

# Benbrook United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY 2020

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## *The Spirit...*

**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,

February brings with it the idea of romance and love. It’s full of chocolate hearts and will-you-be mine valentines. Throw in a few overstuffed teddy bears and bouquets of freshly cut roses, and it’s enough to feel almost positively giddy inside.

One of the most critical pieces of wisdom we have in the Bible is on love. When Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is in Matthew 22, he responds with a two part answer. First, he instructs us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. He also reminds us that a second commandment is like the first, namely, that we are called to love our neighbor as our self.

Starting on February 9th, we’ll begin a new three part sermon series exploring love and what that looks like, scripturally tracing what Jesus has said to Old Testament teachings of love. I’ll address some of what the New Testament author Paul had to say on the matter. And I’ll touch on how the idea of love that is in our culture shapes and informs us today. So I hope you join with us as we begin the new sermon series, “What the World Needs Now”.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Don

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### **In other words**

We’re so accustomed to hearing the Bible’s “love chapter,” 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message* Bible reveal to you?

“Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first,’ doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies”  
(1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).





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 February 7th and 21st. 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 22nd.

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.

### Ladies enjoy fellowship time

Our next meeting of Mary and Martha Fellowship is Tuesday, February 11 at 7pm in Beavers room. You can join us at any time during the year as our programs are new each month. Time allowed for discussion, light snacks and fellowship.

Please consider bringing donations of toiletries for WestAid families, our monthly project.

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### Unwrap the gift

At church one Sunday, I noticed a woman carrying a Bible neatly wrapped in colorful ribbon, like a package. My first thought was that she must be giving it to someone as a present.

Throughout the next few weeks, however, I realized that was the woman's own well-used Bible. Whenever a worship service or Bible study ended, she carefully rewrapped the Scriptures with that shimmery strand.

What a great reminder that God's Word is a precious, practical gift meant to be opened and reopened regularly.—Stephanie Martin

### Pancake Supper



*Mardi Gras* is French for "Fat Tuesday", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before Lent fasting begins. Join us in Reed Hall for a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 25 from 5pm till we run out of food.

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### Ash Wednesday service

In order to prepare our hearts and minds for the Lenten season there will be a service of imposition of ashes at 6:30pm, February 26. The pastor will make a small cross on your forehead with ashes. The ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, while the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness.

Lent is a time of prayer, self-examination, and penitence for Christians as we prepare to celebrate Easter. It's a time to re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus.

We hope you will come join with us in this meaningful service.

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### Burden bearers

Bear one another's burdens, the Bible says. It is a lesson about pain that we all can agree on. Some of us will not see pain as a gift; some will always accuse God of being unfair for allowing it.

But, the fact is, pain and suffering are here among us, and we need to respond in some way. The response Jesus showed was to bear the burdens of those he touched. To live in the world as [Jesus'] body, his emotional incarnation, we must follow his example.

The image of the body accurately portrays how God is working in the world. ... We announce his message, work for justice, pray for mercy ... and suffer with the sufferers.

—Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*

## Words of thanks

Our loving church family!  
 Words cannot describe our thanks for the hugs,  
 prayers and cards. We were blown away. My mom  
 died peacefully. You all are the body of Christ. Thank  
 you so much again. Our thanks and love  
 —Greg and Nova (Trietsch) Johnson

Thank you for the many well wishes and gifts of love  
 extended to me during the Christmas season.  
 —Jane McMillan

## Risking love

To love is to risk not being loved in return. To hope is  
 to risk pain. To try is to risk failure, but risk must be  
 taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk  
 nothing. Love comes to those who still hope even  
 though they've been disappointed, to those who still  
 believe even though they've been betrayed, to those  
 who still love even though they've been hurt before.

—Author unknown

## Military birthdays

Please send a card, extend a hand or hug to Darryl  
 Edgar to celebrate his birthday February 26.

Remember to include all military personnel in your  
 prayers. —Military Care

## Step right up!



Our concession stand is  
 open Saturdays **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.

## It's BEAR Season!

Watch for sales after Valentine's Day if you plan to  
 purchase a cuddly bear (or more) for Cook Children's  
 Hospital "Prayer Bear" ministry in June. It is difficult  
 to find bears in spring but they should be plentiful this  
 month and prices are usually **deeply discounted**.

Pastoral Care nurtures the spirits of hospitalized  
 children, their anxious families and the dedicated staff  
 who work at Cook Children's hospital. Prayer Bears  
 are placed in the arms of newly admitted children and  
 they are told they have friends they have never met  
 who are praying for them. The children love the teddy  
 bears, but the parents get teary at the reminder that  
 they are not alone at such a bleak time.

Over 15,000 bears were given in 2019. Each month  
 around 1,200 children receive a loving message of  
 prayer and caring because of people like you give of  
 your time, energy and money to make a difference in  
 their lives.

**The success of love is in the loving; it is not in  
 the result of loving.—Mother Teresa**

## Calendar of Special Events

Feb. 1	Men's Bible Study	10:00 am
Feb. 7	Prime Timers Bible Study in Frances Covington's home	1:00 pm
Feb. 11	Mary/Martha Fellowship in Beavers Room	7:00 pm
Feb. 12	Finance meeting	6:00 pm
Feb. 15	Prime Timers Breakfast West Side Café Men's Bible Study	8:00 am 10:00am
Feb. 21	Prime Timers Bible Study in Frances Covington's home	1:00 pm
Feb. 25	Pancake Supper	5:00 pm
Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday Service	6:30 pm

Benbrook United Methodist Church  
1122 Bryant Street  
Benbrook, Texas 76126

Office Hours:

9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday  
Phone: 817/249-1257 Fax: 817/249-0264  
E-mail: [bumc@benbrookumc.org](mailto:bumc@benbrookumc.org)  
Web Site: [www.benbrookumc.org](http://www.benbrookumc.org)



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

**Celebrations**

**Remembrance and Celebration of Life**

Harold Baird  
James Chapman

**Ongoing need for prayer**

Betty Baird	Pastor Don Petty and family
Jimmy Montgomery	Church Staff and Lay Leadership
Darrell Wayne Head	Police Officers and Firefighters
Jim Messer	
Febe Nixon	
Greg Gibson	
Angela Zarate	
Patricia Clayton	

**Homebound**

Jean & Thurman Hefty      Lolly Pinkston

**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.**