

Benbrook United Methodist Church

JANUARY 2019

The Spirit...

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Vision Statement: Our vision is for Benbrook UMC to be Benbrook’s vibrant, loving, Christ-centered fellowship for worship and witness, united in mission and service to our neighbors.

BUMC Staff

Rev. Don Petty
Senior Pastor

Cindy Merworth
Director of Music

Quanzhou Yan
Pianist

Teri Houston-Martin
Director of Student Ministries

Terry Grant
Preschool Director

Jane McMillan
Administrative Assistant
Director of Children’s Ministry

**Focused on Christ;
United in Prayer**

Dear Church Family,

For many, a New Year brings with it a renewed sense of joy! If not exactly a clean slate, it is another shot at making work whatever may have fallen to the wayside or felt lackluster. A resolution or a commitment or just a new calendar holds much potential. And while it is easy to be wary of too much optimism, even the most guarded cynics find themselves with, dare I say it, a teensy weensy little bit of hope at the start of a new year? Jesus did not say, after all, if you have the faith of a mountain that you can move a mustard seed. Rather, he notes the opposite!

To that end, there are several new things we’ll have the chance to discuss, try out, and participate in at Benbrook this year! We just had a new Young Families Small Group that started meeting last month. I have a refresher course on “What It Means to Be United Methodist” that I’m planning, as well as a workshop/study on Telling Our Faith Stories. I’ve talked with the Scouts about a joint venture a little further into the year, and there are several other conversations underway. My hope is that through education, mission, and fellowship we can grow greatly in Jesus Christ this year. Keep your eyes peeled, your hearts open, and your hands and feet ready!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Don

Brand new

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn’t find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn’t achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn’t dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have — these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, “See, I am making all things new” (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).





Prime Timer events are open to those 50+.

A Bible Study is held every other Friday at 1:00pm in the home of Frances Covington. They will meet January 11th and 25th. Feel free to contact Frances for more information at 817 249-0084.

The Prime Timers enjoy breakfast and fellowship on the third Saturday of each month at Westside Café. Please contact Frances Covington, at 817 249-0084 to reserve your seat for the next breakfast on January 19th.

Remember our home bound members and those in the nursing homes. Please consider sending them a note or making a call to brighten their day. Missed someone in church for a few weeks? Please call to check on them.

**“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”
—Martin Luther King Jr.**

Ladies group winter meeting

Our next meeting of Mary and Martha Fellowship will be on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00pm in Beavers room. Ladies of all ages are welcome.

Our programs aim to be inspirational and fun, and allow for discussion with light snacks following. We collect toiletries for WestAid as our mission project.

Hope you will join us in the New Year as we renew our spirits and enjoy fellowship.

1 Samuel 7:12

At the time the Companion Class was studying Ebenezer, the following devotional appeared in Guidepost’s publication of Mornings with Jesus. Bill Moore and grandson Dominic Miller placed a few rocks in the flower bed along with a Scripture sign. They’re on the Mildred Street church entry. We pray that you are blessed by them. - Jane Houdek

Fear gripped the Israelites when they learned that the Philistine army was advancing toward them. They begged Samuel to ask god to rescue them, so he sacrificed a young lamb and prayed on their behalf.

God answered by speaking with a mighty voice of thunder from heaven. This threw the Philistines into mass confusion and enabled the Israelites to overpower them. Samuel celebrated the victory by placing a large stone between two towns as a permanent visual reminder of God’s faithfulness.

After reflecting on this story, I found a small rock outside and placed it on the windowsill in front of my kitchen sink. I see it several times a day. It’s my Ebenezer stone, my stone of help, my reminder to celebrate Jesus and walk in the victory he accomplished on behalf of all who place their faith in Him for salvation.

Because of Christ’s death and resurrection, fear cannot paralyze us. Discouragement cannot cripple us. Doubts cannot destroy us. Jesus conquered the enemy of our soul, and he can never, ever defeat us! “Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

How easy it is to forget this life-altering truth. Troubles hit, and we lose sight of the promise that’s ours to claim. But our forgetfulness doesn’t change the facts—Jesus has fought the battle and own.

“Up to this point the LORD has helped us,” said Samuel when he set the Ebenezer stone in place. Up to this point, He’s helped us, too. And He’ll continue helping us, day by day.—Grace Fox



January 27 Souper Sunday!

Chicken, beef and vegetable stock will be provided. Bring your favorite soup ingredient to add to the pot. You may also bring bread, crackers or a desert.

Words of thanks

One hundred ninety-six dozen cookies were delivered to Arlington Heights UMC for our troops this Christmas. Thanks to everyone who was able to participate.
 Frances Covington

Thanks to everyone who was able to participate in the Spirit of Christmas program last month. I know your generosity blessed many children and nursing home residents. Hopefully it brightened your Christmas as well.
 Jane McMillan

Thanks to all the ladies who brought hygiene products for WestAid to the Mary & Martha Fellowship Christmas Party. The volunteers were thrilled when we showed up with bags and boxes full of toiletries, and I know the clients were thrilled to get them. So often we are asked for hygiene products and there are none available. So your generosity was greatly appreciated. – LaVerne Moore

Local ministries benefit

The Council voted that Concession stand proceeds will be designated for local mission projects. In 2018 \$550 was donated to Project Transformation

We were also able to send \$500 to support Western Hills High School Care Closet dedicated to helping those students in need of basic supplies such as hygiene products and clothes.

The concession stand will reopen in January. As you continue to support the concession stand it will continue to support our community.

A rib tickler

After her husband was out late for a few nights, Eve was upset. “Are you out with other women?” she asked.

“Don’t be unreasonable,” replied Adam. “You’re the only woman on earth.”

The quarrel ended when Adam fell asleep.

When he awakened with pokes to the chest, he asked, “What are you doing?”

“Counting your ribs!” Eve said.

Board game night

Come fellowship with the Youth on Wednesday evenings in Reed Hall at 6 pm and play some old fashion board games, or try your hand at a trivia challenge, or a geography location game. If you’d like us to provide dinner for you, please text Teri Houston-Martin at 817-675-9479 before 5 pm on Wednesday. We will meet in January on the 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

“A New Year’s resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.”
 —Unknown

Military birthdays

Please extend a hand or hug for the following January birthdays:

January 16 - Cotton Johnson
 January 25 - Randy Welch

Remember to include all military personnel in your prayers. Happy New Year! - Military Care

Calendar of Special Events

Jan 5	Men’s Bible Study	10:00 am
Jan. 8	Mary/Martha Fellowship in Beavers Room	7:00 pm
Jan. 11	Prime Timers Bible Study in Frances Covington’s home	1:00pm
Jan. 15	Trustee Meeting open to congregation	7:00pm
Jan. 19	Prime Timers Breakfast West Side Café	8:00am
	Men’s Bible Study	10:00am
Jan. 25	Prime Timers Bible Study in Frances Covington’s home	1:00pm
Jan. 27	Souper Sunday Lunch	noon
Jan. 29	Church Council Meeting	7:00pm

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Office Hours:

9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday

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JOYS AND CONCERNS - Please use this list during private prayer.

Celebrations

Remembrance and Celebration of Life

Ongoing need for prayer

Barbara Hoelscher
Glenda Leggett
Harold Baird
Frances Jones
Cindy Ellis
Triston Bailey
Jerry McDaniel
Tessa Trimble
Jeff Green

Pastor Don Petty and family
Church Staff and Lay Leadership
Police Officers and Firefighters

Homebound

Nancy Davis
Lolly Pinkston

Jean & Thurman Hefty

Assisted Living

Pat Ashburn
Anita Banks
Aggie Cassady
Theda Kornegay
Joan Lamb-Hardin
Linda Sullivan

Nursing Facilities

Joan Lamb-Hardin
Joyce Kimberlin
Mildred Rainwater

**Remember to keep members of our military
and our nation's leaders in your daily
prayers.**

Please inform the Church office of any changes to this list.