

MAY 2020

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

Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

A monthly publication of:



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www.BJUMC.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

FROM THE PASTORS DESK: 3

BOOK GROUP: 4

CHURCH HISTORY: 5

BIBLE STUDY: 6

LITTLE LAMBS: 7

COOKBOOK: 8

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: 9

UMC AT LARGE: 10

LIVESTREAMING UPDATE: 11

TRUSTEES: 12

FINANCE REPORT: 13

UMW: 14



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

REV. MATHEW J. ENZLER

I recall several times when I was growing up, my family would go to the mountains. We would spend time in several of the great ranges of the west, generally all part of the greater Rocky Mountain system, but some further west in the various coastal ranges near the Pacific. These are younger ranges, with jagged crooked tops, many of which were covered in snow year-round, buried by glaciers for centuries. I have repeatedly been overwhelmed by the magnanimous power that it would take to create such a mountain. The whole of a mountain has many parts, and contains numerous distinct ecosystems, and different systems of geology and terrain as well.

In my teens I began hiking up mountains by about the 7th grade. On one of my first major hikes, I ripped a big hole in my pants, as I slid across the face of a rock, trying not to fall off, which would have led to a thousand-foot drop. But God (and my teacher) assured me that my footing would not slip, that I could get through this obstacle, up the crevasse, through the jagged terrain.

Years later, while crossing a shale field on a mountain in Montana on what was probably a goat trail, a rock slipped, and I went tumbling down the mountain. My hiking partner looked back just in time to see my hand slip into the rubble. Luckily, in the middle of that shale field was a sole tree, no larger than a shrub really, and it was only about 10 feet below where we were crossing, and I got tangled up in that tree as I tumbled down the mountain, only suffering some minor scrapes and bruises.

The world, and all of creation is a lot like some of these places. There are places that present as dangers, but we must pass through them to get to where we are going. When we pass through them, it is often helpful to keep our gaze upwards, to look at the peak you are hiking towards. That is hiking advice. But from a spiritual, and more normative humanly and worldly perspective, we recognize that sometimes we have to pass through fields and seasons that aren't very hospitable. They may be covered with jagged edges, may be fraught with peril on each side.

But if we lift our eyes up to the hills, to the peak that we are ascending to, when we focus on our calling, we have a certain promise from God, that God will not let our feet slip. That God will protect us from the "elements," the sun, the moon, really, anything that could do us harm. The Lord will be watching over us as we traverse these mountains, seeking after that Peak.

What peak is God calling you to? Right now, imagining life after quarantine is a lot like imagining summittting a mountain. We look forward to that future, knowing life will be different, but it will be glorious. Yet, we also know we need to look forward faithfully, and we need to look forward knowing that we don't know fully what is on that peak. I pray we all take this journey together, and we all fully rely on God to get us up this mountain. This month's tower bell will have several pictures to help remind you of God's great power in creation, and also that we are all on this hike together. To God be the glory!

PSALM 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;

⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life;

⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

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 This Is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel, an important book about raising a transgender child. Since the social distancing precautions are still in place because of COVID-19, Book Group will be held 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 to all current attendees of Book Group early that week. Contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information, or if you also want to receive an email with the link. Our usual pre-discussion dinner at The Ridge restaurant is still on hold. Also, please bring book suggestions for the fall. We will choose our selections for September, October, and November this month.

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

“Every once in a while, I read a book that opens my eyes in a way I never expected.” —Reese Witherspoon (Reese’s Book Club x Hello Sunshine book pick)

People Magazine’s Top 10 Books of 2017

Amazon’s Best Books of 2017: Top 20

Amazon’s Best Literature and Fiction of 2017

Bustle’s 17 Books Every Woman Should Read From 2017

PopSugar’s Our Favorite Books of the Year (So Far)

Refinery29’s Best Books of the Year So Far

BookBrowse’s The 20 Best Books of 2017

Pacific Northwest Book Awards Finalist

The Globe and Mail’s Top 100 Books of 2017

Longlisted for 2019 International DUBLIN Literary Award

“It made me laugh, it made me cry, it made me think.” —Liane Moriarty, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Big Little Lies*

This is how a family keeps a secret...and how that secret ends up keeping them. This is how a family lives happily ever after...until happily ever after becomes complicated. This is how children change...and then change the world. This is Claude. He’s five years old, the youngest of five brothers, and loves peanut butter sandwiches. He also loves wearing a dress, and dreams of being a princess. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl.

Rosie and Penn want Claude to be whoever Claude wants to be. They’re just not sure they’re ready to share that with the world. Soon the entire family is keeping Claude’s secret. Until one day it explodes.

Laurie Frankel’s *This Is How It Always Is* is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it’s about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don’t get to keep them forever.

Around Bishop Janes UMC

(Church History)

By Ted Schroeder

Greetings in Christ! I hope that you enjoyed my first piece in this series, in last month's Tower Bell. And my thanks to Pastor Matt for livening up that piece, by inserting pictures of our first two church buildings. The wooden one was the one that was built in 1853; pictures make it look large, but it was very small. The stone church was built at the turn of the last century (more on that in a later piece). It was the church that I spent my youth in, and was replaced in 1963-64 by a church that, externally at least, looked a great deal like our present church (but without the Dutcher wing).

Incidentally, last time I neglected to say that the name of that wooden church was the Basking Ridge Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1900, its replacement, the stone church (how appropriate), first bore the name of Bishop Janes.

Our church had numerous ups and downs between 1853 and 1900. Some years (and pastors) led to large increases in membership (in 1884, we had 198 members), and others to decline. (One near constant was debt. Debt was a usual part of our church, until recent decades.) The Civil War was one example of a challenge to churches in that era, with divisions over slavery.

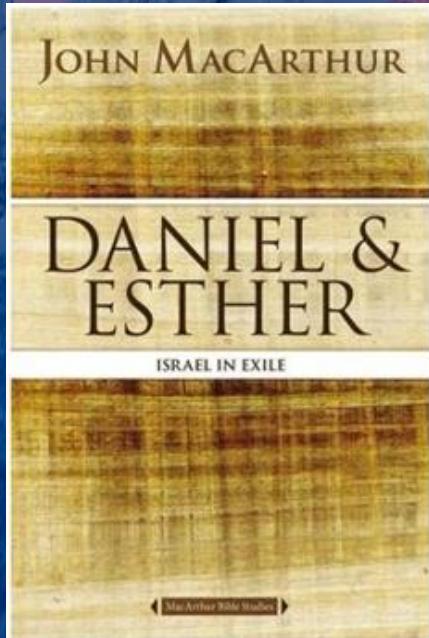
One story from that era that I remember my father reading to us, as he wrote it, concerned Laura Woodruff, wife of Charles Woodruff, our minister in 1870-73. Quoting my father's history (p. 6): Laura "had a beautiful, natural singing voice ... she organized an effective singing program in the Sunday schools and was the soprano soloist in the choir.

".. In 1883 Laura suffered a lung hemorrhage but lived after it for ten years. ... It is said that her singing voice, lost for many months, came back to her on the last day of May, 1893, and she sang three full hymns. The next day she died."

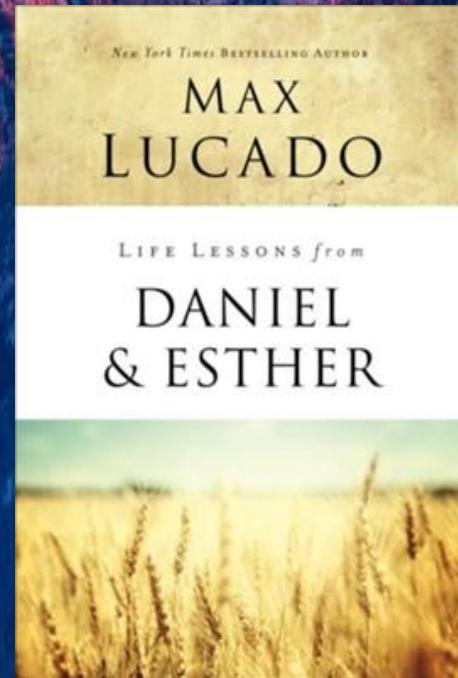
We had a number of interesting ministers in this era. My father, who liked to create a short tag for each one, wrote about "The Prophet", "The Scholarly Evangelist", and "The Orphan Who Wasn't". Interesting stories!

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**. You can join the class by clicking [here](#). 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.



May is traditionally a beautiful, sunny and busy month at Little Lambs. We would be celebrating Mother's Day, Memorial Day, the beauty of spring, and lots of outdoor activities. Along with everyone else, our students are experiencing a new way of life. The little ones miss their teachers, classrooms and friends.

Our teachers have been busy bringing class time and friends together in a number of ways. Each teacher is reaching out to students through the use of Email lessons, Zoom chats, Face Time, recorded circle and story time videos and personal phone calls. We have all joined in numerous Birthday Car Parades for students to help them celebrate their special day.

Our art and gymnastic teachers are doing their very best to bring their classes to students through Zoom.

Our families have been sending us photos and videos of their children at work in their homes. We have enjoyed watching parents working through our lessons with their children.

The Little Lambs Board of Directors continues to meet regularly to help make plans for our school. I thank them all for their dedicated service and extra time spent these last few months. We are fortunate to have these committed volunteers at BJUMC!

Speaking on behalf of our staff, we miss our students and will continue to reach out regularly to all of our friends at Little Lambs. Please keep us in your prayers at this unusual and challenging time.

Kim Dial, Director



BJUMC 2021 Cookbook

During this difficult time of isolation first and foremost we pray you and your family are healthy and staying in place.

BJUMC Fundraising Committee members Cheryl Beyer and Christina Shurts will be putting together Our BJUMC 2021 cookbook. Now is a great time to clean out your box/drawer/file folder of recipes! If you would like to submit a family loved recipe or one that you love making for your fancy dinner parties we would love to consider it for our cookbook. It will include recipes for appetizers, entrees, and desserts or your favorite smoothie.

Please include the following with your recipe:

- Your phone number only for our use to call if there are any questions.
- Name of the recipe
- Your name and the name of your family member who's recipe it is.
- A short story behind it or what holiday if any you serve it at.
- List of ingredients
- Specific instructions (remember that we take some steps for granted)
- Cooking temperature
- Cooking time
- Preparation time
- What size pan do you use is it metal or glass
- How many does it feed
- Any helpful hints that will make the recipe a success for any caliber cook.

Please email all of this information for consideration to cheryl@unquiewire.com as soon as you can. Cheryl and Christina will be taking in recipes submissions for the next few months though.

Please feel free to email if you have any questions.

Thank you in advanced for your help in making this cookbook a huge success.

Cheryl and Christina

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

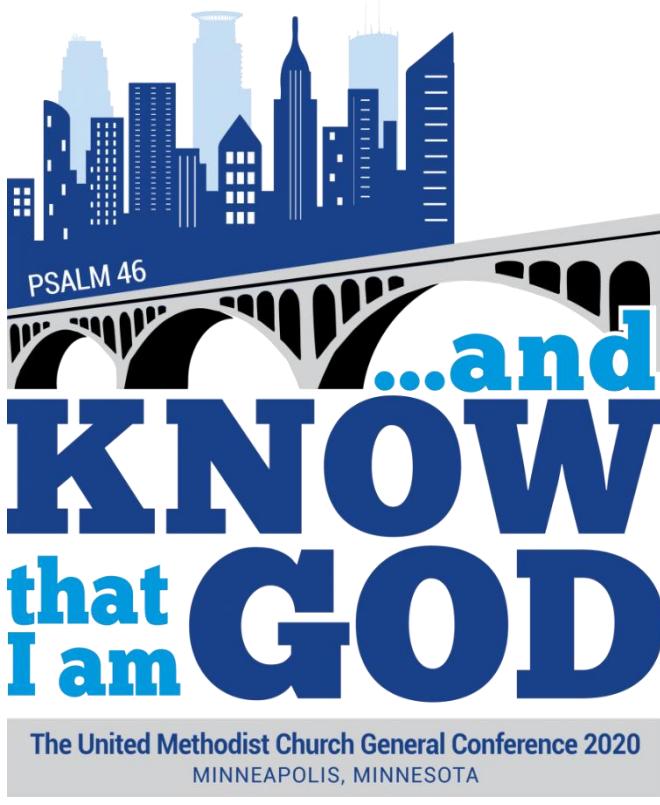
Over the last year or two, our church has switched from a staff led model to a volunteer led model. We still have a lot of things around the church which need volunteers, in order to maintain our ministries. Most Ministry teams have modified a lot of their programming to make them more volunteer friendly. 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:

- Counters
- Communications Team
 - o Tower Bell Editor
 - o Advertising consultant
- Sunday School & Nursery
- Family Ministries Team (Event Planning and execution)
- Local Missions Teams: Foodbanks, Mask-Making, Contact/Service Team, and more!
- Wednesday Night Worship:
 - o Additional Singers/Musicians
 - o Greeter/Ushers
- Director of Reconciling Ministries, Team Members
- Fundraising Team

There are also a handful of one-time projects that could be done around the church, for those who can't take on long-term commitments.

- A/V and Technical projects
- Organization/moving Projects
- Cleaning Projects
- Much Much more!



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 the summer of 2021.

This is heartbreakng 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

LIVESTREAMING WORSHIP

Beginning in March, it became essential that our church stay connected, and we continue to worship God in new and creative ways, separately, but together. We have been connecting virtually for groups and fellowships, bible studies and youth group, and we have been livestreaming worship.

As with any technical system, there are always hiccups in the rollout of new systems. While we have worked to address many of these, some have also been unavoidable due to changes in security protocols in the various systems we have been employing to keep us all worshipping together.

Our hope is to continue on as we have been, livestreaming our worship through facebook, at www.facebook.com/bjumc. Generally, you should be able to view our church facebook page, even if you do not have a facebook account. Some people have reported that this is not the case. We still encourage as many people to view our livestream on the www.facebook.com/bjumc page for 3 reasons: 1) it allows us to worship together in a single place, so we know how many people are actually present, and 2) it is much much easier to administrate from the worship leaders perspective, and 3) it puts less strain on the system resources and reduces lag/improves the quality of the stream. So, if at all possible, please continue to use the www.facebook.com/bjumc livestream to access our worship services. That being said, if you cannot access our worship services through www.facebook.com/bjumc page, you may use the following information to log directly into zoom. Please only log into zoom if the www.facebook.com/bjumc link does not work for you.

WEDNESDAY'S MIDWEEK WORSHIP: <https://zoom.us/j/99642246808>

SUNDAY WORSHIP: <https://zoom.us/j/93559758079>

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work on our systems, and innovate what it means to be "church" in this time. Our church has done an amazing job at staying connected, and by all metrics seems to be thriving in this time. The Holy Spirit is alive and well within our community!

TRUSTEES REPORT:

While our church has been closed to the public, the Trustees have been capitalizing on the vacant space, working tirelessly to ensure that when we do re-open, our physical space will be as good as possible. We want to especially thank Doug and Oscar for their work in this time.

When we reopen, check out Mellick Hall, Wesley Hall, and the kitchen. Oscar worked hard for about 3 weeks stripping the floors in each of these rooms, giving the floor tile a deep scrub, then applying copious layers of wax. Most of the floors in our basement now look like there is a layer of glass on top of the floor tile, they look amazing!

The Air Conditioning units in the sanctuary have finally been fixed! Thanks to all for your patience last summer, putting up with fans that made it feel like the spirit was literally swishing about in the sanctuary.

The next project, which is still in design phase is upgrading the lighting in the sanctuary. Our present lighting is outdated, and uses so much electricity, our heads spin almost as fast as our electricity meter. It is estimated that by replacing the fixtures with modern LED lighting, we would recoup the cost of replacing them in just 12-18 months, then have long term savings! This is a project that will not only enhance our worship space, but be good stewards of our resources now and in the future. On that note, due to a wonderful anonymous donor, all the lightbulbs in the narthex have been fitted with LED bulbs, for further energy savings!

Thanks to all who have worked on each of these projects. We look forward to seeing the fruits of your labor!

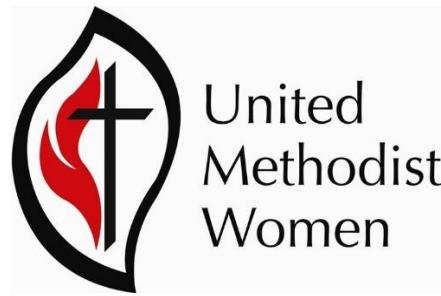
FINANCE REPORT

April was an incredible month for our church, financially. Thank you to everybody who made special donations, or who tithed to our church. We are beginning to feel very stable in our finances.

As of April 30, the church had received a total of 122,332.18 year to date in tithes, comprising 36.5% of our annual budget. Our church expenses, year to date have totaled 107,631.55, comprising 32.1% of our annual budget. Thus, we have a small surplus year to date. As of the end of April, we have been through 33.3% of the year, so we are also operating slightly under budget while receiving slightly more than budgeted year to date.

This is excellent news, as our monthly giving had been on the decline for the first 3 months of the year, with March especially hit with the initial Covid Outbreak. Thanks to all who have helped us stay on track through tithes and the special Easter Offering.

Additionally, our church has applied for the Paycheck Protection Plan Loan, which is a forgivable loan through the Small Business Administration. This will help ensure that we stay on track through the rest of this crisis. This will be especially beneficial to the Little Lambs Toddler Center, which has had to close for operation as of Mid-March, and is thus very adversely impacted financially by this virus. We continue to pray for the families, teachers and staff of Little Lambs in this time, and are working to ensure a long-term viable plan exists for this ministry. As of this last weekend, we have been informed by our bank that our loan has been guaranteed by the SBA. Thus, we are hopeful that this comes through, and ensures a healthy a vibrant future for this and other ministries.



SAVE THESE DATES:

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.

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. Contact persons: Linda Cargo or Karen Hayworth

UMW Mission Giving



United Methodist Women fundraising events at Bishop Janes Church enable our unit to financially support local, and international mission giving as well as to support our own ministries including the Piecemaker Quilters and the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Each year the UMW budget is carefully and prayerfully reviewed and set according to guidelines provided by the United Methodist Women National Office.

One of the ways that the UMW has been able to creatively provide support to women in need around the world is by providing micro-loans through Kiva, an online organization founded in 2005 to expand financial access to help vulnerable and underserved individuals and communities improve their lives.

Since opening their account in 2007 our UMW has made a total of 125 loans to women in 45 different countries. Total deposits have amounted to \$563 with a total amount lent of \$3,150.



As an example, the most recent loans made this past month were to four different women, each in the amount of \$25: Ruhshona in Tajikistan to renovate her small cafeteria and bakery, Pamela in Ibarra, Ecuador to purchase equipment for her personal training business, Balbina in Paraguay to purchase pigs to breed and sell, and Germania in Tulcan, Ecuador to buy furniture and accessories for her hair salon. Each of these loans are special because they focus on the poorest one fifth of the population with no access to financial services.

We pray for those women to succeed and be able to provide financial support to their families, their children and their communities. For more information about Kiva go to their website, Kiva.org



UMW Calendar for May 2020

GRACE CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, May 12th 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, ghwalker@gmail.com

NEW CIRCLE will meet for on Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00pm. Newcomers are welcome and invited to join 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

GRACE CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, May 26th 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, ghwalker@gmail.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Tuesday, May 28th at 7:00pm. 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, kluridge@gmail.com

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