

BJUMC TOWER BELL

MARCH 2023

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 DESK	3 - 4
INTRODUCTION TO PASTOR TILLISCH	5
LITTLE LAMBS	6 - 7
PROGRAM MINISTRIES MARCH EVENTS	8
MISSIONS AND SOCIAL CONCERNS	9 - 10
MUSIC MINISTRY	11
SUNDAY SCHOOL	12
YOUTH GROUP	13
BOOK GROUP	14 - 15
PLEASE HELP DECREASE UTILITY COSTS	16
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (formerly UMW) EVENTS	17 - 18
RIDGE OAK REPORT	19 - 23
ALTER FLOWERS	24
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	25
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS	26



A TIME FOR CHANGE

By Pastor Matt

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3

This week we celebrate the first full week of Lent. We also set our clocks back an hour, and gain more sunlight in the evenings. In many ways, this time of the year beckons us to reclaim our lives in Christ, and the joy and fullness of life that Christ promises us.

I need a lot of sunlight to be happy. One of my hardest times in life, I was blessed with a south facing office with an entire window of walls that filled my entire office with natural, bright light. I was in what is colloquially known as the Sun Valley, properly known as Yakima Valley, Washington. It is a dry, desert-ish area, with conditions perfect for wineries to flourish, due to the bright sunny days. I feel it was a great blessing to have the sun shine in my office during one of the hardest parts of my career. I would pause in the afternoon, and just bask in the sun, and feel the warmth of it. Whether just in my head, or truly a blessing from God, I would imagine I was being held by the Spirit in those times, and let my frustrations go.

Indeed, the cycles of the earth have profound impacts on us. Seasonal Affective Disorder is a very real condition impacting millions. With the change of the season, the spring equinox coming in later this month, the changing of the clocks this first week of March, those impacted often begin to feel a shift in their condition this month.

This fits well with the beginning of Lent. A period of 40 days of intentional dedication to God, growing in our relationship with the Lord. I preached the last Sunday in February on the practice of Lent, and I hope you had an opportunity to hear that sermon. If not, it is still available on our webpage and facebook page, for you to review. But this time gives me great hope, it fills me with positivity, it fills me with a new energy.

For me, the systemic intentionality of growing in faith can be a truly inspiring event. When we as a community invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts, and into our lives, that surge of grace in us individually also becomes a great surge of the power of the Lord in us corporately. It is palpable. It is just like the energy that the sun gives to us as we emerge from the cold, dark winter.

There are indeed seasons where we retract, but there are also seasons where we expand, and grow. Let's make this a season where we expand a grow, a season where we are surrounded by the love and grace of the Holy Spirit, and the church on the whole is empowered by the grace of God in a new and transformative way. Join us all in experiencing the fullness that Lent, and Spring, together, provide.

Amen,
Pastor Matt

David Tillisch has been appointed to Bishop Janes UMC Starting July 1, 2023



As has been shared twice by our SPRC, Pastor Matt will be leaving us the end of June 2023. We give praise to God, and thank for the gifts and service he has brought to us over his 4 year tenure ad BJUMC.

As we look forward to what is next, we share news of our next Pastor, Dave Tillisch, who will begin leading our church on July 1, 2023. Pastor Matt and Pastor Tillisch will be working together over the next several months to ensure a smooth transfer, and continuation of important ministries of BJUMC. We are pleased to have such a wonderful new appointment coming to our church this summer.

David Tillisch is a native of New Jersey who is passionate about leading churches to be incubators of disciples and engaged servants of their communities. He was called to ministry after successful careers in retail sales management and distribution, computer programming, and consumer products sales analysis, and pursued his Master of Divinity degree at Drew University School of Theology. He served as pastor to the Frankford Plains, Delaware Valley, and First Blirstown UMCs. Dave is married to his wife, Wen-Ling Lai, who serves as a hospice chaplain, and has two children. His hobbies include bike riding, singing, and enjoying the outdoors.

LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL



February – A Month to share love

Little Lambs Preschool has been a ministry of Bishop Janes since it's founding in 2006. We are a part time school with 45-50 students and 14 staff. Perhaps you have seen photos of us around church, or even heard our "joyful noise!"

Our school staff and families have a long history of mission and community connectional work. We join with BJUMC on projects as well as create our own school opportunities. Below are some projects in February – a good time to spread God's love!

CALLING ALL KIDS – (CAK) – is an in -house television station located at Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown. They create original content as well as air donated programming – all to air for the kids in the hospital. LLTC threes participated in February's kindness month programming. They created smiley faces which were photographed and sent to an animator. A video was created and used as a little commercial between programs – just to bring some smiles to our friends in the hospital. We will continue to grow and expand our mission with Goryeb Children's Center.

PRESCHOOL ADVANTAGE – is a non profit organization in Morris County that funds half-day preschool tuition for 3 and 4 year olds whose families find it challenging to cover the high cost of preschool. After completing the extensive application process, Little Lambs was recently accepted as a partner school. We are thrilled to be able to work with this community organization to host families in need.

SOMERSET COUNTY FOOD NEWTWORK BACKPACK PROGRAM – LLTC families recently joined with BJUMC to collect food items for hungry kids in Somerset County. We partner in this mission yearly in February. Several hundred items have been donated.

VALENTINE CARDS FOR RIDGE OAK RESIDENTS - Each class at Little Lambs focused on love and kindness in the month of February. One way to show our love to others was to create cards for Ridge Oak. Each class created numerous cards and families joined in at home to add to the number collected. Together with BJUMC, we hope our cards of love brought some smiles.

LITTLE SHEPHERDS BIBLE STORY CLASS – offered as a free class for our threes and fours students on Thursdays. Taught by Kim Dial and Pastor Matt, over 20 student per week learn Bible stories, sing songs, play games and pray together. We follow the Bible from Creation through Pentecost, in a curriculum developed by Kim over the years. It is a blessing to bring the message of God’s love to these little ones!

“God, we thank you for our food
For rest and home and all things good,
For wind and rain and sun above.
But most of all, for those we love. AMEN”

(Our Fours prayer before snack)



Program Ministries

We are delighted to tell you all about the upcoming events that Program Ministries have planned. We'd love you to bring your friends, families, neighbors etc. The more the merrier. Always!

March	18 th	Quiz Night	5-7pm	Mellick Hall
April	29 th	Movie Night	4-6pm	Sanctuary
May	21 st	Picnic	11.30am	Local Park (tbc)

Our annual Quiz Night is fast becoming a must do event! So this year, to make more friends in our community, we are inviting both the local Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches to join us. This will be a splendid time to make new friends and renew old friendships.

Please put all these dates in your calendars, and consider joining us for all or some of the planned events.

We will send out reminders for individual events, so no one forgets any of them!

The Program Ministries team

MISSIONS & SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Missions & Social Concerns Team is prayerfully working on developing our 2023 Program! Please pray for the team as we call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us during this exciting time of development!



Please continue to support the Somerset County Food Bank by bringing in the most needed items. You can find this list on our church webpage and also on the Peter Ebbe bin located in the narthex.



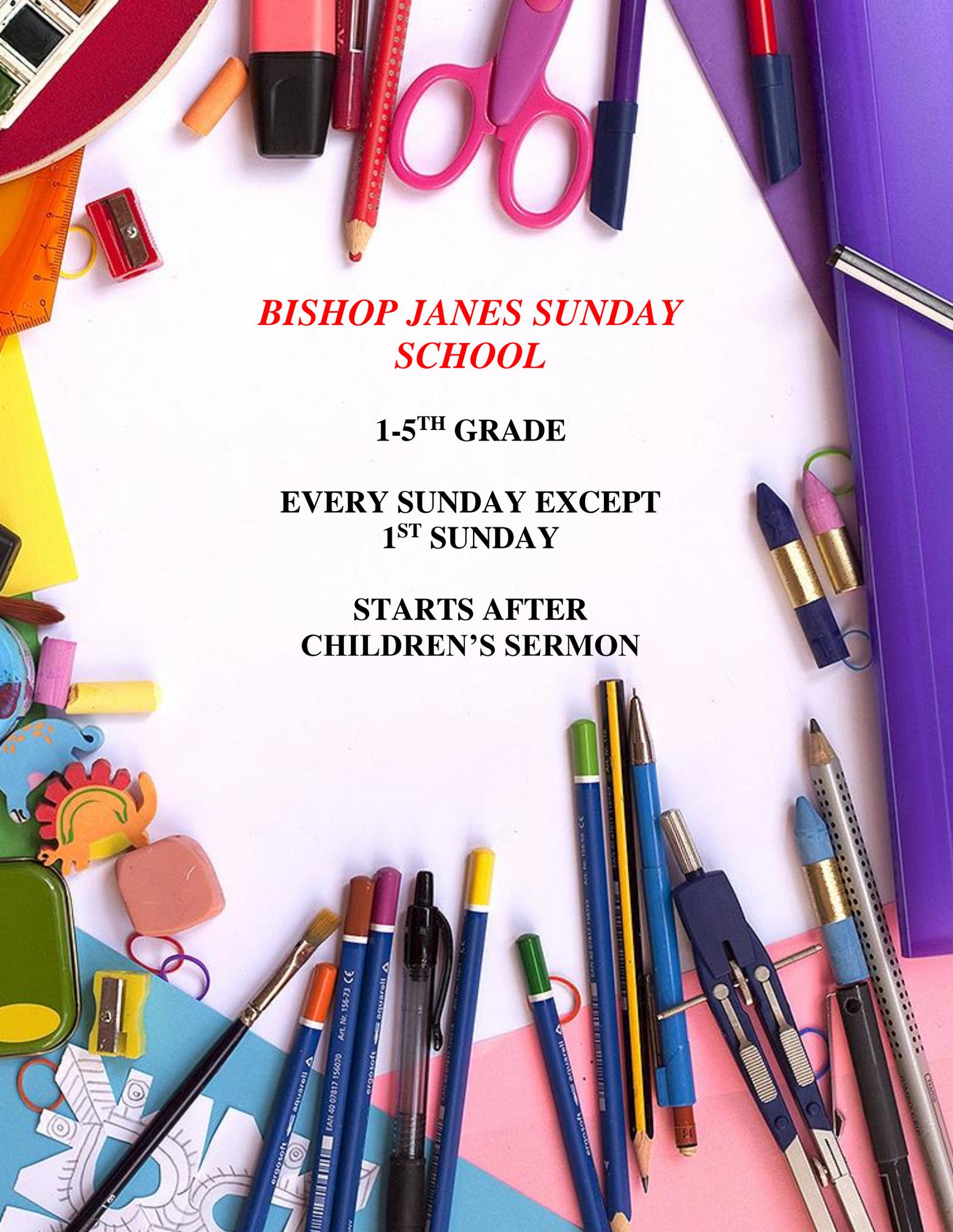
We are so very grateful for all those who participated in our February Missions. A special thanks goes to our Little Lambs families for their generous donations this month! Dozens of bags of food were donated to the Food Bank. Additionally, approximately 30 food kits for the Food Bank Backpack Program were assembled and given to students in need. Lovely Valentine's Day cards were made for our Senior neighbors at Ridge Oak.

MUSIC MINISTRY



TRADITIONAL CHOIR
PRAISE CHOIR
BELL CHOIR

CONTACT JANY IZAGUIRRE
TO SIGN UP
ALL ARE WELCOME



***BISHOP JANES SUNDAY
SCHOOL***

1-5TH GRADE

**EVERY SUNDAY EXCEPT
1ST SUNDAY**

**STARTS AFTER
CHILDREN'S SERMON**

BISHOP JANES YOUTH GROUP



What is Youth Group?

Youth Group is a place for 6th – 12th graders to come, worship God, and form a community in an age appropriate setting. Presently, we are meeting once a month for significant activities. 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.

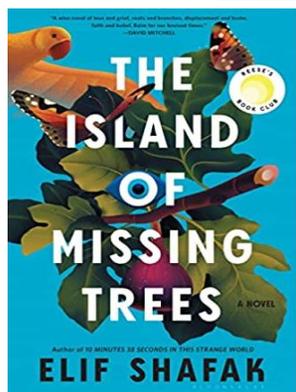
Learn: This fall we will study the Bible in a comprehensive method, understanding the Bible as a unit and the grace of God in our lives.

For more information, see Pastor Matt 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! The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2023 in classroom 3 /4 starting at 7:00 p.m. Please bring suggestions for the fall 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 Please contact Janet Kaefer at jbkaefer@optonline.net for additional information, or to be added to the email contact list.

March 9, 2023: The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak (led by Carol Lutes)



A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK

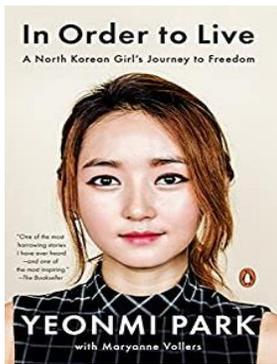
Winner of the 2022 BookTub Silver Medal in Fiction * Shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction. "A wise novel of love and grief, roots and branches, displacement and home, faith and belief. Balm for our bruised times." —David Mitchell, author of Utopia Avenue A rich, magical new novel on belonging 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 Defne 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.



April 13, 2023: [In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom](#) by Yeonmi Park (led by Barbara Kleinert) "I am most grateful for two things: that I was born in North Korea, and that I escaped from North Korea." - Yeonmi Park

"One of the most harrowing stories I have ever heard - and one of the most inspiring." - The Bookseller

"Park's remarkable and inspiring story shines a light on a country whose inhabitants live in misery beyond comprehension. Park's important memoir showcases the strength of the human spirit and one young woman's incredible determination to never be hungry again." —Publishers Weekly

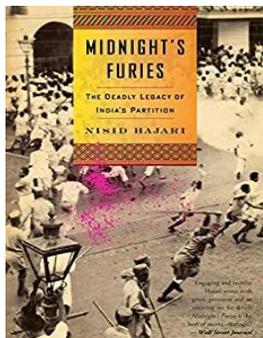
In [In Order to Live](#), Yeonmi Park shines a light not just into the darkest corners of life in North Korea, describing the deprivation and deception she endured and which millions of North Korean people continue to endure to this day, but also onto her own most painful and difficult memories. She tells with bravery and dignity for the first time the story of how she and her mother were betrayed and sold into sexual slavery in China and forced to suffer terrible psychological and physical hardship before they finally made their way to Seoul, South Korea—and to freedom.

Park confronts her past with a startling resilience. In spite of everything, she has never stopped being proud of where she is from, and never stopped striving for a better life. Indeed, today she is a human rights activist working determinedly to bring attention to the oppression taking place in her home country. Park's testimony is heartbreaking and unimaginable, but never without hope. This is the human spirit at its most indomitable.

May 11, 2023: [Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition](#) by Nisid Hajari (led by Art Martin) Named one of the best books of 2015 by NPR, Amazon, Seattle Times, and Shelf Awareness

A few bloody months in South Asia during the summer of 1947 explain the world that troubles us today.

Nobody expected the liberation of India and birth of Pakistan to be so bloody — it was supposed to be an answer to the dreams of Muslims and Hindus who had been ruled by the British for centuries. Jawaharlal Nehru, Gandhi's protégé and the political leader of India, believed Indians were an inherently nonviolent, peaceful people. Pakistan's founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, was a secular lawyer, not a firebrand. But in August 1946, exactly a year before Independence, Calcutta erupted in street-gang fighting. A cycle of riots — targeting Hindus, then Muslims, then Sikhs — spiraled out of control. As the summer of 1947 approached, all three groups were heavily armed and on edge, and the British rushed to leave. Hell let loose. Trains carried Muslims west and Hindus east to their slaughter. Some of the most brutal and widespread ethnic cleansing in modern history erupted on both sides of the new border, searing a divide between India and Pakistan that remains a root cause of many evils. From jihadi terrorism to nuclear proliferation, the searing tale told in [Midnight's Furies](#) explains all too many of the headlines we read today.



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

United Women in Faith March Calendar

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

Mondays beginning March 1st, 9:00am, Walk and Talk will resume at Harry Dunham Park. Weather dependent. Meet in the parking lot off Liberty Corner Road. Contact person: Barbara Conca, conca@optonline.net

Tuesday, March 21st 5:30pm, New Circle will meet at the Claremont Tavern in Bernardsville. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com

Monday, March 20th thru Thursday, March 23rd, 9am to 12noon, Annual Rummage Sale collection, sorting and pricing begins in Melick Hall. Helpers needed!!

Friday, March 24th, 9am to 3pm and Saturday, March 25th, 9am to 2pm, Annual Rummage Sale in Melick Hall.

Tuesday, 28th, 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

Tuesday, March 28th, 7:00pm, Hearts2Hands Ministry will meet in the Youth Room. Contact person: Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com



United
Women
in Faith

MARCH IS RUMMAGE SALE MONTH

Annual
One Man's Trash is Another's Treasure
**Rummage
Sale** 

Friday, March 24th 9am-3pm
Saturday, March 25th 9am-2pm

BISHOP JANES
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
downstairs in Melick Hall
22 South Finley, Basking Ridge

Housewares, Vintage Items, Toys, Games, Sports
Equipment, Pet Items, Kitchen Items, Books, Small
Appliances, Electronics, and more!!

Church and Community donations accepted in Melick
Hall beginning Monday, 3/20 thru Thursday, 3/23, 9am
to 12pm

Sponsored by the United Women in Faith, a lay women's
organization involved with mission locally and globally and
focused on ministries with women, children and youth

Friday and Saturday, March 24th and March 25th are the dates for our Annual Rummage Sale. Collection of items will begin in Melick Hall Monday, March 20th thru Thursday, March 23rd, 9am to 12noon. 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.

Proceeds benefit United Women in Faith mission giving.

Please contact Karen Hayworth, karenahayworth@gmail.com or Linda Cargo, cargoph@aol.com if you can help to sort and price during the week, help during the sale or clean up at the end on Saturday.

Ridge Oak Senior Housing

Major Accomplishments for the Period 1/1/22– 12/31/22

Ridge Oak Senior Housing, located in Basking Ridge, was conceived by six local churches to provide affordable rental housing to senior citizens. The six sponsor churches are:

- Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church
- Bishop Janes United Methodist Church
- Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church
- Millington Baptist Church
- St. James Roman Catholic Church
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Originally occupied in 1977, the community presently consists of 308 apartments, in 14 villages, spread over 26 acres of property:

- The original Ridge Oak development includes Villages 1-11: 247 rent subsidized units located on Manchester Drive, opened in 1977.
- Ridge Oak II or Village 12: 39 rent subsidized units located at 35 Lindbergh Lane, opened in 2005.
- Ridge Oak III or Villages 1A and 9A: 20 rent subsidized units located on Manchester Drive, opened in 2013.

Ridge Oak residents enjoy a wide array of activities and support services designed to support safe, independent living.

Ridge Oak is a non-profit corporation with an annual operating budget (FY'23) of \$ 7.7 million. The primary source of income is tenant rent payments and US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rent subsidies. Rent amounts are based upon a rent study, an annual operating cost adjustment factor established, or budget requirements as approved by the federal government. All Ridge Oak tenants must be age 62 or older and income eligible to live on our campus. Tenants pay 30% of their income to rent and a federal HUD rent subsidy makes up the difference. Ridge Oak maintains waiting lists of those who are age 62 or older and income eligible.

Facility Operations and Major Developments

- During 2022 the Board of Directors engaged the professionals needed to start work on the possible development of Ridge Oak IV. Although early in the planning and funding stages, this would add an additional 29, one-bedroom units of subsidized senior housing to our campus. Property owned at 95 Manchester Drive (adjacent to our current campus) would be used for this new development.
- For the safety of our residents, Ridge Oak has contracted for the installation of 72 exterior cameras on the campus. This will include structured cabling throughout the campus and the use of license plate recognition technology. Project cost \$430,059.
- Concrete replacement done in 2022 resulted in 40 front door entrances being made handicapped accessible in the Ridge Oak villages 6-11. Total cost \$179,000. In the spring of 2023, we will do the final 22 front door entrances.
- Re-graded and installed a retention wall with fencing and drainage improvements next to Village 11. Total cost \$97,495.
- Installed a “test” fire monitoring system in Village 8 common areas and inside apartments. This has been a slow project to complete due to equipment delays and programming problems. This work will

be complete in the first quarter of 2023. Cost to date \$97,950

- Contracted for installation of fire monitoring systems in common areas and all apartments in the other ten Ridge Oak villages. Contract for \$535,000.
- Installed two new generators in 2022. The cost per generator was \$12,775. We also have a “spare” in stock. Of the original 11 generators in Villages 1-11 installed in 2001, we have replaced 6.
- We upgraded and renovated eighteen Ridge Oak (villages 1-11) one- and two-bedroom apartments in 2022 to include all or part of the following:
 - Cork backed luxury vinyl plank flooring.
 - Closet door replacement
 - Granite countertop
 - Kitchen floor replacement
 - Grab bars in bathrooms and new door locks with handle openers.

Cost per unit as of 12/31/22 is \$11,967.

- Ridge Oak/Villages 1-11 studio apartments are also getting a new look when they vacate. During 2022 we upgraded and renovated 6 studio apartments. In addition to the vinyl plank flooring and closet door replacements being done elsewhere, we have added LED high hat lighting, painted kitchen cabinetry, and installed tile kitchen backsplash and stainless-steel appliances in these units to keep them current and marketable.
- Ridge Oak/Villages 1-11 “face lift” of 40+ year old bathrooms continue. To date, 223 of the original 248 bathrooms have gotten a face lift; new floor tile, wainscot wall covering, heater, sink, LED lights, comfort height toilet, medicine cabinet, towel bars and a fresh coat of paint. Cost per bathroom is \$3,450.
- In 2018 we began replacing old and compromised parquet flooring in occupied Ridge Oak/Villages 1-11 apartments with cork backed luxury vinyl plank. This requires us to pack and move resident belongings, so the floor can be replaced. We completed five apartments during 2022. Cost per unit (including kitchen floor replacement) is approximately \$5,100.
- Contracts with HUD for rent subsidy renewal for Ridge Oak is in November (due on July 1) and for Ridge Oak II and Ridge Oak III are in July (due on March 1).
- During calendar year 2022, twenty-nine apartments were vacated across all three properties.
- During 2022 the Ridge Oak, Ridge Oak II and Ridge Oak III waiting lists remain closed to new applicants.

Social Services and Recreation

With the easing of COVID restrictions, we have been able to do more in-person activities with residents. This was a welcome relief to the residents and staff. We also re-opened our community building to in-person meals in early September. We had home delivered meals almost exclusively since June of 2020.

- Served 11,732 meals both in Felmeth Hall and via home delivery.
- Again, this year, during the summer and fall months, we provided a fresh fruit item in our meal delivery bags to support Crane’s Farm and to enhance our meal offerings.
- We continue to supplement our catered meals from KINGS in Bedminster with meals provided by local establishments including Ridge Restaurant, Asian Delite and Bernards Café.
- Provided 1,444 units of housekeeping service in the past calendar year, which is 200 units above the prior year.
- Provided laundry services to 30 residents during the calendar year. We use Laundry Angels (a 3rd party vendor) to provide door-to-door service.

- Purchased 1,252 hours of personal care through Atlantic Private Care and Fellowship Life. This is slightly higher than past years. Services include home health aide hours to assist residents with activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, preparing a meal) and to remind residents to take their prescriptions under the Medication Assistance Service.
- Purchased 574 hours of Wellness Nursing Services through a partnership with the Atlantic Visiting Nurse and through a grant from the Somerset Hills Community Health Foundation.
- Held 3 vaccine clinics during 2022:
 - COVID Booster Clinic – 112 shots administered.
 - Flu Clinic – 52 shots administered.
 - COVID Bivalent Booster – 55 shots administered.
- In 2022, Social Services service activities included:
 - 1,888 - Contacts with residents/families/providers regarding health care services and collateral services needed to support residents at home.
 - 1,591 – Exercise and fall prevention contacts, provided in-person and/or on-line.
 - 75 – Contacts with families to provide caregiver support.
 - 229 – Monitoring contacts with residents to check on their wellbeing during the pandemic.
 - 1,625 – Isolation intervention contacts with residents. This includes phone contact and in person contact to provide emotional support.
 - 489 - Educational contacts with residents regarding such things as employment, government benefits
 - 2,032 – Socialization contacts during events for residents
 - 167 - Intergenerational contacts with local students and church youth
- During calendar year 2022, the Ridge Oak Care Fund subsidized the following support services for our residents. These subsidized services enable our most frail and financially needy residents to remain in their own home for as long as possible.
 - 841 - Meals
 - 574 - Wellness Nurse Hours
 - 41 - Medication Assistance Nursing Hours
- We have special needs students from Ridge High School who pick up household trash for 9 homebound residents and takes it to the dumpster.
- A local podiatrist sees approximately 64 residents in their apartment on a staggered, 61-day schedule.
- The Ridge Oak bus operates 3 days a week for 16 passengers per trip for local grocery shopping.

The following “grouping” of Recreation Activities for residents were offered in 2022:

- Health & Wellness – 161 events, – including but not limited to Move It, Balance, Chair Yoga and Fall Stoppers. We utilize our lower-level exercise room for classes, and we can live stream these classes and other activities to residents via Twitch.
- Educational – 68 events, – including but not limited to Distance Learning, Music Therapy, Art Classes, Bernards Township Library Book Buggy visits to our campus, Armchair Traveler, Topical Speakers.
- Spiritual – 21 events, – including but not limited to Episcopal Services, Rabbi Teachings, Pet Blessing and an Alpha Educational Program about the basics of Christianity.
- Just for Fun – 107 events, – including but not limited to ZOOM, in person and live streamed activities such as Bingo, Games, Chess and Stay Smart Quizzes.

We added art classes and music therapy (drum circles, chorus) to our programming this year. These new offerings have been well received by the residents.

Looking Ahead to 2023

- Continue work on planning for Ridge Oak IV.
- Complete Phase 2 of Village 8 fire monitoring system and begin work on installation of common area fire monitoring systems in the other ten villages on the original Ridge Oak campus.
- Concrete replacement including renovation of doorways to improve accessibility.
- Roadway, storm drain repairs and crack fill throughout the campus.
- Purchase a new bus.
- Replace outdated fire monitoring panels in Ridge Oak II and III.
- Enhance and expand health and wellness program offerings to residents.
- Full roll out of resident engagement platform that can be used via an app for residents to remotely sign up for activities, meals and to make work order requests. The platform is currently being tested.

RIDGE OAK DEMOGRAPHICS as of 12/31/22

Current Residents

# of Residents	353
Average Age	79
Female	259
Male	94
White	211
Black	8
Asian	105
Hispanic	19
Average Income	\$20,369
# Previously Resided in Bernards Twp.	73
# Next of Kin in Bernards Twp.	85

WAIT LISTS as of 12/31/22

Facility Name	Ridge Oak	Ridge Oak II	Ridge Oak III
Villages	1 to 11	12	1A & 9A
Location	Manchester Drive	Lindbergh Lane	Manchester Drive
# of Subsidized Units	247	39	20
Upper Income Limit for an Individual	\$63,000	\$47,500	\$47,500
Upper Income Limit for a Couple	\$72,000	\$54,250	\$54,250
Total # of Applicants	97	81	82
# Residing in Bernards Twp.	12	9	14
# Next of Kin in Bernards Twp.	19	18	18



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.

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