

B.J.U.M.C TOWER BELL

June 2022

PASTOR MATT ENZLER



Believers Joyously Unified in Mission with Christ

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Dear BJUMC Family,

When I was a kid, my mother instilled a rule in me that was ever important for making and maintaining friends. She said “if you can’t say anything nice, then don’t say anything at all.” This is an important note about how we operate in a society, and a rule which seems to have been long forgotten. With the influx of the non-stop news cycle, social media, multiple communication platforms, the rise of the “keyboard warrior” has taken on ever more increasing levels, as people now have the freedom to vent their frustrations, anger, discontentment, fears, and other woes without fear. Sadly, this cultural phenomenon impacts us in all walks of life, not just on those platforms. We have put aside our manners, our due respect for others, an ability to engage in polite and meaningful discourse, and we instantly go in for the attack.

It has been said that “friendlier people have more friends”. This is a true maxim, and a rather obvious statement, so much so people think it is ridiculous even to say. Yet, it is a statement that bears remembering, and taking to honest heart right now, in the face of a constant onslaught of attack. If we want to have friends, if we want to be a part of a thriving, flourishing community, we need to embrace the characteristics of the community that we want to be a part of.

Additional cliché’s include “you get what you give,” and “you are what you eat.” These two go hand in hand in explaining the truth about how a community is built up. On the one hand, if we want a community that is loving and supportive, caring, nurturing, and fostering joy, love, peace, and happiness, we must put those things into the community. Additionally, what you digest into your heart, what you allow yourself to be subjected to, what to meditate on, or perhaps better stated, ruminate on, all impact the state of your heart.

It is clearly very important that we must be intentional about our mental health. A certain portion of our mental health is beyond our choice or control. Chemical imbalances can lead us to various issues, which can have broad and diverse impacts on us. But we can impact and influence both our mental health, as well as our disposition through intentional action. We can choose the degree of negativity we allow ourselves to be subjected to, we can turn off or limit the 24-hour news cycle that we know feeds upon our fears in order to increase their ratings. We can be intentional about the television shows we watch, the books we read, the music we listen to, even the conversations and discourse we choose to subject ourselves to.

Our choices matter. Psychologists have proven that those who listen to music that is angry, abusive, or with repeated calls to violence tend to view the world as a more violent place, same story with our television and movie choices. Those that watch nothing but happy or funny movies and television, listen to uplifting music, etc., tend to engender those traits in their lives. The messages of these outlets also sneak into our psyche, our norms, or our general ethos.

I want to be clear, I am not intending to tell people not to be educated about the world, or to go stick our heads in the sand, or even that we can't enjoy the occasional action flick or harsh music. I absolutely think we all need to know what is going on in the world, and staying up to date on all matters is important for us to understand the systems, societies, powers, and struggles near and far, and the fibers of connection that go throughout the globe. Truly we are one planet, and what happens in one place impacts people everywhere, now more than ever, through our global economy. What I am saying is that we have a responsibility to be mindful about what we are ingesting. Are we ingesting facts, or are we ingesting anger and rage, fear. To some extent it is important to have an emotional response to the events across the globe, but we must be mindful to keep it in its proper place, and not let that response rule our entire emotional state, and thus, what we put out into the world.

We must, then, be intentional about creating healthy balance in our lives. We must be intentional about focusing on the Lord a reasonable amount, and including our faith in our discourse on the daily dialogue of events and "ongoings". We must also be intentional about finding the time to find joy, love, peace, hope, and all the fruits of the spirit, that we may share in the grace of God daily. I fear, in our negativity, we have lost sight of the joy of the Lord, and all the blessings the Lord pours out upon us daily.

Our church family should be a place where people can come to find love, hope, peace, joy, empathy, support, nurture. Indeed, it is a place where we can bring our sorrows, but we need to give those to God. We must release of our hurt, our pain, our anguish, and give that to God, the one who can provide true comfort. We must allow God to use the rest of the congregation to comfort us, to love us. It is an intentional choice to receive these things, to allow others to feed us joy, happiness, and contentment. We must actively we willing to receive these things. It is the same choice we make when we choose to receive God's grace. We must be willing to allow it into us. We must not block it out, we must not put it off, or toss it aside, rather we must make the intentional choice to allow the glory of God, the Joy of the Lord, and likewise, the joy, happiness, peace, and love of this community to enter into our hearts, and transform us, heal us, nurture us, protect us, and perfect us.

GALATIANS 5: 22-23

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Friends, these are all intentional acts. Whether we are intentional about what we put out is in the name of politeness, or in the name of our witness to the lord, what we put out into the world matters. Likewise, what we choose to allow into us matters, and is a series of intentional choices. How it impacts us is a mixed bag, partly a natural response or chemical response, but also partly our choice to allow things like joy and happiness to grow, or to allow anger and resentment to fester and multiply.

I pray for us all. I pray for our community. I pray for our Township, I pray for our State, I pray for our nation, and I pray for our world. There is overwhelming negativity in the world today. Yet, we, the church of Jesus Christ, stand in hope and joy, in opposition to that negativity. Let us be the church that is known for that hope, that joy, that inspiration, that love. Let the fruits of the spirit truly grow, that our bounty overflows.

Amen,

Pastor Matt

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

CHURCH JOBS SIGN UP SHEET ON NARTHEX BOARD!



In the Narthex is a list of jobs that still need to be completed at the church. Add to the list if you find additional jobs. Please continue to share your talents and help if you can. Many hands always make lighter work. THANK YOU

Questions? Contact Rena 908 872-9443 rena.thorsen@gmail.com or any of the Trustees.

Serve The World Through Missions In JUNE



Sign up for a table at our Free Garage Sale held on June 11! Bring your gently used items to give away to those in need. Details and sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D49A4A923A0F58-free1>

Why is everything FREE?!

We at Bishop Janes take the commandment of Jesus very seriously.

Jesus said:

...you shall love your neighbor as yourself

-Galatians 5:14

Questions? Contact Terri at dowie0101@aol.com

- 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

GOD'S COOP FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOU



God's Coop Food Pantry in Bernardsville, a local mission financially supported by BJUMC and our United Women in Faith, is currently looking for volunteers to help hand out food bags on Wednesdays (6:00-8:00pm) and Sundays (6:00-7:00pm). Please contact Linda Cargo at cargoph@aol.com for more information and/or if you would like to be placed on our volunteer list. Individuals are required to be vaccinated for Covid.



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 908-766-6368 or sweazeyn@gmail.com.



United
Women
in Faith

Thousands celebrate United Women in Faith at the 2022 Assembly

More than 3,000 women (including Linda Cargo and Cecilia Jameson from Bishop Janes Church) gathered in Orlando, Florida, and online for United Women in Faith's Assembly 2022 held May 20-22 at the Orange County Convention Center. Twenty four countries and all 50 states were represented at the event with the theme "Turn It Up".

Rev. Sung Yeon Choimorrow, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum opened the weekend's events by speaking about the rampant racial discrimination and injustice toward Asian American women and girls and challenged attendees to show love for neighbors in ways that are bold and inconvenient in order to change the trajectory of racism. Heather McTeer Towny, Vice President of Community Engagement at the Environmental Defense Fund spoke about the urgency and joy of caring for creation. U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Harland also joined Assembly 2022 via video, speaking on the moral responsibility women of faith have when it comes to climate change, environmental reform and caring for the earth.

Workshops at Assembly focused on soul care, leadership, and change-making. More than 40 workshops were offered ranging from topics on the critical role of just transition toward climate justice, just energy for all, learning to breath and understanding the power of our emotions to racism, antiracism and social action as an expression of faith.

General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer Harriett Jane Olson brought the message for Sunday morning's closing worship sharing a vision for the future of the women's organization: " I imagine a community where diversity is baked in, not something we struggle with every day but part of who we are because we know that it's necessary to be who God calls us to be in the world. I imagine a community that's so compelling that women are coming to us and saying, can I join? I imagine a community of fierce, compassionate, powerful women known as United Women in Faith"

Come join us at the next Quadrennial Assembly 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana



In May we met at Leonard J Buck Garden in Far Hills for a picnic lunch and a stroll through the gardens filled with blooming azaleas of all kinds and colors.



This month, on Tuesday, June 7th at 11:30am, we will meet again for a picnic lunch and a stroll along the paths of Natirar in Gladstone. Bring a picnic lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Come join us - All are welcome!

UWF CALENDAR for JUNE

All United Women in Faith 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, June 7th at 11:30am Meet at Natirar in Gladstone for a picnic lunch, discussion and afternoon stroll through the park. Contact person, Joanne Johnson

Tuesday, June 21st at 5:30pm New Circle will meet for dinner at The Hills of Herat, an afghan restaurant in Martinsville. Join us for a time of food, fellowship and fun. All are welcome. Contact Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com for more information.

Tuesday, June 28th at 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.

LOOKING AHEAD:

School kit collection will begin August 1st - crayons, colored pencils, #2 pencils, ink pens, 70 page notebooks and glue sticks. More details to come in July.

August 17th at 6pm - Summer Circle potluck at the home of Carol Lutes

Annual Clothing Sale dates are September 23rd and 24th

ADULT SMALL GROUP STUDIES

June 2022

Spring 2022 Adult Small Group Studies

Our adult small group study program continues this spring. Due to the current state of the pandemic, we will be holding these programs through 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:

- ***What's So Amazing About Grace (April 24 – June 12)***. This study by Philip Yancy looks at grace; what it is, why it is so precious, and how to integrate it into your life.
-
- 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!

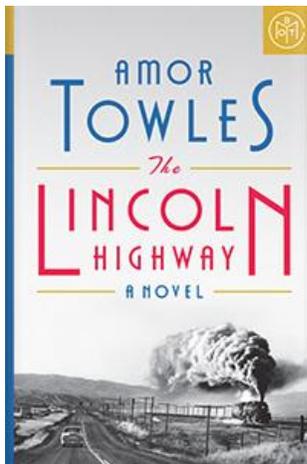
Cheryl Beyer contact information:

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! Below are our selections for the fall – plenty of reading for the summer days ahead! Please note that the September meeting will meet on the third Thursday! Please contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information.



September 15, 2022: Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles (led by Barbara Conca)

“Wise and wildly entertaining . . . permeated with light, wit, youth.” —The New York Times Book Review

“A classic that we will read for years to come.” —Jenna Bush Hager, Read with Jenna book club

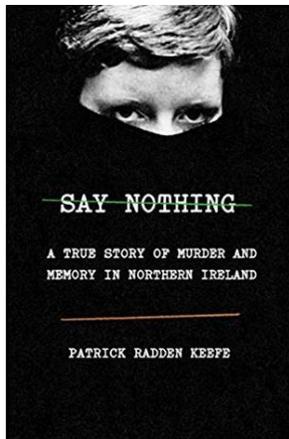
“A real joyride . . . elegantly constructed and compulsively readable.” – NPR

The bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *Rules of Civility* and master of absorbing, sophisticated fiction returns with a stylish and propulsive novel set in 1950s

America

In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York.

Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view, Towles's third novel will satisfy fans of his multi-layered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.



October 13, 2022: Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland by Patrick Radden Keefe (led by Marybeth Gakos)

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

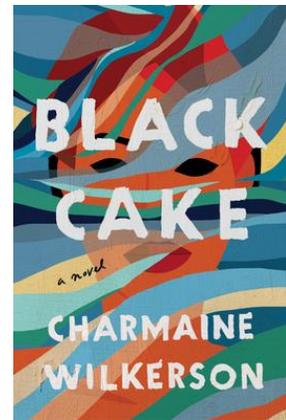
"A masterful history of the Troubles. . . Extraordinary. . .As in the most ingenious crime stories, Keefe unveils a revelation — lying, so to speak, in plain sight."—Maureen Corrigan, NPR

From award-winning New Yorker staff writer Patrick Radden

Keefe, a stunning, intricate narrative about a notorious killing in Northern Ireland and its devastating repercussions

In December 1972, Jean McConville, a thirty-eight-year-old mother of ten, was dragged from her Belfast home by masked intruders, her children clinging to her legs. They never saw her again. Her abduction was one of the most notorious episodes of the vicious conflict known as The Troubles. Everyone in the neighborhood knew the I.R.A. was responsible. But in a climate of fear and paranoia, no one would speak of it. In 2003, five years after an accord brought an uneasy peace to Northern Ireland, a set of human bones was discovered on a beach. McConville's children knew it was their mother when they were told a blue safety pin was attached to the dress—with so many kids, she had always kept it handy for diapers or ripped clothes.

Patrick Radden Keefe's mesmerizing book on the bitter conflict in Northern Ireland and its aftermath uses the McConville case as a starting point for the tale of a society wracked by a violent guerrilla war, a war whose consequences have never been reckoned with. The brutal violence seared not only people like the McConville children, but also I.R.A. members embittered by a peace that fell far short of the goal of a united Ireland, and left them wondering whether the killings they committed were not justified acts of war, but simple murders. From radical and impetuous I.R.A. terrorists such as Dolours Price, who, when she was barely out of her teens, was already planting bombs in London and targeting informers for execution, to the ferocious I.R.A. mastermind known as The Dark, to the spy games and dirty schemes of the British Army, to Gerry Adams, who negotiated the peace but betrayed his hardcore comrades by denying his I.R.A. past—Say Nothing conjures a world of passion, betrayal, vengeance, and anguish.



November 7, 2022 (Monday): Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson (led by Barbara Kleinert)

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • READ WITH JENNA BOOK

CLUB PICK AS FEATURED ON TODAY • Two estranged siblings

delve into their mother’s hidden past—and how it all connects to her traditional Caribbean black cake—in this immersive family saga, “a character-driven, multigenerational story that’s meant to be savored” (Time).

“Wilkerson transports you across the decades and around the globe accompanied by complex, wonderfully drawn characters.” —Taylor Jenkins Reid, New York Times bestselling author of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, *Daisy Jones & The Six*, and *Malibu Rising*

In development as a Hulu original series produced by Marissa Jo Cerar, Oprah Winfrey (Harpo Films), and Kapital Entertainment

We can’t choose what we inherit. But can we choose who we become?

In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett’s death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage and themselves. Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor’s true history, and fulfill her final request to “share the black cake when the time is right”? Will their mother’s revelations bring them back together or leave them feeling more lost than ever?

Charmaine Wilkerson’s debut novel is a story of how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets, memories, and even names can shape relationships and history. Deeply evocative and beautifully written, *Black Cake* is an extraordinary journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch.

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