

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

February 2022

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

Published Monthly by:



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

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A PASTORAL REFLECTION ON THE PANDEMIC AS IT RELATES TO BJUMC

Over the course of the Pandemic, I have observed a division growing in our society. Sadly, as the pandemic wore on, I have seen this division enter our pews. Church is not immune to the issues of our society. Our calling as Christians is to seek to do the will of God, over and above the ebbs and flows of societal leanings. None the less, we all interpret that differently. Many of us feel called by God to put forward our vision of the will of God, and to zealously advocate for the adoption of that vision as the vision of the church. But what do we do when multiple visions arise, when they spread across a vast spectrum of views, and everybody is just as convinced as the other that their view is the only right view?

I have seen, or rather, I have heard, a growing number of voices in our church use the terms “us” and “them,” or “those that do X” and “those that do Y” over the past several months. These sentences are largely related to our policies that are in place to protect people from the Covid virus in our church. Unfortunately, I have to admit, I have not done a very good job of actually explaining or communicating what our actual Covid Policies are in our church, and this has led to even more heated debate or animosity on the topic. I apologize for the lackluster communication on this point, my failure to effectively communicate these points has led to further division in our community.

My hope here is to more effectively communicate where we are presently, where we are going, and how we will undertake this grand task as an act of Christian Community. I feel it has been a grand failure of my leadership that such division has found its way into our church. I apologize sincerely, and hope herein, to repent of that failure, to right the ship, to clarify, to bring about mutual understanding, and to help begin the process of reconciliation, and moving forward in Christian Community.

WHERE WE ARE NOW:

As I said, there is great misunderstanding about what our current policies at the church actually are. Frankly speaking, this is largely because, with respect to the general population of our church, there are very few policies actually in place at the moment. I have made many recommendations, and made them very strongly, from my viewpoint as the leader of a Christian Church, and in adherence to our Welcome All Policy, which seeks to be truly welcoming to all persons.

The fact of the matter is the current policies in effect only impact the following: 1) Limited access to certain portions of the church building during Little Lambs Toddler Center School hours, and 2) singing in worship. I would like to address each of these in turn.

With respect to the first issue, access to our building, Little Lambs Toddler Center is a State Certified educational facility. We take pride in providing Christian education to all who come to our school. In doing so, we also take pride in walking the Christian Walk, and doing everything we can to provide a safe, warm, and welcome location where these students and families can come to enter into their formative years. For those reasons, with respect to COVID Safe Protocols, we meet or exceed all safety guidelines as set by the State of NJ. By and large, the impact of this to the bulk of our church only means that the facility space occupied by Little Lambs must be a “bubble” during their business hours, and only authorized personnel may enter. This is a State requirement. The other provisions in place do not impact the general body of the church, other than to give us a sense of pride that we are doing our best to create a safe, warm, and welcoming environment for these students to engage in Early Childhood Christian Based Education.

The Second issue that we have a policy on is singing in church. As it presently stands, we limit the number of singers in our Sanctuary, and require them to use certain protocol to be safe. Our Church Council has discussed the matter at length numerous times. These protocol include using the plastic shields, or using approved masks (there are three masks that meet this definition). The number of people allowed to sing has varied to some degree over the past several months, going from 2, 3 or 4 most weeks, up to as many as 8 on Christmas Eve. Our General rule has been 2-3. Those numbers are set by me, the pastor, in consultation with many others, but also in adherence to the policies, rules, and regulations set forth by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (GNJ). The Formal recommendation of GNJ, as I read it, is to use pre-recorded music wherever possible, and to limit singers to 1 or 2 as much as possible when prerecorded music is not appropriate. Thereafter, GNJ does make recommendations for churches who for other missional/contextual purposes do allow for more singers, up to and including full congregational singing. Our Church is actually on the leading edge of the best practice policy recommendations of GNJ, as we have allowed 3-4 singers on a regular basis, 8 singers on one occasion, and for full congregational singing of “Silent Night” on Christmas Eve.

I think it is important to know where we stand, not in relation to other denominations, but with respect to our governing bodies, and other Methodist churches of similar shape and size. Denominations differ theologically on the use of science, as well as the role of the providence of God. These doctrinal differences can be seen in such practices and statements as “if God wants us to get sick, we get sick, if not, we won’t, it doesn’t matter what we do, it’s all in God’s hands” (A high view of the providence of God) to “I believe in my faith that God will protect us, for centuries God has placed dangers in the world, God protects the faithful” (A low view of science, high faith). The Methodist Church social principles explicitly state that we affirm a God who rules over science, and has made the universe in an orderly fashion (we affirm science, scientific evidence, the use of logic, reason, etc., in evaluating our course). As such, in setting our local policies, we look closely at not just the intent of God, but also at what our local missional needs and objectives are, as well as our capabilities. Three oft cited and well known

“rules” of the Methodist tradition are to 1) Do No Harm, 2) Do Good, and 3) Stay in Love with God. It is notable that the first rule is Do No Harm.

Most important, with respect to our local context and community, we “recommend” that all persons in our church wear a mask. It is an important note that this is a recommendation, not a mandate. This recommendation comes from two fundamental premises:

- 1) Our facility, especially our worship space, has virtually no ventilation for outside air. Our Trustees have taken steps to improve the air quality in our sanctuary, but the impact of an air purifier on a large space is really quite minor.
- 2) Our Welcome All Policy indicates an intent to welcome all persons, regardless of any differences real or perceived. We have in our BJUMC community a higher rate of unvaccinated persons than the community that surrounds us, for myriad reasons. The reasons are personal and not subject to debate. We welcome all. That said, we can be most welcoming by creating a space that is safe for persons, vaccinated, unvaccinated, fully healthy, or struggling with immune issues. Presently our church, and extended church family has dozens of persons on our extended prayer list struggling with Cancer, illness, suppressed immune diseases, cardiac issues, respiratory issues, or other serious medical issues which would complicate their medical status, whether vaccinated or not.

I raise those points for your consideration as you discern whether you will choose to wear a mask or not within the church building or at church events. Masks are not required. However, it is my personal recommendation that we do wear masks as a way of loving one another, and welcoming those in our community who would not feel welcomed if we do not wear a mask and protect them. Additional things we can do to make sure people feel welcome at our church, and in our meetings and space, will be discussed below where I address where we are going.

I want to be clear, we **do not require registration** for any events, though we do appreciate people RSVP'ing, as it really helps us plan the event. This is a planning tool, to be a good steward of our resources, not a tool to have “registration.” It is also nice for people to comment on our virtual worships not as an attendance tool, but to help other people connect with you as your worship virtually. If you are at home, it sometimes helps to know that others are joining you online.

We **do not require events to be in person or virtual**, but recommend that all options be made available to each group, that they may decide **what is best for them**. A lot of questions have been asked about mandates in this fashion, but there are no mandates. Frankly, many of our meetings are virtual not only because of Covid, but we have found in our administration of many of these meetings that they are more efficient. All teams and ministries in our church have the ability to do hybrid meetings, in person meetings, or fully virtual meetings. This decision is left to the leanings of the particular group, the ministry needs, the functional needs, as well as the efficiency needs of those persons/ministries/teams.

I hope I have clarified where we are presently. My sincere hope is that we can be a community of Christ that loves, supports, and uplifts each other in the Spirit of the Lord.

WHERE WE ARE GOING, HOPEFULLY THIS SPRING

Recent statistics have revealed a certain degree of hope that the COVID pandemic is slowly converting to an endemic. While an endemic is certainly still dangerous, it is a situation that requires a lot less of an emergency status, and life can return to a more normalized state. Precautions will still be taken, whether that is in the form of cleanliness, ongoing medical research and treatments, masks, or other means of preventing spread, but we have hope that those means will be less and less intrusive in our lives, and enable us to get back to many of the things we have left behind, even if somewhat modified.

Our Church leadership met last month to discuss this potentiality, and to devise a way forward, when the time comes. I do want to be absolutely clear, **the time has not yet come**. None-the-less, we are planning with great hope that the time will be soon, relatively speaking. While we have not set dates formally speaking, we have set a timeline for continued evaluation.

Once the time comes, a few things will happen at our church. First, with respect to the access to our building, we will continue to abide by all State Laws, and best practices as it relates to keeping the “bubble” a safe space for our education facilities. But secondly, we have a plan for how we will transition towards more singing in our church.

Singing, and all musical forms of praise and worship, are vital and important parts of the ministry tradition at BJUMC. It is a priority to us in the leadership of this congregation to make sure we do what is necessary to enhance these programs, while also being true to the safety protocol of GNJ, our local Welcome All Policy, and the scientific evidence as it relates to necessary steps to take in advancing music ministry safely.

To be clear the sequence of events I will outline **below does not yet have a start date**. However, the plan that we came up with, and was generally assented to by our Church Council is as follows, laid out in a 2-phase protocol. At present, I can only state that this protocol will not be enacted in the month of February. The plan is as follows:

PHASE 1: We will welcome back an 8-person choir to lead us in worship. Our commitment to safety both of choir members and attendees continues, however, so we will require all choir members to wear an approved mask. There are three types of masks that meet the minimum specifications. Our choir will observe social distancing and use dedicated microphones to ensure no cross contamination. If persons would like to join the choir, but are unable to locate or provide their own masks, our church will gladly provide the necessary masks to enable all who are able and wanting to participate.

PHASE 2: We will welcome back congregational singing. This will take place a **minimum of 4 weeks** following the implementation of phase 1. While general attendance in our sanctuary does not require a mask to be worn, due to the added risk a singer poses to those in their midst, we will **require any persons who wishes to sing to wear an approved mask**. Any person who does not have a mask readily available, but wishes to sing will be provided one for free by the church. Our goal is to enable all who wish to sing the ability to, while doing so in a safe way, in adherence to the evidence we have been presented with.

Eventually, we will return to “normal” and masks will not be required either of choir members or congregation members. This will happen at the same time.

The timeline for these phases has not been decided upon yet. We will continue to monitor and evaluate all available statistics and evidence in making this decision. We have a strong hope that conditions will enable us to move in this direction sooner than later, but our decision will be based on evidence and statistics, not on desire.

MY HOPES FOR BISHOP JANES UMC:

As I began this article, I opened by detailing my observations of occurrences within our community. I hope to do more to lead us on a path towards full reconciliation with each other, healing the wounds we have endured throughout this pandemic, whether by person, or isolation, by policy, or by happenstance. It is my prayer, my commitment, and the commitment of the entire leadership of Bishop Janes that we will move forward in a way that unifies, and focuses on Christian community.

It is essential to us as a church not to focus on our personal stances on reopening policies, but rather to focus on being a single, consolidated, unified Christian community, that specifically and intentionally seeks way to welcome all into our community of believers. Our leadership all pledged in our January meeting to make this a priority in the coming year.

I encourage us all to lean forward in a spirit of unity and love. The entire book of First Corinthians is all about healing division in a Christian Community. The oft quoted famous chapter on love is not about marriage, but about Christian community in a struggling church. As we lean forward on this journey of Christian unity, a few things will be paramount to how we operate.

First, we must remember there is no “we” or “them” in this church, there is only “us all.” Notions of division that identify factions in our midst are often misplaced or misguided. We are all the body of Christ, we are all the beloved creation of God, we all bear the *imago dei* (the image of God) imprinted on our very beings. We must take seriously our pledge to not just “welcome” all, but to do one better, to “INVITE ALL.” How we interact with each other is truly a statement of how we invite others.



If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13: 1-8

Welcoming is passive, but inviting is intentional. We must be intentional to be one, unified in the Lord, and recognize each and every person as our beloved siblings in Christ.

Second, we must adapt our ministry to a hybrid structure. Some ministries can only be done virtually, some can only be done in person. But on the whole, our church should reflect the needs of our community, and provide adequate means for engagement for all persons, whether in person or virtual. This will take many forms, and will require us all to think outside the box. I am proud of our leadership in this church, and their willingness to continue to think creatively about how to be the most inviting to all persons, in all walks of life, with any background, in any status, regardless of any difference, whether real or perceived. Our responsibility is to be equally invitational to all persons.

And Third, but certainly not least important, we must act with love. In all things, we need to be filled with the Love and Grace of Christ our Lord. The wonderful scripture of love, pertaining to Christian community calls us, in this act of love to first look back, and repent of our wrongdoing: “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.” It is paramount that we give each other patience and kindness, forgiving each other for the anger that has entered into our hearts, forgiving each other for being boastful, arrogant and rude in demanding one thing or another. As we go forward, we must forgive our wrongdoings both that we have committed, as well as that others have committed against us. In doing that, we see a path forward that is not an either-or situation, but rather a both-and situation, where all persons can be brought into a faithful relationship with the Lord within the constructs of this wonderful community of faith.

Additionally we must pledge to move forward in love. “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” Our need for God’s love, and God’s grace has not ended. Likewise, we must continue to move forward in this spirit of great Christian Love. We acknowledge that we will face challenges, there will be times in our humanness that we will let each other, and ourselves down. We will not always live up to our stated goals and objectives. But as we look forward, if we do so in Christian love, we can be assured that we will continue to be united by this Christian love that is rooted in the grace of Christ.

FINAL REMARKS

Friends, the Pandemic has had myriad impacts on us all. We have all suffered a great trauma, whether we acknowledge it or not. The scars of this time are deep. It is essential that as we move forward from this time, we remember that we are one in Christ Jesus. This church is not my church, is it not Tom’s Church, it is not Sally’s Church, this church is Christ’s church, and in Christ we are all unified as one in the full body of Christ (See 1 Corinthians 11-12). I pray we can come together as the full body of Christ, and we can make our focus this spring on sharing the Gospel of Christ for us all, and not focusing on a group of “we” or “them” but rather when we think of “us” we think of ALL.

Amen.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

February is African American History Month. We will be celebrating this month by recognizing the great and diverse contribution to music of the African American community to the United Methodist Church. Join us this month as we sing songs of praise and worship, and remember this great contribution to our worship tradition.



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will reconvene, following an extended winter break, on February 20! All youth, grades 6-12 are welcome to attend youth group, Sundays at 5PM. We will continue the format we had in the fall, beginning with a snack and social time, then some games, a lesson, concluding with our group prayer. Coming this spring, we will wrap up our series on Practical Faith, how we live our faith, why we do things, and we will also have a few weeks where we will ask Pastor Matt to address certain questions of our faith. Bring a friend, bring your questions, and join us for a great time of faith and fellowship!

LEARN OUR HISTORIC CREEDS AND PRAYERS

This spring, we will be reciting a series of historical creeds and prayers in the Methodist and greater Christian tradition. Several of these creeds have been around since the first centuries of Christian faith, and are a reminder of fundamental tenets of our faith. Come to Worship Sundays at 930, virtually or in person, to participate in these historic prayers and Creeds, as we connect our faith, our history, and our tradition with our hearts. In this way, we remind ourselves we are all united in Christ, our Lord and Savior, God of all ages, God of all people.





ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up to donate flowers. The 2022 Flower Chart is available on the Narthex Sign Up wall. Reserve your date as soon as possible for any week available during the year. Order forms are available on the wall. To reserve a date and complete an order call or email Nancy Sweazey at 908-766-6368 or sweazeyn@gmail.com.



Happy February, Beloveds!

I often find that the months between Christmas and the start of the Lent/Easter season can be tiring. It is (too) cold and we might find ourselves busy and still recovering from the holidays. As we lean into this “in between” season as I like to call it, I often find that guiding wisdom from the bible can be of great help.

I began my own “in between” season by taking a preaching intensive class during the month of January before my spring semester started, and we spent a lot of time with the Hebrew “wisdom texts,” and especially with the book of proverbs.

I wanted to share an exercise with you all that I completed during class. The following are a set of four prayers; some written by myself, others written by theologians and writers whose words reflect the wisdom of proverbs. I invite you to partake in these prayers daily, weekly, or however you feel led.

Let these words lead you to meditation, drawing, writing, or whatever kind of reflecting you may do throughout your prayers. My prayer for you is that you’re continually challenged & filled up this month & after.

Peace & Love,

Pastor TayLavor

Prayer #1 (Wisdom Woman, Proverbs 8)

Gracious God,

Thank you for your gift of wisdom. Thank you for allowing us to think and understand and feel and believe with our hearts, even in the deepest complexities of this world. Please continue to give grace and the guidance for discernment that leads us to act wisely and love fiercely. Amen

Prayer #2 (Proverbs 22)

Creator God,
you made and love us all. Pour out the kind of wisdom that leads to humility! Give out your guidance that leads to asking better questions, and being willing to learn more. When we act wisely, bless us God. Let us be able to know and feel that that kind of wisdom, the kind that leads to love, comes from you. Let us seek you in this way daily! Fill us up with a longing for this wisdom.
Amen.

Prayer #3 (Proverbs 2)

God, our Guardian...
Give us a truly childlike faith. Teach us, our ears want to receive your wisdom. Let us be open, willing, and eager to learn of your insights. Let what we do be not just for the sake of doing something, but let us do something in your name, in the name of loving others so deeply and fiercely that they know it is a love that comes from you. Help us to walk in the ways you guide us to do so.
Amen.

Prayer #4 (Excerpts from *Forty Days of Prayer* by Scott Erickson & Justin Moore)

Gracious God,
Give me a prayer life that is wise. Give me wisdom that leads to a life of prayer.

“May love be stronger in me than the pain that comes with the fear of caring.

“May I have vision & courage to join God in the places They’re already working, rather than feeling responsible for bringing Them with me.

“May love & forgiveness for others be less & less optional in my life.

“May I have the courage to believe that everything I do matters.”

God, please, give me wisdom that leads to a life of prayer.

Amen.

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



FEBRUARY 2022

Oftentimes, when we think of poverty, food insecurity and homelessness come to mind. What we don't necessarily think about is period poverty, a term that refers to the inability to afford toiletries and items such as tampons and pads - and, the reality is, people are often too ashamed or embarrassed to bring up the topic of menstrual cycles. Period poverty and stigma affect millions of women in the United States and the result is having to choose between buying food for their children or buying period products. Without adequate supplies, school and college age girls miss school while on their periods. Working women may find it necessary to miss days of work.

Beginning in January and through February 8th, our UMW is collecting sanitary pads for the clients of God's Coop Pantry in Bernardsville. A designated collection box may be found in the church narthex. Online purchases may be sent to Linda Cargo, 28 Oxbow Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920. Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted and may be placed in the UMW mailbox in the church office.

On Tuesday, February 8th at 6:00pm we invite you to meet at the home of Krista Colwell, 101 Campbell Road, Bernardsville, NJ to assemble collected supplies into kits and to hear an update from some of the board members of God's Coop Pantry about the pantry's current struggles and needs. Krista will be providing dessert and coffee/tea.

If you would like to car pool to get to Krista's house as either a driver or a rider please contact Linda Cargo at cargoph@aol.com or by phone at 484-433-1558

MARCH IS RUMMAGE SALE MONTH

Friday and Saturday, March 25th and March 26th will be the dates for our annual Rummage Sale. Collection of items will begin in Wesley Hall beginning Sunday, March 20th. Clean, salable and working items we are seeking include housewares, dishes, decorative 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

UMW CALENDAR for FEBRUARY

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

Mondays at 9:00am, Walk and Talk will meet at Harry Dunham Park, weather permitting. We meet in the parking lot off Liberty Corner Road and walk for about one hour. Open to all!! Contact person: Barbara Conca, conca@optonline.net

Tuesday, February 8th at 6pm meet at the home of Krista Colwell, 101 Campbell Road, Bernardsville, to assemble donated sanitary pads into kits for clients at God's Coop Pantry. Dessert and coffee provided. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

Tuesday, February 15th at 5:30pm New Circle will meet for dinner at the home of Linda Cargo, 28 Oxbow Lane, Basking Ridge. Join us in the new year for a time of food, fellowship and fun. All are welcome. Contact Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com for more information.

Tuesday, February 22nd at 9:30am, Grace Circle will meet either in person or virtually. TBD. Contact person: Gloria Walker, ghwalker1046@gmail.com

Tuesday, February 2nd, 7:00pm, Hearts2Hands Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet in the Youth Room. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com. All are welcome to join us. Supplies provided. No experience is needed.

Please note that the Piecemaker Quilters and New Circle will not meet in the month of February.

LOOKING AHEAD:

March 25th, 9:00am-3:00pm and March 26th, 9:00am-2:00pm, annual UMW Rummage Sale in Melick Hall

May 20th to May 22nd, Assembly 2022, Orlando Convention Center. Held once every four years, UMW Assembly promises to TURN IT UP! Please contact Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com if you are interested in attending.

For full information go to www.assembly2022.org

ADULT SMALL GROUP STUDIES

January 2022

Winter 2022 Adult Small Group Studies

Our adult small group study program continues this winter. Due to the current state of the pandemic, we will be holding these programs virtually through February and, when feasible, will move to a hybrid approach of in-person and remote via Zoom.

Our gatherings are held on **Sunday mornings from 11am until 12 noon**. We hope that you can join us as we continue on our faith journey together. To join us online, the link to all of our classes can be found by clicking [HERE](#), or on the Bishop Janes website (www.bjumc.org) or Midweek Minute.

Here's what we have in store for the remainder of this year:

- ***Stories Jesus Told (January 9 – February 13)***. This series begins on **Sunday, January 9th** and runs for six weeks. It is focused 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 **wraps up on Sunday, February 13th**.
- ***What's So Amazing About Grace (February 20, 27, then April 24 – June 12)***. This study by Philip Yancy begins on **Sunday, February 20th** and looks at grace; what it is, why it is so precious, and how to integrate it into your life. We'll do two sessions and then take a break for Lent. We'll pick up our program on grace on Sunday, April 24th and go until the end of the school year.
- ***Savior, What the Bible Says About the Cross (March 6 – April 10)***. This Lenten class, created by Pastor Magrey deVega, helps us unpack the significance of the atonement and some of the theories that have been put forth for the mystery of salvation through the cross.

We hope you'll consider joining some or all of our small group discussions. If you have any question, please contact Ted Schroeder at dotcschroeder@yahoo.com, or 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!

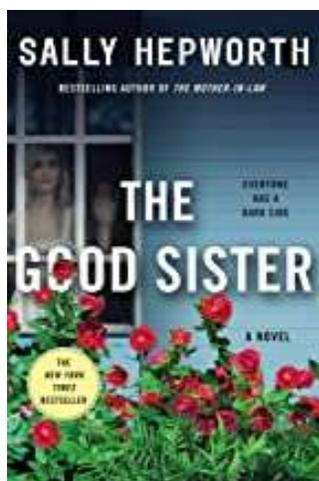
Cheryl Beyer contact information:

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. Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are considered. New members are welcome! We are still postponing the resumption of the pre-discussion dinners, and a decision to hold the February meeting in person or via zoom will be determined closer to the date. Below are our selections for February through April. Please bring suggestions for the May book! Contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information, or to add your name to the email distribution list for Book Group. Happy reading!



February 10, 2022: The Good Sister by Sally Hepworth (led by Marybeth Gakos)

THE INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

"A stunningly clever thriller made doubly suspenseful by not one, but two unreliable narrators." — People

Sally Hepworth, the author of *The Mother-In-Law* delivers a knock-out of a novel about the lies that bind two sisters in *The Good Sister*.

There's only been one time that Rose couldn't stop me from doing the wrong thing and that was a mistake that will haunt me for the rest of my life.

Fern Castle works in her local library. She has dinner with her twin sister Rose three nights a week. And she avoids crowds, bright lights and loud noises as much as possible. Fern has a carefully structured life and disrupting her routine can be...dangerous.

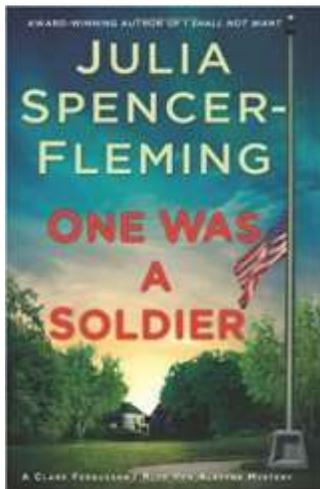
When Rose discovers that she cannot get pregnant, Fern sees her chance to pay her sister back for everything Rose has done for her. Fern can have a baby for Rose. She just needs to find a father. Simple.

Fern's mission will shake the foundations of the life she has carefully built for herself and stir up dark secrets from the past, in this quirky, rich and shocking story of what families keep hidden.

March 10, 2022: One Was A Soldier by Julia Spencer- Fleming (led by Connie Schmalz)

On a warm September evening in the Millers Kill community center, five veterans sit down in rickety chairs to try to make sense of their experiences in Iraq. What they will find is murder, conspiracy, and the unbreakable ties that bind them to one another and their small Adirondack town.

The Rev. Clare Fergusson wants to forget the things she saw as a combat helicopter pilot and concentrate on her relationship with Chief of Police Russ Van Alstyne. MP Eric McCrea needs to control the explosive anger threatening his job as a police officer. Will Ellis, high school track star, faces the reality of life as a double amputee. Orthopedist Trip Stillman is denying the extent of his traumatic brain injury. And bookkeeper Tally McNabb wrestles with guilt over the in-country affair that may derail her marriage.



But coming home is harder than it looks. One vet will struggle with drugs and alcohol. One will lose his family and friends. One will die.

Since their first meeting, Russ and Clare's bond has been tried, torn, and forged by adversity. But when he rules the veteran's death a suicide, she violently rejects his verdict, drawing the surviving vets into an unorthodox investigation that threatens jobs, relationships, and her own future with Russ. As the days cool and the nights grow longer, they will uncover a trail of deceit that runs from their tiny town to the upper ranks of the U.S. Army, and from the waters of the Millers Kill to the unforgiving streets of Baghdad. One Was a Soldier is "a surefire winner" (Booklist) and "Outstanding" (Library Journal)--Julia Spencer-Fleming at her best.

April 12 (Tuesday), 2022: Enigma by Robert Harris (led by Art Matin)

"LITERATE AND SAVVY . . . BRIMS WITH WARTIME INTRIGUE."
--The Washington Post Book World

England 1943. Much of the infamous Nazi Enigma code has been cracked. But Shark, the impenetrable operational cipher used by Nazi U-boats, has masked the Germans' movements, allowing them to destroy a record number of Allied vessels. Feeling that the blood of Allied sailors is on their hands, a top-secret team of British cryptographers works feverishly around the clock to break Shark. And when brilliant mathematician Tom Jericho succeeds, it is the stuff of legend. . . .

"A TENSE AND THOUGHTFUL THRILLER."

--San Francisco Chronicle

Until the unthinkable happens: the Germans have somehow learned that Shark has been cracked. And they've changed the code. . . .

"SUSPENSEFUL AND FASCINATING."

--The Orlando Sentinel

As an Allied convoy crosses the U-boat infested North Atlantic . . . as Jericho's ex-lover Claire disappears amid accusations that she is a Nazi collaborator . . . as Jericho strains his last resources to break Shark again, he cannot escape the ultimate truth: There is a traitor among them. . . .

"GRIPPING . . . CAPTIVATING ."

--New York Daily News

"ELEGANTLY RESEARCHED . . . Readers will find themselves perfectly placed to experience one of Britain's finest hours."

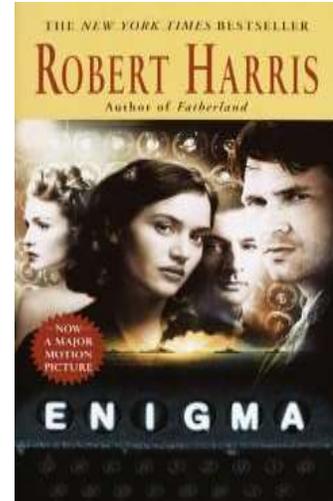
--People

"SATISFYING . . . Harris does a crackerjack job here, playing his characters' lives off historical events in surprising ways."

--Entertainment Weekly

"SUSPENSEFUL . . . FIENDISHLY CLEVER."

--Detroit Free Press



May 12, 2022: TBD

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***
- **Counters**
- **Sunday School Volunteers**
- **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