

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

January 2021

***PASTOR MATT ENZLER***



**Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ**

Published Monthly by:



22 South Finley Ave. Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
[www.BJUMC.org](http://www.BJUMC.org)

# TOWER BELL TABLE OF CONTENTS

PASTOR MATT MESSAGE	3-4
SERVE THE WORLD CAMP YDP THANK YOU	5
UMW EVENTS	6-8
2020 EOY FINANCE REPORT	9
SERVE THE WORLD FOOD BANK	10-11
WINTER SMALL GROUP STUDY	12
WINTER BOOK GROUP	13-14
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	15
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS	16

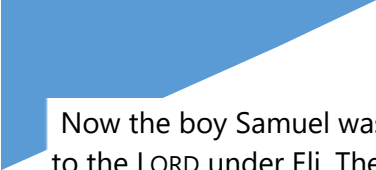
## *From Pastor Matt's Desk*

When I was a kid, our family would gather around our 13 inch television on Friday evenings, and watch shows or movies as a family. My brother and I would act as the remote control, being sent up to change the channel. What was important was to know that certain channels also required a shift in the antennae. We had both rabbit ears, as well as a circle. In order to get some of the channels, we had to adjust them just the right way, so the picture would come in clear, or we'd have sound. This was the norm for most families of the time.

Sometimes we need to adjust our antennas, and change our channels to hear the voice of God, or to make it clearer. If we are focused in on the wrong channels, the right channels don't come in clear. In this time of the year, as we set our goals for the calendar year, I hope you'll make it a point to make sure you are tuned in to the right channels in your life. We need to cultivate the signal, fine tuning the reception so that we recognize the call of the Lord on our lives. To do this we need to do a couple things:

First, we need to block the bad channels. Just like modern televisions have parental controls, it's important that we recognize what we ingest into our minds impacts the person we are. When we constantly take in certain messaging, that has an impact on our minds. Taking in too much violent content has a desensitizing impact on us, but also truly makes us more violent in thought, and eventually in action. It might seem like an insignificant impact at first, but when taken in large doses, it truly cultivates in us a sense of violence which permeates every facet of our life in one aspect of another. From the language we use, our consideration of others, and our willingness to help those in need, our witness is hindered when we warp our minds to be more "violent." I'm not saying you can't enjoy a good action movie from time to time, but keeping this in moderation is key to a healthy mindset.

Secondly, we need to make sure we are tuned into the right channels, the channels that inspire us to grow closer to God. I remember when I first started listening to Christian Radio, I didn't care for it that much, but I was intentional to continue on because I knew there was



Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. <sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!"<sup>[a]</sup> and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

### [1 Samuel, Chapter 3](#)

something there worth listening to, and understanding this media outlet would benefit us as a church. Over time, I actually became attuned to the channel, to the Christian music itself, and learned to appreciate the genre. I still have other music I listen to more often than not, but I cultivated an appreciation for it. Likewise, taking in wholesome, family oriented media is a cultivated habit. The net result of this however, is a family which learns lessons about love, about grace, about living together, supporting one another, and ultimately about Godly living.

Being tuned into the right channels is key to healthy living. As the old adage says, you are what you eat, what you ingest mentally shapes your mind. I've studied the neuroplasticity of the mind at some length, and can attest that this principle is scientifically proven not only in our actions (social sciences), but physically within the constructs of our brains (Chemical and physical sciences).

I'll be preaching on the Story of Samuel in Mid January, but this is a biblical example of being attuned to the word of God in our lives. When we cultivate a mindset that is prepared to hear the word of God, we recognize God's voice. Much like Samuel's day, many people would say that the voice of the Lord has grown quiet. But, perhaps, it is us, perhaps the voice of the Lord is still there, broadcasting messages to us all, but we need to recognize that voice for what it is, and we need to tune in a little closer.

Will you join me this January in making it a priority for 2021 to cultivate a relationship with God, wherein we become attuned to the voice of God in our life. When we tune in, we can turn up the volume and not get static, but hear it clearly, and maybe even hear the angels singing. Let's make this a priority this year, watching what we are ingesting, and tuning ourselves into God more regularly.

Amen,

Pastor Matt



## SANTA'S TRIP TO PATERSON 2020

On Monday December 21st, Santa's sleigh left Basking Ridge and journeyed to CAMP YDP AT 15 North First Street in Paterson. On board the sleigh, thanks to all the members of BJUMC, and Little Lambs Parents, were gifts for 38 children. Four elves; Art Martin, Lynn Roberts and Linda and Paul Cargo rode on the sleigh to assist in delivering the gifts. A special thank you to Lyn Stake, Nancy Sweazey, Peggy Shurts, and Pastor Matt for all their help in making this years gift project a great success.

The supportive relationship between the congregation of BJUMC and CAMP YDP has a thirty year history which has, aside from gifts at Christmas, found many ways to assist CAMP YDP meet its mission of helping the children of Paterson's North side. Thanks to your generosity, once again, we have helped to brighten the lives of the children at Christmas.

The Serve The World Team

# United Methodist Women January 2021

## *UMW Calendar for January*

Tuesday, January 19th **New Circle** will meet via Zoom @7:00pm. Look for meeting link posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Linda Cargo

Tuesday, January 26th **Grace Circle** will meet via Zoom @9:30am. All are welcome and invited as we come together for a time of devotion, prayer and conversation. Look for the meeting link posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Gloria Walker

Tuesday, January 26th **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet via Zoom @7:00pm. Newcomers are welcome and invited to knit along with us. Look for the meeting link posted the week prior in the Mid-Week Minute. Contact person: Linda Cargo

### **Love, Hope and Faith in Action Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2021**

In addition to knitting and crocheting prayer shawls, our Prayer Shawl Ministry is beginning a new partnership with Knit The Rainbow, an organization founded in April 2020 to help homeless LGBTQ+ youth in NYC survive brutal winters with handmade winter garments. Their community outreach program partners with other non-profits in NYC to provide classes, workshops and coaching for at-risk youth so they can learn sustainable living techniques like clothing design and creation as well as to learn to knit and crochet items for themselves.



At our first meeting in January we will begin knitting and crocheting items such as scarves, hats, ear warmers, mittens, socks and slippers. Simple patterns and all materials will be provided to anyone who would like to join our effort. If you are new to knitting/crocheting we will teach you. Meeting information can be found in the calendar above or by contacting Linda Cargo at [cargoph@aol.com](mailto:cargoph@aol.com).

## Economic Justice is Part of All That United Methodist Women Does

United Methodist Women has a 150-year history of addressing economic issues impacting women, children and youth through both service and advocacy. One of the campaigns on which the UMW 2021-2024 Quadrennium will focus on is Interrupting the School-to Prison Pipeline.

The school-to-prison pipeline is a term used to describe how children and youth of color are rerouted by systems and institutions, funneled away from educational success and towards the criminal justice system. It is not the result of any one single action but of many factors coming together, including implicit racial and gender biases and excessive out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.

In the coming months we will be learning and providing ways to raise awareness about about education justice. Begin now by going to [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice)

**Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration**

**CAMPAIGN: INTERRUPT THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE**

Move local decision makers to address the criminalization of children and youth of color and reduce racial disparities in school discipline.

**500%** increase in incarceration in the United States over 40 years.

**3x** African American boys are three times more likely to be suspended than white boys.

**6x** African American girls are six times more likely to be suspended than white girls.

**31%** of children and youth experiencing school-based arrests and law enforcement referrals are African American, though they make up only **15%** of total school enrollment.

Native American/ Alaska Native students make up **1%** of enrollment in schools and **2%** of school-based arrests and referrals to law enforcement.

**TAKE ACTION:**  
[unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice)

## Piecemaker Quilters Celebrate Veterans

UMW Piecemaker Quilters have found many ways to recognize our veterans over the years with their Quilts of Honor.



**Tami Lane** was given a quilt on November 11, 2020 for her service as a Navy Nurse during the Vietnam War.





## 2020 END OF YEAR FINANCE REPORT

Dear Family of Christ at BJUMC,  
2020 has been a year of ups and downs for our church. In March, per executive order, we had to shutter our doors. Over the course of the year, we have re-opened to some extent, and worked to carry on our ministries to the best of our abilities, while also reaching out into new ministry areas. From a financial perspective, we are eternally grateful for the faithful generosity of our community. Due to COVID closures, our income stream from rental space, fundraisers, and others, essentially dried up as of March. On the bright side, giving came in at over 100% of expected tithes, and committees across the board worked diligently to cut budgets while pressing forward. The Chart below shows the end of year statistics, not including any Investment Fund activity or any PPP impact, truly reflective of our income and expenses in 2020.

	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD Total	Budget
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	18,378.16	47,969.23	31,027.54	312,900.27	335,460.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	20,205.46	18,440.19	25,812.45	283,329.99	335,460.00
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>1,827.30</b>	29,529.04	5,215.09	29,570.28	0.00

With strong end of year giving, we closed the gap we had reported in the fall, and ended the year with a YTD Surplus of \$29570.

As we reported last year, our church is working towards establishing a Capital Improvements Fund. Throughout the course of the year, \$60,000 was deposited in that account, comprised of the surplus from 2019, and funds from another investment that we have closed as we consolidated funds (thus, these figures are not included in the chart above). We intend to put at least \$20,000 a year into this fund, and have included this amount in the 2021 budget, as that amount represents the surplus from 2020. This investment fund is being created to fund some of our larger capital projects we will be needing in the next several years (roofing, A/C, etc.), with hopes not to have to rely on special offerings. We remain committed to financial planning for our church not only for the present year, but for years to come.

Thank you all for your generous support of our church and ministries. During this pandemic, many churches are struggling to maintain their income flows. While we did have some disruption, as stated above, our church has fared exceptionally well during this crisis, and all ministries remain fully funded in 2021 at the levels the ministry teams requested, with a balanced “operating” budget. On behalf of our ministry teams, we thank you for enabling these important programs and ministries.

The Finance Team.

## Serve The World Through Missions In JANUARY

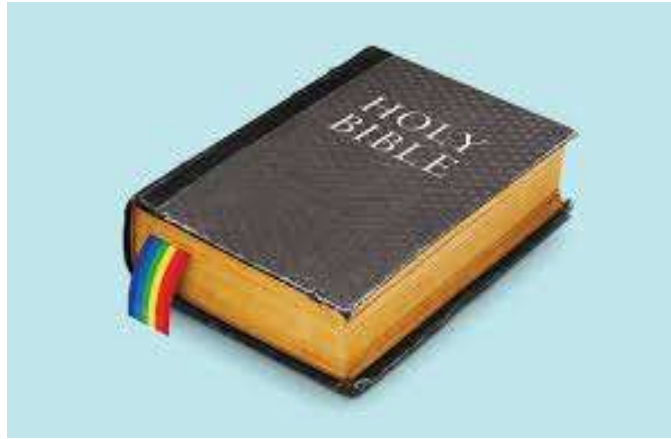
### **THE FOOD BANK NETWORK OF SOMERSET COUNTY BACKPACK PROGRAM**

The Backpack Program provides bags of food, able to be inconspicuously placed in a backpack, to local children in need of food over the long weekend. Currently over 600 bags are distributed to students at eight local schools each week! Children who school virtually are able to stop by the schools to pick up their weekend meal bags. Please consider donating some of the items below and placing them in our Peter Ebbe Food Bank bin in the narthex. Collection ends January 31.



- \*Gallon Ziploc bags
- \*Chef Boyardee Spaghetti & meatballs 7.5 oz microwavable cup
- \*individual serving cans of tuna
- \*Kraft macaroni & cheese 2.05 oz. microwavable cup
- \*fruit cups
- \*granola bars
- \*instant oatmeal packs
- \*individual serving cereal boxes
- \*individual serving Horizon box milk
- Ramen noodle soup 3 oz. bags (Maruchan brand)
- Foil juice pouch drink
- Individual serving packaged cookies (similar size to granola bar)
  
- \* indicates items most needed
- Please stop by our [Missions page](#) on our website to read about how you've helped with our previous missions in the [Thank You Notes](#) section, or click here: [www.bjumc.org](http://www.bjumc.org).

## Winter 2020 Adult Small Group Studies



### Winter 2020/2021 Adult Small Group Studies

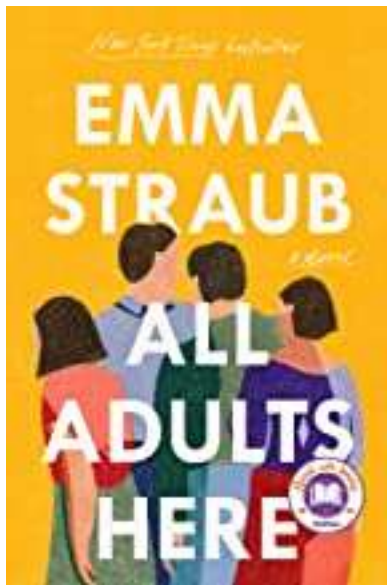
This winter we have a wide variety of education opportunities for adults and interested youth. Our gatherings are held on Sunday mornings from 11am until 12 noon. All of our fall classes will be virtual sessions via Zoom. You're encouraged to join the Fellowship Time after worship and at 11am you'll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

- Beginning on **Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** we begin a 5-week study of John **Wesley's 22 Questions** for self-reflection. As part of the United Methodist Church you may have heard someone ask, "How is your soul?" John Wesley actually developed a series of 22 questions that he used with his "Holy Club" at Oxford University as a means of daily personal reflection. In our discussions we will focus on how they apply to modern Christians.
- 
- We'll explore another **Spiritual Discipline on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. The following week begins **Lent which runs from February 21<sup>st</sup> through March 21<sup>st</sup>**. The course will be announced at a later date. 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](mailto:ddresely@comcast.net).

## BOOK GROUP

If you like to read and discuss books, join the BJUMC Book Group. It meets monthly, usually on the 2nd Thursday of the month from September-November and January-May at 7:00 p.m. in classroom 3 /4. We take the month of December off as that is usually a busy one for most. Since social distancing is still required due to COVID, we will be meeting in January virtually on Zoom. Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are considered. New members are welcome! Please bring suggestions for books for March through May 2021. The log-in link with the password will be emailed it to all current attendees of Book Group prior to the meeting. Contact Janet Kaefer at [jbkaefer@optonline.net](mailto:jbkaefer@optonline.net) for additional information, or if you also want to receive an email with the link. Our pre-discussion dinners at The Ridge Restaurant are still on hold. Enjoy the Holidays- and Happy reading!

**January 12, 2021:** All Adults Here by Emma Straub (Led by Janet Kaefer)



A TODAY SHOW #ReadWithJenna BOOK CLUB PICK!

"In a time when all we want is hope, it's a beautiful book to reach for." -Jenna Bush Hager

"Literary sunshine."—New York Times

"Brimming with kindness, forgiveness, humor and love and yet (magically) also a page turner that held me captive until it was finished. This is Emma Straub's absolute best and the world will love it. I love it." —Ann Patchett

“An immensely charming and warmhearted book. It’s a vacation for the soul.”—Vox

A warm, funny, and keenly perceptive novel about the life cycle of one family--as the kids become parents, grandchildren become teenagers, and a matriarch confronts the legacy of her mistakes. From the New York Times bestselling author of *Modern Lovers* and *The Vacationers*.

When Astrid Strick witnesses a school bus accident in the center of town, it jostles loose a repressed memory from her young parenting days decades earlier. Suddenly, Astrid realizes she was not quite the parent she thought she’d been to her three, now-grown children. But to what consequence?

Astrid's youngest son is drifting and unfocused, making parenting mistakes of his own. Her daughter is pregnant yet struggling to give up her own adolescence. And her eldest seems to measure his adult life according to standards no one else shares. But who gets to decide, so many years later, which long-ago lapses were the ones that mattered? Who decides which apologies really count? It might be that only Astrid's thirteen-year-old granddaughter and her new friend really understand the courage it takes to tell the truth to the people you love the most.

In *All Adults Here*, Emma Straub's unique alchemy of wisdom, humor, and insight come together in a deeply satisfying story about adult siblings, aging parents, high school boyfriends, middle school mean girls, the lifelong effects of birth order, and all the other things that follow us into adulthood, whether we like them to or not.

**February 11, 2021:** [The Dutch House](#) by Ann Patchett (led by Barbara Kleinert)



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Over the last year or two, our church has switched from a staff led model to a volunteer led model. We still have a lot of things around the church which need volunteers, in order to maintain our ministries. Most Ministry teams have modified a lot of their programming to make them more volunteer friendly. As a church, we uplift and thank all of our volunteers for the work they do to make this a wonderful place to worship, fellowship, and be a part of the body of Christ in Mission!

## ***Just a few of the places we need more volunteers:***

- **AN URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS TO RUN THE SOUND DESK, TO ENABLE LIVESTREAMING OF OUR WORSHIPS. We are seeking 3-4 new people interested in running the live-stream component.**
- **Counters**
- **Family Ministries Team (Event Planning and execution)**
- **Local Missions Teams: Foodbanks, Mask-Making, Contact/Service Team, and more!**
- **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