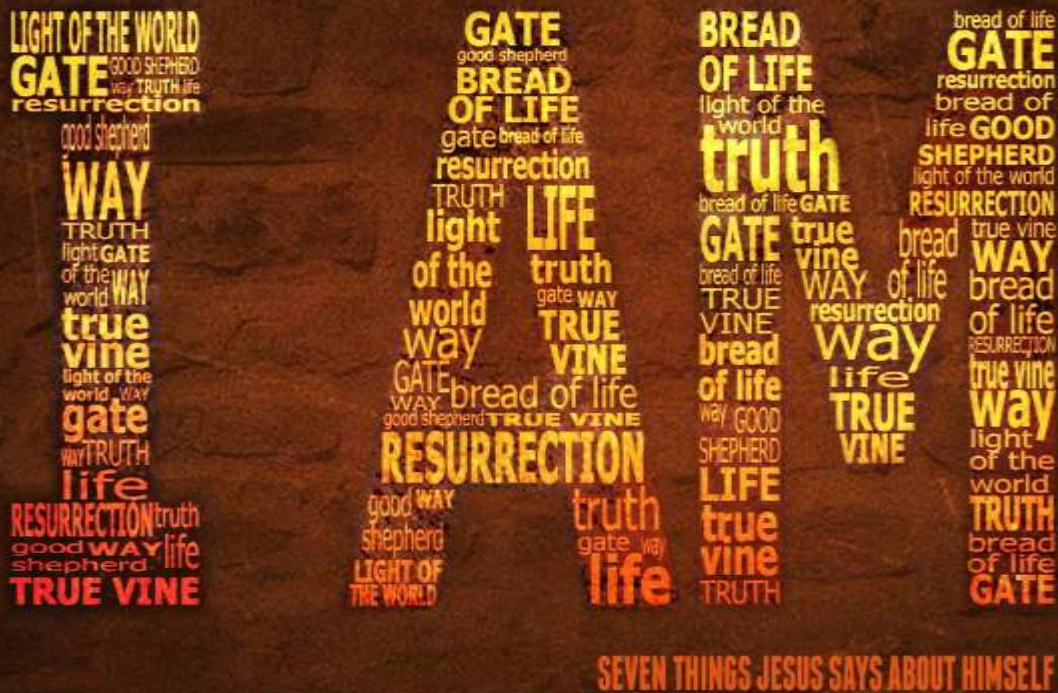
Published Monthly by:



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

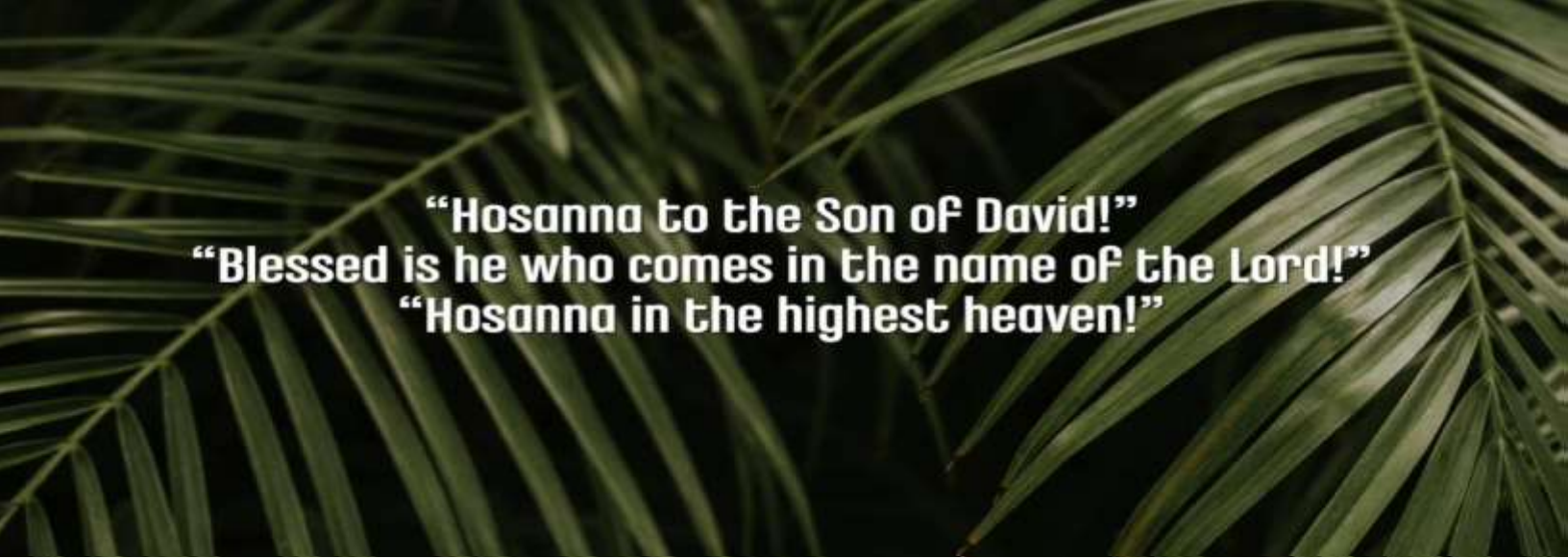
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SERMON SERIES FEBRUARY 28- MARCH 21

Join us for a new Sermon Series February 28 – March 21 as we look at the Statement “I AM” in the Bible. This identifier was first declared by God to Moses at the burning bush, as God identified god-self to Moses in an unmistakable way. In the Gospel of John, Jesus uttered seven “I Am” statements, using the same words uttered by God to Moses, an unmistakable proclamation of his identity as the incarnate God himself. As we continue our walk through Lent, let’s look at the character of God as revealed to us by Jesus himself, asking the question, who does God himself say he is?



**“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

WHAT IS PALM SUNDAY?

This year, Palm Sunday is March 28. The name comes from a story in the Bible in which Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. Prior to this event, Jesus and his friends roamed the countryside teaching and performing miracles, gaining a lot of recognition. The people of Jerusalem were super-excited that Jesus was coming to their city to celebrate a big religious festival. In their excitement, the people grabbed palm branches to wave around and threw their cloaks before Jesus on the road. The whole scene might have looked something like an ancient tinkertape parade.

Today, we still commemorate Palm Sunday. It starts off a week of remembrance for Christians, often referred to as Holy Week. The week ends with the celebration of Easter, and throughout this week we mark the different events that led to Jesus' Resurrection and Easter. This means that Palm Sunday is a kind of paradoxical celebration. At worship services, there is likely a festive atmosphere. I have been part of many services where children wave palm branches and parade around the worship space shouting "Hosanna!" The paradox is that we celebrate knowing full well what came next in the story, after Jesus' triumphal entry: he was rejected, betrayed and crucified.

Just about everything in regards to Jesus was surprising. His teachings were surprising--sometimes in a refreshing way, often in a shocking way. His actions were surprising, evidenced in the people he often associated with. His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was surprising--because he rode in riding a young donkey. The events of Holy Week remind us that we humans often don't deal well with surprises, for the story Jesus turns from celebration on Palm Sunday to rejection and death the following Friday. Thankfully, we know today that there was one more surprise to the Jesus story: the surprise of the Resurrection, which we'll celebrate on Easter Sunday. Easter is a reminder that though we may turn from God's surprises, God's love persists in an undeniable way. We can't keep God from surprising us.

This Sunday is a celebration of wonder. We celebrate that God continues to surprise and are welcoming in the miracle to come: the miracle of Resurrection. I hope you'll consider what surprises await you this Holy Week.

This Contribution Written by Rev. Ryan Dunn, Ask the UMC, 2019



WHAT IS MAUNDY THURSDAY?

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment."

As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). This is why services on this night generally include the washing of feet or other acts of physical care as an integral part of the celebration.

While John's gospel does not record the institution of the Lord's Supper among the events of this night, the other gospels do. This is why Christians have traditionally observed this night both at the basin (footwashing) and at the Lord's Table (Holy Communion).

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

What is “Good” Friday?

D.G. Hollums, Contributor, Ask the UMC, Rethink Church, A ministry of UM Communications

Have you ever spent time in a contemporary art gallery? While the levels of creativity are off the charts in many of them, you will often find art that people are not meant to enjoy. Some artists desire for the person experiencing their art to feel uneasy. In those cases, an artist desires to stir up challenge within the viewer. You might desire to look away or to ignore that exhibit, but it might be worth the risk to stay and wrestle with why you might be uncomfortable.

Similarly, in life, we do not like dealing with difficulties. Sadly, in our world today, most of us desire always to look on the bright side of life. When we think about our desires and wants, most of us do not ask for challenges and difficulties. That would be crazy to ask for those things, right? We desperately want life to be happy, enjoyable and filled with fluffy bunnies and unicorns. However, we all know that that is not reality. Reality might include those things (except the unicorns), but it is also filled with hardships and difficulty.

On Good Friday, Christians put their focus on Jesus dying on the cross. What did it mean? Why did it happen? What is the result of such a horrible event? Many people do not even want to talk about death in our society. Try bringing up death in a conversation among friends and see if they ask you to stop talking about it. "You are being so morbid," they might point out. Why must death be such a forbidden topic?

When can we talk about life's hardships, pain and even death? Life – and death – happens. The finality of death can take your breath away.

So many have words of comfort that only seem to make the verdict all that more brutal. Are they truly 'better off' or 'for the best'? The anger that you feel as you look at the freshly turned ground seems to feel otherwise.

"Darkness, mistakes, and trials are the supreme teachers. Success really teaches you nothing; it just feels good."

- Fr. Richard Rohr

God does not cause these things to occur, but desires to go through them with us. If we as a society keep ignoring hardship, pain and death, we will continue to live a life of disappointed ignorance. Then, when we feel the pain of difficulties in this life, we cannot meet them with grace, peace and respect.

Often, life's hardships are the greatest and most effective ways of learning. God blesses us when we understand that the pain in our lives can be (with a little bit of internal and external listening to God) transformed into a blessing. Not all blessings are easy to come by, and in fact, probably most come with scars. Scars serve as reminders that life was difficult, but there is life on the other side of the pain.

In the midst of the pain and the loss. The tears and the grave is a paradox. What was final is simply not final. The grave is empty. Death has indeed lost its sting.

What if the myths are true? THAT, is why the day death died is called "good". Amazingly, we find Easter inside the cross!

On Good Friday, why not look deeper within your own brokenness and search for the "good" in your life? You are beautiful – not despite your scars, but because of them. Be blessed this Good Friday. May you find the beauty with all of who you are.

JOIN US (ONLINE) FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES:



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 9:30AM

Palms available in church narthex for pickup in week prior to Palm Sunday. Please take one palm per family member. Preferred pickup time is 2-4PM Monday-Friday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 7:00 PM

Pastor TayLavor will be leading us in a special service of remembrance, revisiting the themes of the Last Supper, Jesus' final commandment, culminating with the service of Communion.



GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 7:00PM

Join for a heartfelt service as we remember the self-sacrificial love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, review the passion narrative of the Gospel of John, and look at the question, what is "good" about "Good Friday".

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 9:30AM

Celebrate Resurrection Sunday with a Joyous Celebration of the Grace shown us through the Resurrection of Christ.





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: WHAT IS THE THEOLOGICAL MEANING OF EASTER?

To some people, Easter is a gathering of family and friends around a ham, it is a holiday filled with flowers and new spring dresses, as the aroma of spring looms on the air. This pageantry of the holiday is an important part of how we celebrate Easter, as they are symbols of new life, but I often find myself wondering if we have forgotten the magnitude of the theological event that is Easter.

Coming just a few short months after Christmas, the wonder of the Incarnation of our Lord has barely worn off, but without Easter, the incarnation of our Eternal-Creator God would be much less important. We already believe that God is with us always, and the Jews knew that, too. So what is it about the Holy Week Celebrations that makes it such an important holiday? The answer to this question can be found in Romans, Chapter 5:

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as by the one man's

disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This passage summarily captures the entirety of the theological implications of the Bible on the whole. This passage is the defining passage of what we believe in as "believers in Christ." This is the Gospel, in short, the message we profess when we identify ourselves as Christians to the world around us. A few key points:

- 1) We acknowledge our broken nature, that through the sin of Adam and Eve and all humans thereafter including ourselves, all humans live separated from God, outside of our eternal state where we are meant to be, Eden.
- 2) We acknowledge a God who loves us, who pours out freely given grace to us, a grace which we cannot earn, but receive through faith. It is through this grace alone which we are made clean and pure of our sin, and can reclaim our perfected nature, and re-enter the presence of God.
- 3) The Passion (death) is proof of God's love, as we believe Jesus took on the sin of the world. Only a person, fully human, could pay the penalty of all the sin of humanity, and yet only God Incarnate, could live such a life free from sin such as to be a worthy sacrifice; thus Jesus was both fully human and fully God. Jesus, as God incarnate, took on the sin, voluntarily, paying the price for the sin of all humanity.
- 4) The Resurrection of Christ is proof of God's grace fulfilled. Our Creeds articulate that Jesus took on the sin, died and was buried, then was resurrected, and ascended to the right hand of the Father. In our faith, we claim this same resurrection from our death, and look forward to the time of our re-unification with the eternal God, returning home to "Eden" or a similar state in the presence of our Lord.

That we can stand forgiven of our sins, freed from the bondage of sin is truly the most miraculous thing about the Gospel of Christ. When I sit and survey the cross, when I ponder the magnitude of the grace that has been poured out over me, when I take an account of the sin that I have committed against our Lord, and yet, am reminded of this grace that God has poured out, and continues to shower me with daily, I can easily become overwhelmed. Our God is a God of awesome and unending love.

This Easter, let's pay special attention to the magnitude of this event, that the creator of the Universe lived and died for us that we might come to know their grace more fully, and live the life we were intended to live. In my humble opinion, this week, this day, is more important than Christmas (though admittedly, it doesn't make sense without Christmas). As we remember the great sacrifice of our Incarnate God who came to live among us, to die for us, and to be resurrected as a sign of our eternal hope, I hope you can take an account of the grace you have received in Christ, and give thanks. In this spirit of thankfulness, we praise God more fully, and worship more meaningfully.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt Enzler

EASTER FUN

Come and join us virtually to craft and bake on Palm Sunday. March 28th 5pm (register by March 22).



**We will be decorating eggs and baking Easter baskets. All ages welcome.
For more details email: erp.elliott@gmail.com**

Come and join us virtually on March 28th at 5pm, to decoupage eggs and make edible Easter baskets.

Please invite anyone who you think would like to join us. All ages are welcome.

We will deliver the decoupage kits to your door, all you need to do is have chocolate (any kind), shredded wheat and maybe some cream for the baking side of things.

To assist us in preparing the kits, please register for this activity by March 22nd. Register by emailing: erp.elliott@gmail.com, letting Liz know how many people will be participating.

The log in details will be in the Mid Week Minute on Wednesday 24th March.

Looking forward to having a wonderful virtual social with you all.

The Family Ministries team.

Around Bishop Janes UMC – March

By Ted Schroeder

People at Bishop Janes UMC took youth programs seriously in the 1950s and 60s. There were a lot of youth in the church – it was the baby boom era, after all. And there weren't very many other organized youth activities then – not like now! I remember playing in pick-up baseball games on the playground at Maple Avenue School (where the Township library is now) – on a field covered with gravel!

Bishop Janes usually had two youth groups: the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), and the Methodist Intermediate Fellowship (MIF), for the younger kids. Interest, both by youth and adults, waxed and waned; I think there was even a period or two when the MIF basically disappeared. Turnover tended to be high, among the adults in charge. There were various programs, including speakers, games, and devotions.

Some programs were held away from the church. My sister, Kerry, reminds me of the occasional retreats that the youth would do; she enjoyed them. Once, when we visited the Kate Macy Ladd home (now Natirar), Kerry, seeing the high hill, rolled all the way down it, getting grass stains all over her new dress. (Our parents were not happy.) I think that I remember a youth trip to Ocean Grove.

Bishop Janes had two youth choirs then. The Matin choir was for grades 8-12, and the Wesley choir was for grades 3-7. There were two services every Sunday, and the Matin choir took the responsibility for each early service, at 9:30 (during the school year). (The adult Chancel choir took the 11:00 services.) The Wesley choir would also sing an anthem, once a month or so. It was always a struggle to find enough good voices (and serious enough singers) so that the Matin choir could carry its load acceptably. Mrs. Mabel Davis very capably directed all three choirs, and played the organ.

Youth occasionally took a larger part in the services, depending on the pastor. I remember once when my family was asked to lead a service. I was in the eighth grade, I believe, and I was asked to lead the Responsive Reading. (How many of you remember them?) I had always thought that we went too slowly in these Readings, and I tried to speed it up – not particularly successfully! Two of our

youth, of about my sister's age, went on to become Methodist ministers (one was Dale Forsman, the older son of Ann Forsman.)

The youth would occasionally put on a talent show. For some reason, I don't remember any acts that I put on – perhaps I avoided doing any – but I remember Kerry doing an imitation of Mrs. Davis, and also singing the “Sixteen Going on Seventeen” duet, from “The Sound of Music”, with a BJ boy. Someone else – a really good pianist, obviously! – did an imitation of Liberace, complete with costume and candelabra!

Sunday school was an important part of Bishop Janes; many adults got involved in teaching it. The new addition to the church (nearest to Maple Avenue) was built primarily for Sunday school, and other meetings. The lower floor was named then, as now, for Josephine Melick, who had recently died, after more than 50 years teaching Sunday school at Bishop Janes.

Our Sunday school received national attention in 1953, when the April 11 edition of “Collier's Weekly” published a two-page photo spread of Ann Forsman's class (see p. 328 of the history). Kerry was one of the girls in the picture. A family story says that Collier's got in touch again, six months or a year later, wanting to do a follow-up story, with the kids wearing the same clothes. We had to decline – Kerry had completely outgrown the dress that she had worn. I suspect that other families had the same problem.

In a previous column, I mentioned Boy Scout Troop #151, which met at BJ, in Melick and Wesley halls. Other activities sometimes met in the church. In fact, for a few years, the growing school-age population of Bernards Township so far outstripped our existing schools, that some elementary classes were held in Bishop Janes (and, I think, in the Presbyterian church, too).

One last, random thought. The front steps of the pre-1963 church, facing Finley Avenue, were made of stone; on warm summer mornings, they were cool, because the sun had not yet reached them. Sometimes some of us kids would just sit, or lie, on those cool steps, and talk. (Nobody seemed to be bothered by us doing that. Of course, the parsonage was right next door, then.) Who knows what seeds might have been planted, in those lazy times? Youth programs in a church can have long-range results.



UMW Calendar for March 2021

Mondays, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th at 9:30am, **Walk and Talk** is back! Whether you like to walk fast or slow, come join us as we start upping our 2021 step count on the walking path at Harry Dunham Park. We meet at the main parking lot off Liberty Corner Road at 9:30am and walk for approximately one hour. Wear comfortable walking shoes. This event is weather dependent and will be cancelled in the event of rain or snow. Contact persons: Barbara Conca, conca@optonline.net or Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

Tuesday, March 16th **New Circle** will meet via Zoom @7:00pm. Look for meeting link posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Linda Cargo

Tuesday, March 23rd **Grace Circle** will meet via Zoom @9:30am. All are welcome and invited as we come together for a time of devotion, prayer and conversation. Look for the meeting link posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Gloria Walker

Tuesday, March 23rd **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet via Zoom @7:00pm. Newcomers are welcome and invited to knit along with us. Look for the meeting link posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Linda Cargo

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 located on Rt 202. Proceeds will support the UMW mission giving budget.

Items sought include seasonally appropriate (SPRING/SUMMER) women's clothing of any size that is current and gently used including dresses, sweaters, tops, pants, jeans, coats, jackets, shoes. We can 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 Greenstone United Methodist Church in Washington, NJ via Pastor Marissa Van Der Valk.

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. If you have not already done so, check it out!

Update from the Hearts 2 Hands Prayer Shawl Ministry



For the past month, members of our prayer shawl ministry and friends from the Basking Ridge community have been knitting hats, scarves, cowls and mittens to donate to Knit The Rainbow, an organization which will place these winter garments into the hands of homeless LGBTQ+ youth in New York City. According to their statistics, there are 8,000 homeless LGBTQ+ youth in NYC, and with only 350 beds dedicated to these homeless youth, that leaves 7,650 left unprotected during the winter.

If you, or someone you know, has an item to donate before March 10th please contact Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com. Below are some of the items that have been received to date and will be delivered to Knit The Rainbow in early March.



For more information about Knit The Rainbow visit their website at www.knittherainbow.org

Serve The World Through Missions
In
MARCH

**SAMARITAN HOMELESS INTERIM PROGRAM
S.H.I.P.**

S.H.I.P. is a faith based, interfaith and community funded grassroots organization who provides emergency housing and associated services to those in need in Somerset County.



Below is a list of three ways we can most help the clients of S.H.I.P. this month.
Please consider serving in one or more ways as you feel called.

We will be focusing on two of S.H.I.P.'s mission areas:

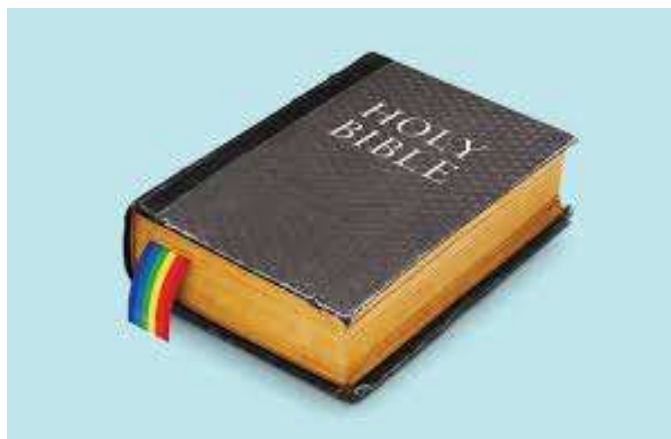
*The Mobile Soup Kitchen Disaster Units
&
Street Outreach Service (S.O.S.)*

- Plastic Ware Kits-** using *heavy duty* plastic ware, place one knife, fork ,spoon and napkin in a sandwich bag size ziplock bag. These kits are always needed. Please assemble the bags and place them in a larger, labeled bag.**
-
1. **Brown Bag Lunches-** We will be delivering bagged lunches to S.H.I.P. on March 29. We will need donations of specific items (brown bags, specific sandwiches, fruit, juice boxes, snacks). Please contact Terri directly for a list of items needed and when these items will be collected. (Please do not drop off any of these items to church.)
-
1. **Toiletries-** we are collecting the following (sample or small sizes)**:
 - +Deodorant + Shaving Cream
 - + Combs + Razor Blades
 - + Shampoo + Toothpaste
 - + Hand soap + Sanitary Napkins

****All donations of plastic ware & toiletries must be labeled “S.H.I.P.” and placed in the Co-op section of our food collection bin located in the church narthex by March 28.**

Please stop by our **Missions page** on our website to read about how you've helped with our previous missions in the **Thank You Notes** section, or click here:
www.bjumc.org

Winter 2020 Adult Small Group Studies



Winter 2020/2021 Adult Small Group Studies

This Winter/Spring 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:

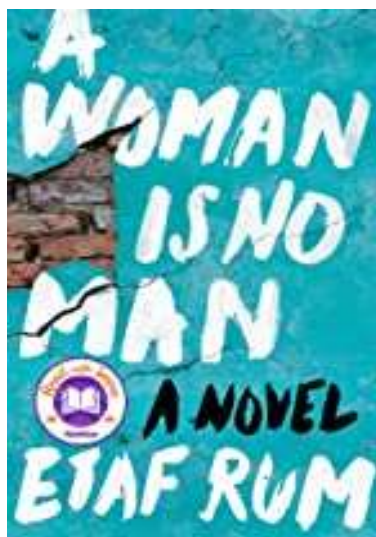
- For Lent, beginning on ***Sunday, February 21st and continuing through March 21st*** we will be The following week begins Lent which runs from February 21st through March 21st we will be doing a study entitled, ***"Words of Life" by Adam Hamilton***. What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules, but a guide to experiencing the good life today? Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of "thou-shalt-nots" found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. Author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day.
- After a break at Easter, we'll explore the "I Am" statements in the book of John. Stay tuned for more details in the Spring.

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. We take the month of December off as that is usually a busy one for most. 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 the May book. 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. Happy reading!

March 11, 2021: *A Woman Is No Man* by Etaf Rum (led by Barbara Conca)



A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice • A Washington Post 10 Books to Read in March • and many other accolades. "Garnering justified comparisons to Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*... Etaf Rum's debut novel is a must-read about women mustering up the bravery to follow their inner voice." —Refinery 29

In her debut novel Etaf Rum tells the story of three generations of Palestinian-American women struggling to express their individual desires within the confines of their Arab culture in the wake of shocking intimate violence in their community—a story of culture and honor, secrets and betrayals, love and violence. Set in an America at once foreign to many and staggeringly close at hand, *A Woman Is No Man* is an intimate glimpse into a controlling and closed cultural world, and a universal tale about family and the ways silence and shame can destroy those we have sworn to protect.

"Where I come from, we've learned to silence ourselves. We've been taught that silence will save us. Where I come from, we keep these stories to ourselves. To tell them to the outside world is unheard of—dangerous, the ultimate shame."

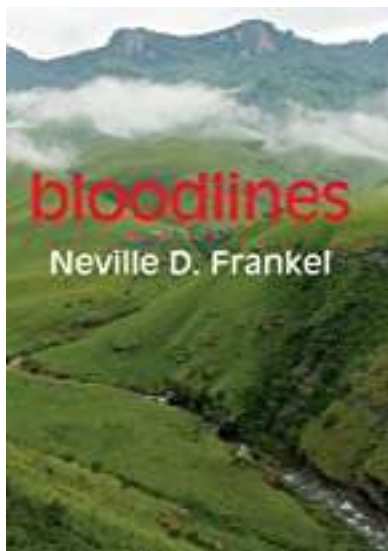
Palestine, 1990. Seventeen-year-old Isra prefers reading books to entertaining the suitors her father has chosen for her. Over the course of a week, the naïve and dreamy girl finds herself quickly betrothed and married, and is soon living in Brooklyn. There Isra struggles to adapt to the expectations of her oppressive mother-in-law Fareeda and strange new husband Adam, a pressure that intensifies as she begins to have children—four daughters instead of the sons Fareeda tells Isra she must bear.

Brooklyn, 2008. Eighteen-year-old Deya, Isra's oldest daughter, must meet with potential husbands at her grandmother Fareeda's insistence, though her only desire is to go to college. Deya can't help but wonder if her options would have been different had her parents survived the car crash that killed them when Deya was only eight. But her grandmother is firm on the matter: the only way to secure a worthy future for Deya is through marriage to the right man.

But fate has a will of its own, and soon Deya will find herself on an unexpected path that leads her to shocking truths about her family—knowledge that will force her to question everything she thought she knew about her parents, the past, and her own future.

April 8, 2021: Bloodlines by Neville D. Frankel (led by Janet Kaefer)

May 13, 2021: TBD



JANUARY 2021

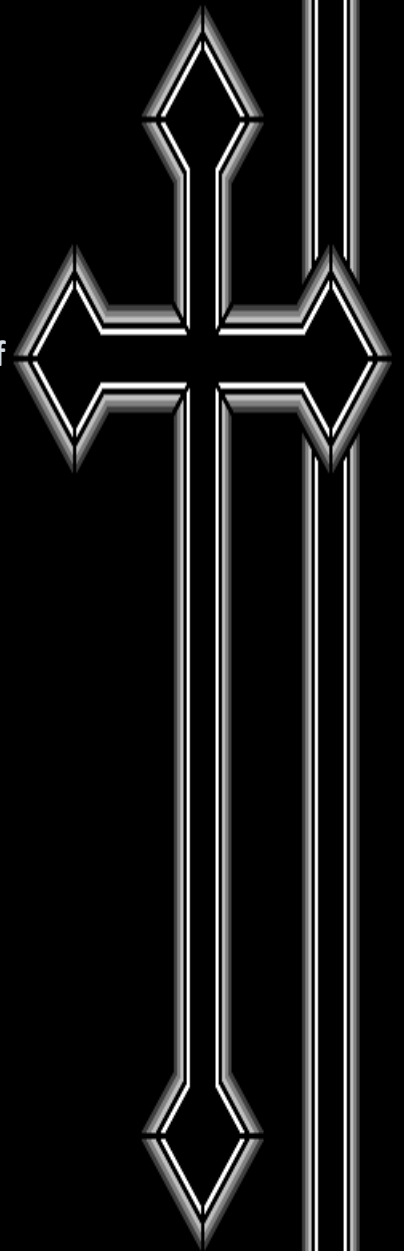
FINANCE REPORT

Year to date through February 28, 2021, our church has received income totaling \$67,747, and has expensed a total of \$70,187, leaving us with a year-to-date deficit of \$2439. This is a seasonally expected deficit, which is planned for and expected, following the Christmas Season, as we await Easter, at which time, we usually return to the positive. So far, this year, we have already paid 100% of our Mission and Social Concern Shared Ministry/Apportionments to the General Church, so we are 10 months ahead of schedule on this portion of our budget. Many thanks to the Tower Club for their generous and ongoing support of the Mission work funded by BJUMC and GNJUMC.

Later this month, we will be sending out letters for a special Easter, or Resurrection Day offering. We ask you to prayerfully consider giving a special offering of thanksgiving to the Lord, and the work and service of the church, as we remember the extreme generosity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in whom we find our grace and our eternal life. These special offerings may be mailed in, or submitted electronically through the online portal at BJUMC.org. Thank you for your generous support.

In Christ,

The Finance Committee



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!**

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