

Benbrook United Methodist Church

AUGUST 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

Terry Grant
Preschool Director

Jane McMillan
Administrative Assistant
Director of Children's Ministry

**Focused on Christ;
United in Prayer**

Dear Church Family,

“What fresh expressions of our faith might God be calling us to here in Benbrook?”

Back in May of this year I had the opportunity to attend a wonderful conference in Fort Worth called Deep Roots, Wild Branches. It was hosted by two United Methodist pastors who are part of a global church movement called Fresh Expressions. In a nutshell, they asked us to consider anew being the church outside the standard walls of the church.

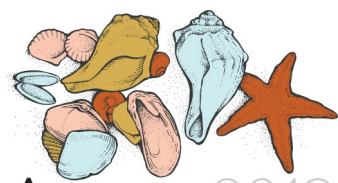
They handed us a sheet to look at, filled with several churchy buzz words as I like to call them, everything from sanctuary to hymns to prayer to preaching to fellowship to Jesus to Bible study to the Book of Discipline even! We were asked to cross off everything that was not essential to being the church. You might be surprised at what was not essential. Not to worry too much. Of course Jesus always stayed in the mix!

The point of the exercise was never to take away any of those beloved things. Rather, it was to help us think creatively outside of our usual boxes. The pastors shared example after example of different fresh expressions, from a dinner church held in a burrito restaurant to a senior citizen's exercise group that met at the local walking track for devotions. There was even a group that met in a tattoo parlor!

In each of these fresh expressions, the church that gathers together has been missional, contextual, formational, and ecclesial. All of that will take some unpacking. But it's something I'm excited to share with you in our next sermon series, Fresh Expressions, starting August 4th! I'll be putting out a weekly e-mail with stories of these fresh expressions to help us envision what one might look like here in Benbrook. And I want us to begin asking, in our devotion time, in our prayer time, in our Bible study time, in our worship time, and in our going-around-town time this one question, “What fresh expressions of our faith might God be calling us to here in Benbrook?”

Of all the many sermons published and books authored by John Wesley, perhaps his most well-known, especially among United Methodists, is this: “The world is my parish.” Let's pray and seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we see where God might be calling us anew.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Don



August 2019



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 August 9th and 23rd. 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 August 17th.

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.

Many ways to give

As a hen and a pig walked down the road, they noticed a church sign advertising a breakfast of “Ham and Eggs!”

“That’s nice,” said the hen. “A chance for us to serve the congregation.”

“Easy for you to say,” replied the pig. “For you, it’s a contribution; for me, it’s a sacrifice!”

Versions of this story appear on inspirational websites, with comments about the chicken being *involved* in breakfast, while the pig is *committed*. Opinions differ, however, about which animal has the right idea. Some people warn against being the pig, sacrificing yourself for success; others say the chicken isn’t all-in.

“People who give themselves to Jesus with a trusting abandon” are like pigs, says Rick Lawrence in *The Jesus-Centered Life* (Group). That total, “without reservation” commitment, he says, shows a willingness to give your life to Jesus — as he gave his for you.

On the other hand, giving consistently, day in and day out, even in what might seem to be small ways, also is valuable. Maybe the moral is not to judge others’ stewardship because we all give differently.



Grooving for God

Fifty years ago this summer, as the Woodstock Festival in upstate New York became a symbol of the countercultural movement, another groundswell was occurring: the Jesus Movement. In 1970, teenager Greg Laurie was baptized after a bunch of “Jesus freaks” introduced him to the Savior. The lost kid whose mom had been divorced seven times finally felt part of a family.

Laurie, now pastor of a megachurch and author of *Jesus Revolution* (Baker Books), says the Millennial generation is ripe for another major faith movement. During a time of division and unrest that mirrors the late ’60s, people are longing for what’s “real” and relational, he writes. Our “weary, chaotic, selfie-saturated culture” needs “a big, ravishing, transcendent, and transformational vision of who God really is,” adds Laurie. “That’s what happened fifty years ago. It can happen again today.”

“You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together, we can do great things.” —Mother Teresa

A work in progress

A Christian is always in the process of becoming, never in the state of having become. The Christian life is not being pious but becoming pious, not being healthy but becoming healthy, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet [what we are to be], but we are becoming it. It is not yet done and has not yet happened. It is, however, going on and coming to be. It is not the end, but it is the way. —Martin Luther



Summer is not over

WestAid needs to fill the shelves with more kid friendly items through August. In order to do this though they need our help! They are in need of the following items:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| applesauce | canned fruit |
| mac'n'cheese | peanut butter |
| jelly/jam | canned meats |
| canned pasta | cereal |
| snack bars | fruit snacks |

Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated!

STEM Camp update

STEM Camp has been a success. July 10th focus was Motion – it included Robotics, Unsinkable Boats, Catapults and a Zipline Carrier creation. July 17th focus was Solar/Wind – it included Wind Cars, Windmill and Popsicle Stick Light creation. July 24th focus was on Gravity – it included Bridge Building, Tower Building and an Egg Drop Carrier creation. Each night had between 21 – 30 students attending.

Thank you for all the donations of supplies and especially to all the volunteers that helped make each night successful.



The first day of school for Fort Worth ISD is Monday, August 19th.

BUMC Preschool Meet the Teacher Night is Thursday, August 29th. Their first day of school is Tuesday, September 3rd.

Remember to keep our teachers, staff, volunteers, children and their parents in your prayers as the children return to school.

FRIDAY FUN FEAST

August 2
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Make plans to join us for fun, fellowship and food as we celebrate our many years of connection with the Boy Scouts and their families.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and jambalaya will be provided. Please bring a picnic side dish or dessert to share with the crowd.

Both indoor and outdoor games are planned to add to the fun and fellowship.

Calendar of Special Events

August 3	Men's Bible Study	10:00 am
August 9	Prime Timers Bible Study in Frances Covington's home	1:00 pm
August 17	Prime Timers Breakfast West Side Café	8:00 am
	Men's Bible Study	10:00 am
August 19	First day of school for Fort Worth ISD Please drive carefully	
August 23	Prime Timers Bible Study in Frances Covington's home	1:00 pm

Benbrook United Methodist Church
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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

Peggy Snow

Ongoing need for prayer

Dale Ruckle
Mary Ann Banks
Cheryl Owens' family
Martha Hoffman

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

Homebound

Jean & Thurman Hefty

Lolly Pinkston

Assisted Living

Aggie Cassady
Theda Kornegay
Dell Smith
Barbara Spears
Linda Sullivan

Nursing Facilities

Joan Lamb-Hardin
Jane Johnson
Joyce Kimberlin

**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.