

JANUARY 2020

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

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR

Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

A monthly publication of:

BISHOP JANES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
22 South Finley Ave. Basking Ridge, NJ, 07920
www.BJUMC.org

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HAPPY NEW YEAR,

FROM THE PASTOR's DESK;

Tis the Season for new beginnings. Each year, we set goals, often the same goals as last year, to lose that last ten pounds, to get a new job, to go to Hawaii. But as we set our goals and resolutions this year, let's think about the bigger picture. I'm reminded of Abram:

"Now the LORD said to Abram 'Go from your Country and your kindred and your father's house to the land I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. In you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed. So Abram went, as the LORD had told him...Abram was 75 years old." (Genesis 12: 1-4).

As we set out goals for this year, lets take time to recognize the calling of God on our lives. At each stage of our life, God is calling us to do something new. God called Abram at 75 to leave everything he knew, his family, his home, his culture, and go to a place he would show him. God didn't even tell him where they were going, God just said, "Head out, I'll show you the way." So, Abram went, as he was told.

My hope for this year is that we, as a church, can be as faithful as Abram. We can hear God's call, wherever we are, whatever stage of life we are in, and we can have the courage to step out in faith. Sometimes, this may feel uncomfortable, sometimes this may mean leaving some things behind. Sometimes we will be headed in a direction where we don't really know what is waiting for us down the road. I pray that as a church, this year and every year, we can be guided more and more by the Holy Spirit. I pray we will be obedient to this call, fearless of the challenges, and faithful to God first and foremost. Let's make this one of our top priorities this year, our first resolution of 2020.

HAPPY NEW YEAR,
Pastor Matt Enzler

2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

This year, we are trying to be better stewards of our finances. Our Church has committed to maintaining balanced budget for the first time in several years. We would also like to move into the 21st Century, and provide an easy way to support your church. No longer do you have to remember your check book once a month, you can automate your giving! Just sign up once, and you'll never have to think about it again.

Electronic giving is a convenient, easy, and safe solution to manage your donations, both recurring and one-time payments. Our church goals for electronic giving are:

- 1) attract new pledges through facilitating regular giving;
- 2) increase tithing by reducing forgotten pledges;
- 3) smooth out collection of pledge offerings through recurring giving, making it easier for both the giver and church to budget;
- 4) enhance processing and reporting;

We have a convenient and safe payment system provided by “Vanco Payment Services” installed and ready for you to try out. Vanco is the largest payment processor in the United States. It processes over \$13 billion a year in payments. It processes payments for over 600 clients in New Jersey. That includes 65 Methodist churches. An authorization form will attached to the Midweek Minute for the first few weeks of January, or will always be available through the office. Please look it over and give it a try.

Electronic giving is a helpful, safe convenience for you, and a huge benefit for the church as well. You may complete and return the form to the church office, or directly to Anthony Suriano for processing.

Our church thanks you for your support. We are in a better fiscal position now than we have been in a few years. If there are any other ways we can be better stewards, or assist you, please let a representative on the finance committee or church council know.

Christmas Tree Sales



Our 2019 Christmas Tree mission fund raiser project was another great success again this year. We expect the final net profit to be in excess of \$30,000 - the exact number will be provided in the next issue of Tower Bell.

This was our 67th consecutive year and approximately 800 trees, 350 wreathes and roping were sold. Proceeds will be turned over to our Serve the World team for distribution as they see fit.

The Tower Club sincerely thanks the many volunteers who set up the racks, unloaded the 800 trees and wreathes, sold trees and wreathes in all kinds of weather during a very busy family time of year, cashiered, arranged the signup board in the Narthex, set up the music system for folks to enjoy Christmas carols, ordered trees and supplies, took branches and bio waste to the dump, collected receipts and made trips to the bank every day, cleaned up the front sidewalk and Narthex each evening, disassembled tree racks and helped store them in the barn, made soup for the sellers, provided cookies and hot chocolate to customers and cleaned up the front lawn at the end of the season.

Everyone involved in the program should feel very good about providing hands on support to benefit those who really need and appreciate the help.





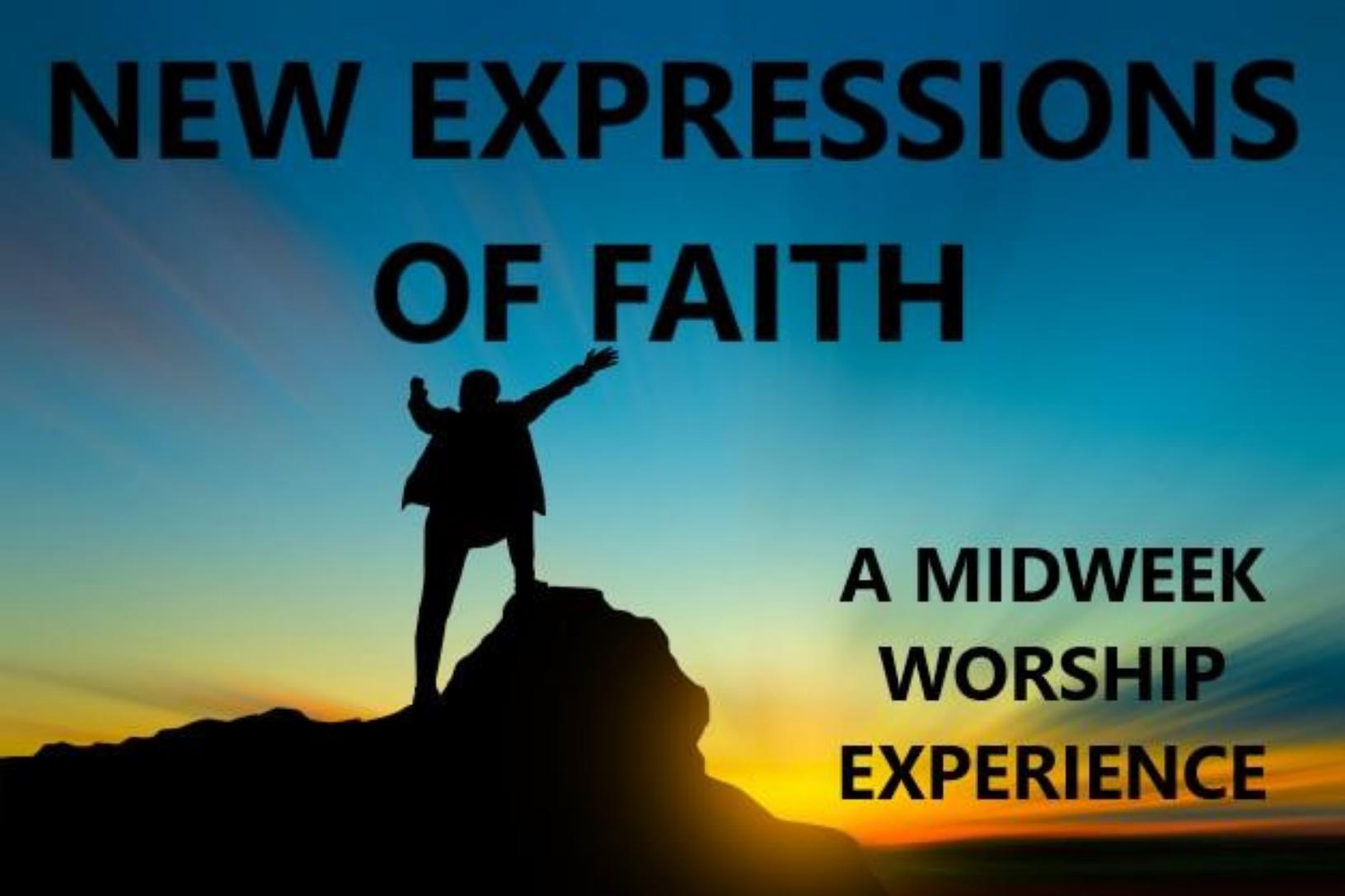
YOUTH GROUP WILL BE KICKING OFF THE SPRING SEMESTER ON JANUARY 5, WITH A FELLOWSHIP NIGHT! WE'RE GOING BOWLING! THIS IS JUST A FUN NIGHT TO SPEND TOGETHER, AND HAVE FUN. FEEL FREE TO BRING A FRIEND, JUST HAVE THEIR PARENTS FILL OUT A PERMISSION SLIP! WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT SPRING OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND GROWING IN OUR FAITH!

SPRING YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

Jan 5 - Fun night (bowling)
Jan 12 - Regular Youth Group
Jan 19 - Regular Youth Group
Jan 26 - Regular Youth Group
Feb 2 - No YG - Super Bowl Sunday
Feb 9 - Combined YG: Ridge Oak Mission
Feb 16 - Regular Youth Group
Feb 23 - Regular Youth Group
Mar 1 - Regular Youth Group
Mar 8 - Combined YG: Fun Night
Mar 15 - Regular Youth Group
Mar 21 - Missions Day (Meal Packing)
Mar 22 - No Youth Group

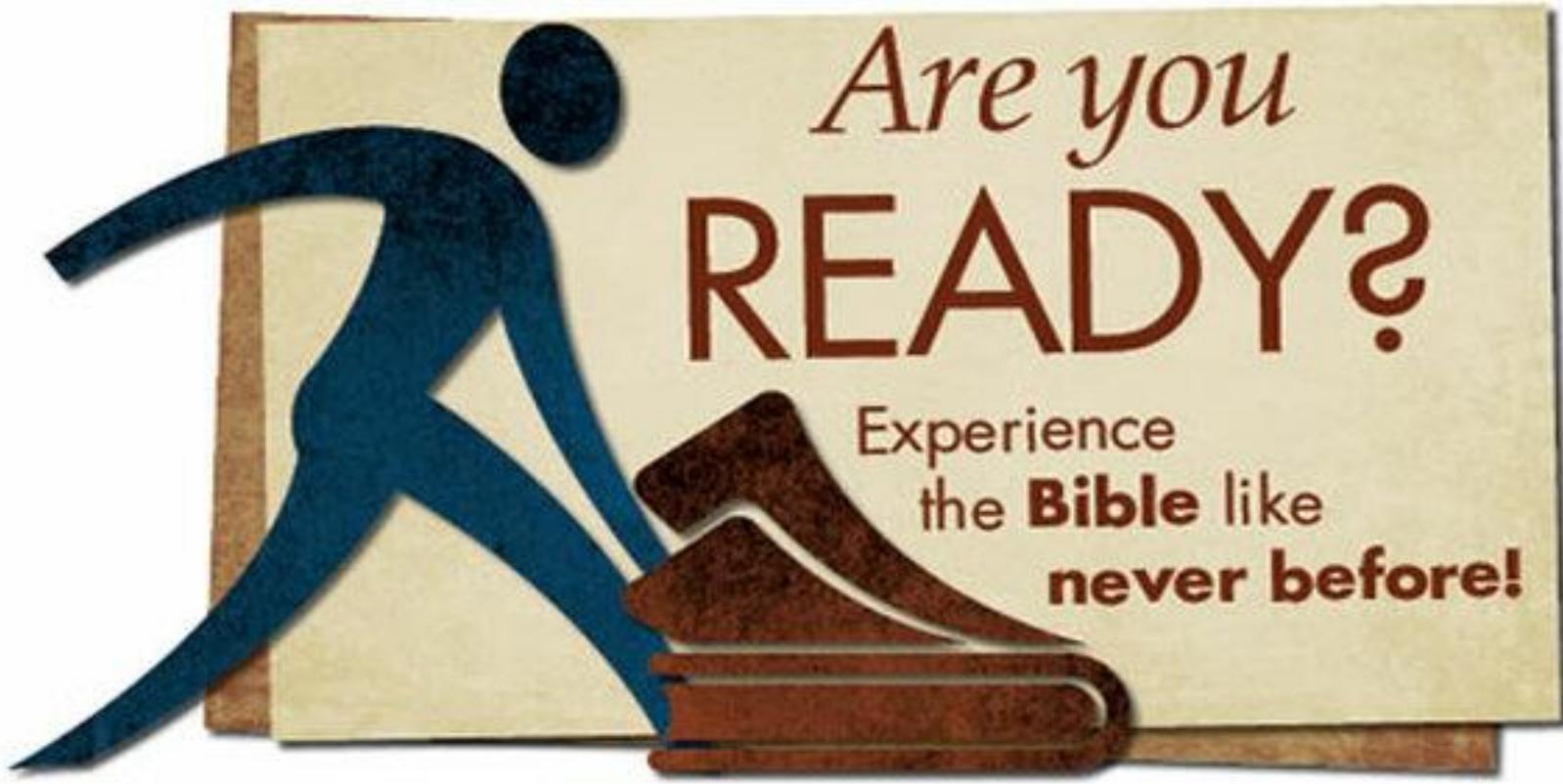
Mar 29 - Regular Youth Group
Apr 5 - Regular Youth Group
April 12 - No Youth Group (Easter)
April 19 - No Youth Group (Spring Break)
April 26 - Regular Youth Group
May 3 - Regular Youth Group
May 9 - Mother's Celebration
May 10 - No Youth Group (Mother's Day)
May 16 - Charter Day
May 17 - Regular Youth Group
May 24 - No Youth Group (Memorial Day)
May 31 - Regular Youth Group
June 7 - End of School Year Party

NEW EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH



A MIDWEEK
WORSHIP
EXPERIENCE

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH, BJUMC will have a MIDWEEK WORSHIP EXPERIENCE, Wednesdays at 6:30! This mid-week service is a casual service, so people can come as they are, however life finds them on a Wednesday evening. We will be using a contemporary service model as a base format, but will be experimenting with various forms and aspects of worship throughout the year. The messages will be short, to the point, and uplifting. This is the perfect service for somebody who wants to wade into their faith, and enter into a community of people who will uplift and support them on their journey. We recognize that we are all in different places in our spiritual walks; this service will be intentionally accessible to people of all ages, life experiences, and biblical knowledge levels, so no matter who you are, you can find your place here!



A SERMON SERIES THROUGH THE AGES

Have you ever wondered how the various pieces of the bible work together to make “the story” of the Bible? Have you ever wondered how a particular story fits into the world history of the time? Beginning January 12, we will be embarking on a Sermon Series walking through the bible with a historical emphasis. We will put the stories in order, and relate them to the context in which they were written. Context helps us understand the Bible on a deeper level, and also helps us see how this history fits into the “bigger picture” of world history. We’ll also see references to the Hebrew people through the lens of other cultures to substantiate some of this history of the Bible.

So if you’ve ever wanted to learn the Bible in a big picture way, not just the individual pieces, and put the pieces into historical perspective come on out this winter for this sermon series. We’ll start with Creation, go through the fall, captivity in Egypt, Exodus, Wandering through the Desert, Delivery to the promised land, the history of our people and changes to the culture leading up to the Christ event right before Easter. Take this opportunity to re-commit yourself to a newer and fuller understanding of the Bible this year.

Growing Closer to God

Winter 2020 Small Group Opportunities

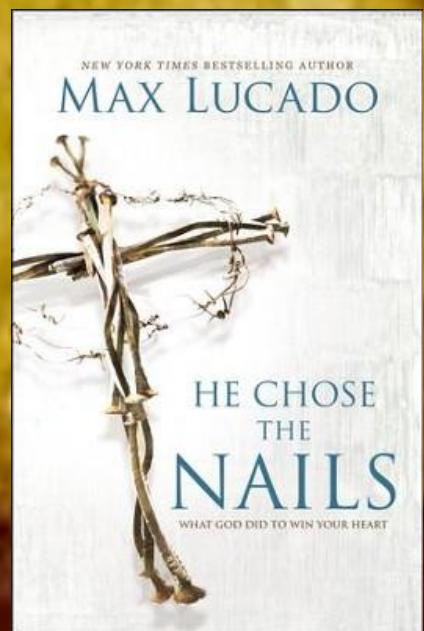
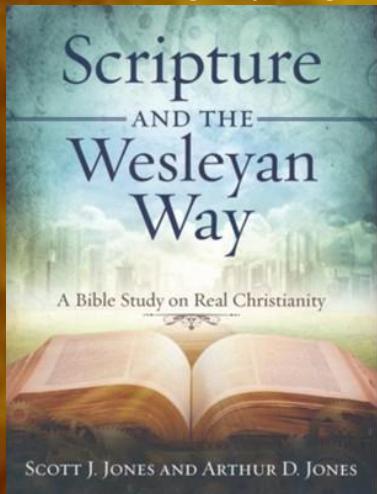
We have two exciting opportunities this winter to grow in faith and deepen your relationship with God through exploring scripture as part of a small group experience. The first is, "Scripture and the

Wesleyan Way." This study explores some of the spiritual questions faced by Christians through the lens of scripture and the sermons of John Wesley. Please join us as we delve deeper into our Methodist heritage and beliefs. This study will complement the sermon series that Pastor Matt will share over the winter months. This 8-week series will cover such topics as; What is the Bible's Message? Am I a Real Christian? How Can I Connect with God? and Why is the Christian Life So Hard?

This will take us to the beginning of Lent where our next program picks up. We will be doing a Lenten study entitled, "He Chose the Nails – What God Did to Win Your Heart." This study is by Max Lucado and is a companion to the Advent study we just completed, "Because

of Bethlehem – Love is Born, Hope is Here." There is no need to have done the Advent study to participate in the Lenten study. He Chose the Nails explores the topics; He Chose to Be One of Us, He Chose to Forgive Us, He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence, He chose to Love Us Forever, and He Chose to Give Us Victory.

We hope you can join us for either or both of these programs and be part of our community's journey of discovery and revelation as we explore scripture and our faith together.



SERVE THE WORLD THROUGH MISSIONS

A simple New Year's message
"Mission is a personal call to action that changes lives two at a time."

This was my thought on a chilly October afternoon when I had the privilege of distributing some of the coats from our winter coat drive at the Co-op. Three people in particular came into the unheated room where the coats had been laid out on tables. Hesitantly, a grandmother tried on a coat while her daughter and grandson watched. Spontaneous smiles were exchanged first between the women and then invitingly with me. The older woman approached me, began to speak in Spanish, paused, and then gave me the biggest, heart-felt hug of gratitude. It brought tears to my eyes.

Mine is just one small story of changed lives through BJUMC missions. As we begin a new year, I invite you to be change-makers by serving God through missions. I hope to hear your story of change in the weeks and months ahead! January 15, 2020 at 7:30 in Room 3&4, please join us at our next meeting. We will be sharing ideas of how God may use us in our own community to serve others. We welcome new faces, new ideas and all change-makers!

Questions- contact Terri at: dowie0101@aol.com

SANTA's TRIP TO PATERSON 2019

On Sunday December 15th, 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, were gifts for 114 children, gloves, hats and socks, and many additional gifts. Three elves; Art Martin, and Linda and Paul Cargo rode on the sleigh to assist in delivering the gifts. A special thank you to Liz Elliott, Tami Lane, Joan Weller, Nancy Sweazey, 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



THE MIRACLE ON FINLEY AVE!

We began 2019 with a budgeted deficit of \$45,000. Midway through the year, our finances were on track to have a deficit of at least that much. Part of the plan was to have a taskforce to develop a 2 year plan to reach a balanced budget, which would also foster growth and health of our church. We are pleased to announce that due to the hard work of our membership, several changes in ministry formats, moving towards a more volunteer based model, and other changes, along with the extreme generosity of our members, we ended 2019 with a surplus, no deficit at all, and projections for 2020 are for a balanced budget as well! God is working with us, to help us reach our goals, to be good stewards of the Word and our resources!



United Methodist Women

appreciated every bit of support. With the talents and gifts of many women (and men) and their friends we have raised approximately \$7,600 to support our budget and mission giving. We are truly blessed and look forward to how God will lead us in our faith, hope and love in action for 2020

THANK YOU! to all who helped to make our Annual Homespun Holiday Bazaar a success for 2019. It takes a lot of time and energy to craft, cook, bake, shop, decorate, gather, sew, solicit donations, wrap baskets, set up, sell, cashier, and clean-up and we



United Methodist Women of Bishop Janes Church support the following organizations with the funds raised at their Annual Holiday Bazaar

Interfaith Hospitality Network, Somerset, NJ
God's Co-op Food Pantry, Bernardsville, NJ
Somerset County Food Bank
Neighborhood Center, Camden, NJ
Good News Home For Women, Flemington, NJ
Jail Chaplaincy of Somerset
Somerset Chaplaincy to the Elderly
Ridge Oak Extended Care, Basking Ridge
Methodist Homes
Camp YDP, Patterson, NJ
Safe and Sound, Somerset, NJ
Church World Service
Samaritan Homeless Interim Program, Somerset Co., NJ
Red Bird Mission, Beverly, KY
The Maker's Place, Trenton, NJ
KIVA Microfinancing
Piecemaker Quilters
The Prayer Shawl Ministry of Bishop Janes Church



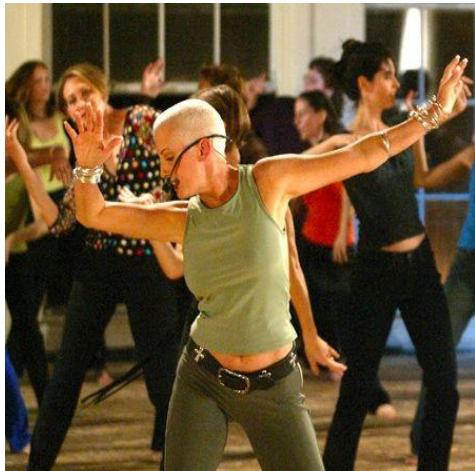
**Our Monthly Gathering will be held on Tuesday, January 14th,
2020 at 7:00pm in Room 3/4**

Back by popular demand!! Denise Rizvi, who conducted a meditation class for us last September will be back, but this time with a Nia fitness class. Nia cardio-dance workouts combine great music and simple dance moves with martial arts and healing arts to get you fit in 60 minutes. More than just a great workout, Nia is a holistic fitness practice addressing each aspect of your life - body, mind and soul. Appropriate for all fitness levels, Nia will rock your body and soothe your soul!

Class size will be limited to 15 persons. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Contact person: Sonja Ryan, sonjaryan@hotmail.com

Denise Rizvi is a Life Coach, Meditation/Mindfulness teacher, Shamanic healer, EFT (Tapping) practitioner, expert communicator and powerful healer who encourages you to take steps forward with confidence and clarity as you create your most fulfilling life.

“Take Charge of The Life You Have, So You Can Live The Life You LOVE”





Book Group

If you like to read and discuss books, join the BJUMC Book Group. It meets monthly from September-November and January-May, at 7:00 p.m. in classroom 3 /4. It is now held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are considered. New members are welcome! We will be discussing Educated: A Memoir, by Tara Westover. Contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information. If you want to join the pre-discussion dinner at The Ridge restaurant at 5:30 p.m., please RSVP to Carol Lutes at (908-672-4600) or carollutes@gmail.com by January 9 at noon.

January 9, 2020: Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover (led by Barbara Kleinert)

An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

“Beautiful and propulsive . . . Despite the singularity of [Tara Westover’s] childhood, the questions her book poses are universal: How much of ourselves should we give to those we love? And how much must we betray them to grow up?”—Vogue

“Westover has somehow managed not only to capture her unsurpassably exceptional upbringing, but to make her current situation seem not so exceptional at all, and resonant for many others.”—The New York Times Book Review

February 13, 2020: The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding by Jennifer Robson (led by Liz Elliott)

March 12, 2020: Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know by Malcolm Gladwell (led by Tami Lane)

BJUMC CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

*Though we make every effort to include all events and scheduled activities, please check the official church calendar online through our webpage, as dates, locations, and times change frequently.

JANUARY	1	ALL DAY	NEW YEARS DAY! – Office Closed
	2	8:00AM	R.O.M.E.O.s – Stirling House Diner
		10:00AM	Piecemakers – Mellick Hall
	5	9:30AM	Worship – Communion Sunday, no Sunday School
		11:00AM	Adult Bible Study – Conference Room
		11:00AM	Worship & Music Committee – Rooms 3&4
		5:00PM	Youth Group Field Trip (combined Sr. & Jr High)
	7	9:30AM	UMW Walk&Talk – Harry Dunham Pk; Priscillas B.
		7:00PM	UMW Leadership Meeting – Conference Room
	8	6:30PM	Mid-Week Worship – Sanctuary
		7:30PM	Chancel Choir
	9	7:00PM	Book Group – Rooms 3&4
	11	9:30AM	Healing Touch – Rooms 3&4
		11:00AM	MSG (Methodist Sisters Group) – Minutemen
	12	9:30AM	Worship & Sunday School
		11:00AM	Adult Bible Study
		2:00PM	Concert: Bernards Parents of Exceptional Children
		4:30PM	Middle School Youth Group
		6:00PM	High School Youth Group
	14	7:00PM	Little Lambs Board Meeting – Conference Room
		7:00PM	UMW Monthly Gathering – Room 3&4
	15	6:30PM	Midweek Worship – Sanctuary
		7:30PM	Serve the World Committee Meeting – Conf. Rm.

		7:30PM	Chancel Choir – Choir Room
16	8:00AM	R.O.M.E.O.s – Stirling House Diner	
	10:30AM	Piecemakers – Mellick Hall	
19	9:30AM	Worship & Sunday School	
	11:00AM	Adult Bible Study	
	4:30PM	Middle School Youth Group	
	6:00PM	High School Youth Group	
20	All Day	Martin Luther King Day – Office Closed	
21	6:30PM	New Circle Dinner – Home of Barbara Kleinert	
22	6:30PM	Mid-Week Worship – Sanctuary	
	7:30PM	Chancel Choir – Choir Room	
26	9:30AM	Worship & Sunday School	
	11:00AM	Adult Bible Study	
	4:30PM	Middle School Youth Group	
	6:00PM	Senior High Youth Group	
28	9:30AM	Grace Circle	
	7:00PM	Prayer Shawl Ministries	
29	6:30PM	Mid-Week Worship - Sanctuary	
	7:30PM	Chancel Choir – Choir Room	
	9:00PM	Submissions for Feb. Tower Bell due	
30	8:00AM	R.O.M.E.O.s – Stirling House Diner	
February	2	9:30AM	Worship: Communion Service, No Sunday School
		11:00AM	Adult Bible Study – Conference Room
		4:30/6:00	NO YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT – Super Bowl
5	6:30PM	Mid-Week Worship	
		7:30PM	Chancel Choir