

B.J.U.M.C TOWER BELL

September 2021

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

Published Monthly by:



22 South Finley Ave. Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
www.BJUMC.org

TOWER BELL

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Our Big Fall Kickoff Day this year will be a lot like a

GRAND-REOPENING!

We hope everybody will come out for worship on Sunday September 12, and stick around for a Bring your Own Picnic in the church front yard. We will have yard games and activities for kids and youth, and various speakers to present information to us all about the many ministries of our church as we kick off another programming year.

Our church has so many ministries that start in September, it is hard to list them all, but you can expect to hear a short introduction to the following ministries and more: Bible Discussion Group, Book Group, United Methodist Women, Tower Club (Christmas Tree Sales), Knitting and Quilting Groups, Choirs and Music Opportunities, Youth Group, Worship Leadership Positions, and so much more.

We hope everybody will come out for this event. If you aren't comfortable coming into the building yet, we hope you'll join us after worship for the outdoor Barbecue, Fellowship, and program. We are really looking forward to seeing everybody again!

Why the front yard? We want this to be a welcoming environment to welcome our whole community into our church! Bring your neighbors or your friends, or just say hello to a passerby! We hope this will be a visible demonstration of our eagerness to be a centerpiece of Community.



Did you know that BJUMC has a daily Devotion available every weekday on our [Facebook Page](#)? Over the last year, viewership has almost doubled! This is a great way to start your day with a 7-10 minute devotional. Presently, we are working our way through the entire bible from a historical perspective, starting at the beginning earlier this year. Presently, we just crossed over into the New Testament last month, and are looking at the character of Jesus.

These are also excellent ways to share about the Gospel to your friends. These short messages are a great way to start your day, and jumpstart your faith, and can be great conversation starters for those wondering how to share their faith with their friends. Share the video, and say, “what do you think about that, would you talk with me about that?”

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Fall is upon us! Fall is one of my favorite seasons. The crispness in the air, the pumpkin spiced foods and ciders, and the changing leaves really bring me a lot of energy and hope. My favorite aspect of fall at BJUMC is the kick off of our “heavy season.” I so look forward to this season. As school calendars get under way, people return from far away places, and a sense of normalcy, or

organization returns to our community. I miss seeing so many of our people over the summer, this is a time to reconnect.

This fall, I am excited for many things. Jany Izaguirre, our new music director is a vibrant and energetic leader, who I am very much looking forward to working with. Our family ministries team has put together a few very special events that will bring us all closer to together. Our Adult Bible Discussion Group will be kicking off shortly with countless valuable lessons. Youth Group will once again be meeting in person this fall. Worship is both in person and online, reaching countless people each week all across the world. Our missions team is continuing our missions of the month, and our UMW will be doing several additional missions and fundraisers as well. I especially look forward to the opening of Little Lambs, as these students bring so much joy and excitement to the halls of our church.

As we move into fall, I invite everybody to consider how they can get involved. Part of our baptismal covenant is to be an active part of the worship community, not a passive consumer. I hope each person in our church will do, at a minimum, worship +1, meaning, they will be active in worship (that includes leadership positions in worship, as well as attending worship), plus taking on at least one other ministry our church offers. In this way, we will be a connected church, a church that truly lives out our faith, and bears fruit.

The mark of a healthy church is one which bears fruit. What fruit do you bear? If each of us plants a seed this year, nurturing it, watering it, helping it establish roots, it will eventually grow into a plant which grows much fruit, and then bears its own seeds. A single plant can spread thousands of seeds. I challenge you to plant a seed this year, and get engaged in at least one or more additional ministries, while also continuing to join us for worship.

Mark 4:26-28

A PERSON SCATTERS SEED ON THE GROUND. NIGHT AND DAY, WHETHER THEY SLEEP OR GET UP, THE SEED SPROUTS AND GROWS,... ALL BY ITSELF.

Pastor Matt

HELP NEEDED

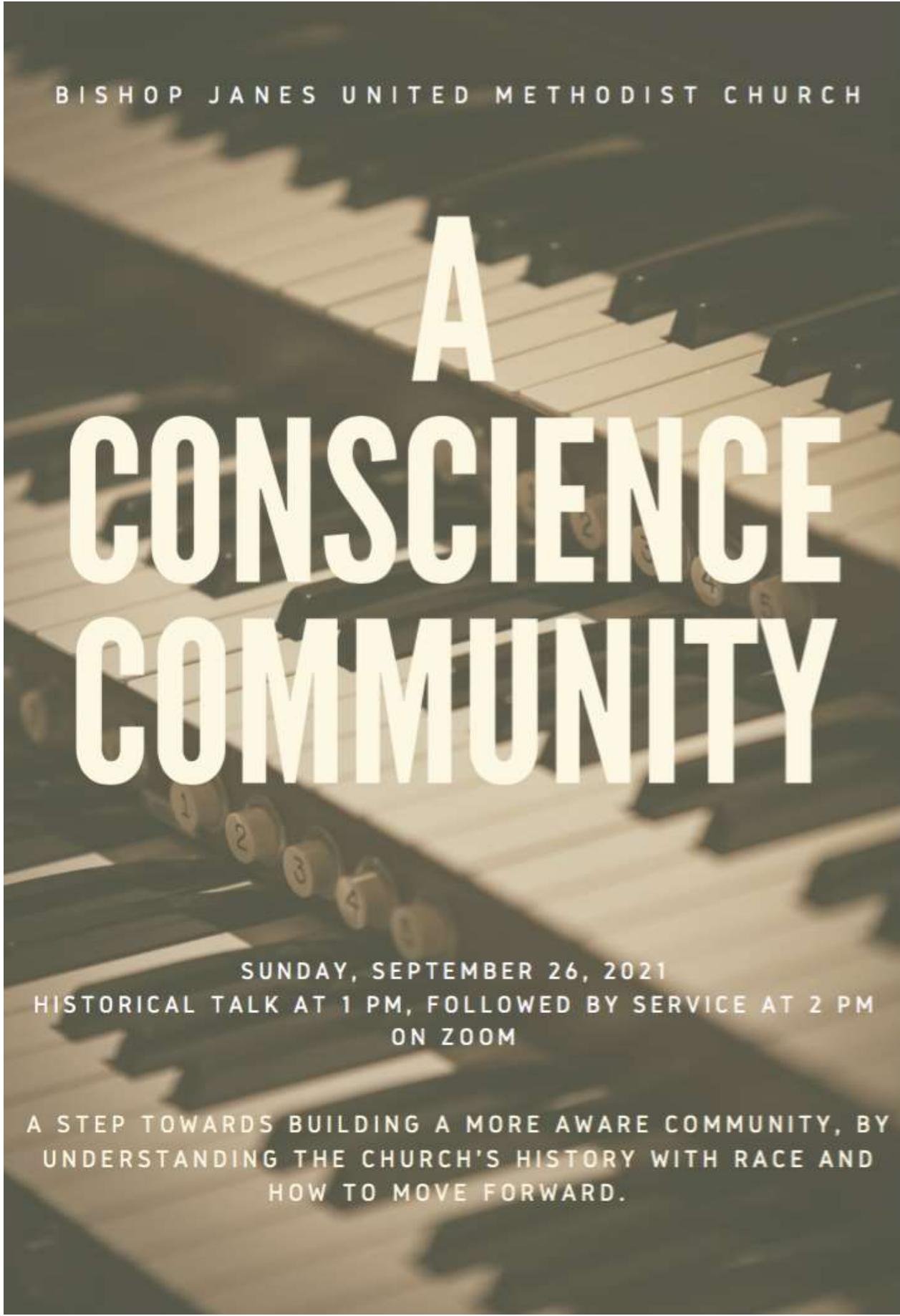
The Lord's Prayer sums up many aspects of our devotion to the Lord, but amongst our petitions, we pray that God teach us God's will that it "can be done on Earth, as it is in heaven" that God's kingdom may come to us more fully.

BJUMC desperately needs new/additional volunteers to keep our ministries running. Over the Course of August/September, our Nominations Committee will be prayerfully considering the ministry leadership of our church as we attempt to fill numerous vacancies that have occurred over the Covid-19 era. As we try to work through this from our end, we also ask that you prayerfully consider where you might fit into the leadership of our church. We put a premium on helping people work in the capacities they would find the most fulfillment in, and thus also give the greatest blessing to our church community.

We prayerfully ask you to consider the following list of vacancies, and notify Pastor Matt if you feel you or somebody you know would be a good fit for these positions:

- Treasurer
- Welcome All, Committee Member
- Grow Closer to God (Christian Education) Chairperson, Committee Member
- Board of Trustees, at Large Member
- Cemetery Understudy/Assistant
- Nominations Committee
- Finance Committee, At Large Member
- Fundraising Committee
- Staff Parish Relations Committee, 1-2 members
-

The need to fill these positions is urgent. We prayerfully ask you consider the spiritual Gifts the Lord has blessed you with as you consider these positions in our church



BISHOP JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A CONSCIENCE COMMUNITY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021
HISTORICAL TALK AT 1 PM, FOLLOWED BY SERVICE AT 2 PM
ON ZOOM

A STEP TOWARDS BUILDING A MORE AWARE COMMUNITY, BY
UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH'S HISTORY WITH RACE AND
HOW TO MOVE FORWARD.

Serve The World Through Missions In

SEPTEMBER



God's Co-op is in need of volunteers to carry grocery bags from the building to the curb for client pick up. One volunteer is needed on certain Wednesday and Sunday evenings, from 6:15-8:00pm at The Good Shepherd Church in Bernardsville. Distribution dates are currently scheduled from September through December. If you can help or have questions, please contact Terri at dowie0101@aol.com as soon as possible so she can place you on the schedule!

Remember to stop by our Missions Page to see information on our M.O.M.s (Mission Of the Month) , D.A.D.s (Do Awesome Deeds) and Thank You Notes !

Serve The World Mission of the Month Rice and Beans Ministries, Costa Rica



Let's Think Inside the Box Together

The month of September we 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 September 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 September 30th. Help us reach our goal of filling and sending 60 boxes.

If you prefer, you may 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.



UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN

Faith • Hope • Love in Action

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SEPTEMBER 2021



Thanks to all for your gift of school supplies during the month of August!!

Now come and join us for our first in-person-at-the church gathering to assemble those donations into kits for the children of the clients at God's Coop Pantry in Bernardsville. We will meet on

Saturday, September 11th at 9:00am in Melick Hall. All are welcome!!

Following the meeting we will move to the church sanctuary for a special 20th anniversary 9/11 memorial service at 10:00am.



Please note that due to the increase in Covid 19 statistics and the uncertainty surrounding the Delta variant, it has been decided to postpone the annual UMW Clothing Sale. However, if you have clothing that you would like to donate please contact Linda Cargo at cargoph@aol.com. Donations will be gathered and taken to the Greenstone United Methodist Church Thrift Store. Proceeds from the thrift store support their church food pantry.

Have you heard the latest BUZZ??

Kathy Liu has honey from her own bees for sale with proceeds going to support UMW mission giving. 12 oz. jars of honey are available for purchase and cost \$8.50. Harvested this July, the honey has a light amber color and a delightful floral taste. If interested, contact Kathy by email at kliuridge@gmail.com. Below is a picture of Kathy's aviary.



UMW SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

All United Methodist Women events, circles and ministries are open to all women and youth of BJUMC, friends, and the community.

***Please note that the following events and activities are being planned, but are subject to change depending on Covid-19 restrictions.

Thursdays beginning September 9th at 10:00am, the Piecemaker Quilting group will meet in Melick Hall. Contact person, Bonnie Artell, bonnieartell@gmail.com

Saturday, September 11th, 9:00am, Melick Hall: [UMW Meeting to assemble School Kits](#) for God's Coop Pantry.

Mondays beginning September 13th at 9:30am, Walk and Talk will resume at Harry Dunham Park. We meet in the parking lot off Liberty Corner Road and will walk for about one hour. Contact person: Barbara Conca, conca@aol.com

Tuesday, September 21st, 5:30pm, **New Circle** will meet for outdoors dinner. Location TBD. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

Tuesday, September 28th, 9:30am, **Grace Circle** will meet. Location TBD. Contact person: Gloria Walker, ghwalker1046@gmail.com

Tuesday, September 28th, 7:00pm, **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet in the Youth Room. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com. This month we will begin to work on items for Knit The Rainbow. All are welcome to join us!

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 9:30am to 3:00pm, UMW One Day Retreat at the Fellowship Deaconry in Liberty Corner, NJ

Looking Ahead to 2022: Exciting plans are underway for the 21st Assembly of United Methodist Women, May 20-22, 2022. Both a live and a virtual option for the 2022 Assembly will be offered. We hope that you will be among the thousands of women attending this exciting celebration in Orlando, Florida. The Assembly website contains a wealth of information and resources regarding the upcoming event. We invite you to visit the site at assembly2022.org.

Registration will open on **Sept. 1, 2021** for either the in-person event or the virtual experience. Register early online at assembly2022.org to receive the early bird discount of \$30 off the regular registration fee. The discount ends on Nov. 30, 2021.

WELCOME our new Music Ministry Director: Jany Izaguirre



Jany Izaguirre, originally from Cuba, began her studies at the Raúl Sanchez School of Music in Pinar del Río, Cuba at the age of eight. She holds two first places in a row at "Amadeo Roldan" piano competition. After seven years she got accepted at the National School of Arts in Havana, Cuba where she got a special recognition at "Johann Sebastian Bach"

National Piano competition. She was one of the 3 candidates chosen among other 13 nationwide to continue her musical studies at the Superior Institute of Arts in Cuba (ISA). After graduating, she moved to Spain and received a full scholarship to study at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid, Spain under the direction of maestro Guillermo Gonzales where she graduated with honors earning her master's degree in Music.

She worked with well-known TV programs (antenna 3, tv 5, tv Valencia, etc.) and a well-known radio station "COPE" in Spain. She was part of the musical productions, "The Beauty and the Beast", as well as "The phantom of the Opera" at the main theater Lope de Vega in Madrid. She recorded Christmas music and zarzuelas with the "COPE" orchestra. She was a well-recognized chamber music pianist while living in Spain.

Jany got married and moved to Illinois with her husband and daughter. In Peoria, IL she joined the music department at Bradley University and also worked as a Choir Director at First United Methodist Church in Peoria, IL. In 2012 Ms. Izaguirre moved to Randolph, NJ where she lives with her husband and two kids. She has been actively performing as well as teaching private piano and music theory lessons.

In 2015 Mrs. Izaguirre joined Morris Catholic High School as Spanish teacher and Music Teacher, where she also was the Music Director of the Musical "The Civil War", "Ragtime", "Funny Things Happen at the Forum", The Princess and the Pea", "Civil War", etc. Jany is the founder and Director of "The Sound of The Music" piano studio since 2008. In 2017 she joined First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, NJ as their Pianist/Organist, and currently she is happy to be part of BJUMC's family as their new Director of Music Ministries. She is very much looking forward to keep bringing congregations and communities together closer to God through the power of music!

We feel truly blessed to have this wonderful addition to our staff at BJUMC! As fall kicks up, please be on the lookout for ways to get involved in our music ministries. We will be changing things this year to accommodate both live worship, but also safety standards. You can reach Jany at music@bjumc.org to set up a time to meet with her, or just welcome her to the BJUMC family!



Community
in Crisis



International Overdose
Awareness Day

Let's Turn New Jersey Purple

TO RAISE AWARENESS OF OVERDOSE
AND REDUCE THE STIGMA OF DRUG
RELATED DEATH.

Community in Crisis in Bernardsville NJ invites you to join us and several local churches as we bathe our buildings in purple to honor and remember those lost to overdose.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 31 @8PM
9 CHURCH STREET, BERNARDSVILLE**

We encourage you to light your own home in purple and reach out to others in your community to do the same as we shine the light on Overdose Awareness.

To get involved or more information contact Ken: kmusgrove@communityincrisis.org

#endoverdoses #turnnjpurple #shinethelight



I looked before me and there was a great multitude too large to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language... | Rev. 7:9

WILDWOODS CONVENTION CENTER OCT. 1-3, 2021

A high-impact, life-changing weekend for youth in grades 6-12. IGNITE includes worship, speakers, mission project, games and more! Concerts, Artists, Inspiration, Faith Exploration and Fun!

www.ignitenj.org





YOUTH GROUP UPDATE:

While we remain uncertain about the fall semester, we are planning with all hopes that we can have regular in-person youth groups this fall. Due to anticipated numbers, we will be combining middle school and high school together, and modifying our program a bit. We will have a snack together, but not a meal, so youth can have Sunday Dinner with their families. Below see the TENATITVE schedule, subject to modification as needed.

September 19 th	Welcome back and Overview
September 26 th	Prayer
October 3 rd	Testimony
October 10 th	Off site activity – Fire pit night
October 17 th	Word Study
October 23 rd	Memory
October 30 th	Worship
November 7 th	No Youth Group - Teachers convention
November 14 th	Off site activity
November 21 st	Bible Study
November 28 th	No Youth Group - Thanksgiving
December 5 th	Self Esteem
December 12 th	End of Term Christmas Party

We look forward to reconnecting with our youth, and building up our community on fellowship and grace! Invite your friends!



WHAT DOES THE UMC FUND THROUGH APPORTIONED GIVING?

One of the more frequent questions Ask The UMC receives is about whether The United Methodist Church funds particular non-United Methodist organizations. We also find some people are surprised by the United Methodist-related entities their apportionments fund partially or not at all.

Understanding the UMC Budget

The United Methodist Church budget supports seven general apportioned funds. Local church giving to these funds provides for the global mission and witness of our church.

Understanding the UMC Budget

General Apportioned Funds

- 1) Africa University Fund - Supports education efforts on the continent of Africa
- 2) Black College Fund - Supports 11 historically Black church-affiliated schools
- 3) Episcopal Fund - Supports active and retired bishops in their episcopal leadership for the denomination
- 4) General Administration Fund - Supports General Conference, the Judicial Council, Archives and History and the church's finance agency
- 5) Interdenominational Cooperation Fund - Supports the church's ecumenical work
- 6) Ministerial Education Fund - Supports United Methodist seminaries and clergy development
- 7) World Service Fund - Supports the diversity of mission through the work of church agencies and the Connectional Table

General Conference approves a budget to support vital international, national, and regional missions and ministries. The general church budget is proportionally allocated (apportioned) to annual conferences, which in turn ask each local church to contribute a portion of its tithes and offerings to support these ministries. In this way, each congregation gives a fair share to support the church's work worldwide.

The [Financial Commitment Booklet](#) includes a listing and explanation of the general church budget and how it is allocated each year.

Here are some of the non-UMC organizations asked about most frequently, listed in alphabetical order.

Does The UMC fund... these non-related entities?

Advocacy groups (such as Good News, Institute on Religion and Democracy, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Reconciling Ministries Network, The Confessing Movement): No.

These are independent organizations funded by their members and participants.

Black Lives Matter organizations: No.

The United Methodist Church addresses anti-racism work primarily through the [General Commission on Religion and Race](#) and annual conference commissions on religion and race. The apportionment your congregation sends to your annual conference funds both your annual conference commission on religion and race and the General Commission. The denominational budget funds no Black Lives Matter organizations.

March of Dimes: No.

The United Methodist Church has never funded this organization.

World Vision and Samaritan's Purse: No to both.

The United Methodist Church has never funded these organizations.

National Council(s) of Churches (and similar ecumenical bodies outside the US): Yes.

The United Methodist Church, through its predecessor bodies, was a founding member of the [National Council of Churches](#) and its predecessor, the Federal Council of Churches. The ecumenical commitment of The UMC, however, extends beyond the United States, and includes a financial commitment to support these bodies that bring Christians of many denominations together in common efforts. See page 35 of the [Financial Commitment Booklet](#) to learn more, and page 38 to find out how much funding can go annually to support these organizations when 100% of apportionments are paid.

Planned Parenthood: No.

The United Methodist Church has never funded this organization.

Political Parties or Political Candidates: No.

The United Methodist Church does not fund political candidates or political parties. This is a prohibited activity under U.S. non-profit law for churches and other charitable organizations which qualify for exemption from federal income tax. Churches may jeopardize or even lose this status if they engage in "political campaign activity." Learn more about the [Church's involvement in politics](#).

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice: Not as of 2017.

The United Methodist Church was a founding member of this coalition and advocated for the Church's life-centered position on abortion in dialogue with other member bodies, many of whom hold choice-centered ethics. The 2016 General Conference instructed The UMC to exit the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and eliminate all funding for it.

World Council of Churches: Yes.

The United Methodist Church, the largest Protestant denomination that functions as a worldwide church, is committed to witnessing to the gospel and extending the mission of Christ in partnership with Christian bodies on a worldwide basis. As a founding member of The [World Council of Churches](#) through its predecessor bodies, The United Methodist Church continues its presence, witness, and collaborative work in the World Council of Churches through the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, one of the

apportioned funds. United Methodist funding supports the participation of United Methodists and Christians of many denominations from developing countries in the worldwide assemblies of the Council, as well as the Council's ongoing work of promoting initiatives to build justice and make for peace. See pages 35 and 38 of the [Financial Commitment Booklet](#) for more information.

Does The UMC fund... these UM and UM-related entities?

United Methodist General Agencies: Varies

Among the agencies primarily funded by the general church budget are Archives and History, Church and Society, Communications, Discipleship Ministries, Finance and Administration, Global Ministries, Higher Education and Ministry, Religion and Race, and the Status and Role of Women.

Some United Methodist agencies are **not** funded or not fully funded through local church giving to the general church budget.

Mission and Mission Support

- [The General Commission on United Methodist Men](#) is partly supported (up to 20%) by local church giving through the World Service Fund. The majority of its funding comes from its members.
- [United Methodist Women](#) is 100% supported by its own membership. It receives no funds from the General Church budget.
- While the [World Service Fund](#) underwrites part of the work of [Global Ministries](#) and its international relief unit, [UMCOR](#), much is funded through additional giving by individuals and annual conferences through the Advance, a way to direct support to specific missionaries, mission projects, and disaster relief. Some of UMCOR's administrative costs are underwritten through the annual UMCOR Sunday special offering. UMCOR often provides grants to and collaborates with other partner relief organizations on the ground, especially in areas where there are few or no United Methodist congregations present.

Publishing

- Discipleship Resources and [Discipleship Resources International](#), the publishing units of [Discipleship Ministries](#), are funded with support from the World Service Fund.
- [The United Methodist Publishing House](#) receives no funding from the General Church budget. Instead, it is funded through subscription services and sales of their publications and other items. The United Methodist Publishing House is required to produce and publish the official documents of the denomination (including the Book of Discipline, Book of Resolutions, all official materials of the General Conference, and the hymnal and ritual of the Church) and to return profits from its overall operations to support retirement funds for United Methodist clergy.
- [Upper Room Ministries](#), like United Methodist Publishing House, is funded entirely through sales and subscriptions. It receives no funds from the general church budget.

Retirement and Health Benefits

- [Wespath](#), the church's pension and health benefits agency, is funded by those who participate in its benefit plans and through returns on investments using those funds. It is not supported through the General Church budget.

United Methodist-Related Institutions: Varies

Higher Education and Clergy Formation

- *Directly Funded Colleges and Universities*
The general church budget provides some direct funding through [The Black College Fund](#) for eleven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) related to The United Methodist Church. It also provides substantial funding for Africa University, founded by the 1988 General Conference, through [The Africa University Fund](#). This fund also enables bishops in Africa to provide a limited number of full scholarships to students in their episcopal areas each year.
- *Seminaries in the United States*
Thirteen United Methodist seminaries offer graduate-level programs for those called to ordained ministry, Course of Study for local pastors, and continuing-education opportunities for pastors across the connection. Scholarship support for these students comes through [The Ministerial Education Fund](#).
- *Seminaries and Theological Education Institutions outside the United States*
[The Central Conference Theological Education Fund](#), created by the 2012 General Conference as a part of the [World Service Fund](#), supports theological schools, courses of study, libraries, scholarships, and faculty development for the training and educational support of clergy outside the United States.

Hospitals and Health Care Systems

- *Within the United States*
United Methodist-related hospitals within the United States were originally started by annual conferences. Some annual conferences own or have oversight over such hospitals through participation in their boards of directors. Most maintain an ongoing relationship through a variety of other means. None are funded by the General Church budget.
- *Outside the United States*
Global Ministries has helped launch and continues some funding for many hospitals and health care sites, in part through the World Service Fund and in part through individual and conference giving to the Advance ([Abundant Health](#)).

Children's Homes and Eldercare

- *Within the United States*
As with hospitals, most United Methodist-related children's homes and older adult facilities in the United States were founded by annual conferences, and some remain owned by the annual conference. For the most part, they are

- independent institutions that maintain a relationship with their founding conference, but raise their own funds through the services they provide. Some annual conferences provide some funding in their budgets. None of these facilities are supported by the General Church budget.
- *Outside the United States*
Some children's homes, orphanages, and related ministries outside the United States are supported in part through the World Service Fund under the direction of Global Ministries. Most, however, receive funding from individuals or conferences through the Advance under the [Impact Area of Education](#).

Surprised by what The United Methodist Church does or does not fund through your local church offerings? Now you know more and where to look to find the answers.

As always, if you have more questions, just [Ask The UMC](#), your apportionment dollars at work to help you find the answers!

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

ADULT SMALL GROUP STUDIES

We kick off this fall with a wide variety of education opportunities for adults and interested youth. Our gatherings are held on Sunday mornings from 11am until 12 noon. We hope to be able to hold class at the church, but will also provide an online option. We hope that you can join us as we continue on our faith journey together. You're encouraged to join the Fellowship Time after worship and at 11am (in person or virtually) and then meet us for the class session. Check out the BJUMC Mid-Week Minute or the church's website for details on participating. Here's what we have in store for the first half of the year:

- **Words of Life – The 10 Commandments.** Last spring we began a study of the Ten Commandments but were unable to get to all ten. So, we'll be completing the series covering the Ninth and Tenth Commandments. This is a DVD-based course by Adam Hamilton and no prior knowledge is needed to join in as we explore these very important commandments. This study will be held on ***September 19th and 26th***.
-
- **Ask: Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age.** Beginning on ***October 3rd***, we'll begin an 8-part series that explores such questions as; Can Only One Religion Be True? Why is There Suffering and Evil? How Can I Believe in Science and Creation? How Can I Believe in a God I Can't Prove? Why Do Christians Disagree About So Many Things? This course, by Scott and Arthur Jones, will give us an opportunity to see what the bible has to say about these questions, and how they impact our faith in today's world.
-
- **Advent Study - The Redemption of Scrooge: Connecting Christ and Culture.** This program, by Matt Rawle, uses the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present to learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. This study begins on the ***first Sunday of Advent, November 28th and ends on December 19th***.
-
- ***There will be no programs on Sunday, December 28th or January 2nd*** for the Christmas/New Year's period.

- ***Stories Jesus Told.*** Beginning on ***Sunday, January 9th*** we begin a 6-week study on the Parables of Jesus. This course, by Greg Carey, looks at six of Jesus' parables to learn how to read, interpret, and live them in your daily life. This program will take us to Sunday, February 13th and into the season of Lent.

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.

WELCOME ALL

Membership Directory Update



Have you ever tried to contact someone from Church and could not find their phone number? Good news, Cheryl Beyer, Welcome All Team Chair, is updating our Membership directory. and asking for your help in updating your contact information for our directory for the use of our church family

Please provide all of your current contact information, names, phone numbers, email addresses, address, cell phone numbers and names of family members in your household.

All of your information is needed for our church records but **we need your authorization for what contact information you would like put in the directory.** Please confirm that you want all, some or none of your contact information in the directory.

Please respond as soon as possible with your current information to help us to accomplish this task in a timely manner.

Thank you!

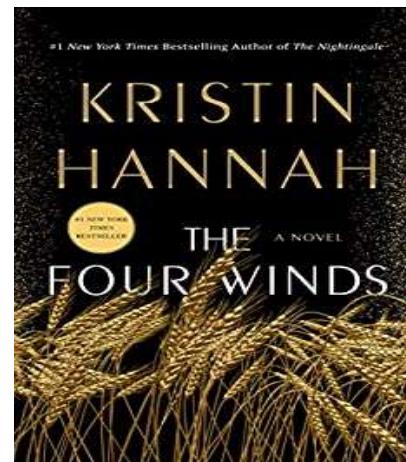
Cheryl Beyer contact information:

Cheryl@uniquewire.com

908 672-6220

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 again required due to COVID.) We anticipate that the September meeting will be in person, and possibly the pre-discussion dinner at The Ridge restaurant will resume – more on that closer to the date! Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are considered. New members are welcome! Below are our selections for September and October – good reads for these last weeks of summer! Please note that the September meeting will meet on the third Thursday instead of the second! Contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information.



September 16, 2021: The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

"The Four Winds seems eerily prescient in 2021 . . . Its message is galvanizing and hopeful: We are a nation of scrappy survivors. We've been in dire straits before; we will be again. Hold your people close."—The New York Times

"Through one woman's survival during the harsh and haunting Dust Bowl, master storyteller, Kristin Hannah, reminds us that the human heart and our Earth are as tough, yet as fragile, as a change in the wind." —Delia Owens, author of *Where the Crawdads Sing*

From the number-one bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone* comes a powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them.

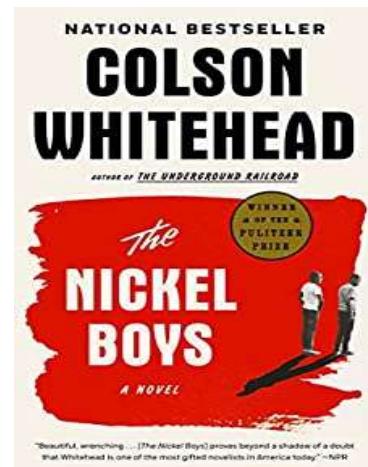
"My land tells its story if you listen. The story of our family."

Texas, 1921. A time of abundance. The Great War is over, the bounty of the land is plentiful, and America is on the brink of a new and optimistic era. But for Elsa Wolcott, deemed too old to marry in a time when marriage is a woman's only option, the future seems bleak. Until the night she meets Rafe Martinelli and decides to change the direction of her life. With her reputation in ruin, there is only one respectable choice: marriage to a man she barely knows. By 1934, the world has changed; millions are out of work and drought has devastated the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as crops fail and water dries

up and the earth cracks open. Dust storms roll relentlessly across the plains. Everything on the Martinelli farm is dying, including Elsa's tenuous marriage; each day is a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive.

In this uncertain and perilous time, Elsa—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west, to California, in search of a better life for her family.

The Four Winds is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity, The Four Winds is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.



October 14, 2021: The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning, New York Times bestselling follow-up to *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys unjustly sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades.

Based on the real story of a reform school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist writing at the height of his powers and "should further cement Whitehead as one of his generation's best" (Entertainment Weekly).

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 AND HELP WITH OUR WORSHIP SERVICES (LIVE AND LIVESTREAMING).***
- **Counters**
- **Family Ministries Team (Event Planning and execution)**
- **Local Missions Teams: Foodbanks, Contact/Service Team, and more!**

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