

Benbrook United Methodist Church

JANUARY 2020

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

**Focused on Christ;
United in Prayer**

Dear Church Family,

A new year brings with it new opportunities and new possibilities. If it were a simmering pot of food on the stove, it would smell wonderful with all of its aromas, gurgling sounds and tasty treats.

The new year also brings a fresh sermon series called Potluck Promises. In it we’ll look at all those wonderful dishes, I mean, vows, we make when we join the church. We’ll talk about our commitments of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. And we’ll talk about the way in which they fill not just our bellies, but our church home and the Kingdom of God with the best we have to offer.

A couple of special Sundays will be tied to all of this. On Sunday, January 19th we’ll have a Blessing of the Casserole Dishes. You’re invited to bring your most cherished crockpot, savory cast iron skillet, favorite cooking spoon, even your grandmother’s special 9x13.

The following Sunday, January 26th we’ll have our annual Souper Sunday. Bring a can or two to add to one of our three pots of soup we’ll have for the meal following our worship service.

Each Sunday we’ll look at what delicious goodness is cooking at Benbrook! I’m excited about all this new year has to offer, and I hope you are too!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Don

The power of listening

Jesus repeatedly urged his followers to not simply hear but *listen* to his teachings. Others also have championed sincere listening to show compassion and respect.

“Part of doing something is listening.”
—Madeleine L'Engle, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*

“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.” —Bryant H. McGill

“And so he listened. And in his listening, his heart opened wide and then wider still.”
—Kate DiCamillo, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

“Too often we underestimate the power of ... a listening ear ... to turn a life around.”—Leo Buscaglia





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 10th and 24th. 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 18th.

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.

“What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven’t even happened yet.”—Anne Frank

Ladies group winter meeting

Our next meeting of Mary and Martha Fellowship will be on Tuesday, January 14th 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.



January 26 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. Plan to join your church family for food and fellowship.

Andy’s Wagon



Andy’s Wagon is empty. Please help us fill it. A January preschool and congregational mission project will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens and gloves of all sizes. Collection will be taken January 19th thru January 26th. Your

generosity will benefit Union Gospel Mission. Contact Suzanne Simpson with any questions. Watch for the wagon!

Seeking the best

I believe that appreciation is a holy thing — that when we look for what’s best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we’re doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we’re participating in something sacred.

—Fred Rogers

We’re back!



Our concession stand is open Saturdays **Jan. 11 and 25** and **Feb. 1, 8, 22 and 29** in Reed Hall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We offer yummy lunch and snacks to church members and YMCA families playing basketball in our Christian Life Center. \$1 hot dogs, \$2 nachos & chili pie, drinks and homemade desserts. Please join us for wonderful fellowship and super good food.

Words of thanks

To my church family,
 Thank you ever so much for the precious Christmas tree made by Tina and Dominic delivered by two angels named Bill and LaVerne. The tree has found a permanent home on a chest of mine. Little Brother, my cat, has even learned that this object is a no-no and not in his life. My love to all. Wish I could be with you this year. Maybe next year. Linda Sullivan

BUMC donated ninety-four dozen cookies for our troops this Christmas. Thanks to everyone who was able to participate. Frances Covington

Thanks to everyone who was able to provide gifts for 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

Local ministries benefit

The Council voted that Concession stand proceeds will be designated for local mission projects. In 2019 \$500 was donated to Project Transformation

We also gifted seven cases of snacks to Safe Haven. Many of their children are scheduled for counseling session directly after school. As you know, practically every child needs an after school snack to hold them over until dinner. Safe Haven is the domestic violence service provider in Tarrant County providing for families healing from violent relationships.

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

Military birthdays

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

January 25 - Randy Welch

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

Love in action

Martin Luther King Jr., whose life and legacy we honor this month, spoke often about the power of love. In fact, he equated the practice of nonviolence with “absolute commitment to the way of love.”

Love, declared the minister and activist, “is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.” And, he said, anyone who’s “devoid of the power to love” is “devoid of the power to forgive.”

King distinguished between true love and “empty sentimentalism,” however. He taught — and showed — that love is “the active outpouring of one’s whole being into the being of another.”

Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate “active outpouring” of love, and we can choose to follow his example daily.

“Because of Calvary I’m free to choose,” writes Max Lucado in *When God Whispers Your Name*. “No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.”

Calendar of Special Events

Jan. 1 & 2	Office closed	
Jan 4	Men’s Bible Study	10:00 am
Jan. 10	Prime Timers Bible Study in Frances Covington’s home	1:00pm
Jan. 14	Mary/Martha Fellowship in Beavers Room	7:00 pm
Jan. 18	Prime Timers Breakfast West Side Café	8:00am
	Men’s Bible Study	10:00am
Jan. 21	Trustee Meeting open to congregation	7:00pm
Jan. 24	Prime Timers Bible Study in Frances Covington’s home	1:00pm
Jan. 26	Souper Sunday Lunch	noon
Jan. 28	Church Council Meeting Congregation encouraged to attend	6:00pm

Benbrook United Methodist Church
1122 Bryant Street
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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

Dale Ruckle	Pastor Don Petty and family
Pat and Charlie Clayton	Church Staff and Lay Leadership
Connie Johnson	Police Officers and Firefighters

Homebound

Jean & Thurman Hefty	Lolly Pinkston
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Assisted Living

Theda Kornegay
Dell Smith
Barbara Spears
Linda Sullivan

Nursing Facilities

Aggie Cassady
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.