

BJUMC TOWER BELL HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2023

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

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Christmas Tree Sales 2022
71st Consecutive Year
Most Successful Year with Almost 90K Revenue and About 35K for
Missions



Many thanks to all that assisted and supported Christmas trees sales his year. This was our 71st consecutive year of providing trees to the local community and it was our most successful year! It is our primary source of support for missions with approximately half going towards local charities and the other half supporting national and international initiatives. The calculations are being finalized however, we had almost 90K in revenue with approximately 35K being donated to missions and charities. We sold about 740 tree in addition to every wreath and all roping. This was absolutely our most successful year thanks to all of you.

This event offers wonderful opportunities for hands-on mission support out in the fresh Balsam scented air with holiday music playing in the background. All of our Bishop Janes elves are a blessing and we look forward to our 72nd consecutive year!

Missions & Social Concerns

~~~~~ EXCITING NEWS! ~~~~~

With the start of a new year, we invite you to participate in a yearlong church-wide project:

### THE CONNECTION PROJECT

After careful review of our BJUMC Goals and M&SC Goals, we discovered the most immediate need to reach those goals is CONNECTION. ...and the most effective way to connect with others is through personal, intentional interactions.

Please take some time to read, and ideally prayerfully commit to participating in the Project.

### THE CONNECTION PROJECT

**- CALL TO ACTION:**

We call to action each and every person in our BJUMC community (members, congregants, active small group participants, etc.) to actively invite someone into a relationship building

activity. These may include activities like going for coffee, going for a walk, golfing, going shopping, etc. The goal of these activities is to build connection, listen, genuinely be engaged with this person. The goal is not necessarily to invite someone to church, but rather, when appropriate, talk about faith, service to Christ.... One might invite them to a small group, share service opportunities we are offering, ask if your small group could pray for them: any connectional opportunity that seems fit.

Vital components:

1. Move from a self-centered approach (“this is intimidating”, “how do I talk about church?”, “What if they think I’m pushy, crazy...?”) to a Spirit-centered approach (“this will be a great time to check in with this person and see how they are doing” , “ the Holy Spirit will guide my words. My goal is to really be present for this person and listen. I will intentionally listen for opportunities to share my faith experiences/ my service if it is beneficial to the other person” , “ I’m looking forward to learning something about this person. I can then pray for their specific need and help them to connect to others who may have things in common, or who might help or be helped by them”
2. Look for creative ways to help (that is, show the love of Christ): maybe someone needs to be introduced to another friend “ oh, I’m going to shoot you and my other friend an email- He loves to go to car shows too! Maybe we could all go together sometime” . Maybe they need help with looking for a new doctor...or help baking cookies...or how to write a resume.... Listen and be Christ in that way.
3. Regularly- as often as you can! - share your stories of connection (before/after Services, in your small groups for 10 minutes before your agenda items, via email/text/phone). Continue to build these relationships. Introduce people with common interests/struggles/dreams/passions. Through it all, share faith stories/ talk about the Holy Spirit. Listen.
4. Always begin with prayer/personal meditation before asking /meeting with someone. Pray the Holy Spirit be with you as you meet with others. Thank God ahead of time for helping you.

Suggestions:

1. Pair up with another BJUMC community member and invite someone you know to the activity. It may be a natural part of the conversation to explain how you know each other (through church), which may open the door to other faith based conversation.
2. Seek out community assistance to help someone if you don’t have the resources yourself. (Libraries, Community Centers, Local Service Groups, Schools, etc.)
3. Make it joyful! Make it fun! Think of people who could use the connection (gas station attendant, cashier you always see, crossing guards...)
4. Make it a habit!
5. As you share these experiences with others, help those who have not yet connected/reached out to someone. Offer to go with them and a friend of theirs, or invite them to come with you and your friend somewhere.
6. Keep in mind all of BJUMC’s small groups that you can always intentionally invite someone to- and, of course, invite them to worship as you are led to do so!

Questions, concerns and comments can be sent to [dowie0101@aol.com](mailto:dowie0101@aol.com).  
See our M&SC webpage [here](#) . Don't miss the invitation to read a great book with the team!

## ***From the Lay Leader***

Happy New Year. I'm excited for all that 2023 will have to offer.

I'm Liz Elliott and I have taken over the role of Lay Leader from Brett Hodges, who has done an amazing job being our Lay Leader for many years. Thank you Brett, and I hope I'm able to be even half the lay leader you have been.

This coming year looks like it will have many opportunities for us to challenge ourselves to be a better church family, to look at social issues both near to home and far away. To learn how to take our faith and share it with others – even if it's as simple as through a plate of cookies!

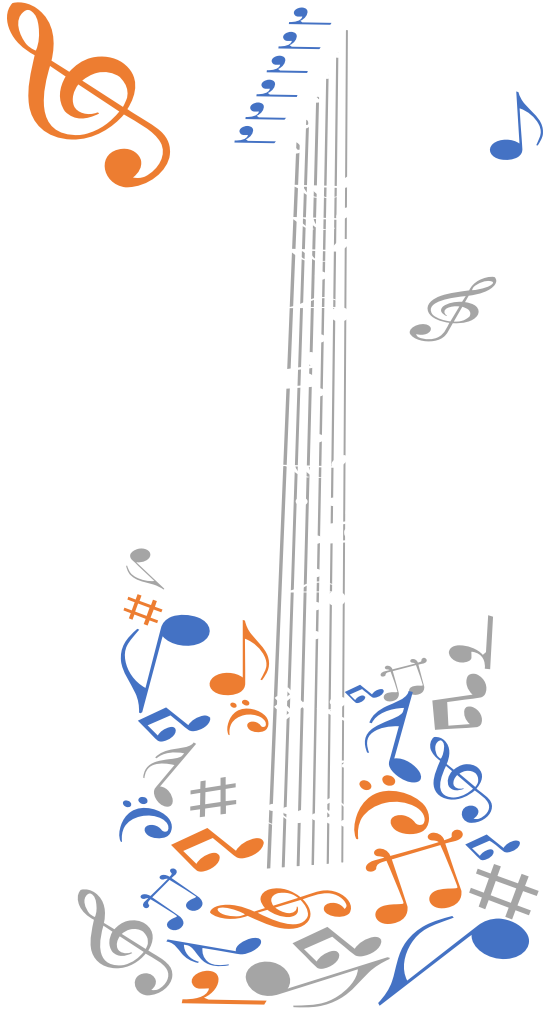


There is much to look forward to doing at BJUMC- Bible study, quiz nights, fellowship time, music and dancing events. We can look forward to spending time with each other and with our wider church family.

If you have anything you'd like to share with me about BJUMC or the church as a whole, please feel free to reach out to me at either my email ([erp.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:erp.elliott@gmail.com)) or on my cell: 919 699 0547. I will do my best to get back to you as soon as I can.

As we start 2023, let us be thankful for all we have, and expectantly wait on God for all he has in store for us this year.

# MUSIC MINISTRY



TRADITIONAL CHOIR  
PRAISE CHOIR  
BELL CHOIR

CONTACT JANY IZAGUIRRE  
TO SIGN UP  
ALL ARE WELCOME





***BISHOP JANES SUNDAY  
SCHOOL***

**1-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**EVERY SUNDAY EXCEPT 1<sup>ST</sup>  
SUNDAY**

**STARTS AFTER CHILDREN'S  
SERMON**

# BISHOP JANES YOUTH GROUP



## What is Youth Group?

Youth Group is a place for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders to come, worship God, and form a community in an age appropriate setting. Each week we will fellowship, learn, pray, and eat together. Our hope is to create a community of young believers in God who understand the grace that is given to them, and can praise God more fully. We will practice habits that will set them up for success in life. We invite all youth, whether a member of our church or not, to participate in these formative events. You do not need to be a member of BJUMC to receive the rewards, though we do expect all participants to abide by our code of conduct.

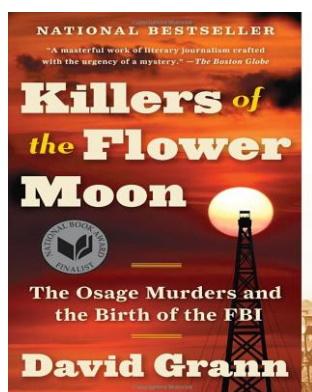
***Fellowship:*** Come have fun with other Christian Youth, build a community of trust, support, and understanding.

***Learn:*** This fall we will study the Bible in a comprehensive method, understanding the Bible as a unit and the grace of God in our lives.

***Events:*** As an attendance incentive, youth who attend 75% of Youth Group sessions we will receive a major discount on the January tubing adventure. **For more information see Pastor Matt, Liz Elliott, or Vince Baker.**

## 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 sometimes at alternate locations. Members suggest which books are discussed- all types and genres are considered. New members are welcome! We hope your holidays were wonderful! The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023 in classroom 3 /4 starting at 7:00 p.m. Please bring suggestions for the spring books! 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) Please contact Janet Kaefer at [jbkaefer@optonline.net](mailto:jbkaefer@optonline.net) for additional information, or to be added to the email contact list.



**January 12, 2023:** Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann, Will Patton, et al. (led by Carol Lutes)

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A twisting, haunting true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history, from the author of *The Lost City of Z*.

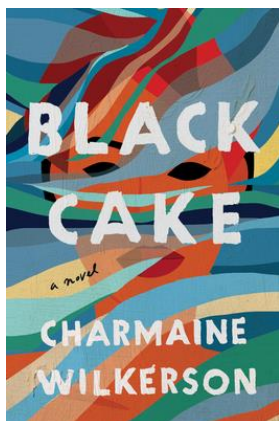
In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe.

Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target. One of her relatives was shot. Another was poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more and more Osage were dying under mysterious circumstances, and many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered.

As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, and the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including a Native American agent who infiltrated the region, and together with the Osage began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

**February 9, 2023:** Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus (led by Barbara Conca)

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK • A must-read debut! Meet Elizabeth Zott: a “formidable, unapologetic and inspiring” (PARADE) scientist in 1960s California whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a beloved TV cooking show in this novel that is “irresistible, satisfying and full of fuel. It reminds you that change takes time and always requires heat” (The New York Times Book Review) “A unique heroine ... you'll find yourself wishing she wasn't fictional.” —Seattle Times



Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

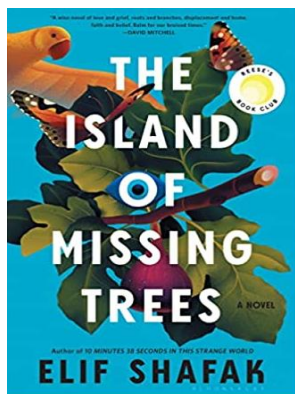
But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.

**March 9, 2023:** *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak (led by Janet Kaefer)

A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK

Winner of the 2022 BookTube Silver Medal in Fiction \* Shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction. "A wise novel of love and grief, roots and branches, displacement and home, faith and belief. Balm for our bruised times." —David Mitchell, author of *Utopia Avenue* A rich, magical new novel on belonging and identity, love and trauma, nature and renewal, from the Booker-shortlisted author of *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World*.



Two teenagers, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot, meet at a taverna on the island they both call home. In the taverna, hidden

beneath garlands of garlic, chili peppers and creeping honeysuckle, Kostas and Define grow in their forbidden love for each other. A fig tree stretches through a cavity in the roof, and this tree bears witness to their hushed, happy meetings and eventually, to their silent, surreptitious departures. The tree is there when war breaks out, when the capital is reduced to ashes and rubble, and when the teenagers vanish. Decades later, Kostas returns. He is a botanist looking for native species, but really, he's searching for lost love.

Years later a *Ficus carica* grows in the back garden of a house in London where Ada Kazantzakis lives. This tree is her only connection to an island she has never visited--- her only connection to her family's troubled history and her complex identity as she seeks to untangle years of secrets to find her place in the world.

A moving, beautifully written, and delicately constructed story of love, division, transcendence, history, and eco-consciousness, *The Island of Missing Trees* is Elif Shafak's best work yet.

## **PLEASE PARTNER WITH THE TRUSTEES TO DECREASE OUR UTILITY COSTS**

Let's all join together to lower our utility costs which have dramatically increased.



Please do not turn up the heat or the air conditioning without consulting with a Trustee, Pastor Matt, or Doug Kreiss.



Also, please remember to turn off the lights when leaving a room.

Each one of us can make a difference!

THANK YOU!

Your Trustees



United  
Women  
in Faith

# Who Can We Be Together?

Please join your United Women in Faith for a two-part retreat led by Pastor TayLavor. **Who Can We Be Together?** brings participants deeper into Jesus' teachings of Luke 13 to explore what it means to be in community.

**When: Saturday, January 21, 2023  
Saturday, May 13, 2023**

**Time: 9:00am to 12:30pm**

**Location: Melick Hall, Bishop Janes Church, 22 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920**

**Participation in both sessions recommended but not required.**

**\$10 suggested donation.**

**Registration is through [SignUpGenius.com](https://SignUpGenius.com) Contact Joanne Johnson at [jammlungj@msn.com](mailto:jammlungj@msn.com) with any questions about sign-up.**



**You do not need to work to become spiritual. You are spiritual; you need only to remember that fact. “Spirit is within you. God is within you.”**

—Julia Cameron

## **United Women in Faith January Calendar**

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

**Tuesday, January 17th 5:30pm, New Circle** will meet at the home of Linda Cargo, 28 Oxbow Lane, Basking Ridge. Contact person: Linda Cargo, [cargoph@aol.com](mailto:cargoph@aol.com)

**Saturday, January 21st, 9:00am to 12:30pm, Who Can We Be Together?**, Part one of a two part program based on Luke 13 exploring what it means to be in community. To register, contact Joanne Johnson, [jammlungj@msn.com](mailto:jammlungj@msn.com)

**Tuesday, January 24th, 9:30am, Grace Circle** will meet at the home of Gloria Walker, 14 Valley View Road, Basking Ridge. Contact person: Gloria Walker, [ghwalker1046@gmail.com](mailto:ghwalker1046@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, January 24th, 7:00pm, Hearts2Hands Ministry will meet in the Youth Room. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com**

**\*\*\*Please note that Monday Walk and Talks will be suspended during January and February - to be resumed in March \*\*\***





## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

*Anniversary? Birthday? In memory of? Special thank you or occasion?*

Why not 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 908-208-3250 or [sweazeyn@gmail.com](mailto:sweazeyn@gmail.com).

NOTE: This is a new phone number for Nancy

# 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***
- **Evergreen Cemetery Assistant**
- **Sunday School Volunteers for September**
- **Family Ministries Team (Event Planning and execution)**
- **Local Missions Teams: Foodbanks, Contact/Service Team, Counters 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