

B.J.U.M.C TOWER BELL

February 2021

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

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ASH WEDNESDAY



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Although Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, it does not appear in the rituals of The United Methodist Church or our predecessor denominations until the 20th century.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ashes are an ancient symbol In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, “you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated ashes elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others).

The imposition of ashes on the foreheads of Christians to mark the beginning of Lent can be traced at least to the 10th century.

In earlier centuries, ashes were used to mark those who had been separated from the church because of serious sins and were seeking to be re-admitted to the fellowship of the church. In effect, they were redoing the process of final preparation for church membership along with those doing it for the first time. They were sprinkled with ashes and given rough garments to wear as a sign of sorrow for their sins and their commitment to seek renewal in Christian life through this season.

Since the tenth century, the observance of Ash Wednesday has become a general rite for all in the church.

United Methodists first adopted an official ritual for Ash Wednesday that involves the use of ashes in the 1992 Book of Worship. Prior to that time, Methodists either had no official service at all for this day (through 1964) or an “ashless” Ash Wednesday Service (1965 Book of Worship).

In many churches the ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or “Repent, and believe the gospel” recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15).

Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.

** This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*

WHY DOES LENT LAST FOR 40 DAYS?



Lent is a journey of preparation for following the way of Jesus.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

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WHAT DOES UMC SAY ABOUT FASTING?

There is a strong biblical basis for fasting, particularly during the 40 days of Lent leading to the celebration of Easter. Jesus, as part of his spiritual preparation, went into the wilderness and fasted 40 days and 40 nights, according to the Gospels.



Fasting by limiting food and drink, accompanied by prayer and devotional reading, is an important spiritual practice to draw closer to God.

Fasting has been a part of Methodism from its early beginnings. John Wesley considered fasting an important part of a Christian's life and he fasted weekly. To Wesley, fasting was an important way to express sorrow for sin and penitence for overindulgence in eating and drinking. He believed it allowed more time for prayer and was more meaningful if combined with giving to the poor. Wesley did advise caution against extreme fasting and against fasting for those in fragile health.

Although fasting usually refers to any practice of restricting food, there is a distinction between fasting (limiting consumption of food and drink) and abstinence (abstaining from eating meat.) Abstinence from meat one day a week is a universal act of penitence. It is important to check with your physician before attempting a total fast (no food, water only) for more than 24 hours.

Lent is a very personal time of self-reflection, so The United Methodist Church does not have official guidelines on how individuals should observe Lent. Some

choose to fast from food, however a spirit of fasting can include restriction of activities such as television watching, shopping or social networking. Some choose to give away clothing or possessions, give time by volunteering or increase time spent in prayer. We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things and back toward God.

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Around Bishop Janes UMC – February

By Ted Schroeder

In this piece, I will discuss some of the adult activities in Bishop Janes UMC, when I was young (the 1950s to 1966). Next month, I'll discuss the youth activities of that era.

Different pastors emphasized different activities; the church history presents some examples. Some put on Easter sunrise services; Ben Garrison in the 1950s worked to establish adult Bible classes (p. 321 in the history).

I remember the potluck dinners at the church, in Melick Hall, which occurred about every month, during the school year at least. Families would each bring a dish, often the same one that they usually brought; we learned which ones to look out for, particularly! There was always much conversation at these potlucks. It wasn't always uplifting, however: my older sister remembers once when a member of the congregation told our parents that they should move to the Soviet Union. (What was our parents' crime? They said that they had voted for Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic candidate for President, instead of President Eisenhower.) One year, the Tower Club "men offered to put on the annual mother and daughter banquet ... The men themselves did all the cooking, serving and subsequent cleaning up ... the ladies loved it. (history, p. 323)" Food was then, as it often is now, a central part of Methodism!

Church bazaars, or rummage sales, existed then, as now (until interrupted by the pandemic). Bazaars then focused on craft items. Food items were popular, and as a young boy, I would often buy a couple of the numerous woven baskets that were available at the fall bazaar, for Christmas presents for grandparents. As I recall, they were well-made, and cost 25 cents each.

Music was an important part of the church, which in those days was fortunate to have an excellent organist/choir director, Mrs. Mabel Kingsbury Davis. My sister reminded me that Mrs. Davis was a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music. She always chose to make a special effort at Christmas, for example having the adult choir sing a Christmas cantata.

Bishop Janes often made use of its proximity to Drew University. I recall one assistant minister, Don Ploch, who was a student there. We became friends with Don and his wife, Grey (who died within a few days of my mother, in 2011)



UMW Calendar for February 2021

Tuesday, February 16th **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, February 23rd **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, February 23rd **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

Monday, March 1 **Walk and Talk** at Harry Dunham Park will be back



On December 20th Bonnie Artell and Nancy Hannaford presented Bob Boak, Jr with a quilt for his service in the Vietnam War



**Join the
United Methodist Women of the Greater NJ Conference
in
Conversations on Race: School to Prison Pipeline**

Saturday, Feb. 20: 12-1PM

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsd-uhrDliGtOP-5WDMFeI5AqnqUHE72jA>

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



THIS IMAGE REPRESENTS **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S** COMMITMENT TO WORK FOR RACIAL JUSTICE. IT SYMBOLIZES A WORLD OF RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE PEOPLES WORKING TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE TO CREATE A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY PERSON HAS A VOICE, RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ABUNDANT LIFE. WITHIN THE IMAGE ARE TWO HANDS JOINED TOGETHER TO WORK FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN.

Serve The World Through Missions In
FEBRUARY:
**RIDGE OAK SENIOR HOUSING
VALENTINE CARD MINISTRY**

Ridge Oak provides affordable housing and programs for our local senior residents. Our goal is to collect a Valentines Day card for each resident (approximately 300!). Please consider either purchasing or making a card with a brief caring note or sentiment. Please sign your card with first name only, Your Friend, or similar closing.

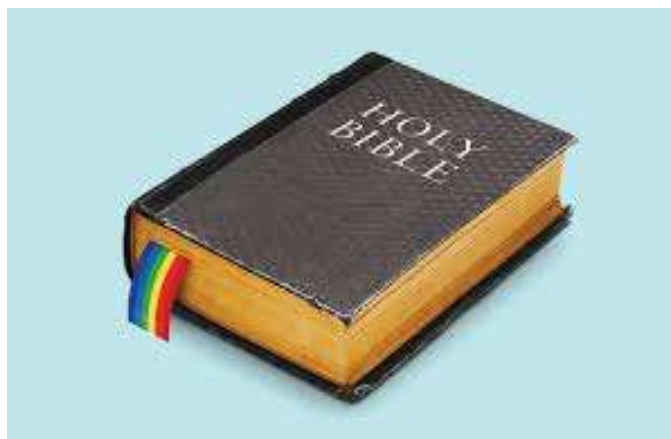
Place your card(s) in a labeled bag and drop them in the Peter Ebbe Food Donation bin in the narthex.

ACT FAST !!DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 13 !!!
Cupid will deliver the cards on Valentine's Day.



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

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 10th** 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 14th**. The following week begins **Lent which runs from February 21st through March 21st**. 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.

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 this month virtually on Zoom. Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are considered. New members are welcome! Please bring suggestions for the May book. 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 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. Stay warm, and Happy reading!

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



Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize

New York Times Bestseller | A Read with Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick | A New York Times Book Review Notable Book | TIME Magazine's 100 Must-Read Books of 2019

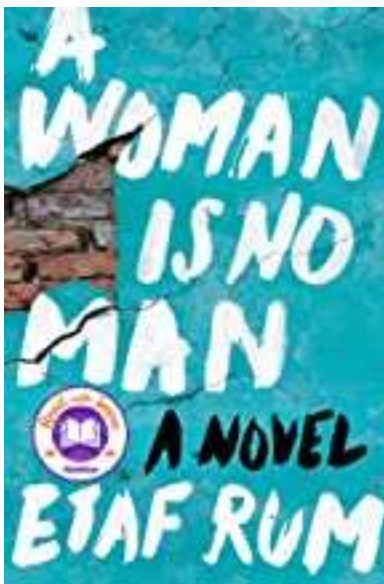
Named one of the Best Books of the Year by NPR, The Washington Post; O: The Oprah Magazine, Real Simple, Good Housekeeping, Vogue, Refinery29, and BuzzFeed

Ann Patchett, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Commonwealth*, delivers her most powerful novel to date: a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. *The Dutch House* is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves and of who we really are.

At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.

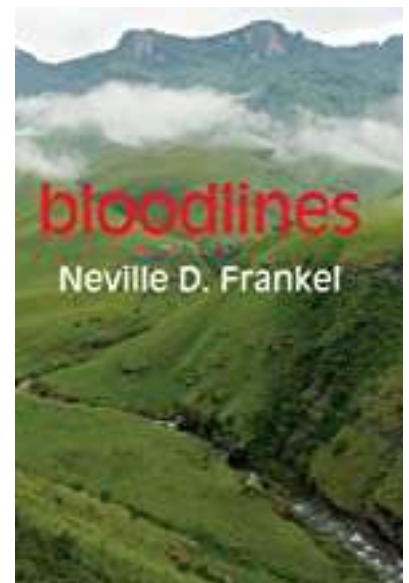
The story is told by Cyril's son Danny, as he and his older sister, the brilliantly acerbic and self-assured Maeve, are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is one another. It is this unshakeable bond between them that both saves their lives and thwarts their futures.

Set over the course of five decades, *The Dutch House* is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past. Despite every outward sign of success, Danny and Maeve are only truly comfortable when they're together. Throughout their lives they return to the well-worn story of what they've lost with humor and rage. But when at last they're forced to confront the people who left them behind, the relationship between an indulged brother and his ever-protective sister is finally tested.



March 11, 2021: *A Woman Is No Man*
by Etaf Rum (led by Barbara Conca)

April 8, 2021: *Bloodlines* by Neville D.
Frankel (led by Janet Kaefer)



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