

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

October 2020

**PASTOR MATT ENZLER**



**Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ**

Published Monthly by:

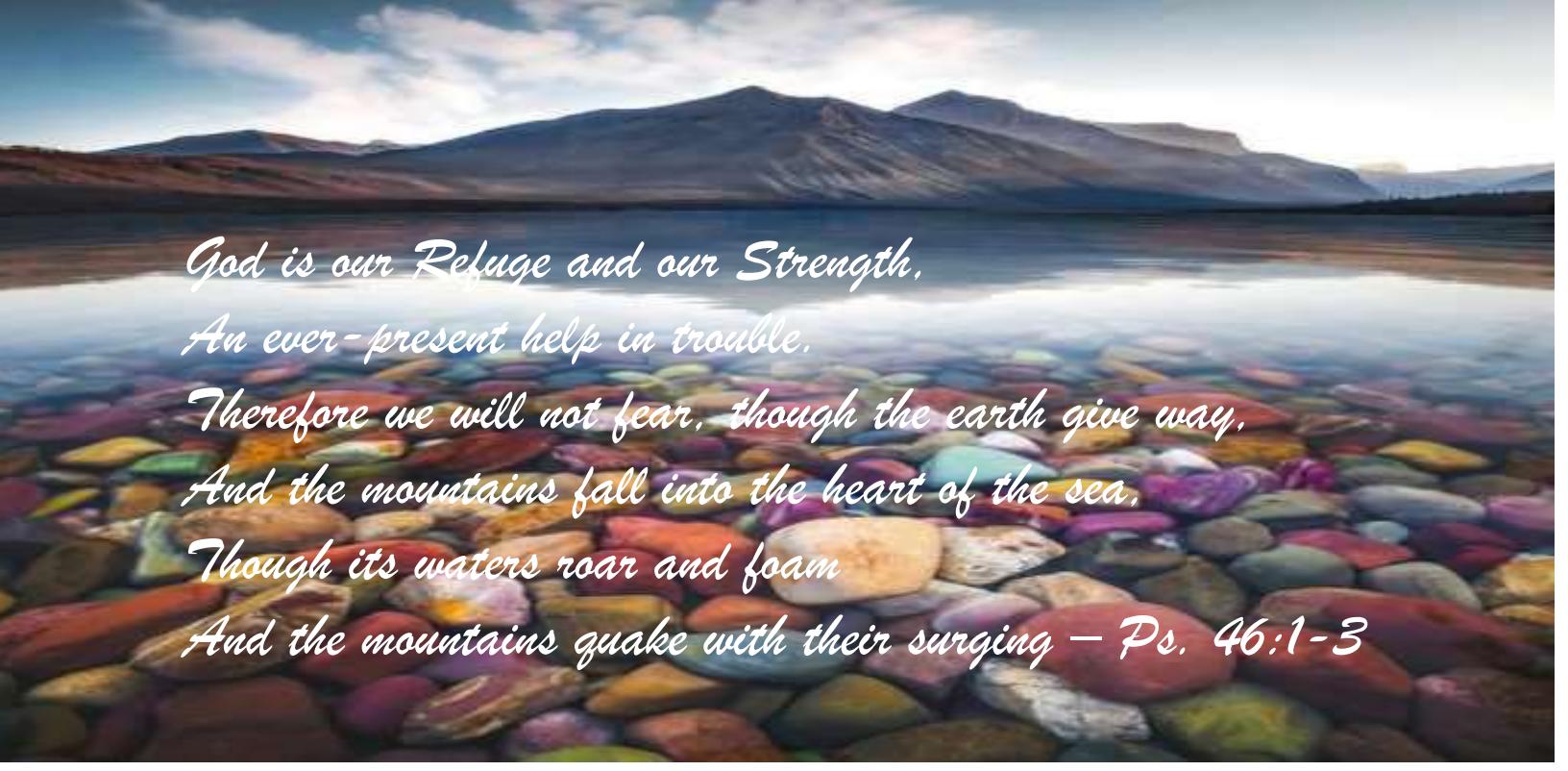


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[www.BJUMC.org](http://www.BJUMC.org)

# TOWER BELL

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*God is our Refuge and our Strength,  
An ever-present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way,  
And the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,  
Though its waters roar and foam  
And the mountains quake with their surging — Ps. 46:1-3*

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MATT:

Recently, I have been overwhelmed by the sensation that it feels like a year of my life was just stolen from me. We woke up one day in March, and everything was shut down. As the fall colors are now upon us, I am reminded that life hasn't been the same since the last time the trees were without leaves. Easily, I can sit back, and begin to count the ways in which my life has been impacted by the Corona Virus, and this will inevitably lead to a pity party of epic proportions. However, I choose not to do that. I choose to look at the positive things this year has brought to us, instead.

When I look at our church, I am constantly reminded that a church is not a building, but rather a community. I have been in awe at the ways our church members have stepped up in this time, to help out their neighbors, to support our church missions, to carry on in their ministries. I have continually been amazed at the flexibility of our church leadership to continue on, albeit with numerous changes to the mode of meeting. Our church has given me great hope over the past several months, a hope that has inspired me to work just as hard as our ministry leaders, to continue to problem solve, and find ways to carry on the essence of a ministry project, while maintaining social distancing and other general safeguards. I am humbled by the work of many in our church, who have taken the lead to adapt and evolve.

A church is not a building, but a church is a community of believers. I am very proud of the ways in which this community has shone through this period of time. Through this community, I have seen the words of the opening poem of Psalm 46 ring true, even when the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, and the mountains quake, the Lord will always remain our refuge and strength. When we stay committed to our mission, and faithfully serve the Lord, we can inspire great things. This time is indeed a strange time, but in this time, we have a great opportunity to be the light our world so desperately needs. God is our refuge and strength; in Him all things are possible.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt



*grateful* *grateful*  
*grateful*

### OCTOBER PUMPKIN EXTRAVAGANZA

OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup> 5pm

We are so excited to be bringing you our BJUMC Pumpkin Extravaganza. There will be 2 cooking opportunities – Pumpkin soup, and Pumpkin brownies, and 1 craft event, by Debbie Becker – make a “grateful” pumpkin. You can just come and hang out on the zoom event, or take part in any, or all of the events. It’s up to you. We’d love to see you whatever you decide to do. Here is a list of the things you will need to have ready if you want to take part:

- Craft

1 small pumpkin, approx. \$4 size. A Sharpie, a piece of ribbon and a small piece of card, or paper.

- Pumpkin Soup

Olive Oil, 1 Onion, 4 garlic cloves, 4lbs of any type of pumpkin or butternut squash, chopped to make it quicker! 4 cups of either chicken or veg broth, ground pepper, salt. 1/2c of cream or coconut milk (both optional).



- Pumpkin Brownies

2 C All Purpose flour, or any flour – gluten free etc. 1 ½ C sugar, ½ C cocoa powder, 1 ½ tsp baking soda, ½ C oil, 2tsp Vanilla, 2 ½ C pumpkin puree (not pie filling), 1 C chocolate chips.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Liz Elliott via email:  
[erp.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:erp.elliott@gmail.com).

We will start promptly at 5pm and finish at 6pm, by which time, you will have a wonderful meal ready and a beautifully decorated pumpkin to get you in the fall mood. Can't wait to see you.

The log in link will be in the mid week minute. Invite your friends and family and have fun creating. The more the merrier. Can't wait to see you there.

The Family Ministries Team

\**Grateful* template link is attached above and is in the appendix

## Family Ministries Fall 2020

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



**DECEMBER:** 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](mailto:erp.elliott@gmail.com)

Let a man so consider us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful  
1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NIV)



## 2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Stewardship is a spiritual discipline. As Christians, we are stewards of God's Love, and Stewards of God's Word. At Bishop Janes, we recognize that God has blessed us in innumerable ways, and our response to these blessings should be to share these blessings with the world. This year, during our Stewardship Campaign, we want to emphasize the role of our Spiritual Gifts. God has asked us not to merely give a monthly tithe, but rather, that we become a living offering before God, putting our energies and our talents to the work of being the ambassadors of God's will to our world. To this end, we are asking our pledge makers to consider pledging in 3 ways: 1)to pledge a given number of hours of service to the Lord, whether in our church or in our community, 2) to pledge to share God's holy community with another family by entering into a discipleship relationship with them, and bringing them into the family of Christ at our church, and 3) making a financial commitment to support the ministries and the work of our church.

Why Pledge? Jesus himself spoke of accountability in many terms. It is a given that in any given year we have various seasons in our life. Pledging helps us make a commitment, a covenant with the Lord, that says, regardless of the season of life I am in, I will ensure my covenant with you remains at the center of my life. The pledge before God makes this a measurable commitment, to check in with yourself, and ask the question "have I devoted sufficient energies to my relation with the Lord recently, am I living up to my pledge?" In the holistic format we use at BJUMC, the pledge is first and foremost a commitment we make before the Lord to live in holy covenant with God in the coming year, truly being stewards of God's love, and stewards of God's word, and sharing these great gifts with our community.

"Community Service": As Christians, each of us has been endowed with a variety of Spiritual Gifts. How we use these gifts to the glory of God will be different for each person. We recognize that our community of Christ in this congregation relies on this great diversity, that together, we become the body of Christ in our community today. How everybody interprets the terms "Community Service" may be different from family to family, but we are asking you to make a commitment to do a certain number of hours of service to the Lord in the coming year. Whether that's participating in one of the ministry events at our church, volunteering at a food pantry or soup kitchen, reading story books to children to teach them about God, making homemade greeting cards for the lonely or sick in our community, or sharing in a multitude of

other spiritual gifts, it is important that we recognize how God has blessed us with our spiritual gifts, that we may share these gifts with the community at large.

Likewise, we are called by Jesus to Baptize all the world in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28). As we engage in our service before the Lord, we encourage each person in our church to specifically seek out discipleship relationships with others. In this way, we can be intentionally invitational about bringing the lost sheep back into the fold. With a variety of ministries to help engage peoples interests throughout the year, our church has a multitude of ways to help invite a friend to church. Worshipping the Lord takes many forms, but it all begins with worship. We will know we are successful in our discipleship building when we have brought new families into our communal worship experiences on a regular basis. In this way, we are being stewards of God's word, not hording it for ourselves, but actively seeking to share God's grace with all the world!

And lastly, but not the least important, is making a financial commitment to our church. As part of a community of faith, we recognize that when we work together, great things can be accomplished. The first two areas of commitment are largely singular efforts, whereas through financial giving to our local church, we pool our resources to carry on many great ministries. In the past year, we have seen that a church is not a building, but a community of believers. A church building is a tool that we use. Likewise, the resources we use as a congregation on the whole for the carrying on of our ministries are tools. When we work together, we support many great tools from our gatherings, family ministry events, youth events, missions projects, and more.

We encourage you, this year, to prayerfully consider supporting the work of the Lord in our community by entering a pledge card with a commitment in each of these three primary areas. By pledging in each of these areas, we can truly be stewards of God's love, and stewards of God's word, working both individually and corporately to share the Gospel with our community. We believe we are called to be true disciples of Jesus, actively growing in our relationship with the Lord, as we also work to be the messengers of the Lord to the world today; not just to say the good news, but to be the good news. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge in each of these categories, and returning a pledge card to our financial secretary. You can either print a pledge card, and put it in a sealed envelope to the Financial Secretary of our church, or you can email it to [FinanceSec@BJUMC.org](mailto:FinanceSec@BJUMC.org). All pledges are maintained as confidential with the finance secretary, with the rest of the church only knowing aggregate amounts for the purposes of planning.

In Christ,  
Finance Committee

## **2021 COMMITMENT CARD**

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PH#: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021, I COMMIT TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, AND WORSHIP THE LORD IN WORD IN ACT. I COMMITT TO THE FOLLOWING ACTS OF TITHES AND SERVICES TO BISHOP JANES UMC:

**FAMILY UNIT COMMITMENTS:**

WE COMMIT TO TITHE THE FINANCIAL AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PER  WEEK  MONTH TO BJUMC.

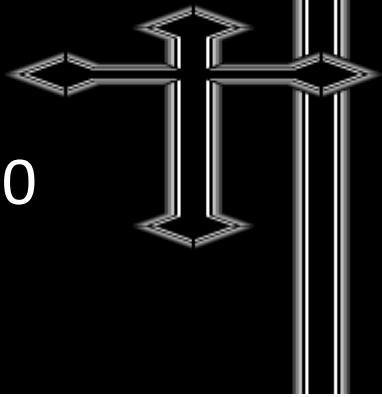
**INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, COMMIT TO BE A STEWARD OF THE WORD, AND BRING ANOTHER FAMILY TO CHURCH, AND FOLLOW UP WITH THEM AFTERWARDS, INVITING THEM INTO THIS COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

I, \_\_\_\_\_, COMMIT TO BE A STEWARD OF THE WORD, AND BRING ANOTHER FAMILY TO CHURCH, AND FOLLOW UP WITH THEM AFTERWARDS, INVITING THEM INTO THIS COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

I, \_\_\_\_\_, COMMIT TO DO \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS OF SERVICE TO THE LORD, EITHER AT BJUMC, OR ELSEWHERE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, COMMIT TO DO \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS OF SERVICE TO THE LORD, EITHER AT BJUMC, OR ELSEWHERE



# FINANCE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020

Greetings in Christ, Family of God,

At BJUMC, we put a priority in being stewards of God's resources. This month we are holding our annual pledge drive. We recognize that we are more than stewards of financial resources, but truly stewards of God's word and stewards of God's love. We hope you will take time to prayerfully consider how you will be a steward of God's Word, and share God's love in the coming year.

In being good stewards of the resources that God has gifted us with as a church, we strive to be fully transparent with how we are utilizing these resources. For the month of September, our church spent \$18,174.42, and received a total of \$16,900.73, for a month end deficit of **\$1,273.69**. Year to date, we have received \$ 215,525.34, spent \$218,871.89, and are showing a year to date deficit of **\$3,346.55**. Most of our annual large expenditures have been expended at this point in the year, and as we head in to fall, we have historically had a surplus usage the last few months of the year which make up for summer deficits. We anticipate this being the case this year as well.

Additionally, It should be noted, the above figures do not reflect the PPP loan, which our church received earlier this year, but which has not yet been officially forgiven so it presently has an equal offsetting obligation. Once forgiven, the PPP loan will result in a surplus for 2020. The figures above reflect giving through tithing, special giving, and other income sources to date. A significant reduction in our income stream this year has been the lack of fundraising opportunities, which normally bring in about \$5,000-10,000 per year, as well as rental income, from both long term and short term rental space of our church, which also usually brings in \$5,000-10,000 per year. These losses to our income stream have impacted our budget significantly.

Our church is running substantially below the budget for 2020, having only expended 65.2% of the budgeted amounts at a point where 75% of the year has passed. Our ministries and teams are working hard to find innovative and creative ways to adapt to the budgetary needs of our church, while also providing meaningful ministries during this Covid-19 semi-lockdown.

We are very optimistic about our financial health this year, and very proud of our ministries. We have seen that our church is very flexible during these times. God has blessed us with the ability to bend and adapt to our changing needs during these strange and unforeseen times. May God continue to bless us, and grant us vision for how we can continue to do important and meaningful ministry in the coming year.

Yours in Christ,  
BJUMC Finance Committee

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



### UMW Gatherings

Come join us for an in person gathering in the backyard while the weather is still warm. Bring a friend! We will meet using church policy guidelines recently approved by our church council, wearing masks and maintaining a social distance of at least 6 feet. If possible, bring a folding chair (some of us will bring extras). All are invited and welcome to attend for a time of reflection, prayer and conversation. (Check our calendar for dates)



### Women's Clothing Collection

The United Methodist Women are seeking donations of clothing that will be taken for consignment at Erby's Elite Repeat Boutique consignment shop which is conveniently located on Rt 202. Proceeds will support the UMW mission giving budget.

Items sought 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](mailto: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.

Erby's 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.



### God's Co-op Coat & Winter Clothing Drive

Throughout October, we will be collecting gently used winter coats for God's Co-op. Please drop off your donations in the labeled tote by the church's main entrance doors (South Finley Ave.).

## Serve The World Mission of the Month



Rice and Beans Ministries, Costa Rica

### **Let's Think Inside the Box Together**

This month we can have the opportunity to show God's love to children in Costa Rica at Christmas in a very tangible way. Through Rice and Bean Ministries "Think Inside the Box" Gift Program, children will receive much needed items to make home and educational life easier and also enable the ministry to continue to build relationships within their community.

Beginning October 1st, shoebox size boxes will be available for pick-up in the church Narthex. For ideas on what to include in your box we will provide a comprehensive list of suggested items for each age and gender group. All items must be new, non-food items, and safe for the intended age group. Simply fill your box(es) and return to the drop off location in the Narthex along with \$10 cash or check made payable to BJUMC to cover the cost of shipping. Boxes must be returned back to the Narthex location no later than October 28th.

Church Narthex doors will be open Monday through Friday from 7am to 9am and 11am to 4pm.

If you prefer, you may arrange for drop off and pick-up of boxes OR sponsor a box for \$30 which includes the cost of shipping by contacting Linda Cargo at 484-433-1558. Please contact Linda if you have any questions about this program.

## Around Bishop Janes UMC – October

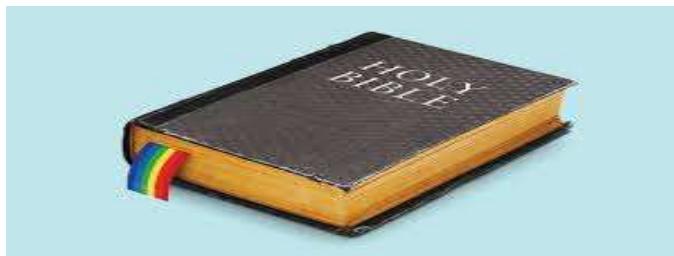


Last month, we finished the period of time covered by the church history, and went beyond it. After I graduated from Ridge High School in 1966, I wasn't around, until I rejoined BJUMC early in this century, so I won't try to cover those years. But there are still some interesting bits of history from the 1950s and 1960s.

I mentioned Rev. Ben Garrison, BJ's minister from 1951-1957, last month, and mentioned that he had a sense of humor. One example of that was in 1956, when my mother was in the hospital, giving birth to my younger brother. She had to stay a few days, and my father and Ben visited her there, one afternoon. Then they found that they were hungry, and Ben led them to the doctors' cafeteria, where he was welcome, because of professional courtesy. "Ben, I can't go in there!" my father said, but Ben led him in anyway – who would know? "Hi, Ben. Who's your friend?" asked a couple of the doctors. Ben promptly said, "Dr. Schroeder. He's visiting here." "What's your specialty, doc?" one of them asked. Rather appalled, my father thought quickly, and said, "Urology." He thought that no one would want to discuss that subject over dinner – and he was quite right!

Rev. Garrison was also the first of our pastors, so far as I know (and probably the last, also!) to refer publicly to our neighbors, the Presbyterians, as “Druids”. In case the reference is obscure, in that time, druids were mostly known as “tree worshippers”, particularly of oak trees. Speaking of The Tree, when I was young, I had heard that it was “the oldest tree, east of the Mississippi”. However, The Nature Conservancy magazine, of Spring 2020, p. 62, wrote about a bald cypress tree in the Black River Preserve of North Carolina. It is over 2600 years old; thus, it was alive (the article noted) when King Nebuchadnezzar ruled in Babylon! There are other trees in the area that are 1600 or more years old. Sorry! Maybe Basking Ridge’s famous tree was the oldest OAK tree east of the Mississippi? Anyway, it’s gone, and I miss it. The Presbyterian churchyard still seems wrong without it.

## Fall 2020 Adult Small Group Studies



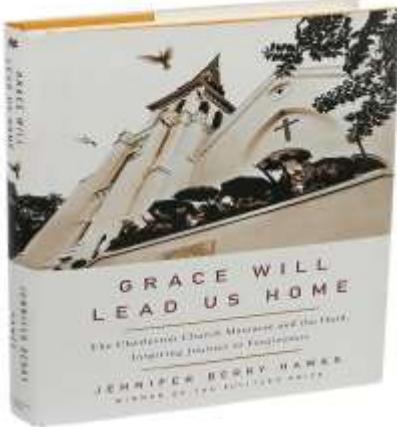
This fall we have a wide variety of education opportunities for adults and interested youth. Our gatherings are held on Sunday mornings from 11am until 12 noon. All of our fall classes will be virtual sessions via Zoom. You're encouraged to join the Fellowship Time after worship and at 11am you'll be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

- **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 22<sup>nd</sup>*.
- **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 29<sup>th</sup>- December 20<sup>th</sup>*.
- 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). Well 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](mailto:jbkaefer@optonline.net) for additional information

**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)



A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2019 \* BARNES & NOBLE DISCOVER GREAT NEW WRITERS PICK \* OPRAH MAGAZINE SUMMER 2019 READING LIST SELECTION \* NEW YORK TIMES EDITOR'S CHOICE

"A soul-shaking chronicle of the 2015 Charleston massacre and its aftermath... [Hawes is] a writer with the exceedingly rare ability to observe sympathetically both particular events and the horizon against which they take place without sentimentalizing her subjects. Hawes is so admirably steadfast in her commitment to bearing witness that one is compelled to consider the story she tells from every possible angle."

—The New York Times Book Review

A deeply moving work of narrative nonfiction on the tragic shootings at the Mother Emanuel AME church in Charleston, South Carolina from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jennifer Berry Hawes.

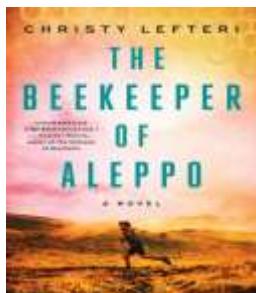
On June 17, 2015, twelve members of the historically black Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina welcomed a young white man to their evening Bible study. He arrived with a pistol, 88 bullets, and hopes of starting a race war. Dylan Roof's massacre of nine innocents during their closing prayer horrified the nation. Two days later, some relatives of the dead stood at Roof's hearing and said, "I forgive you." That grace offered the country a hopeful ending to an awful story. But for the survivors and victims' families, the journey had just begun.

"In Grace Will Lead Us Home", Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jennifer Berry Hawes provides a definitive account of the tragedy's aftermath. With unprecedented access to the grieving families and other key figures, Hawes offers a nuanced and moving portrait of the events and emotions that emerged in the massacre's wake.

The two adult survivors of the shooting begin to make sense of their lives again. Rifts form between some of the victims' families and the church. A group of relatives fights to end gun violence, capturing the attention of President Obama. And a city in the Deep South must confront its racist past. This is the story of how, beyond the headlines, a community of people begins to heal.

An unforgettable and deeply human portrait of grief, faith, and forgiveness, *Grace Will Lead Us Home* is destined to be a classic in the finest tradition of journalism.

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



## Youth Group Tower Bell Oct 2020



What a fabulous start to the Youth Group year we had!

Matt F won a great goodie bag at the Ignite event – way to go Matt, and we had the first (of many) scavenger hunts of the year, which may or may not have involved finding leaves on currently growing plants, and bringing them back to the computer screen - next

time we will be more specific that they need to remain attached to the plant..

It was so lovely to see the Youth Group after the summer break, and everyone settled in very quickly to the new norm of YG being via Zoom.

In October, we will be studying Shad, Shaq and Abe; the Firemen, Hanny the wannabe Nanny, Joe's Bros; the sibling sellers, and Hard Knocks Pablo. The Youth are also hoping to join in the Pumpkin Extravaganza event on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

Whilst we can't meet in person, we are thrilled that so many of the young people meet us on a Sunday afternoon at 5pm via Zoom. If you know of anyone (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) who'd like to be part of our thriving Youth Group, please let Pastor Matt, Vince Baker or Liz Elliott know, and we will get them linked in to the fun.

Isaiah 41:10 says:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand.

# 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!**
- **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

APPENDIX

grateful grateful  
grateful