

# Benbrook United Methodist Church

JUNE 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,

What a wild last two and a half months it has been! Worship online, a service we provided for just a few people before this pandemic began, has now become the new normal. Meetings have been exclusively by e-mail and video conferencing. Fellowship time is now through a computer app called Zoom. New ministries for cloth masks and sidewalk chalk have started to emerge. Daily devotionals every weekday at Noon on Facebook have sprung up as another way to spend time with each other and with God.

Some of our outside groups have continued to find ways to connect as well. Our Scouts have adapted very well to this technological change. They continue to gather weekly from their respective homes. Our Preschool has even had a Drive-By Graduation Service as well as a Drive-By Last Day of School Procession.

And though we should not be surprised, we should definitely celebrate that we have been blessed with faithful givers during this time of crisis. This has done so much to keep us well-afoot financially. Attendance has even increased by an average of roughly twenty people for our services online. What we thought would have been a decrease has instead been just the opposite!

As much as we have done, there is more still in the works. Anniversary drive-by parades and poster boards and balloons on doorsteps to welcome people home are but a couple of the ways we have started connecting. A drive-thru food pantry is still being organized to further feed those in need. A virtual Bible Study is almost ready to roll out as well. I am absolutely certain we have done more new things in the last three months than we probably anticipated when we made New Years Resolutions!

Philippians 4:8 reminds us, "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

So instead of letting everything get you down about all that we aren't doing, I invite you to dwell instead upon all that we are doing. Focus on these things. They are indeed excellent and worthy of praise.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Don





Prime Timer events are open to those 50+.

Especially at this time of social distancing and isolation 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.

All church related activities have been suspended until further notice.

**“Solutions are not found by pointing fingers; they are reached by extending hands.”  
—Aysa Taryam**

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## Welcoming the Holy

Abraham and Sarah welcomed three strangers who turned out to be the Lord. Jesus said, “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple,” the giver will be rewarded (Matthew 10:42, NIV). An ancient Jewish proverb asserts: “Hospitality is one form of worship.” A Russian Orthodox monk is said to have told a younger one, “Sometimes I see a stranger coming up the road and I say, ‘Oh, Jesus Christ, is it you again?’” And an old Gaelic poem declares, “Often, often, often, goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise.”

Sometimes we think we must do something big to serve God. Today, when you smile at someone on the street, take time to entertain a child’s question, bring cookies to a new neighbor, thank a server or clerk ... know that you are serving Jesus, that you are worshipping God.

—Heidi Mann

Dear Church Family,

The decision to remain closed to in person worship and group activities has not been an easy one to make. Especially it hangs heavy with grief that I know we are all experiencing as we long to be together. Safety has been and remains our number one concern though. The Bishop and our District Superintendent have strongly urged us to remain closed. Our Trustees have met multiple times in just the last few weeks alone, having come to the same conclusion not to meet at this time. Ultimately, as your pastor I have had to make the final call. Between a great amount of prayer, data crunching, and consulting with several people, keeping our church closed for group day-to-day activities as well as worship has remained the best course of action for this COVID-19 season. Almost every single United Methodist church in this Conference has likewise continued to make this same decision.

I am hopeful that we will begin to meet again in person soon, though the exact time is not yet known. Indeed, every two weeks our Board of Trustees are reassessing our situation. Please note that when we meet in person again it will not be like it was before. This world has changed, whether we wanted it to or not.

And yet, in the midst of this season of change, I am reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “Behold, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” - Isaiah 43:19

New growth pushes forth as Spring gives way to Summer. Indeed, we know it must. What exactly will the future hold? Do we yet perceive it? Perhaps not in full. But take heart dear church, God knows. The scripture says, “I will”. God will make a way when it seems there is only wilderness. God will bring water when we feel dry and parched and barren. God will not leave us to wither in wasteland, but is growing us for all the new life that is breaking in and out and all around. Be excited, for God is still doing a brand new thing!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Don

## Words of thanks

A HUGE thank you to the ladies of the church and Preschool who have sewn approximately 250 face masks gifted to the community. A special thanks to Jean Kievlan for coordinating this generous ministry.

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## Hit the road

When a teenager received his driving permit, he asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss use of the car.

His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut, and then we'll talk about it."

A month later, the young man returned to continue the discussion. "Son, I've been real proud of you," the father said. "You've brought your grades up and studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The teenager replied, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair and even Jesus had long hair ...."

"Yes," the father said, "and they walked everywhere they went!"

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## The origin of Father's Day

One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men. Regardless of which story is correct, President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a special day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

## Why Flag Day is important



America was founded as a "nation under God," and has been looked up to by other nations for over two hundred years. Unfortunately, other countries — and some of our own citizens — are disgruntled with America today. Even though our reputation has taken some hits, we're still a strong country with high ideals and proud people.

There's a simple way you can help show that to the world — by flying the flag. Every time you put a flag out, you're saying, "I'm an American and proud of what this flag represents." The flag stands for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," for religious freedom, and for other rights that many nations lack. The flag represents our history and our goals for a better future for all.

Flag Day is celebrated each year on June 14. Fly your flag high!

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**"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."**  
—Clarence Kelland



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

**Celebrations**

**Remembrance and Celebration of Life**

Joyce Warhurst - Cindy Ellis' mother  
Frances Jones

**Ongoing need for prayer**

W. D. Jones & family	Pastor Don Petty and family
Cindy Ellis & family	Church Staff and Lay Leadership
Angela Zarate	Community First Responders
Capt. Kevin Stout	
Dennis Pickering	
Doris Smith	
Dr. David Rhodes Kievlan	
Jimmy Montgomery	
Greg Gibson	
Patricia Clayton	

**Homebound**

Jean & Thurman Hefty Lolly Pinkston

**Assisted Living**

Theda Kornegay  
Dell Smith  
Barbara Spears  
Linda Sullivan

**Nursing Facilities**

Aggie Cassady  
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.**