

B.J.U.M.C TOWER BELL

September 2020

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

REV. MATHEW J. ENZLER



When I think about Jesus' baptism, I stand in awe of the work of the Spirit. In this scene, we have all three members of the trinity present: Jesus being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending upon Him, and God the Father pronouncing both Jesus' son-ship, and His pleasure in Jesus. We see how these essences of God all work together, commune together, are one, and yet are different. The Holy Mystery of the trinity is one which continues to confound us today.

The important part of the baptism that I want to focus on today is the Role of John, the Baptist, or Baptizer. In Baptism, we enter into a three-way covenant relationship between the Baptizee, God, and the community of faith. John here represents the community of faith. Though he didn't feel himself worthy of baptizing the Lord, Jesus himself insisted.

Jesus continues to insist that we participate in baptism, both as the baptized, as well as the community of faith. When we, as a church, baptize somebody into the community, we make promises to them, promises to nurture them, support them, help them in their walk of faith, and in their life. It is a well-rounded covenant of accountability on the one hand, but also nurture and support on the other.

MATTHEW 3: 13-17:

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,^[d] with whom I am well pleased."

Through the Month of September, as we kick off with a Baptism on Sunday Sept. 6, and on weeks thereafter, as we admit previously baptized persons into our membership either by profession of faith or transfer of membership, I call on you to remember your baptism. More than that, I call on you to renew faithfulness in that covenant community, your commitment to grow individually, as well as with the rest of the community.

Ephesians is a great book to talk about the strengths of Christian community. When we grow together, we uplift and support each other. Without each other, we grow weak and we can fail. Our strength is in our community. I urge us all to consider this September how we are participating in this community of faith. Many things have changed in the past 6 months, due to the COVID19 pandemic, but this is also a time to reflect and grow. How can we live out our baptismal covenant in times such as this? How can we use our spiritual gifts not only for personal growth, but for the benefit of the community on the whole? How can we live out our baptismal covenant more fully, even amidst a pandemic?



We're putting a new spin on an old tradition!

On September 13,
attend the worship service, then gather your favorite brunch items & join your BJUMC family
at 10:45

for our annual Fall Kickoff Brunch...virtually!

Bring your family & invite your friends to this special time of fellowship.

Click the link in the Midweek Minute, or www.bjume.org to join.

Family Ministries Fall 2020



We can't believe it's been so long since we met together for our Trivia night back in February!

The family Ministries team have been hard at work since then, and have come up with exciting, new and innovative ways to celebrate the BJUMC family.

We are having a Kick Off Sunday Virtual Brunch on September 13th, at 10.45am. Please invite all your friends, family and loved ones to join us on Zoom after the service. Do see the advert in the Tower Bell that Debbie Becker has made. It doesn't matter if you don't want to eat on Zoom, we understand, we just want to see you all there. Let's kick off the new academic year with a bang.



On October 17th, we are going to have a virtual Pumpkin Bash on Zoom. We will be cooking/baking together, there will be craft activities and a chance to socialize with our church family.



In November we are going to try something new, and have a car scavenger hunt. More details to follow.



In December, we are going to attempt to have a gingerbread house decorating event, virtually of course! Pictures of completed, or not so completed gingerbread houses, will be posted on the church website!



You'll need to register early for this one as it looks like it's going to be a hilarious event, and we want to make sure we can get a decorating kit to you so you don't miss out.

If you have any questions, suggestions or offers of help, please don't hesitate to contact the family ministries team – we would love to hear from you – erp.elliott@gmail.com



“ Go make a difference”

We sing it every week; we live it every day!

Every month the Serve The World through Missions Team will highlight a specific mission. You can read about it under *Missions* at bjumc.org

*How **YOU** can make a difference in September:*

God's Co-op Coat & Winter Clothing Drive



Throughout September & October, we will be collecting gently used winter coats and clothing for the clients of God's Co-op. Located in Bernardsville, the Co-op provides food and other items for local residents, including veterans and seniors. Please drop off your donations in the labeled tote by the church's main entrance doors (South Finley Ave.).

(note: We hope to resume the scheduling of servants to distribute food at the Co-op as soon as it becomes safe to do so.)

Don't forget to submit Community Service Forms anytime you serve. Details and form on website under Missions.

LET'S THINK INSIDE THE BOX TOGETHER



This year through the Rice and Beans Ministries “Think Inside the Box” gift program we will all have the opportunity to show God’s love to children in Costa Rica at Christmas in a tangible way. Boxes will be provided during the month of October to be filled with much needed items that will make a child’s home and educational life easier. Stay tuned for details in just a few weeks.

Rice and Beans Ministries has been our international mission focus for the past five years. They are presently serving 80 communities north of Alajuela, Costa Rica and, like us, they are experiencing the devastating effects of the Covid-19

pandemic. The Bishop Janes Costa Rica mission trip completed last March 7th was the last group to be received by the ministry. Since then they have creatively continued their mission by planting their own gardens to provide food, as well as plants and raised bed gardens for families to be able grow their own vegetables. For more information about Rice and Beans Ministries, follow them on Facebook.



2020 Community Service:
All about serving God

I have served at _____ by (activity/action) _____
for _____ hours this week.

___ this service was through BJUMC

___ this service was not through BJUMC

(please return form or send information to Terri at dowie0101@aol.com)

**This form is also found on the BJUMC website*

SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH MISSION TABLE

Our Serve The World through Mission Team specifically supports truly missional organizations- those we define as:

*Being the hands of God at work
Meeting the needs of people
Providing opportunities to give God glory.*

Additionally, these missions were selected so that at least half of the missions we support financially also provide volunteer opportunities that engage us in *connectional ministry*.

You will find the Mission Opportunities Table on the website and posted in this Tower Bell. Each month we will focus on a specific ministry, offering ways to support the ministry through donations and service. The table offers a brief description of the mission along with a Scripture to contemplate. Please note some missions are ongoing and are indicated as such in the table.

Additionally, missions will be highlighted in the monthly Tower Bell and specifics will be shared.

Questions? Contact STW Chair Terri Faltas at dowie0101@aol.com

SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH MISSION TABLE

January	Back Pack Ministry <i>Food provided for children in need to provide meals on weekends; sent home discreetly via student backpack in Somerset County schools.</i>	Deuteronomy 15:11 <i>Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."</i>	Specific food items to place in backpack; Amazon links for some items
February	Ridge Oak <i>Provides affordable housing and programs to our Basking Ridge seniors</i>	Proverbs 11:25 <i>A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.</i>	Create valentine's Day Cards for residents
March	SHIP <i>Samaritan Homeless Interim Program- Provides emergency housing and associated services to those in need in the Somerset County area.</i>	Matthew 10:8 <i>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment,;give without payment.</i>	Collect specific food items most needed; provide plasticware kits used with meal service
April	Market Street Mission <i>Located in Morristown, the Mission provides physical, emotional and spiritual needs for the homeless, helpless and hopeless men in need.</i>	Galatians 6:2 <i>Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.</i>	Specific food collection; make cards of encouragement
May	Good News Home For Women <i>Located in Flemington, the Home provides housing and substance abuse treatment for women in need.</i>	Romans 12:13 <i>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.</i>	Donate food for luncheon; donate clothes (coordinate with UMW)
June	Foodbank Network of	Luke 3:10-11 <i>And the crowds asked him, "What then</i>	Highlight a specific food item/ diapers

	Somerset County	<i>should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."</i>	*collection of general items continues all year long via Narthex collection bin
July	CUMAC <i>Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community is located in Paterson and works to alleviate hunger and its root causes.</i>	James 2:17 <i>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.</i>	Specific food item collected; cards of encouragement
August	Jail Chaplaincy <i>They provide pastoral counseling to the inmates of the Somerset County jail as well as to their families and ex-inmates. They also distribute Bibles and toiletries.</i>	Matt 25:39-40 <i>And when was it we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'</i>	Underwear and t-shirts; toiletries
September	God's Co-op <i>The Co-op operates out of the B.R. Presbyterian Church and distributes food at Good Shepherd Church in Bernardsville. They serve clients from Bernardsville, Basking Ridge and Peapack-Gladstone.</i>	Matthew 5:16 <i>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.</i>	Coat/winter clothes drive * for 2 months
October	Adult Mission Trip - Rice and Beans <i>The Ministry serves in Costa Rica , providing food, clothing ,assistance with shelter and homes as well as spiritual needs.</i>	Philippians 2:4 <i>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.</i>	Christmas Shoebox Ministry *Co-op coat/winter clothes drive continues

November	Camp YDP <i>Christian Association with A</i>	Proverbs 3:27 <i>Do not withhold good from those to</i>	Christmas gifts * continues to

r	<i>Ministry To People, Youth Development Project has a mission to cultivate achievement and map out possibilities for the children and families of Paterson. They have preschool, enrichment and summer programs.</i>	<i>whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.</i>	early Dec
December	UM Communities <i>These are full service campuses serving the needs of older adults. They have several locations throughout N.J..</i>	John 15:12 <i>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."</i>	Christmas Cards^[SEP]*Camp YDP collection ends mid Dec

January	Deliver collection to Foodbank		
February	Deliver cards/visit with residents		
March	Serve food in SHIP's galley or with mobile soup kitchen; have a Ziti for the Needy bake day; assemble plasticware kits		
April	Serve a meal; deliver food collected; take tour and distribute cards of encouragement		
May	Help organize/clean barn full of donations; hold luncheon (coordinate with UMW)		
June	Sign up to deliver the food one week this year		
July	Trip to warehouse to work one day next month as a group		
August	Deliver collection to chaplain		
September	Help package and/or distribute food; assist as a Spanish/English translator *these opportunities run all year long		
October	TBD		

November	Help deliver Christmas gifts; help with collection and organization of gift giving		
December	Details coming soon		



Membership Vows



To renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of their sin;

To accept the freedom and power God gives them to resist evil, injustice, and oppression;

To confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put their whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as their Lord;

To remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world;

To be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church and do all in their power to strengthen its ministries;

To faithfully participate in its ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness;

To receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Around Bishop Janes UMC – September



Basking Ridge, and Bernards Township, were changing rapidly in the post-World War II years. What had been an agricultural community, with some commuters, before the war, grew rather rapidly into a mostly-commuter, ‘bedroom’ community – using the train, and private cars.

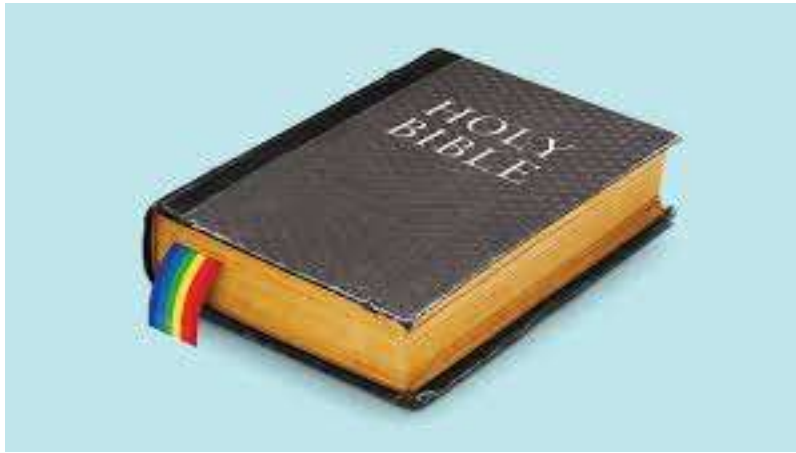
Bishop Janes had changed, also, as explained last month. The church history talks about the post-war period, particularly on pp. 299-300. During 1947-50, our minister was John Esaias, Jr. (pronounced “Eye - ZAY – us”). Much happened during his years (including my mother joining the church).

In 1951, “A Daring Young Man with Ideas” arrived, to be our minister for six years. R. Benjamin (“Ben”) Garrison was an intellectual and scholar – he was to write several books during his long career – and he had great energy. He spearheaded the building of the eastern part of the church, near Maple Avenue, mostly to provide more space for Sunday school (the lower part of this addition was named for Josephine Melick, who taught Sunday school at BJ for fifty years, among other contributions). Ben also started the first church newspaper, which in time

became the Tower Bell. He preached informative, and sometimes provocative, sermons. He was the first BJ minister to bring in a student, assistant pastor. He developed the youth programs of the church. In 1953, BJ celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. (The history notes that we had had 45 different pastors in those 100 years.) Ben also had a sense of humor – perhaps I can get into that, in the future – and was a close friend of my parents.

The church history ends at this point, but we can add something to the tale. Rev. Ray Harrison (who liked to be called “Rex”) was our minister in 1957-59. Rev. Elmer Wilkins was our minister from 1959-67, the first of our ministers to serve more than six years. (There have been only two others – to date.) During this time, the church decided that it was time to replace the increasingly dilapidated sanctuary that Rev. Joe Appley had built, with such struggle. During the 1963-64 school year, while the construction was being done, our neighbors, the Presbyterian Church, graciously allowed us to meet in the easternmost part of their church building (it was called the ‘chapel’, I believe). Our new sanctuary floor plan was a great improvement, and was much the same as it is now, with some difference in details. It fit much better with the growing community, and Bishop Janes UMC continued its growth.

Fall 2020 Adult Small Group Studies



This fall we have a wide variety of education opportunities for adults and interested youth. Our gatherings are held on Sunday mornings from 11am until 12 noon. All of our fall classes will be virtual sessions via Zoom. You're encouraged to join the Fellowship Time after worship and at 11am you'll be moved into the class session. Here's what we have in store for the fall:

- **Introduction to the Bible:** This two 2 week study is designed to provide a very basic overview of the Bible. It's intended for anyone who is curious about the Bible, including; how it came to be, how it's constructed and how it's evolved into modern times. This class will begin on ***Sunday, September 20th***.
-
- **Paul's Letter to the Galatians:** This DVD-based study is part of the Kerygma Bible Study program and digs into the Book of Galatians. This letter to the church in Galatia deals with many issues facing the new, emerging church, including the question of Gentile converts to Christianity and if they must adopt Jewish customs. This study will begin on ***Sunday, October 4th*** and run for seven weeks.

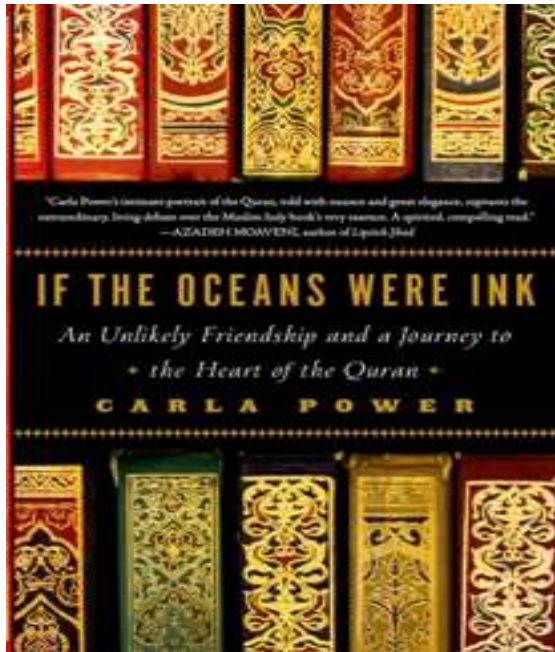
- **Spiritual Disciplines:** As Christians, we constantly seek to be in a closer connection with God. Over the centuries, a number of spiritual disciplines have been used by Christians everywhere. Some of these include breath prayers, walking the labyrinth, Lectio Divina. Periodically through the year we will explore some of these disciplines. One such opportunity is ***Sunday, November 22nd***.
- **Advent Study - Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience:**
In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, video segments led by author and pastor Magrey deVega provide a springboard for exploration of Advent. In this four-week study we are encouraged to follow Christ wholeheartedly during Advent, connecting the Wesleyan heritage with traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. This DVD features four authors discussing the key ideas in each chapter of the book, including personal stories, conversation and insights on the Advent season. This program begins on the ***first Sunday of Advent, November 29th*** and ends on December 20th.

We hope you'll consider joining some or all of our small group discussions. If you have any question, please contact Kevin Dresely at ddresely@comcast.net. We'll be preparing the class program for the winter/spring 2021 season so please send any suggestions of topics you'd like to cover in the New Year.

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.

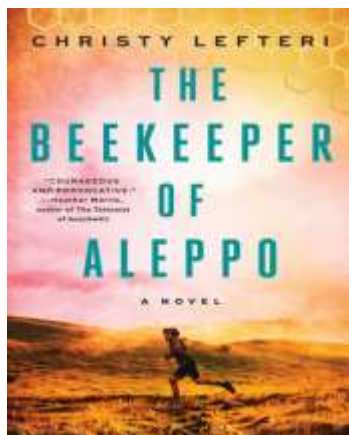
If the Oceans Were Ink is Carla Power's eye-opening story of how she and her longtime friend Sheikh Mohammad Akram Nadwi found a way to confront ugly stereotypes and persistent misperceptions that were cleaving their communities. Their friendship-between a secular American and a madrasa-trained sheikh-had 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)





Youth Group Tower Bell Fall 2020

We're back – woo hoo!!!

Who knew Fall 2020 would come round so quickly?! Who knew we'd still be meeting virtually?! We are, and we have embraced it. On the next page, you can see all the dates and events we have planned till Christmas. Yes I did, I did say Christmas!!

Ignite is kicking off virtually on September 13th and we can't wait to see you there. We know they have fun things planned and don't want to spoil any surprises by telling you more..

September 13th is also our Church wide kick off date for back to school. After the service, we are going to have a church wide virtual brunch. Do come and join us, the whole church would love to see the youth and chat.

We also have some other fun things planned – a car scavenger hunt, a pumpkin bash and a totally awesome decorate your own Gingerbread house event! More on those to follow in later Tower Bell editions.

I leave you with a wonderful Bible verse to inspire and encourage you as we start the new school year:

Deuteronomy 31 v 6 (Good News Bible)

Be determined and confident. Do not be afraid (of them). Your God, the LORD himself, will be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you.

As we start our term, let's be encouraged and confident in what God has planned for each of us.



United Methodist Social Principles

The United Methodist Church has a long history of advocacy for social justice. From its inception, the Methodist church was a trendsetter, making the gospel readily available to otherwise disenfranchised people. Our rich history of social justice has become not only part of our heritage, but also something we should continue to take seriously in our current environment. It is important to periodically refresh ourselves on what the official social principles of the United Methodist Church are, and consider whether we are sufficiently participating in advancing these principles in our daily lives. In this article, Links to various portions of the official United Methodist Social Principles, found in our Book of Discipline, can be found for each section of our principles.

Over the next month, as we renew our baptismal covenant, take time to refresh yourself on these principles, and re-invigorate your drive to ensure social justice for all.

[Preface: Social Principles](#): The Social Principles are a prayerful and thoughtful effort of the General Conference to speak to the issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation. [Read More](#)

[Preamble](#) We affirm our unity in Jesus Christ while acknowledging differences in applying our faith in different cultural contexts as we live out the gospel. [Read More](#)

[The Natural World](#) All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. [Read More](#)

"The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other 'mind-makers-up' that exist in our society... Taking an active stance in society is nothing new for followers of John Wesley. He set the example for us to combine personal and social piety. Ever since predecessor churches to United Methodism flourished in the United States, we have been known as a denomination involved with people's lives, with political and social struggles, having local to international mission implications. Such involvement is an expression of the personal change we experience in our baptism and conversion." -- The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2016

[The Nurturing Community](#) We believe we have a responsibility to innovate, sponsor, and evaluate new forms of community that will encourage development of the fullest potential in individuals. [Read More](#)

[The Social Community](#) We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God's sight. We reject discrimination and assert the rights of minority groups to equal opportunities. [Read More](#)

[The Economic Community](#) We claim all economic systems to be under the judgment of God no less than other facets of the created order. [Read More](#)

[The Political Community](#)
We hold governments responsible for the protection of people's basic freedoms. We believe that neither church nor state should attempt to dominate the other. [Read More](#)

[The World Community](#)
God's world is one world. We pledge ourselves to seek the meaning of the gospel in all issues that divide people and threaten the growth of world community. [Read More](#)

[Our Social Creed](#)
Our Social Creed is a statement of faith reflecting our Social Principles. [Read More](#)



UMW September 2020

Thank you everyone for helping to make our school supply collection a success! Back-to-school supply kits will be distributed to the children of the clients at God's Goop Pantry in Bernardsville this month. Hats off to Barbara Conca for organizing this effort!

Something New!! Under normal circumstances September is the month that the United Methodist Women hold their annual Clothing Sale. Please note that we will not be doing that! Instead, we are seeking donations of clothing that will be taken for consignment at Elite Repeat Boutique Consignment which is conveniently located on Rt 202 and is under new management. Proceeds will support the UMW mission giving budget.

Items we are seeking include seasonally appropriate (fall/winter) women's clothing of any size that is current and gently used including dresses, sweaters, tops, pants, jeans, coats, jackets, shoes. We will also accept accessories such as belts, hats, pocketbooks and jewelry. This will be an ongoing collection through the end of the year. Please contact Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com or 908-903-1834 with questions or to arrange for clothing donation pick-up. Clothing that is not consignable or does not sell will be donated to the thrift shop at Greenstone United Methodist Church in Washington, NJ.

Elite Repeat Boutique is located at 916 Kemble Avenue, Morristown, NJ and is open to shoppers Wednesday through Friday, 11am to 6pm and on Saturday, 10am to 4pm. A hand sanitizing station is located outside the door and U.V. lights are employed in the dressing room and lavatory after each use.



UMW Calendar September 2020

**UMW WILL MEET ON Tuesday, September 15th, 9:30am,
at Harry Dunham Park**

While the weather is still warm, we will meet using church policy guidelines recently approved by our church council. We will maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet and wear masks. If possible, bring a folding chair (some of us will bring extras along with wipes to sanitize on the spot). All are invited and welcome to attend for a time of reflection, prayer and discussion about moving forward in the months ahead.

GRACE CIRCLE will meet virtually on Tuesday, September 22nd 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 virtually on Tuesday, September 22nd 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, kliuridge@gmail.com

****Please note that due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have postponed the One Day Spiritual Retreat that was scheduled for October until further notice.***



*****Bonnie Artell is currently hard at work making jams and jellies to fundraise for our UMW mission giving budget. 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.

Ways United Methodists can stand with Migrants



United Methodists support migrants around the world.

Photo by Sarah Soto.

[Global migration](#) is a phenomenon impacting countries around the world at historic highs.

According to the [United Methodist Board of Church and Society](#), there are more than 65

million displaced people in the world today, and every five seconds someone else is forced to flee their home. These levels of migration have not been seen since World War II, more than 70 years ago.

Many of us cannot imagine what it must be like to abandon your home nation due to war, natural disaster or economic hardship. Yet this is indeed the reality for many people in countries around the world, including in our own communities. In an effort to protect and provide for their families, some make the difficult decision to look for a new nation to call home.



Migrants escaping violence took refuge at the United Methodist Church in Jalingo, Nigeria in 2017. Photo by the Rev. Ande I. Emmanuel, United Methodist Communications.

What The United Methodist Church says
The United Methodist Church upholds practicing hospitality to migrants, immigrants, refugees, asylees and others without regard to race, status, nationality, or religion.

The United Methodist [Social Principles](#), found in our [Book of Discipline](#), include a section titled [Rights of Immigrants](#) that states, "We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination."

A resolution titled [Global Migration and the Quest for Justice](#) affirms, "Christians do not approach the issue of migration from the perspective of tribe or nation, but from within a faith community of love and welcome, a community that teaches and expects hospitality to the poor, the homeless, and the oppressed," an echo of Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats ([Matthew 25:31-46](#)).

Another resolution, titled [Welcoming the Migrant to the U.S.](#) reads, "Welcoming the migrant is not only an act of mission; it is an opportunity to receive God's grace." This reflects what we are taught in the book of Hebrews, "Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it" ([Hebrews 13:2 CEB](#)).



*"Welcoming the migrant is not only an act of mission; it is an opportunity to receive God's grace." (United Methodist Book of Resolutions)
Photo by Mike DuBose, United Methodist Communications.*

What you can do
Because no person, organization or nation can solve these issues alone, we can convince ourselves there is nothing we can do to make a difference. In reality, there are [a variety of things United Methodists can do](#) to stand with and support migrants in our communities and around the world.

Pray. We pray that God will bring peace and justice for all people.

Advocate for legislation. The first time you contact an elected representative can be uncomfortable, but rewarding. Government officials listen to their constituents, so voice your concerns to those in power. Ask them to support policies that are hospitable to refugees and immigrants, and to introduce new legislation to make immigration, refugee and asylum processes just and efficient.

Welcome migrants and refugees to your congregation. Invite those new to your community to learn more about your congregation as a place of Christian worship, a part of the community, and a resource for assistance. Research [ways your congregation can serve immigrants](#) in your community.

Support language classes. Many communities need volunteers to teach the dominant language in your nation. In the United States, for example, there are typically needs for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Volunteer to teach. Ask your congregation to host classes.



Donations to UMCOR's Global Migration fund help meet the needs of migrants around the world.

Photo by Daniel Peters, United Methodist Communications.

Support local employment counseling services.

Many communities have programs that offer assistance to those looking for work. Volunteers are trained to help fill out application forms,

prepare resumes and navigate employment websites.

Donate to the [UMCOR's Global Migration fund](#). Our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and United Methodist Global Ministries are working to provide relief and safety to migrants around the world. Or consider providing [hygiene kits](#) that will be distributed by UMCOR.

Speak up for a spirit of welcome in your community, locally and nationally. Around the world, xenophobic rhetoric, attitudes, and actions are turning communities into places of inhospitality and exclusion on local and national levels. This is having a real impact on policies and is fomenting acts of violence. Oppose fearmongering and xenophobia in conversations in public and in private—at the market, at church, at school, and at home. Remember that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love, and sound mind ([2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV](#)). Be an active citizen and speak out to make society better.

Resources:

[“A Call to Action in Response to the Plight of Migrants,”](#) from United Methodist Church and Society, offers some concrete steps you can take.

[“Act to Support Migrant Children,”](#) ideas from ResourceUMC.org

[“Global Migration and Immigration Rights,”](#) United Methodist Women

[“Global Migration: Moving from one place to another is a protected human right,”](#) Church and Society, The United Methodist Church.

[“Immigration to the U.S.,”](#) Church and Society, The United Methodist Church



“GRAVE SITUATION”

Did you know that Bishop Janes UMC owns two 4-grave plots in Somerset Hills Memorial Park? They were donated several years ago to the church by members that no longer need them. Since BJUMC has our own Evergreen Cemetery, with hundreds of graves for sale at much lower prices than Somerset Hills Memorial Park, we would like to sell these eight graves. Each grave is a minimum of 3.5 feet by 9 feet, and they can be purchased as single, double or 4-grave plots. We will sell them at a discount to the price that SHMP would charge. If you are interested, please contact Charlie Walker at (908) 963-0557.

Charlie Walker

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 Member**

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