

B.J.U.M.C TOWER BELL

August 2020

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

These days, it seems like there are so many issues in the world that need our immediate attention, and our Christian response. A congregant recently asked me, “with so many issues, it just seems overwhelming, how do we address all of them?” I certainly empathized with the congregant, as I have seen the pain in the world daily, and am greatly moved by it as well.

After meditating on this, I thought long and hard about Elijah’s story in the second half of 1 Kings. Elijah had been out doing all sorts of work for the Lord, taking on this issue, that issue, this foe, that foe, constantly putting himself at risk of death in the name of the Lord. Then one day, he found himself running for his life. He had just had enough.

Ultimately, before he could continue on, a dramatic scene takes place, which we need to take to heart. Elijah took a nap. He took a long nap. When he awoke, somehow food had been provided to him by the Spirit of God. Then he napped some more. Finally when he awoke, he was recharged, **and he was able to follow the call of God onto the next great challenge of his day.**

The lesson of all this is that we need rest too. We can’t pour love out of ourselves if our cup is empty. I am greatly inspired by the words of Martin Luther King Jr., and an advocate for his methods of standing up for what is right, in a peaceful way, decrying hate, and preaching love. The only way to defeat hate is with love. Yet, if we don’t take the time to fill our own cup, to rest, to be faithful, what are we actually pouring out of ourselves.

ECCLESIASTES. CHAPTER 3

There is a time for everything,

and a season for every activity under the heavens:

² a time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

³ a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,

a time to keep and a time to throw away,

⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,

a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have

seen the burden God has laid on the human

race. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its

time. He has also set eternity in the human heart;

yet^[a] no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing

better for people than to be happy and to do

good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may eat

It is a spiritual discipline to know when we are able to serve, and to know when we are not able to serve faithfully. If we are empty, if we haven't taken the time to be faithful to ourselves, our needs, as well as our relationship with the Lord, then we have to ask ourselves, what is it that we are pouring out of ourselves?

I think the analogy of a cup is good, or perhaps a tank of gas. At some point our fuel source gets depleted, and we need to recharge before we can continue to have a meaningful output. This is not selfishness, this is tending to our needs to better enhance and equip our message. This is insurance that the message we are sharing is indeed the message we intend to share. When our cup is empty, we become weak to attacks, we become brittle, we break, and that impacts our witness.

So, how do we recharge? This is the quintessential question, primarily because we all recharge differently. Some people do it through rest, simple rest. Others do it through meditations, some by prayer, some in reading and reflection, others by daily devotions, or singing. Spending time, intentionally, with the Lord, in a way that uplifts, supports, and reinforces whatever mission you are on is essential to ensuring that you stay on course. Back in the days before the Google Maps App in your cars, we would plot a course on the map before going out, but then we would check regularly that we are still on course throughout our journey. It is important to check in with ourselves, make sure we continue on the right course, so our witness does not unwittingly go off course.

When we are filled, and maintain our cup, we then can take the mantle, and go about doing God's work faithfully. We have a duty to listen to God's voice, which is calling us in many directions, and asking us to stand up for so many things. We must continue to take seriously this call. Once we are rested, and restored, our calling is to then get up, and go, not to sit idly by and take on gluttonous rest and restoration. The old adage is true: "all things in moderation." We must take seriously our call, but we also must take seriously our need for self-care in the face of such great need. Only when we tend to this balance can we truly be effective in our ministry.

I pray for all of us, I pray for our nation. We are facing unprecedented times of division in our country. Economic division, racial division, health division, social protocol division. May Christ fill our hearts that we can be a beacon of light, unifying people over a vision of love for Christ, and for one another. When we see each other with Agape love, loved as the creation of Christ, we can overcome these divisions, respect each other more fully, and tend to each other selflessly.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt



“Our Faith Life should be as systematic and regular as our coffee routine, each day like clockwork” -

Pastor Matt

Our normal schedules have been disrupted, and we have not nestled into new daily routines and schedules. It is important to us that during this time, we do everything we can to make our faith life a priority. Throughout the COVID-19 Quarantine process, our church has committed to doing several things to help make this happen, so we can spend time with God daily:

- Daily Devotions, posted to our church Facebook page every morning at 7AM
- Children’s Stories with Liz Elliott, ranging from biblical stories, to modern parables, posted 3x a week.
- Children’s online Sunday School, Sundays, by Melissa Johnson and team.
- Midweek Worship, Wednesdays at 6:30, available online
- Sunday Worship, Sundays at 9:30, available online
- Quarantine Canteen, lunchtime fellowship online with church community members, Tuesdays and Thursdays noon to 1pm.
- After Church Fellowship Time, 10:30AM, online

Additionally, most of our ministry teams are still meeting in various online formats. If you don’t have a computer, you can call in and connect by phone. It is important in this time that we keep our faith strong. Our church is doing everything it can to equip us to spend this time walking with Jesus, both individually and as a group, by providing tools for both individual growth and group and community growth and development. If you have any questions about joining any groups, just send an email to Pastor Matt, or the group leader, we’ll be happy to help get you connected!



DAILY DEVOTIONS

All Spring and Summer BJUMC has been publishing a daily devotion online at our facebook page: www.facebook.com/bjumc. Devotions are posted at 7AM every day.

For the month of August we will be focusing our attention on our hymn books, looking at our various hymnody in the Methodist tradition from various angles: how does this hymn inspire us, what is the history of the hymn or the hymn-writer, what is the biblical message of the hymn and more. We have had a lot of fun making these devotions, we hope you enjoy them. What greater way to start your day off than singing a song of praise to the Lord, and learning a little bit about it.

If you or your family/friends would like to submit a daily devotion for inclusion in our devotion series, they can be submitted to Pastor Matt. We encourage people to share a brief message 5-10 minutes, scripture, and prayer. So many people in our church have such wonderful talents and gifts, lets share them with the rest of our church, get to know each other better, and inspire a faithful connection with the Lord!



QUARANTINE CANTEEN

A PLACE TO CONNECT WITH PASTOR MATT AND OTHER
CONGREGANTS, EVERY THURSDAY 12:00 – 1:00 PM, ONLINE

We have had a great spring of connecting at the quarantine canteen. As more things seem to be opening up, demand for the canteen has lessened on Tuesdays, but stayed strong on Thursdays. We will be consolidating the canteen to one day a week, and keeping it on Thursdays, Noon to 1pm. All are welcome to join us for a lunch time conversation, and connect with other congregants. There is no formal discussion, nothing to plan for, just an easy, lighthearted place to connect, and share the love of Christ with our church community. Come for the hour, or just drop in for a few minutes, no commitments necessary.

To Join the canteen on Thursdays: just click the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/9543647084>

If you don't have a computer, but would like to join us by telephone, let Pastor Matt know, and he can help you do that to



REOPENING

Many people have asked: “Is the church open?” The short answer to that question is: “kind of, but not really.” Here, we will attempt to answer questions to help people understand where we are at, and what we are working towards. Our first priority will always be the health and safety of our Congregants and staff. We would much rather do things slowly, or with heavy restrictions than to put anybody needlessly at risk.

QUESTION 1: WHAT IS CURRENTLY ALLOWED IN THE CHURCH:

- Presently, the church office is open. Pastor Matt is maintaining office hours in the church. If you would like to have a meeting with him, he is available for in-person meetings **by appointment only**. He is also available for conversation and meetings by both telephone or video conferencing, and these means remain the preferred means of meeting.
- Ministry leaders may enter the building for essential business only. Ministry teams aren't to be doing substantial work in the church at this time, but ministry leaders may enter to organize, gather equipment, do administrative work, etc., as necessary for the carrying on of our various ministries.
- Worship: We are authorized to livestream from the sanctuary. Presently, we have capped the total number of people allowed in the sanctuary at 10 people, including all people leading the service, operating equipment, and attendees. For this reason, attendees will be limited to those who do not have internet or computer capability to watch the livestream from home (please let Pastor Matt if this applies to you or somebody you know). For this reason, once we start worship in the sanctuary, it will be by invitation only, other than worship leaders.

QUESTION 2: WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT IF WE COME TO THE CHURCH BUILDING?

- At all entry points, a detailed list of expectations is listed.
- Please sanitize your hands upon entry (sanitizer is provided).
- Please bring a mask, masks are required at all times within the church building. If you forget your mask, disposable masks are available, but they cost the church almost \$1.00 each, so please bring your own to limit this cost.
- Touchless thermometer: if you are coming to the church at a time it is occupied by others, your temperature may be taken. If your temperature is over 100.4F, we respectfully ask you not to enter the building, for the health and safety of all.
- Social Distancing: Please abide by social distancing principles at all times while in the church building. If you are part of a Quarantine Unit (those who are quarantining together), this may be relaxed, but otherwise, respect other people's space at all times.
- Plastic Shielding and barriers have been installed in various locations. This is also an indicator that whatever space is behind the plastic shielding is a protected location. Please do not go around plastic shielding in the office. Our office staff is working hard, and needs a safe place to work. Keeping their desks and tools private will help in this.
- Please disinfect any surfaces or tools you have used while in the building prior to leaving. Sanitary wipes are provided in the bathrooms (please do not flush), disinfecting spray and paper towels are available in the office for other locations.

QUESTION 3: IS ANYBODY NOT ALLOWED IN THE CHURCH BUILDING?

- We respectfully ask that you not enter the church building, or come to church property if any of the following criteria fit you:
 - o Travelled to any location on the NJ Mandatory Quarantine List within the past 14 days.
 - o Exhibit any symptom of Covid-19 within the past 3 days
 - o Have a temperature of 100.4F or above.
 - o Have had contact with somebody known to have Covid-19 within the past 14 days.
- We have taken great precautions within our building, and while we have attempted to go above and beyond in prevention, we cannot ensure the building is always safe, therefore, while other people are allowed in the building, respectfully discourage anybody from coming to the church building who is in the "at risk" category for any reason.

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QUESTION 4: IF I COME TO CHURCH, AND LATER DEVELOP COVID-19, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- We respectfully ask that you notify the church immediately that you have Covid-19, when you were in the church, and who else was present. We will not identify you without your consent, but we want to ensure that anybody who was potentially exposed is notified immediately.

QUESTION 5: IS THE WHOLE CHURCH OPEN, OR JUST THE OFFICE AND SANCTUARY?

- The areas related to your various ministries may be accessed following the guidelines contained herein.
- The areas associated with Little Lambs (operating under a separate policy) are heavily restricted and should not be accessed between 8AM and 2PM by anybody other than Little Lambs Staff for any reason, pursuant to State Law. This includes: The Dutcher Center Wing beginning at the fire doors at the rear or the Narthex, the Downstairs area inclusive of Wesley Hall, through the Dutcher center, staircases, and elevator. If the fenced in courtyard is occupied by Little Lambs, but you need access to the office, please use the back office door (in the alleyway near the Dentist Office).

As the summer rolls on, we will continue to look at the remainder of our policies, and whether or not various activities can take place this fall. Numerous activities have already been cancelled, as there is just no way to safely carry them out. We will keep you informed of any changes as time carries on.

As a church, we have accepted the charge of Bishop Schol that no United Methodist Activity is to be the cause of the transmission of Covid-19. This is a daunting task, as we look at ways to carry out our ministry. Our church has taken the call seriously, and has adapted better than many to still carry on our ministries at a distance. We thank you all for your willingness to adapt and change. This is precisely the kind of time and situation the church is needed for. We are reminded that the “church” is not a building, but rather a collection of people, doing God’s work, seeking God’s will, and serving God by serving those in our community in various ways. We have been greatly blessed with leaders who have continued at the helm in this time to lead us to a new vision of what church might be. All praise and Glory to God. Amen.

Around Bishop Janes UMC – August

By Ted Schroeder

Last month, we saw the conclusion of the story of the building of our new church, at the turn of the last century. Bishop Janes was left with a sadly depleted congregation, because of the conflicts over the building project. In 1903, the Conference considered reducing BJ to “supply or student pastors who were, in effect, part-time” (p. 150). In 1905, this happened, “for the first time in our history. Now the list of ‘regular’ conference ministers was closed” to us (p. 155). It was a great blow.

Over the next eight years, Bishop Janes was very fortunate to have two young student pastors, who had some experience: Washington Irving (“Bill”) Dice, and William M. Nesbit, who was a scholar. They were hard-working, and successful overall; by 1913, there were 163 members of our congregation. Things were up and down after that, however; between 1913 and 1924, Bishop Janes had eight different ministers! In fact, between 1905 and 1947, many of our ministers were quite young, and a few were older, some with histories of medical issues. (Dr. James H. MacDonald, who was with us in 1933-38, died while serving us.)

Because of the Great Depression, the church history labels the 1930-38 period “The Desperate Years”. Finances reached a really low ebb: the pastor’s salary “had been reduced to a nominal \$1000 a year, but he was actually paid less than that. There were periods when he received only \$5 a week”! (pp. 263-4). Fortunately, Pastor MacDonald was retired, and drawing a pension for 40 years of prior service.

The years 1938-47 were labeled in the history as “Our Renaissance”. They started with another “supply” pastor, Elmer (“Jack”) Parks, 1938-41, who helped to accomplish a good deal of church building. Our pastor from 1941-47 was another student from Drew University, Herbert E. Richards – in fact, he was only 21 years old when he became our minister. He saw us through World War II and helped to build a strong and growing church. I can remember him being spoken of favorably.

In the next installment, we will look at our church at mid-century, and beyond, as the church and community both grew and changed.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

This summer, our youth leaders are planning ahead for the next year of youth ministry. We are still crafting the format and formula for what youth group will look like this year. We are anticipating, at least for the time being, continuing on with a virtual format, and not meeting in person. By September, we will have an outline for our youth for what this year will bring.

Until then, the following is a list of events our Youth Group may choose to engage in over the course of the year, as provided through our Conference (the regional body of the UMC). Being connectional, and working with other churches is a major component of the Methodist Tradition. We will be engaging these resources to the best of our abilities over the next year.

September 13, 2020 / Virtual IGNITE Communities

Bring your youth group together to tune in or organize your students to watch from home. At Virtual IGNITE Communities, we'll worship together and hear a message via Zoom and Facebook Live. While we're not sure how gatherings will be happening in September, we'll kick off a great year of ministry with youth together online!

November 20 and 22, 2020 / Fall Regional Kick-off: IGNITE Communities

The spirit of IGNITE has arrived closer to your church! IGNITE Communities meet for regional youth worship nights. At an IGNITE Community, churches and students come together for worship, fun and small groups. With regular opportunities throughout the year, students and leaders will grow in faith and leadership together.

January 29-31, 2021 | IGNITE Conference

At IGNITE Conference, thousands of students throughout the region gather for worship, fun and discipleship. This high energy, impactful gathering features speakers and artists, creating an atmosphere that helps young people connect with God and community, no matter their previous faith experience or background. [NOTE: our church will not be sponsoring an in-person trip to the ignite conference this year. We might attend as a group if it becomes a virtual event, but if it is held as an in-person event, we trust your families to make good decisions independently, taking into consideration the health and safety of your family, and all those you come into contact with in your daily lives]

March 5 and 7, 2021| Spring Regional Gathering: IGNITE Communities

For the rest of the school year, IGNITE Communities gather regionally. Always focused on worship, fun and small groups, students will develop supportive friendships and community within their church and beyond by gathering regularly. They'll grow deeper in their faith and practice leadership skills.

June 4 and 6, 2021 | Closing Regional Gatherings: IGNITE Communities

IGNITE Communities gather regionally for the last time in the school year. Always focused on worship, fun and small groups, students will develop supportive friendships and community within their church and beyond their church by gathering regularly. They'll grow deeper in their faith and also practice leadership skills.

July 19 – August 14, 2021 | IGNITE Summer Camp

Students from IGNITE Communities throughout NJ join together for IGNITE Summer Camps. With focuses including Creative Arts, Social Justice, Counselors-in-Training, Elementary Camp and Hispanic Heritage, there is a place for everyone in IGNITE Communities to have a fantastic summer. Programs to choose from!

Ways United Methodists can stand against Racism

A UMC.org feature by Joe Iovino*

Those living in the United States exist in a culture permeated with racial bias. We may not be able to avoid racism, but we don't have to accept it. If God's kingdom is to come, and God's will is to be done on earth as it is in heaven, things need to change.



We United Methodists can be [agents of that transformation](#) by changing our beliefs, changing our actions, and working to change the world.**

Changing beliefs about race

Becoming an agent of transformation includes focusing within ourselves. We need to allow God to shape our inner thoughts and attitudes toward race.

Pray – Changing our beliefs begins with prayer, which "is foundational to everything we do as Christians," writes Katelin Hansen, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Training, at the [United Methodist Church and Community Development for All People](#). In addition to prayers for events of racial injustice in the news and your life, pray for God to change your heart and attitudes. Hansen offers a sample prayer:

Triune God, help us be ever faithful to your example: affirming of our unique identities, while remaining unified as one body in you. Help us seek out the voices that are missing, and empower the marginalized. Let our witness of repentance, justice, and reconciliation bring glory to You, O Lord.

Broaden your education – It is important to include more voices in your learning. The internet is a great resource to find authors and thinkers whose racial and cultural backgrounds differ from your own. In a [video produced by the General Commission on Religion and Race](#) (GCORR) Hansen shares, "I turned to the digital world to continue my racial education, to serve as the professors of justice and theology that I never had."

Seek new relationships – There is no substitute for sharing consistent, ongoing, authentic relationships with people of color. Developing those relationships may mean moving out of your comfort zone. Hansen and her husband became members of a multi-race and multi-class church. "We joined out of a belief that isolating ourselves among believers of similar backgrounds just deprives our own souls of God's majesty," she says in the GCORR video.

Forming authentic relationships takes time. Don't rush it.



United Methodists can find ways to change their beliefs, their behavior and work to change the world. Photo courtesy Melanie C. Gordon, Discipleship Ministries.

Changing behavior

We live out our changing beliefs through changes in behavior. Through some bigger steps we begin to act on what we believe about race.

Empower leaders – Use your resources to promote and equip leaders of color. Then, be willing to follow. Listen and act on opinions, activities, and points of view different from your own.

Show up – "At the guidance and invitation of leaders of color," Hansen writes, "show up when called upon." As we come together for conversations and demonstrations, we build a culture of justice in our community and model multi-cultural love and understanding.

Spend responsibly – Support racial equality through your shopping and donations. Shop at local markets owned by people of color. Donate to charities and ministries led by and supporting those of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Examine your media intake – Expand your social media follows and news sites to include voices and opinions different from your own. For big stories, be sure to consult multiple sources from a variety of points of view. Don't rely on just one when you form an opinion.

Consider your entertainment choices also. Be aware of the movies, music, and television shows you consume that promote equality, and those that present a bias. Listen to more voices and remain aware of how they are shaping you.

Changing society

Author and professor Robin DiAngelo reminds us in a [Vital Conversations video](#) from GCORR, racism is "group prejudice backed up by institutional power." Therefore, to take a stand against racism we cannot simply change our own beliefs and behaviors. We must also work to change the world.

Advocate – Written and unwritten policies in our neighborhoods, workplaces, churches, schools, and nation disadvantage certain ethnicities. Learn from the people of color in your neighborhood about the ways they feel disadvantaged and find ways to participate in changing those systems.

Sponsor – People of color sometimes struggle to access public services, opportunities, and more. Use your money, gifts, and sphere of influence to make a difference. Sponsor friends and coworkers who need assistance to attend a career seminar. Encourage and lead your congregation toward creating programs like a [Freedom School](#). Invest in people and programs that work toward racial justice.



Picture: Katelin Hansen, an advocate for racial justice, appeared in a General Commission on Religion and Race Vital Conversations video called "[Being an Ally With People of Color](#)." Image courtesy the General Commission on Religion and Race of The United Methodist Church.

Take a risk – Meaningful change requires risk. Sometimes we will put our reputations, money, and leadership opportunities on the line. Shaping our society and institutions to reflect more fully the kingdom of God will not always be appreciated. We must be willing to risk the loss.

Changing beliefs, changing behavior, and changing society are long processes that may never be complete. We must continue, however, to work for change in all three areas as God calls us.

"These steps aren't so much a progression as they are a cycle," Hansen concludes. "Advocacy without relationship is empty. Education without changed behavior is hollow. Sponsorship without humility and trust is misguided."

What steps will you take to participate in God's transformational work of moving our society toward racial equality?

This story was first published on Aug. 15, 2017, and edited on April 18, 2018.

*[Joe Iovino](#) works for UMC.org at [United Methodist Communications](#). Contact him by [email](#).

**Special thanks to Katelin Hansen for this framework from her blog [By Their Strange Fruit](#). Used with her permission. Hansen is the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Training, at the United Methodist Church and Community Development for All People, a multiracial congregation in Columbus, Ohio.

Lawson: Black Lives Matter a Religious Movement

By Kathy L. Gilbert

July 23, 2020 | UM News



Photo: The Rev. James Lawson says the Black Lives Matter movement is the most important nonviolent campaign since the civil rights movement. 2016 File photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

As a young man, the Rev. James Lawson was chosen by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to train young civil rights peacemakers to fight racism with love and respect — to step into the fray and say, “I follow Jesus.”

“That was a powerful mantra that I learned in the Methodist Youth

Movement in the ’40s and ’50s,” said Lawson, a United Methodist elder who is now 91.

[Lawson’s life work](#) has been to create a nonviolent nation.

He said some historians call the civil rights movement a Black church movement because the Black church was the only place where members of the movement could meet safely.

“Many of the mass meetings were a modification of a worship service, a religious meeting,” he said.

Watching the Black Lives Matter campaign today, Lawson said this movement is the most important nonviolent campaign since the movement in the 1960s that he and the late John Lewis and C.T. Vivian helped lead.

“As a student of nonviolence and history, this past spring I have said the 21st century has a chance to have movements like this one. To be far larger and more dynamic than anything we did in 20th century.”

Lawson still teaches nonviolence at the University of California, Los Angeles and at California State University in Northridge. He lives in Los Angeles, where he is pastor emeritus of Holman United Methodist Church. Lawson has watched the movement growing as people have gathered in 700 cities to speak the names of people killed by police. The network is offering the nation something unique, he said.

“They have organized around the grief and offered a ministry to the families of the Black men and women who have been shot and killed by police. They have helped those families to grieve, helped them to be empowered — to not let the murder, the execution of their child, go quietly away.”

He calls it a modern religious movement.

“Now Trayvon Martin’s father and mother are involved with George Floyd’s family. They have surrounded almost every family with a ministry of healing.”

The movement is giving a voice and addressing the pain of the families, helping them to turn over their grief to God and to stand up as a family, Lawson said. The movement and families are saying, “This is not God’s will. To me that is astounding and it is happening in our society today,” he added.

“In public life you have a movement that is trying to be a minister to the families and therefore to the nation. Look at that network, they are helping them to heal all over the country.”



People gather in the courtyard of McKendree United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn., during a June 4 prayer vigil to grieve and remember people lost to acts of racism. They are holding signs in honor of victims of racial violence. File photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

Calling this movement a protest is focusing on the wrong word, he said. The media doesn’t see it, they don’t study the people.

“Protest is such a bad term because all those marches and walks are calling the U.S. to a new way of life.

“The movement is calling for the dismantling of the old forms of racist violence that we have taken for granted and replacing them with new forms of kinship that will allow us to be a far stronger nation and better people. Repent of the sin and take on new life, that is a Christian and religious mantra.

“Break down sin, repent and discover new life in the process. The great story that is lasting and eternal. We churches need to see that story.”

Gilbert is a news writer for United Methodist News, contact her at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umnews.org. To read more United Methodist news, [subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests](#).

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**
- **Sunday School & Nursery for school year 2020-2021**
- **Family Ministries Team (Event Planning and execution)**
- **Local Missions Teams: Foodbanks, Mask-Making, Contact/Service Team, and more!**
- **Wednesday Night Worship:**
 - **Additional Singers/Musicians**
 - **Greeter/Ushers**
- **Director of Reconciling Ministries, Team Members**

- UMW Calendar

- August 2020

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- **Collection for School Kit items will begin August 1 through September 10th.**



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- **The UMW is currently seeking donations of school supplies that will be assembled into kits for the children of the clients at God's Coop Pantry in Bernardsville. The following items will be collected: Crayons (24 pack), Colored Pencils (8 to 12 pack), #2 Pencils, Ink Pens (blue or black), Notebooks (70 page, perforated), small (2 to 4 oz.) bottles of hand sanitizer.**
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- **Donations may be placed in the collection box located in the church office or shipped to the home of Linda Cargo, 28 Oxbow Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920. Cash donations will be gratefully accepted and may be sent to the church office at 22 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920. Contact person: Barbara Conca, conca@optonline.net**



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- Bonnie Artell is currently hard at work making jams and jellies for our Holiday Bazaar. She is seeking donations of sugar, jam size mason jars and regular size lids and rings as well as any fruit or produce you might like to donate from your garden. Please contact Bonnie at bonnieartell@gmail.com or 908-766-0793 to arrange for a drop off time at her home located on 98 Spencer Road, Basking Ridge.
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- **GRACE CIRCLE** will meet Tuesday, August 25th 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
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- **United Methodist Women Board Affirms 'Black Lives Matter to God' in New Call to Action to Members**
- On July 17, 2020, the United Methodist Women Board of Directors affirmed [the statement](#) that "Black Lives Matter to God and to United Methodist Women." We must dismantle racist systems in our communities, agencies, workplaces, governments and churches.
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- In summary, The Board calls on United Methodist Women members and leaders to:
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- **Listen.**
- Racism exists. Racism kills. Racism is a sin that occurs at individual, institutional and cultural levels, including in our disproportionately white U.S. church. The evidence of racism and White privilege is irrefutable and not up for debate. Listen to people of color. Listen to God's stirrings as you pray for a church that does not perpetuate white supremacy and how you can help build a more just kin-dom.

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- **Learn.**
- Read the [Charter for Racial Justice](#) which can be found in *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church*, Resolution 3371, “A Charter for Racial Justice in an Interdependent Global Community.”
- Read other promises of The United Methodist Church, such as Resolution 3379, “Stop Criminalizing Communities of Color in the United States”; Resolution 3422, “Speaking Out for Compassion: Transforming the Context of Hate in the United States”; Resolution 3376, “White Privilege in the United States”; and United Methodist Women’s new proposed resolution for General Conference 2021, “[Voting Rights Protection in the United States](#).” Read *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, studied by the United Methodist Women Board of Directors and Program Advisory Group and a bonus book in the 2020 Reading Program. Take the [free online class](#) on the book. Purchase the book from a [Black-owned bookstore](#).
- Learn about [implicit bias](#). Learn to recognize [White privilege](#). Learn how to stop everyday [microaggressions](#). Learn more about the [history not taught](#) in our schools, churches, and homes. Do not [generalize racism](#)—learn about the different forms of racism, especially the exceptional lethality of racism against Black and Indigenous people of color.
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- **Love.**
- Love is action. Love is ensuring the safety of all of God’s children and their flourishing. Love is living up to our expressed commitments. Love is letting our learning transform us and move us to transform the world by not repeating mistakes, by calling others in, by following the lead of the marginalized who have been crying out for ages.
- Act in the ways the *Book of Resolutions* calls us to act. Among them, give attention to the employment, purchasing practices, environmental policies and availability of the institutions and businesses you support. Create spaces for learning and dialogue. Challenge police engagement in immigration enforcement. Speak out publicly for police accountability regarding racial profiling, misconduct, abuse and killings. Work to end the use of solitary confinement. Provide reentry ministries for people released from prison.
- Inform curriculum. Participate in state boards of education to ensure children’s education is not whitewashed.
- Patronize Black businesses. Look for groups on Facebook highlighting Black businesses in your community or start your own group. Encourage stories in your local media.
- Participate in justice movements led by people of color. If you are white, follow. Do not show up to take over. Do not assume you know best (you do not).
- Talk to children about race. Buy them books and movies and toys that celebrate multiculturalism.
- Vote for those whose policies will help end white supremacy. Contact your representatives when they don’t. March with those who need you marching. Act when you receive your action alert.
- Love is letting the Spirit move you away from comfort and toward joy for all. And the Spirit is moving. Books on antiracism are sold out. Racist monuments are coming down. Police are being held more accountable and being removed from schools. Towns, cities and states are moving toward name changes that will no longer celebrate white supremacy and toward redirecting resources to programs that serve and build rather than divide and harm. May the fruits of the Spirit be more access to

- leadership, voting, health care, education, employment, healthy environments, wealth, safety, well-being, thriving lives for people of color.
- The Spirit is moving, United Methodist Women. Be part of the movement.
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 - To read the full copy of this affirmation, go to
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-board-affirms-black-lives-matter-to-god>
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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@uniquewire.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

FINANCE REPORT

AUGUST 1, 2020

Greetings in Christ from the Finance Committee,

As things currently stand, we feel we are still in very good condition for the calendar year 2020. Year to date, we have incurred several of our annual expenses, we have repaired the air conditioners in the sanctuary, we have re-finished all the floors in about 95% of the church, and several other projects. Additionally, in the Month of August, we invested in a lot of infrastructure for our church, to meet or exceed best practices for “re-opening” our church, including plastic shielding, sanitizer dispenser stations, PPE, Touchless thermometers, disinfecting equipment, livestream equipment (paid for by the Abiding Memorial Fund), and much more. Additionally, we finally acquired computers for the Pastor, Office Administrator, and Sanctuary, to be able to streamline, upgrade, and enhance their performance. Much of the “re-opening” expenses were not budgeted for when we passed our budget for 2020, as nobody expected a global pandemic at that time, so accommodating this has been a major accomplishment.

The good news is, year to date, we are running a deficit of \$89.55, that’s less than \$100 year to date deficit, after all of those major expenses. This figure also does not take into consideration the PPP loan, which we received earlier this year. We won’t count that as income until it is forgiven. All this taken together, we expect to end 2020 in good standing, and well on our way towards saving for some of the major capital improvement projects we need to take on (ie: a new roof, etc.).

For transparency: in the month of July we received a total of \$24593 in tithes, and had total expenditures of \$27925, showing a monthly deficit of \$3331, largely attributable to the capital improvements for re-opening and new computers. Year to date, we have received a total of \$182,076.69 in tithes and offerings, and have had a total of \$182,166.24 in expenditures, leaving us with the above stated year to date deficit of \$89.55. We are continuing to run well under budget this year, and since several of our major expenditures have already been incurred, we expect this trend to continue throughout the rest of the year.

Thank you for all of your prayerful support of our church and ministries. We are doing everything we can to be the best stewards of the resources given to us, to make sure our church is doing the ministry of the Lord, and is a safe environment to accommodate these things.

In Christ,
Finance Committee.

Share with your Friends!



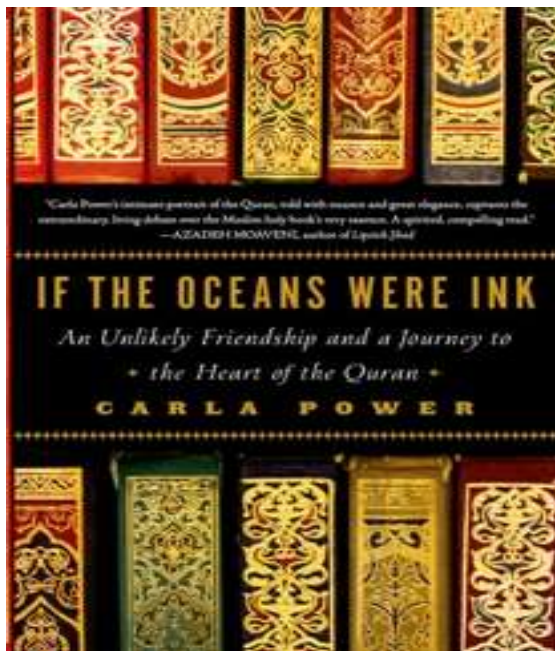
Inviting your friends to church has never been easier. With so many options to choose from: daily devotions, worship services, small groups, all you have to do is share the link with a friend.

- “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!

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 (or on Zoom if social distancing is still required due to COVID.) Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are considered. New members are welcome! Below are our selections for the fall, and even though summer is here, and Book Group is on a two month hiatus, fascinating reading never ceases. Contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information

September 10, 2020: If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran by Carla Power (led by Art Martin)



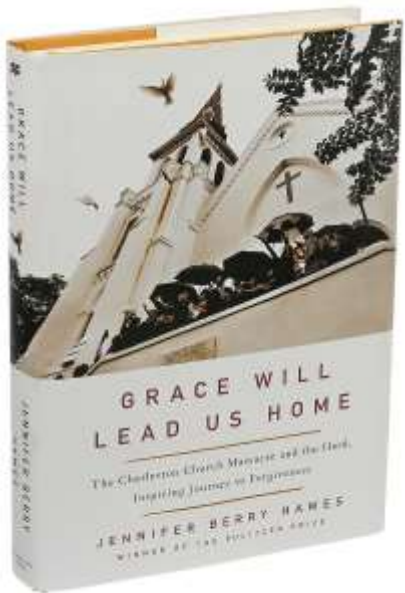
PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • Hailed by The Washington Post as “mandatory reading,” and praised by Fareed Zakaria as “intelligent, compassionate, and revealing,” a powerful journey to help bridge one of the greatest divides shaping our world today.

If the Oceans Were Ink is Carla Power's eye-opening story of how she and her longtime friend Sheikh Mohammad Akram Nadwi found a way to confront ugly stereotypes and persistent misperceptions that were cleaving their communities. Their friendship-between a secular American and a madrasa-trained sheikh-had always seemed unlikely, but now they were frustrated and bewildered by the battles being fought in their names. Both knew

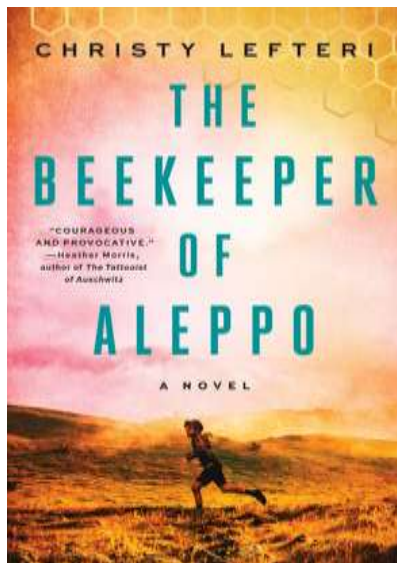
that a close look at the Quran would reveal a faith that preached peace and not mass murder; respect for women and not oppression. And so they embarked on a yearlong journey through the controversial text.

A journalist who grew up in the Midwest and the Middle East, Power offers her unique vantage point on the Quran's most provocative verses as she debates with Akram at cafes, family gatherings, and packed lecture halls, conversations filled with both good humor and powerful insights. Their story takes them to madrasas in India and pilgrimage sites in Mecca, as they encounter politicians and jihadis, feminist activists and conservative scholars. Armed with a new understanding of each other's worldviews, Power and Akram offer eye-opening perspectives, destroy long-held myths, and reveal startling connections between worlds that have seemed hopelessly divided for far too long.

October 8, 2020: Grace Will Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre and the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness by Jennifer Berry Hawes (led by Connie Schmalz)



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



Bishop Janes Virtual Summer Sunday School!

June 21st – August 23rd

FEATURING...

Bible Stories

At-Home Challenges

Crafts & Activities

Bible Memory Verse Challenges

**Videos will be posted Sunday
mornings at 9 am. To gain access,
please join the “Bishop Janes UMC
Sunday School” Facebook Group**

***Questions? Please contact Pastor Matt
pastor.matt@bjumc.org or Melissa Johnson
melissa.rose.johnson00@gmail.com***