

B.J.U.M.C TOWER BELL

JULY 2020

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

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“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 no 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!



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



June 8, 2020

Council of Bishops statement on the Scourge of Racism

The past few weeks have left many hurt, angry and outraged as we have witnessed the deaths of unarmed Black persons at the hands of police and racism; Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and the countless others whose names are known only to mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and friends.

Many bishops have worked to amplify and magnify one another's voices. The words of Bishop Bruce Ough, resident Bishop of Minneapolis area, were a clarion call to the crisis before us, "There is more than one pandemic ravaging Minnesota and our country at this time. In addition to fighting COVID-19, we are besieged by a pandemic of racism, white supremacy, and white on black or brown violence."

The voice of Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, resident Bishop of the Baltimore-Washington area, gave power to the realities, "Being Black is not a pre-existing condition; being Black is not justification for probable cause; being Black is not to be inherently suspicious nor suspect. Being Black is a gift from Almighty God and a manifestation of an aspect of God."

These prophetic voices and those of others have provided words when we had none.

As bishops of the United Methodist Church, **we ask every United Methodist to reclaim their baptismal vows** to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

We ask every United Methodist to name the egregious sin of racism and white supremacy and join together to take a stand against the oppression and injustice that is killing persons of color.

As bishops of the whole church **we affirm the peaceful protests** as a means of giving voice where it is needed most.

We are clear that it is beyond time for all United Methodists to act. **It is time to use our voices, our pens, our feet and our heart for change.**

100 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20002 202-547-6270

We join with other church leaders and boards and agencies of the United Methodist Church to add strength to the message that we **will no longer remain silent nor complicit** but must act now!

As a next faithful step **we ask United Methodists to read all they can on the subject of anti-racism and engage in conversations with children, youth and adults.** Have conversations with coworkers and friends. These will not be easy but they will help us gain a greater appreciation for one another. In a recent podcast, “Unlocking Us,” lecturer, author and podcast host, Brene Brown, hosted author, historian and American University professor, Ibram X. Kendi who said, “By not running from the books that pain us, we can allow them to transform us. I ran from antiracist books most of my life. But now I can’t stop running after them – scrutinizing myself and my society, and in the process changing both.” May we listen not only

with our ears but with our hearts and run after books, podcasts and conversations that transform entire communities.

For at least the next 30 days, **we ask every United Methodist everywhere to join in prayer at 8:46 a.m. and p.m. for 8 minutes and 46 seconds**, the time the officer held his knee on George Floyd's neck. Do this for at least the next 30 days. Pray for all persons of color who suffer at the hands of injustice and oppression. Pray for our church as we take a stand against racism. Imagine the power of a concert of prayer heard around the world.

And finally, to borrow from Bishop Easterling once again, "The time is now. Dismantle the architecture of whiteness and white supremacy; stop creating, implementing and supporting policies that perpetuate economic injustice; stop the dog-whistle political maneuverings which incite violence against people of color; commit to being an anti-racist; stop over-policing Black and brown bodies; stop using deadly force in ordinary police interactions with Black and brown people. Stop killing us."

May the God of Grace and Peace be with you.

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey President - Council of Bishops The United Methodist Church

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Fierro Harvey".

"Whiteness" and Understanding Racism

BY SCOTT HUGHES

One District Superintendent's Courageous Conversation
regarding "whiteness" and understanding racism

by the Rev. J. Patrick Lenox

Kane District Superintendent, Western Pennsylvania Conference

Dismantling racism is one of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference's most ambitious goals as we seek to love all people in the way that Jesus loves them. This past summer, to help the churches under my care take steps in that direction, I asked our conference's antiracism team to make a presentation at my district's regional charge conference gatherings in the fall of 2015. The team agreed to make the two-plus-hour-journey to my district and figured out how to squeeze their full-day presentation into 90 minutes.

In September, between the time of finalizing the plan for the four regional charge conferences and the meetings themselves, our cabinet read Dr. Shelly Tochluk's thought-provoking book, *Witnessing Whiteness*. Dr. Tochluk also met with our cabinet for two days, providing us with a challenging and enlightening experience.

I had never thought extensively about white culture. It was easy for me to believe that because I had grown up a certain way, that my culture was normative for everyone. Dr. Tochluk's book peeled back layers, revealing what white culture is and that it is not necessarily *the* norm. It is simply white culture. She points out that white people typically are uncomfortable talking about race and have a difficult time acknowledging white privilege.

Other cultures need to be valued and appreciated, and those of us in the dominant culture need to be exceedingly careful not to misuse or abuse our positions of power to hold back or hurt people from other cultures. Many times, this holding back or hurting is not our intent, but far too often it is the result. I am a white male, and I must acknowledge the privilege and opportunities that come to me simply because of my gender, skin color, and height.

My learning and conversations with Dr. Tochluk amplified my desire to have a discussion about racism with the people of my district. Racism is a difficult, prickly subject. Additionally, my district is very monochromatic. According to demographic information (June 2015) from [MissionInsite](#), the Kane District is 95.5 percent white (non-Hispanic). This lack of racial diversity leads many of the people in my district to think we do not have a race issue. People in this district rarely have an opportunity to encounter a person of a different skin color, or live in a mixed race community or work with non-white people.



Three of the four meetings on my district with the antiracism team went well. One week after one meeting that did not go well, I went back to meet with any of the people from that meeting who wanted to discuss what had happened. About 18 people, including the host pastor, gathered with me at the church. The people were having a difficult time being named/called racist. They were caught in the familiar white culture line that says, "people of color are racist too." They were struggling to see that racism is defined as prejudice plus misuse of power and had a hard time understanding that minorities (people of color in the USA presently) simply do not have the power to misuse. The people at that meeting felt hurt at being called "racist." Throughout the meeting, at least four times, I told them I was sorry that the presentation had offended them, that causing offense was not the goal of the antiracism event. Learning and increasing understanding of the history, pain, and institutional nature of racism in the USA were the goals. After an hour of conversation, a couple of people strongly expressed to me yet again that they were offended and hurt by the presentation. I pointed out to them that I had already stated in our meeting that I was sorry for the offense they had felt. I then challenged them to think about how a person of color feels, constantly living with feelings of being offended and belittled. That was a mind-opening moment that brought us all a little better understanding of the pain of racism.

Taking an honest look at what the laws and policies of the United States have done to African-Americans and other minorities, we must face the sad and sobering realization that we have a great amount of work to do to remove the institutional barriers that continue to place obstacles in the paths of non-whites.

As people choosing to follow Jesus Christ, we need to love all people the way Jesus loved them. We need to seek to provide opportunities and stepping-stones for people to know Christ. We need to hold out hope for a better way of life instead of putting up or perpetuating barriers

Five Tips for Addressing Racism with Children

Rev. Will Willimon boldly exposit that [race is fiction, but racism is fact](#). The recent actions by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, attest to the reality of racism. Humanity is diverse in appearance and action on the outside. While we acknowledge (and even celebrate) diversity, we also await the day when we will unanimously recognize the Divine Spirit and human worth that exists within each of us. To bring about that day, we need to talk about and confront the reality of racism. It's not too late for us... nor is it too early to talk about it with our children. While racism is not a topic we're likely eager to address with children, it's a necessary topic — for they will learn of it through others or through hard experience. Use these helpful cues to address racism with young ones.



Be ready for it: While it might not be necessary to have a full script on how to deliver "the talk," it is a good idea to clarify your own thoughts about human diversity and racism and to prepare for what you want to express to children.

My family has tried to communicate some core beliefs to our child. Humans are diverse. Diversity is beautiful. Each one of us is a child of God — equally loved and valued in God's sight. Our job is to show God's love by showing others how loved and valuable they are. There are people who don't understand how God loves everyone.

Let them speak: Children often express strong realizations of fairness. Let them take the lead on questions pertaining to racism: "Is it right or fair to treat someone badly because they look different? What should you do if it happens to you? What should you do if you witness someone else doing it?"

Don't be afraid of the conversation. Provide opportunity for children to ask questions. Failing to talk about racism implicitly perpetuates it. So let them give voice to their questions regarding the issue: "Why would people be mean like that? Why do they think like that?"

Relate to their experience: In answering their questions, seek to relate answers to their world. Answers and perspectives will differ depending on family circumstances. Children of color will need affirming — they need reassurance of value and worth.

Provide reminders that they are deserving of respect. White children will need reminders to not make assumptions about others.

Pointing to movies you watch together or books they've read can be helpful. There are many stories where a character appears and others make assumptions about the abilities or value of the character. But we know there's more to the story. We know what the character is truly capable of. In real life, people might make assumptions, too. But we know they're wrong. We know that we have abilities and value even if they don't.

Show them they can help: Asking children to share their experiences without dismissal provides a sense of empowerment. Encourage them not to ignore unjust or unfair situations. What can they say in those situations? Are there others who they can tell about it?

Younger children will benefit from looking for things they have in common with other children, especially those who look different than them. The more similarities children see with others, the more comfortable they will be around each other. Look for points of commonality: even though Carly has darker skin, she really seems to enjoy playing tag, too.

Older children begin to see the value of diversity. Encourage them to point out the differences they appreciate in others. A [Northwestern University study](#) showed when older children were encouraged to look for and celebrate diversity, they were more able to detect and react to racist behaviors than children who had been taught a message of "color-blindness."

Be a role model: All this carries a serious implication: it is up to us to model the behaviors we hope to see in our children. Part of this means working our frustrations through to a resolution to encourage resiliency in our children. How can you constructively vent anger or frustration? What are proactive outlets leading to change? Engage in the conversation, both with your children and with society. Recognizing the reality of racism and discussing ways for change will advance the cause. What step can you take today? (Check out our [End Racism resources page](#) for a few ideas.)

These tips will help initiate conversations. For further ways of engaging children in conversations regarding diversity and race, check out some of these resources:

- [Books that can help](#)
- [Resources, blogs and webinars in raising consciousness](#)

Rev. Ryan Dunn is Minister of Online Engagement, Rethink Church. He writes from the offices of United Methodist Communications in Nashville, Tennessee.

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:**
 - o Additional Singers/Musicians
 - o Greeter/Ushers
- **Director of Reconciling Ministries, Team Members**



Summer is Going Virtual!

To keep our campers, staff and volunteers safe, we will not be having summer camp in person at the Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery. We have created a virtual experience so we can still have fun together this summer! Next Gen Camping presents IGNITE Summer at Home: the perfect opportunity for your camper to still connect (virtually) with their camp friends, grow in faith and learn new skills. We can't wait to see you this summer!

Choose your Week or Weeks:

- July 6-10
- July 13-17
- July 20-24
- July 27-31

And Choose your Programming:

Campers choose which program they want to participate in for their week. Each program is offered weekly.

Inspire at Home: explore various ways to make music, perform monologues, create photography projects, make crafts and more!

Transform at Home: discover how to be inclusive and faithful to Jesus' ministry of spreading the Kingdom of God.

Cost:

- \$50 per household for first week
- \$30 per household for second week

Families can fundraise the cost of IGNITE Summer at Home by sharing this link pushpay.com/g/gnjnextgencampers or by asking friends and family to text nextgencampers to 77977.

WHAT DOES ONLINE VIRTUAL CAMP LOOK LIKE?

Your camper will participate in a full week online program with a focus on creative arts or faith and justice. Your camper's typical day will include:

- 9:00 a.m. | Morning Worship
- 9:30 a.m. | Morning Lesson
- 10:30 a.m. | Activities Time
- 12:30 p.m. | Cabin Time
- 1:00 p.m. | Afternoon Lesson
- 2:00 p.m. | Activities Time
- 3:30 p.m. | Daily Wrap-Up

Morning Worship: Campers will join together via Zoom with their counselors for music, Move It Challenges and a devotional.

Lessons: Campers will break out into their cabin small group with their counselor via Zoom to review the lesson for the morning. The content of the lesson will depend on whether your camper is participating in Inspire at Home or Transform at Home.

Activities Time: Campers will receive two to three activities to do in the home for each activity time. While doing their activities, they will stay connected with their counselors and other campers through a moderated chat app where they can share pictures, videos and progress on their activities.

Cabin Time: Campers will spend time with their small group and counselor to share how their day is going and play games together.

Daily Wrap-Up: Campers and counselors will come together to end their camp day. They will hear a short summary of what they learned during the day in their devotional and lessons and end with their favorite camp songs. Friday will include a special closing for the week.

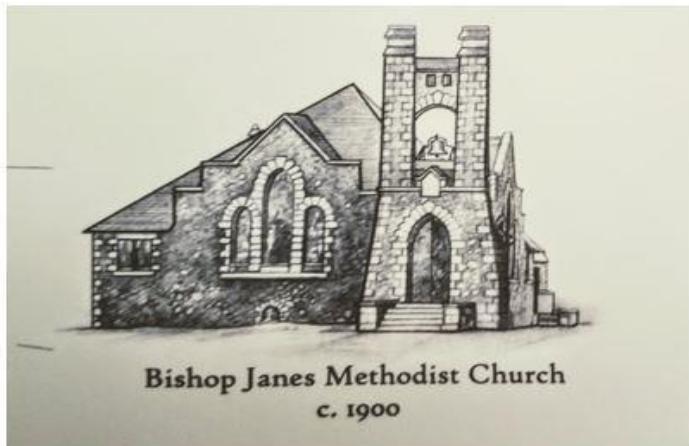
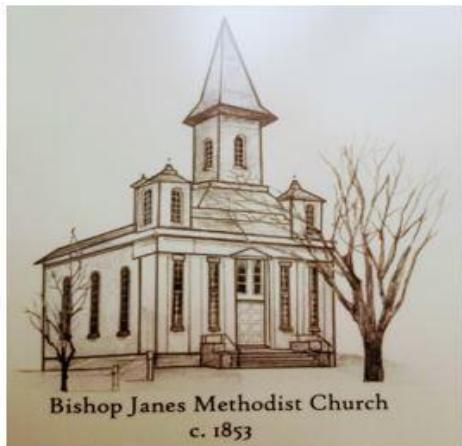
Contact Us

For questions or more information, please contact Ryan Clements, Camp Program Director, at 732-859-0033 or at rclements@gnjumc.org.

Around Bishop Janes UMC 4

By Ted Schroeder, Church Historian

Last month, we saw the beginning of the conflict over building a new church, around the turn of the 19th century. Conflict over this issue went on for some time, pitting Rev. Joe Appley and his supporters, against their opponents. With Rev. Appley's attention focused on plans for the new church, and fund-raising, other tasks tended to fall by the wayside. This unsatisfactory situation weighed on Rev. Appley, and in 1898, "He decided to request a new assignment" to another church (p. 24 of the history). This decision led to a surprising result. One of Rev. Appley's supporters in the church, Charles Allen, who was a steward and trustee, secretly visited the Presiding Elder, in Newark, and explained the situation in detail. The Elder and the Bishop made a plan. When Rev. Appley came to talk to the Elder about his reassignment, he found himself being reassigned – to Basking Ridge! – and with instructions to build the new church!



Rev. Appley proved to be very good at raising money – from within the church, and from the few relatively wealthy other people in the area. So events proceeded, despite continued opposition. It came time to dispose of the old church building, at auction. The opponents of the new church were beginning to suspect that Rev. Appley would indeed be able to raise the required ¾ of the funds to build the new church, so they spread the word not to bid at the auction. Rev. Appley was the only bidder, and found himself the owner – for \$50 – of the old church building. Undaunted, he borrowed money to buy the land on the southeast corner of Maple Avenue and East Oak Street, and had the old church moved there. It is still there –

or its direct descendant is, anyway! – the triplex apartment complex, between the Township Library and E. Oak Street.

At that point, construction of the new, stone church (pictured on the right, in the last Tower Bell) began. Rev. Appley personally supervised gathering the stones, mostly from the area at the bottom of Lindbergh Lane, and southward from there. Meanwhile, there was about a 4-month period when the church had no regular home, and met in the parsonage (next door, at that time) and other locales (p. 129).

Finally, in 1900, the new church was completed. It was well regarded, architecturally, at the time. It finally officially took the name of Bishop Janes, at Rev. Appley's suggestion. There was continuing demand for funds, and it proved increasingly difficult for Rev. Appley to raise money. So church debt, which he had eliminated in his first year, returned in force. By 1902, the conflict had inflicted high costs on the church. Membership had fallen by two-fifths, compared to 1896, when Rev. Appley arrived, and pp. 139-140 of the history present the very sad conclusion of his time at Bishop Janes, in his own words.

It took some time for Bishop Janes to recover, but eventually it did, of course. Some of the members who had left eventually trickled back. The conflict continued to cast a long shadow, however. As the history states, "Mr. Appley may have tried to move too fast, but it is impossible to build half a church" (p. 140). In the history, my father made an effort to heal the conflict, which was still present in the 1950s, by pointing out that Methodism is a hierarchical denomination, and once Rev. Appley had been given his instructions, he had no choice but to try to follow them.

And what of Rev. Appley himself? He went on to a distinguished career, including serving as a chaplain during World War I, when he was in his fifties. And when he retired, he chose to live in – Basking Ridge. He and his wife, Jessie, lived in the house that juts into the property of the Township Library. Rev. Appley died in 1945, but Jessie lived on until 1967, living in that house. She was a major source of information for my father, as he wrote his part of the church history.

When the first major addition to Bishop Janes was built, in the early 1950s, the lower part was (and still is) named Melick Hall. The upper part, originally a room of the same shape and size as Melick Hall, was named Appley Hall. It is now divided into Ed's Place

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

United Methodist Women (UMW) Tower Bell/July 2020

United Methodist Women Communications

Stay connected with UMW during these pandemic times. The website at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org is simply the hub of our national organization's communications. In addition to the ever-growing resources you find there, remember to explore all the other digital and print resources that add to our missions, advocacy, education and spiritual growth. Below is a statement from the United Methodist women regarding Black Lives Matter.

Black Lives Matter to God and United Methodist Women



UMW continues to grieve the extrajudicial killings of Black people in America. It has only been a few weeks since we [spoke out against the killing of Ahmaud Arbery](#), and in that time two more killings have shaken the country: the death of Breonna Taylor in her own home in Louisville and the death of George Floyd on a public street in Minneapolis. UMW grieves with the families of those who have been killed.

Protest against Georg Floyd's murder in Des Moines, 5/29/20

UMW condemns the culture of White supremacy, racism, criminalization of Blackness and everyday harassment. Racial harassment exhausts the mind, body and spirit of many in the family of God.

At times, UMW members and leaders have been complicit in this violence: When Ida B. Wells invited legendary lay leader Frances Willard to join in the antilynching movement, Willard said no, in a haunting refusal of solidarity under the false belief that lynching was "necessary" to protect White women. At other times, however, UMW—of all racial identities—have been inspirational leaders in the work of racial justice: 90 years ago, Jessie Daniel Ames helped found the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; Mary McLeod Bethune, in addition to an incredible legacy of educational leadership, also campaigned actively against lynching and racial violence; and in the mid-20th century it was UMW members who led the struggle for the denomination's adoption of the Charter for Racial Justice—their mission dollars helped finance bail funds for those jailed in the Civil Rights Movement. Work for racial justice does not just come naturally; it is against resistance and is active discipleship choice.

We are committed to choosing justice. There is no one-time action that can undo a multigenerational legacy of racist violence. But the UMW is committed to ongoing work, guided by the promise that God's future is far brighter than the present moment.



To that end:

- Mission Giving: UMW National Office is making a special gift this week of \$21,000 to organizations demanding justice and accountability for the recent deaths of Arbery, Taylor and Floyd. We will be granting \$7,000 each to support NAACP Georgia in its work with Just Georgia, the Louisville Community Bail Fund organized by Black Lives Matter Louisville, and the Minnesota Healing Justice Network. We are grateful for the work of both emerging, next-generation organizations and long-serving civil rights groups. We hope that this gift inspires others in our organization to give, likewise, to the local organizations that are most effectively doing antiracist work in their own communities.
- Witness for Justice: UMW commits that we will continue to speak out against killings and the culture of White supremacy/racism. Our public voice will bear witness. We will seek to amplify the voices of others who have been speaking out and underrepresented in media. We will do so via virtual means and in bodily presence, when safe to gather. We encourage all members to do the same.
- Transformative Education: UMW encourages members to engage in ongoing antiracist learning and self-reflection as a sustained spiritual practice. We recommend that you read/study *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. This is a 2020 UMW Reading Program selection bonus book. You may also join a free, self-paced, [online class on the book](#).

We invite conferences, districts and local units to join this work in ways that are most appropriate and, commit to support and work in partnership with local groups. the way.



Pick Three to Stay Connected!

Virtual Mission U: Finding Peace in an Anxious World July 2020

Discern ways to discover peace through scriptural/spiritual disciplines that root us in God. Be energized to live fully as disciples of Christ. Focus on different aspects of the Serenity Prayer – serenity, acceptance, courage, and wisdom, each linked to a spiritual practice to enhance the featured characteristic in your life.

Online Event Information-Registration is free! at www.gnjumc.org

Book: Finding Peace In An Anxious World edited by Erin James-Brown

[Purchase book here](#)

Study Leaders: Rev. Elizabeth Vaneekhoven and James McKeever, PhD

Morning & afternoon classes are comprised of one-hour sessions with break out discussion groups for a total of four sessions. Please register for morning, afternoon or all day sessions.

Schedule and Sessions for July 11 and July 18, 2020

9:30 am | Welcome and opening Worship

10:00 am | Session 1: *Serenity*

11:00 am | Session 2: *Acceptance*

12:00 pm | Lunch

1:00 pm | Session 3: *Courage*

2:00 pm | Session 4: *Wisdom*

Zoom Meeting Info 7/11/20 9:30 am [Click here for meeting link](#)

MW Calendar July 2020

*****Summer is officially here and Bonnie Artell is already hard at work making jams and jellies for the 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.

NEW CIRCLE will be taking the summer off. The next gathering will be on Tuesday, September 15th. New Circle meets at a variety of locations - sometimes for dinner at a restaurant or at someone's home - but always on the third Tuesday of the month. Attendees span a variety of ages and occupations - older, younger, married, single - but all work hard at something during the day. Everyone is welcome to join us in conversation about our lives and our faith. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

GRACE CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, July 28th at 9:30am. Newcomers are welcome and invited to join in as we share our concerns, and join together for devotion, prayer and conversation. Watch for the meeting link which will be posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Gloria Walker, ghwalker@gmail.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will be taking the summer off. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 28th at 7:00pm. This ministry knits or crochets shawls for persons in need of prayer and support during an illness or difficult time. Knitting instruction and yarn are provided and the group is open to all members of the church and community. Newcomers are welcome and invited to knit along with us. Contact person: Kathy Liu, kliuridge@gmail.com



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.

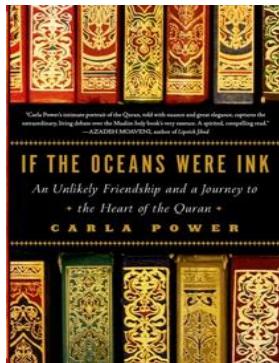
- “Liking” is different from sharing. We appreciate the likes, it makes us feel all warm and fuzzy inside, and lets us know people appreciate our work, but sharing is a way you can profess your faith, and invite others to join you. It’s really that simple!
- To share just click the **share** button on 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)

