

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

March 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

TOWER BELL TABLE OF CONTENTS

PASTOR MATT'S MESSAGE	3 - 4
CHANGES TO OUR MUSIC:MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!	5 - 6
ALTAR FLOWERS	7
PASTOR TAYLAVOR'S MESSAGE	8 - 9
TRIVIA NIGHT	10
SERVE THE WORLD THROUGH MISSIONS	11 - 14
UMW EVENTS	15 - 19
ADULT SMALL GROUP STUDIES	20
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY	21
BOOK GROUP	22 - 24
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	25
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS	26



LENT

Lent is a time of reflection. We begin lent with Ash Wednesday, a day we recall that we come from ashes, and to ashes our physical bodies shall return. We embrace our mortality, as we search for something more, our eternal relationship in the Lord, God, almighty.

This year, throughout Lent, we will be focusing our Sermons on “Christian Community.” As our community is slowly coming back together, following the COVID pandemic, it is important that we look at some of the fundamental aspects of Christian Community, as outlined in the Bible. 1 Corinthians is a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, as he perceived a coming split in the church there. First things first, there were squabbles amongst the church, as they discovered some of the teachings of the leaders didn’t fully align. Paul responded with great grace, humbling himself, as well as the other leaders, saying we are human, only CHRIST is the full leader, the full teacher, the messiah. We do the best that we can, but Christ is the only perfect one.

From that foundation, Paul goes on to discuss numerous aspects of what it means to live in Christian community. Through lent this year, we will look at several of these aspects including: handling disputes, marriage, diversity, and the foundation of our relationship with each other in Christian Community: Love.

I pray that this season, we can all rest in our faith, while we come back together as a community. It is important to acknowledge that each and every one of us has suffered a great trauma over the past 2 years. Even people who state they haven’t suffered any hardship have suffered a great hardship. The trauma impacts each of us differently. Our socially normative practices, our modes of communicating, our general way of being has all changed dramatically. Grace and patience will be needed and required to overcome the psychological traumas, the outbursts, the short tempers, the irrational behaviors that we find others, and

even ourselves committing, as anxiety of re-entering society, and shared/common spaces overcomes our thoughts. These are normal physiological/psychological responses.

I pray that we can all find love and grace in our community of Christ. We often speak in our church about the tradition, and the hope we carry forward that was given to us by generations past. Our world has faced many traumas over the centuries, our church community itself has faced many traumas over its nearly 150 year existence. With the grace of God, I am confident that we can overcome these difficulties, and what's more, we can be the hands of God in helping others in our community in overcoming and healing their traumas.

Each of us are in different spots. I pray for grace and understanding. I pray for patience. I pray for Christ-like love to envelope us all. I pray for truth to win. I pray for God's wisdom to guide us all. I pray for humility, both of myself, and of all of us, that we can let God be God, and we can be God's people. Will you join me in this prayer this Lenten season? Will you join me in prayer for our community? Will you join me in prayer for the greater world all around us?

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

CHANGES TO OUR MUSIC: MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE!

Dear BJUMC Community,

The past several months we have seen dramatic changes in approaches to the Covid Pandemic. There is also great hope that the Pandemic is transitioning to an Endemic, much like the flu. This is not statistically proven yet, but we remain hopeful that this will bear out.

As our church continues to move forward in praising the Lord, I am excited to share two major advancements in our music program this Spring. Music has always been a major centerpiece of worship at BJUMC, and I am grateful for the patience our church has shown as we adapted to restricted means in order to accommodate, with love and grace, people in our congregation with greater medical worry.

First things first, **OUR CHOIR WILL COME BACK ON MARCH 6!** For all of Lent, our choir will be singing, as long as we have enough volunteers. If you are interested in joining the choir, please reach out to Jany, we need singers! Secondly, **CONGREGATIONAL SINGING WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 13!** Given the changes in the Governor's plans, it no longer makes sense for us to greatly limit our worship following the removal of the State of Emergency.

Our official policy will remain, just as it has for the last 8 months, that masks are not required, but remain encouraged. I also greatly encourage those who choose to participate in singing to use a KN95, or other similarly recommended mask. The particulate that escapes during singing is significantly greater than just breathing or even normal talking. While masks are not required, I believe they show great love and respect for our neighbors around us, and are an example of how we truly welcome and invite all persons into our community of Christ.

Let us all rejoice in the Lord this spring, while also respecting a loving each other, taking reasonable precautions in respect to those around us. Lastly, as we are encouraging mask wearing, it is imperative that we don't ask people "any objection to me wearing/not wearing a mask" as that makes people defensive, or feel put out, if they are doing something different. We must navigate these waters collectively, with grace, and with patience and love. We must all respect the different decisions of the various persons in our

community.

I leave you with Psalm 100, as inspiration for us all as we make these moves and transitions:

Psalm 100

All Lands Summoned to Praise God

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;^[a]
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Respectfully,

Pastor Matt



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 March, Beloveds!

As we begin our Lent journey together, it's important to address the current heaviness and pain in the world. At this rate, major world events and tragedies continue to get stacked on and into our lifetimes at a faster rate as time goes on. It can feel tiresome to even just complete the bare minimum in each area of our life.

Last month, I invited us to be focused around prayer to help us slowly prepare for Lent and the Easter season. This month, as we continue an attitude of prayer in our lives, let us especially remember our siblings in Ukraine, Russia, and those all over the world who are impacted by the violence taking place.

When horrendous events like this take place, we as a humanity often feel lost, especially when the rest of the world has a front row seat to these horrific events like never before. The first thing we must do is pray, and pray incredibly hard. We must pray so much so that it changes how we see the world. We must pray so much that it allows us to fathom the idea of hope in seemingly hopeless situations.

A little piece of hope can be found in Ukraine's national flower, the sunflower. Not only are sunflowers incredibly important for practical uses of the oil and seeds that come from the plant, but they are also used to remediate types of pollution because of their ability to uptake pollutants from soil and water. They were even used to help clean up radiation contaminated waters after the Chernobyl disaster! Beyond its utility, the sunflower grows and stands tall with a strong stem against harsh weather. The next time you see a sunflower, let it remind you of hope and strength!

A Prayer of Peace:

God of Mercy,

We pray for Ukraine.

For all of humanity distorted by war.

For all the lives lost, homes seized and peace broken.

May the Spirit of comfort and compassion envelop all who dwell in fear.



May the Spirit of wisdom and humility enliven our global leaders.

May we affirm the dignity and rights of all.

May we seek peace.

Amen.

Peace,

Pastor TayLavor

Trivia Night!

Come for an evening of
pizza 🍕 trivia ? and fun 😄

at Bishop Janes

Saturday, March 19, 2022

5:30pm-7:30pm

All ages are welcome!

Email Liz at erp.elliott@gmail.com to let us know
you're coming! Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 16.

Serve The World Mission of The Month: The Well at Rutgers University



The Well at Rutgers University is a Christ-centered, radically inclusive, and justice seeking campus ministry at Rutgers University. It is led by Pastor TayLavor who serves as Campus Minister for these students.

This month we will be assembling Midterm Care Packages for 20 student participants and will be collecting the following items:

Snacks such as bulk size packages of small bags of chips, pretzels or cookies, microwave popcorn, protein bars, trail mix etc

Candy and gum

Ramen / Instant cup of soup / Microwave Mac & Cheese

Bottled water

Individual hot cocoa packets

Face masks

Toothbrushes

Chapstick

Hand written notes of encouragement

Donations may be left on the collection table in the church Narthex. Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted and may be placed in Pastor TayLavor's mailbox in the church office or mailed to the church to her attention.

Help share God's love with these students!

Collection runs through the end of March.

Please stop by the **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

K.I.D.S

Kindness In Deeds

Urgent Community Needs



Right here in NJ, Afghan refugees urgently need our help. There are two ways in particular you can make a difference right now:

One World One Love, a volunteer-run organization of ordinary citizens, works to welcome refugees and meet their needs. They are collecting mattresses and bed

frames, which may be ordered and sent to them via this link:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3KTRCFD2MLEFY?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_7JgTErllGmT5p&fbclid=IwAR345hI8TiaEizYxLEikN3OdojNzhWxPvyqbW4xB43k5_rQM8CjlobNHPY0

(You may need to copy and paste the link in your browser)

RAP (Refugee Assistance Partners NJ) runs a tutoring program with One World One Love. They are in desperate need of approximately 20 laptops and/or Chromebooks in order to tutor through Zoom for instruction on English language, drivers test instruction, GED preparation and homework help. If you can supply one of these items, please contact Jill Segulin, Executive Director at **info@rapnj.org**



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

MARCH 2022

ANNUAL UMW RUMMAGE SALE

FRIDAY, MARCH 25th, 9:00am to 3:00pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 26th, 9:00am to 2:00pm

Collection of items for the Rummage Sale will begin in Melick 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, textbooks, and large furniture. For a complete list of items we cannot accept, visit the church website, www.bjumc.org

Donation receipts available upon request.

Please note that the sale will be hold in Melick Hall only and that is where donated items may be left beginning Sunday, March 20th.

Helpers are needed for set up, sorting and pricing every morning that week from 9:00am to noon as well as on the days of the sale and for clean-up afterward.

Contact persons: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com and Karen Hayworth, karenahayworth@gmail.com

Proceeds from this sale will be used to support our UMW mission giving locally and globally and focused on ministries for women, children and youth.

Do you need some inspiration with a humorous twist to declutter your home? Don't know where to start? Help may be found with Jamie Novak, author of Keep This,

Toss That, at jamienovak.com. Jamie now has a weekly 10 Minute Podcast and a YouTube show and her website lists dates and times of upcoming online programs.



THANK YOU to everyone who donated supplies of sanitary pads last month and came out to organize and assemble them into kits. 120 kits were assembled and donated to the clients of God's Coop Pantry in Bernardsville.

UMW CALENDAR for MARCH

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, March 15th at 5:30pm New Circle will meet for dinner at The Washington House in Basking Ridge. Join us for a time of food, fellowship and fun. All are welcome. Contact Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com for more information.

Sunday, March 20th, Rummage Sale Collection begins in Melick Hall

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

Tuesday, March 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.

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

Please note that the Piecemaker Quilters will not meet in the month of March.

LOOKING AHEAD:

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

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

March 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:

- ***What's So Amazing About Grace (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!

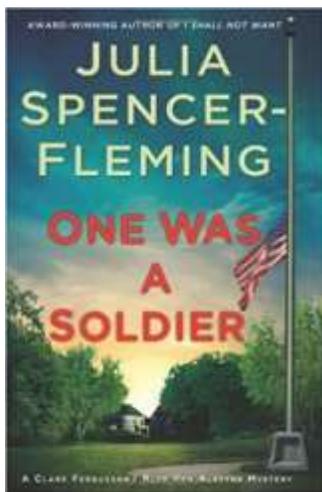
Cheryl Beyer contact information:

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! Below are our selections for March through May. 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!



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.

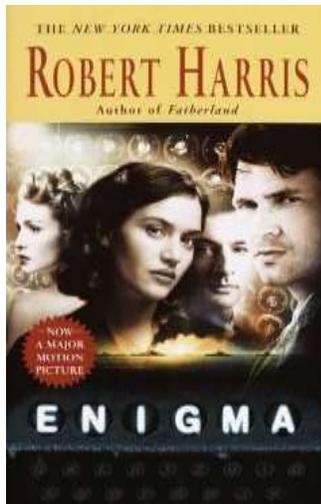
Orthopedist Trip Stillman is denying the extent of his traumatic brain injury. And bookkeeper Tally McNabb wrestles with guilt over the in-country affair that may derail her marriage.

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 Martin)

"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."

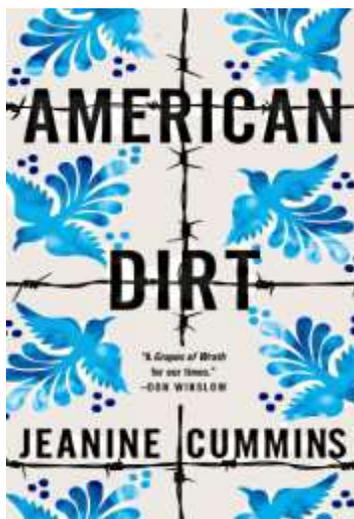
--People

"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: American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

Jeanine Cummins's American Dirt, the #1 New York Times bestseller and Oprah Book Club pick that has sold over two million copies

Lydia lives in Acapulco. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while cracks are beginning to show in Acapulco because of the cartels, Lydia's

life is, by and large, fairly comfortable. But after her husband's tell-all profile of the newest drug lord is published, none of their lives will ever be the same.

Forced to flee, Lydia and Luca find themselves joining the countless people trying to reach the United States. Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to?

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:

- **Counters**
- **Sunday School Volunteers**
- **Family Ministries Team (Event Planning and execution)**
- **Local Missions Teams: Foodbanks, Contact/Service Team, and more!**
- **Cemetery Understudy**

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