

Benbrook United Methodist Church

JULY 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
Director of Children's Ministry

**Focused on Christ;
United in Prayer**

Dear Church Family,

I had hoped to write to you that worship would be opening back up on Sunday, July 12th. Our Trustees met a few weeks ago and advised me that it would be okay to do so, pending that certain guidelines were met for what worship would look like when we gathered again, and that numbers continued to trend downward. Our Trustees will continue to guide me in making reopening decisions. As of right now though, those case numbers are skyrocketing, especially in Tarrant County.

Context is key. While some churches are reopening, I feel it's very ill-advised for us when so many in our congregation are in the high-risk category, not just due to age, but also other health factors as well.

My first year in pastoral ministry I lived in rural southwestern Virginia. Several times that winter we got snow. Rarely did it fall on a late Saturday night, save for once. I was left with the unenviable task the next morning of deciding whether or not to keep worship open. We did not have adequate snow plows to get the roads clear in time. Many in my congregations were elderly. I had already visited them in the hospital for multiple broken hips, concussions, and the like. I decided to cancel worship that Sunday. I received a lot of pushback for this decision, in part because I did it unilaterally. After that disaster, I chose to always surround myself with others who would help guide me in that decision.

We are blessed with wise leaders at Benbrook UMC, and I hope that you are praying for them as much as I know you pray for me. We are also blessed with some things I didn't have good access to back in the hills and hollers of Appalachia. We have technology now that I didn't have back then. Every Sunday's worship service is available on our Facebook page, Youtube website, and our church website. I know, it's never the same as in-person worship, but we are continuing to pray and wait expectantly for that day to come, soon and very soon indeed.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Don



July



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.

“Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in trouble; it is a steering wheel that directs us in the right path throughout life.”

—Anonymous

Grace is a gift

When we work an eight-hour day and receive eight hours' pay for our efforts, that is a WAGE.

When we compete with an opponent and receive a trophy for our superior performance, that is a PRIZE.

When we receive something in recognition for our service or achievement, that is an AWARD.

But when we can earn no wage, can win no prize and deserve no award — yet we receive such a gift — that is unmerited favor. That is undeserved kindness. That is GRACE.

Good humor is one of the best articles of dress one can wear in society.

—William Makepeace Thackeray

The “wow!” factor

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn't yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, “Wow!” The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn't upset the participants or audience, however. Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan's identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout “Wow!” — in a good way — at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God's natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents — and your own. When have these sparked a “Wow!” of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment — a gift from God that warrants our praise.

—adapted from HomeTouch Ministry

Don't speak unless you can improve the silence. —Spanish proverb

On sightseeing

Sinclair Lewis said, “He who has seen one cathedral 10 times has seen something; he who has seen 10 cathedrals once has seen but little; and he who has spent half an hour in each of a hundred cathedrals has seen nothing at all.”

That's good sightseeing advice, but it also prompts reflection on how we spend our time. Instead of trying to do and be as many things as possible, it's usually wiser to choose which commitments or activities are most important and focus on doing them well.

Words of thanks

A new mission field-
Although my second season with BUMC was short; you have given me the spiritual nourishment of love, friendship, and encouragement. You have fed and equipped me for my new season in North Carolina. A heartfelt thank you to the congregation. God's blessings to you all.
Suzanne Simpson

We didn't plan on doing much celebrating for our 74th wedding anniversary. But a great celebration was brought to us. It was such fun! Also a dinner and a cake thanks to Frances and Linda. The cards with good wishes were beautiful. A heartfelt thank you to each of you for thinking of us.

Thurman and Jean Hefty

Be a lifesaver

About 200 people — including 100 lifeguards — attended a pool party in New Orleans in 1985 to celebrate the first summer in memory that no one had drowned at a city pool. At the end of the festivities, the four on-duty lifeguards began clearing the area and found a fully dressed man in the deep end. Despite efforts to revive him, he died.

Just as swimming with a bunch of lifeguards doesn't guarantee safety, "swimming" with a sea of churchgoers doesn't guarantee peace. People in the pews next to you might be struggling to stay above water physically, emotionally, financially or spiritually. Be alert to ways you can serve as a lifeguard. Extend a helping hand, a listening ear and an encouraging reminder of Jesus' ultimate rescue (see Romans 7:24-25).

Treasure the present

Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest ... to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.

—Henri Nouwen

The water's fine?

While a tourist vacationed on the Florida coast, his boat capsized. Although he could swim, his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft and praying aloud. Spotting an old beachcomber on shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?"

"No," the man hollered. "They haven't been around for years!"

Relieved, the tourist began swimming leisurely toward the shore. About halfway there, he asked, "How'd you get rid of the gators?"

"We didn't do anything," the beachcomber replied. "The sharks got 'em."

Military care update

Consider sending a card or calling George Moreland to celebrate his birthday on July 30th.

Even though we can't attend, we have continued to decorate the church grounds with flags on National holidays.

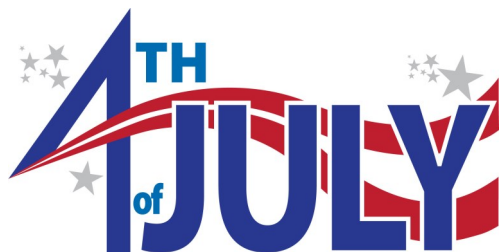
Remember to include all military personnel in your prayers. Happy July 4th! - Military Care



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

Celebrations

Remembrance and Celebration of Life

Henry Griffin - Gleda Griffin's husband
Jane Johnson - church family member

Ongoing need for prayer

Randy Ellis	Pastor Don Petty and family
Doris Smith	
Dr. David Rhodes Kievlan	Church Staff and Lay Leadership
Tessa Trimble	
Jimmy Montgomery	Community First Responders
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
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.