



MARCH 2020

**TOWER BELL**

NEWSLETTER

**B.J.U.M.C.**

Believers Jovously Unified in Mission with Christ

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF

BISHOP JANES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

22 SOUTH FINLEY AVENUE, BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920

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

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## FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Rev. Mathew J. Enzler

Recently, we kicked off the liturgical season of Lent. What is Lent? To many people it is simply a season where we “give something up” to express our devotion to God. Lent is really so much more than that. In the fourth chapter of Luke, we see Jesus going into the wilderness for 40 days. During this time, he was tempted by the devil, the scripture says. Lent is modeled after this scripture.

Lent is a time for us to look closely at ourselves, our life, our practices, our routines; basically it is a time for us to look at ourselves and identify where our heart is. We are called to spend time each day of Lent in a concentrated time of devotion to God. The practice of either “giving something up” or “taking on something new” is a practice which is designed to help us take this devotional time seriously.

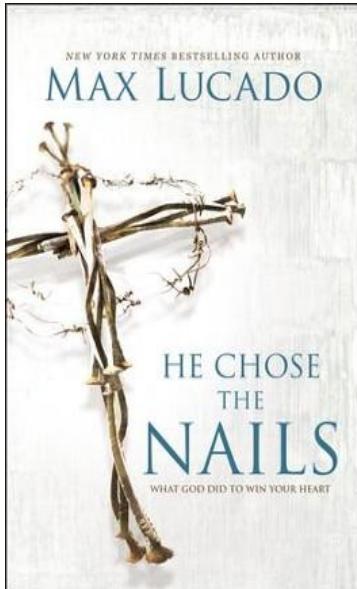
For those who give something up: when you come across a moment you want that thing, be sure that it prompts you to reflect upon God, your relationship with the Lord, the blessings in your life, and the temptations you face daily which hinder these things. This is the way we grow closer to God by removing something from our life.

For those that take on something new: be sure to take seriously the call to grow closer and closer, ever more dependent upon the Lord through this spiritual practice. Whether that's daily meditation, a morning devotional, listening to music, etc., be sure to be intentional about the introspective nature of Lent, and identify those practices and routines we do which are beneficial to our faith, and those which hinder our relationship with God.

Each of us can grow closer to God in different ways. Lent is not a competition, “who gave up something that was the biggest hardship.” Lent is a very personal spiritual journey, that each of us can take seriously in very different ways.

I pray this lent we can all be intentional, in whatever way best suits us individually, to grow closer to God, and renew our faithfulness to the Lord. May the Lord be with you, and keep you strong from the temptations we face, that we may grow closer, and more dependent upon the true source of life. Amen.

**Luke 4: 1-2:** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.



# Lenten Bible Study

## He Chose the Nails, by Max Lucado

As we wrap up our current small group bible study we will move into the period of Lent. Beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup> we start a five-session study, "He Chose the Nails," by Max Lucado. This study examines the gifts that Christ gave us at his crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross, but also the gift of the thorns, the nails, and the empty tomb. This program will run through the 5 Sundays' in March.

After Easter, on April 19<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our Spring small group study on two books of the Old Testament; Daniel and Esther. These are incredibly interesting books and offer a glimpse of how the Jews struggled to sustain their identity and relationship with God during times of great upheaval—living in exile under the rule of first the Persian Empire, and later the Babylonians. Esther is a true heroine of the Old Testament and Daniel is an example of apocryphal writing in the vein of its more well-known example, Revelation.

Our small group meets on Sunday mornings from 11 am until 12 noon in the Conference Room next to the Church Office. Feel free to attend all or any that you can. We'd love to have you be part of our growing small group ministry. If you have any questions, or would like to suggest a topic for a further study, please contact Kevin Dresely at [ddresely@comcast.net](mailto:ddresely@comcast.net).

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## SOMERSET COUNTY FOODBANK DONATIONS

### IMPORTANT NEW UPDATE AS OF FEBRUARY 2020

The Foodbank is so very grateful for our generosity, but currently has an overabundance of pasta (a common item donated). We at BJUMC will focus our giving to what is needed most. Currently, the need is greatest for the items listed below. Please consider donating these items **EXCLUSIVELY** so we can make a bigger change in the lives of the clients:

CANNED CHICKEN  
CANNED RAVIOLI  
LARGER SIZE SOUP CANS  
PARMALAT SHELF STABLE MILK  
SPAGHETTI SAUCE IN JARS

THANK YOU FOR BEING A BLESSING TO THOSE IN NEED!

**PLEASE PLACE DONATIONS IN THE PETER EBBE BIN LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX**

# MISSIONS

## ACROSS THE STREET; AROUND THE WORLD

A Heartfelt Thank You from Serve The World Mission Team

John Wesley praised theology that was “practical”, that is, belief put into practice, belief in motion.

Lent gives us a perfect opportunity to say thank you to all of you who tirelessly and anonymously at times, give of your time, talents, and money to serve those in need. We thank you for giving us the example of Christ; putting your belief into practice.

Perhaps it is a time we can ask ourselves: How will I make my theology practical this Lenten season?

- God's Co-op: come help bag food or serve clients; donate hygiene products / sweaters /gloves
- Food Bank : assist in delivering our collected food to the pantry; donate the most needed items- canned chicken, ravioli, Parmalat, spaghetti sauce in jars (collection bins located in the narthex)
- Get involved with our other missions! Contact Terri [dowie0101@aol.com](mailto:dowie0101@aol.com) for more information





# Little Lambs

## TODDLER CENTER

*A Ministry of Bishop Janes Church*

Little Lambs students and teachers have been busy through the winter months. During the month of February the classes:

- Made snowflakes, learned about hibernation, and made our Groundhog day predictions
- Recognized Dental Health month with a visit from Ridge Family Dentistry. Dr Kurdian brought an amazing puppet show and used a giant toothbrush to “brush” our teeth and gums

- Celebrated Love with Valentine card exchanges and parties.

Also during February Little Lambs:

- began registration for the school year 2020-2021
- opened registration for our summer camp – “Rainforest Animals” – being held weeks of July 6 and 13. See website for details
- began Parent- Teacher conferences

We are excited about the opening of our new Tuesday/Thursday two -year -old class and the five friends who have recently joined us in the class. We have grown!

As we move into spring, we continue to be busy with all of our enrichment programs: art, tumbling, literature, Friday Fun, Tuesday Fun and Early Drop off. In our **Little Shepherds Bible Story class on Thursdays**, we are moving along with our study of the life of Jesus. Lessons covered so far include: Birth of Jesus, Anna and Simeon, Jesus in the Temple at 12, Baptism of Jesus, Choosing the 12 friends and The Miracle at the Wedding at Cana. All lessons include story time, games, songs, prayer, fellowship and are taught by Kim Dial and Pastor Matt.

We are looking forward to our next Assembly program in March entitled Lil Al. This is a presentation given on site by Pearl Observatory and is all about Dinosaurs. We will be constructing Lil Al (Allosaurus) with John Miller, company owner and scientist. We congratulate John on having Lil Al program purchased and displayed by the Dinosaur Museum in Colorado.

At Little Lambs, we look forward to the arrival of Spring, and all the beauty of nature given so freely to us by God. In each of our classes we pray a prayer of thanks for these gifts. Please continue to include the growth and development of these little ones in your prayers.

Joyfully in Christ,  
Kim Dial  
Director, Little Lambs





## YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

In February, our youth went to Ridge Oak Senior Housing to deliver about 300 valentines to the residents. We had a great time, and received a lot of smiles, and even a few tears of Joy! Our youth learned a lot, and felt valued. We also had a few

regular youth groups, where we continued our series looking at character building, and wrapped up with a lesson on the meaning and practice of Lent.

March will be a busy month for our youth. We will have a combined youth group on March 1. Our youth have expressed some interest in joining our two groups together, so we will be experimenting with this a few times to see how it goes. Then on March 8, we will be going to the Ignite Communities event in East Brunswick. On March 21, we will be doing another mission project in Edison, packing meals for disaster relief. Youth: talk with your parents and turn in permission slips for each of these as soon as you can.

**FALL IGNITE CONFERENCE:** The Big Fall Ignite Conference is scheduled for the first weekend in October. The theme this year is “A GREAT MULTITUDE.” See [www.ignitenj.org](http://www.ignitenj.org) for more details.

Our youth are some of the most active people in the life of the church, we thank them for their leadership, and their heart for service.



## **YOUTH MISSION TESTIMONIAL:**

**On Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, our youth group delivered over 300 valentines to the residents of ridge oak. Read what one youth wrote about the experience:**

By: Grace McLaughlin

Tip one for going on a youth mission, or any mission in general: watch the road. If you are not paying attention, you may get run over by a golf cart full of youth group members! That was just one of the adventures we had on the youth trip to Ridge Oak!

Ridge Oak is one of our town's senior living places. We prepared hundreds of valentines for the residents there, to give a bit of love to those who aren't able to visit with family or friends. Once the youth group finished the short drive to the center, we immediately split into groups of two or three, with one adult per group. I was teamed up with another youth, plus Liz Elliot overseeing us, and we were assigned to a certain village. I remember that the village was extremely confusing to navigate. Number 1 would be in one place, and number 2 would be halfway across the village.

We definitely got our workouts for the day! All of the residents were very nice to us, even if sometimes they couldn't understand what we were saying. I think they appreciated being visited. At the end of the day, I learned that even if you aren't related to a person, it's OK to share a little bit of love, because everyone deserves a little bit of love... as a treat.

# NEW MEMBERS CLASS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

On March 22 and 29, we will be holding new member classes. The 22<sup>nd</sup> will be an introduction to Methodist doctrine, the structure of the church, and general denominational information. The 29<sup>th</sup> will be a class specifically about our church, the different groups in our church will be present to let people know about what all goes on in our church, to help people get plugged in. Even if you are already a member of the church, you might consider coming to the class on the 29<sup>th</sup>, just to learn more about what goes on around here!

Transfer members are not required to attend classes, but are kindly requested to come to the 29<sup>th</sup>, to learn about our particular church.

New Members to our church will be inducted during the service on Palm Sunday! The Family Ministries team is planning a Palm Sunday/Easter event for the after the service that day, which will also serve as a welcome to our church!



# 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 Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know by Malcolm Gladwell. Contact Janet Kaefer at [jbkaefer@optonline.net](mailto: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](mailto:carollutes@gmail.com) by March 12 at noon.

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

Malcolm Gladwell, host of the podcast Revisionist History and author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Outliers*, offers a powerful examination of our interactions with strangers -- and why they often go wrong.

How did Fidel Castro fool the CIA for a generation? Why did Neville Chamberlain think he could trust Adolf Hitler? Why are campus sexual assaults on the rise? Do television sitcoms teach us something about the way we relate to each other that isn't true?

While tackling these questions, Malcolm Gladwell was not solely writing a book for the page. He was also producing for the ear. In the audiobook version of *Talking to Strangers*, you'll hear the voices of people he interviewed--scientists, criminologists, military psychologists. Court transcripts are brought to life with re-enactments. You actually hear the contentious arrest of Sandra Bland by the side of the road in Texas. As Gladwell revisits the deceptions of Bernie Madoff, the trial of Amanda Knox, and the suicide of Sylvia Plath, you hear directly from many of the players in these real-life tragedies. There's even a theme song - Janelle Monae's "Hell You Talmbout."

Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. And because we don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives.

**April 16, 2020** (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday due to Holy week): The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd (led by Barbara Conca)-

**May 14, 2020:** This Is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel (led by Janet Kaefer)



Annual  
One Man's Trash is Another's Treasure  
**Rummage  
Sale**



**Friday, March 27th 9am-3pm**  
**Saturday, March 28th 9am-2pm**

items, garden items, toys, sports equipment, pet items, kitchen items, books jewelry, small appliances, linens, tools, and electronics. Items we cannot accept include car seats, VHS tapes, text books, and large furniture. For a complete list of items we cannot accept, visit the church website, [www.bjumc.org](http://www.bjumc.org).

Church and community donations will be accepted beginning on Sunday, March 22nd through Thursday, March 26th in Wesley Hall. Help getting items into Wesley Hall will be available during those days from 9am to 12noon.

Please sign up to help! A sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex. Please consider helping during the week (9am to 12noon) to sort and price donations or on the days of the sale to assist shoppers and/or cashier. Help will also be needed following the sale to clean-up.

Contact persons: Karen Hayworth, [karenahayworth@gmail.com](mailto:karenahayworth@gmail.com) and Linda Cargo , [cargoph@aol.com](mailto:cargoph@aol.com)

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The annual UMW Rummage Sale will be held Friday, March 27th from 9am to 3pm and Saturday, March 28th from 9am to 2pm. Clean, salable and working items we are seeking include housewares, dishware, decorative



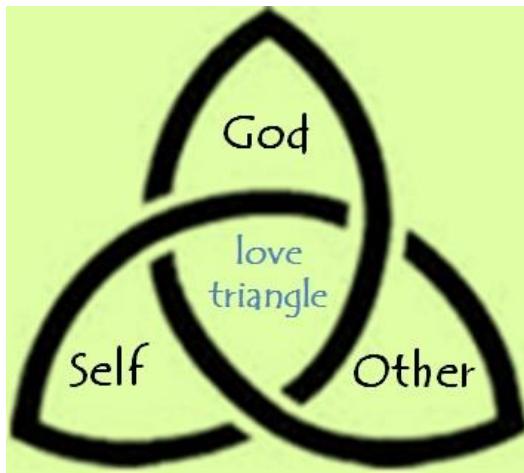
# Bishop Janes United Methodist Women

## One Day Retreat

Saturday, April 4th

9:30am to 3:00pm

Fellowship Deaconry, Liberty Corner, NJ



### Self-Compassion:

**Treating ourselves as we would a dearly loved friend.**

Led by Sherri Shumate, educator, writer, and recreational therapist. Sherri has worked in a variety of different ministry setting serving people of all ages. She has held several leadership roles with the UMW including serving as the Raritan Valley Spirituality chair and Legacy Fund Liaison. She is currently serving as the UMW Conference Social Action Coordinator. Among her many adventures, Sherri's three children are her first and favorite priority. She strives to live her life as a gift of love for the healing of this world.

Space is limited. Registration is open to any women of the community and cost of \$30 includes lunch. Deadline to register is March 29th. Registration forms may be obtained through the church office, or on the church website [www.bjumc.org](http://www.bjumc.org). For more information contact Linda Cargo, [cargoph@aol.com](mailto:cargoph@aol.com) or 908-903-1834.

# VOLUNTEER

NAME

1.

2.

EMAIL

ADDRESS

PHONE



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:

- Counters
- Communications Team
  - o Instagram supervisor
  - o Tower Bell Editor
  - o Advertising consultant
- Sunday School & Nursery
- Family Ministries Team (Event Planning and execution)
- Wednesday Night Worship:
  - o Additional Singers/Musicians
  - o Greeter/Ushers
- Director of Reconciling Ministries, Team Members
- Fundraising Team

There are also a handful of one-time projects that could be done around the church, for those who can't take on long-term commitments.

- A/V and Technical projects
- Organization/moving Projects
- Cleaning Projects
- Much Much more!

## **Church Council**

Church Council has been busy focusing on goal setting in early 2020 for itself and all of the committees and ministries of the church. Strategy for goals begins with the Vision Statement of BJUMC, "Welcome ALL, Serve the World and Grow Closer to God". The Council itself has developed goals and committees/ministries are also considering these as a basis for their own objectives for the year. Last year's Task Force developed "Strategic Initiatives for Growth" which are being considered as well in overall goal setting. The SMART Goal process is being used for goal setting - Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound. Goals will be presented to the Council at its next meeting.

A representative from the Youth Group (Zoe Hodges) has recently been added to the Church Council as a full member.

Meetings of the Council are open to all visitors - dates for this year are March 19, April 23, June 4, Aug 13, Sep 24, Nov 5, and Dec 17.

## **FINANCE REPORT:**

A full February finance report could not be fully completed by the date of publication of the Tower Bell. However, to keep you informed, here is a partial update. A full report (including expenditures) will be included in one of the Midweek Minutes once Pastor Matt is back from Costa Rica:

In January, we received a total of \$27267.85. This amounts to 8.3% of our Budget. We only spent about 5.8% of our budget. Each month represents 8.5% of the year. In February, our tithes and offerings were as follows:

Week 1	\$2544.00 Received	0.7% Of annual budget
Week 2	\$8001.00	2.4%
Week 3	\$2256.00	0.6%
Week 4	\$1534.00	0.4%
TOTAL FEB. RECEIPTS:	\$14335.00	4.3%
YEAR TO DATE:	\$41602.85	12.4%

A report on our expenses will be made available soon. Worth noting, this follows the annual trend of falling behind (percentage wise) through the winter months, and is a completely expected trend.

# INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

## How Americans choose a new house of worship: Personal visits remain crucial

Among U.S. adults who have looked for a new congregation, % who say they have while doing so



Note: Based on those who have searched for a new house of worship.

Source: 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study recontact survey conducted March 17-May 6, 2015. QC4a-f. "Choosing a New Church or House of Worship"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Our 2020 Pledge Drive included commitments to grow in creating Disciples of Christ, committing to enter into enduring relationship with people, to bring them into this community of Christ. Research indicates that people searching for a new church will weigh most heavily their first interaction at that church they go visit. The KEY to the equation, is getting them to come visit the church in the first place. The leading reason people come visit a church is not advertisement, is not web presence, is not anything systematic, but rather, it is the leading reason people check out a particular church is because of individual invitation.

The Personalized Individual invitation is not a one-time invitation, but the repeated talking about the church, letting people know what is going on, and generally, just "talking to members of the congregation." This is even more impactful than talking with the pastor.

This year, let's make an extra effort to be invitational. Let's invite people in our community; not just invite them, but talk with them about the church, help them come to know about our community even without bringing them. Sharing

the love of Christ is an individual responsibility that we all share. Whether that takes place in the church, on the front porch in a neighborhood, or on a park bench near a playground, we can share the love of Christ everywhere we go, and be a welcoming voice into our community of believers.

### **BJUMC CALENDAR AT A GLANCE**

MARCH	4	630PM	Midweek Worship
		730PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	5	10AM	Piecemakers Quilting Group
	7		Costa Rica Mission Trip Returns
	8	2AM	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
		930AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School
		11AM	Adult Bible Study
		4PM	Youth Group: Ignite Communities Event
	9	7PM	Come Sit By The Fire – Small Group
		8PM	AA – Open Group
	11	630PM	Midweek Worship
		730PM	Chancel Choir
	12	745AM	ROMEOS – Stirling House Diner
		7PM	Book Group
	14	930AM	Healing Touch Ministry
		1130AM	Methodist Saturday Group
	15	930AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School
		11AM	Adult Bible Study
		430PM	Middle School Youth Group
		600PM	High School Youth Group
	16	7PM	Come Sit By The Fire – Small Group
		7PM	Finance Committee Meeting
		8PM	AA – Open Group
	17	All Day	St. Patricks Day
		630PM	New Circle Dinner
	18	630PM	Midweek Worship
		730PM	Chancel Choir
	19	10AM	Piecemakers Quilting Group
		7PM	Church Council
	21	2PM	Youth Group Mission Event
	22	930AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School
		930AM	Collection for Rummage Sale begins
		1100AM	Adult Bible Study
		1100AM	New Member Class Part 1
	23	7PM	Come Sit By The Fire – Small Group

		8PM	AA – Open Group
March	24	930AM	Grace Circle
		7PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		7PM	Serve the World Committee
	25	630PM	Midweek Worship
		730PM	Chancel Choir
	26	745AM	ROMEOS
	27	9AM	Rummage Sale
	28	9AM	Rummage Sale
	29	930AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School
		11AM	Adult Bible Study
		11AM	New Member Class Part 2
		430PM	Middle School Youth Group
		600PM	High School Youth Group
	30	7PM	Come Sit By The Fire – Small Group
		8PM	AA – Open Group
April	1	7AM	April Tower Bell Publication
		630PM	MidWeek Worship
		730PM	Chancel Choir
	2	10AM	Piecemakers Quilting Group
	4	9AM	UMW Spiritual Retreat
	5	ALL DAY	PALM SUNDAY
		930AM	Sunday Worship & Communion (No. SS) -Introduction of New Members
		1030AM	ALL CHURCH POTLUCK & FAMILY MINISTRY
	6	7PM	Come Sit By the Fire – Small Group
	8	630PM	Midweek Worshop
		730PM	Chancel Choir
	9	7PM	Maundy Thursday Service
	10	7PM	Good Friday Service
	12	9:30AM	Easter Sunday Service

# BEST SUMMER EVER!

Check out our website this fall for more information about summer camping at Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery.



## 2020 IGNITE SUMMER CAMPS

July 20 – 25, 2020

### CAMP INSPIRE | GRADES 6 - 12

For all kinds of artists! Come for singing, acting, photography, painting, poetry and more.

July 27 – Aug. 1, 2020

### CAMP TRANSFORM | GRADES 6 - 12

Calling all world changers! Have fun and learn to put faith into action to change your community and the world.

Aug. 3 – 8, 2020

### CAMP SPROUT | GRADES 1-5

Adventure, fun and faith for elementary students.

Aug. 10 – 15, 2020

### NIÑOS Y JOVENES | GRADES 1 - 12

A week of celebrating faith and Hispanic heritage! Grow closer to God in a place where Hispanic heritage is celebrated.



Find out more at: [www.gnjnextgen.org](http://www.gnjnextgen.org)