

Benbrook United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 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**

Let's talk about worship!

As word has gotten out, hopefully you are aware that we have opened up for a drive-in style of worship. We are meeting at 7 PM every Saturday evening in the Bryant Street parking lot. It is a shorter service at around 30 minutes.

Each of the two Saturday evenings so far that we have had the service has been better attended than I had initially projected! I anticipate this number growing as people become more comfortable with this unique worship service.

I also understand it is not for everyone, and encourage you to come only if you feel comfortable and safe doing so.

Some of you may wonder what sort of safety precautions we are taking. The answer is, quite simply put, several.

Everyone comes in and parks, tuning their car's radio station to 104.3 FM. Singing takes place inside your car. Communion is handed out in pre-sealed containers for wafers and juice. Those in turn are sealed in a ziplock bag and handed out with tongs as opposed to anyone using their hands directly. Also, our offering plate is a bag/bucket stationed at the exit, so that a plate is not being passed around.

We hope to continue offering this worship in this way for a little while longer and encourage you to check it out.

Please know that our worship service continues to be available online through your Facebook page, YouTube channel, and church website.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Don





Prime Timer events are open to those 50+.

All church related activities have been suspended until further notice.

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.

“When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.” —Peter Marshall

All workers are essential

The concept of vocation, Latin for “to call,” previously referred only to a calling to church work. But then Martin Luther emphasized the importance — and even sanctity — of *all* types of labors. The reformer pointed out that “God doesn’t need our good works, but our neighbor does.”

RJ Grunewald, in a blog post titled “God Makes Pizza,” describes how this looks today: “God is busy about *his* work in the midst of *your* work whether you realize it or not. The laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls and the cups of coffee are all deeply spiritual because God is at work in the world. He is serving your family, your coworkers and your community through the work you do. God is at work providing ‘daily bread’ through the work that you do, no matter what that work is.”

“Breathe a prayer of gratitude. And give those you love an extra measure of affection. Life is fleeting, and love is precious. Cherish both.” —Galen Guengerich

Why God watches

An English bishop recalled a childhood visit to an elderly woman, who showed him a framed text that read “Thou God seest me.”

The woman told him, “When you’re older, people will tell you that God is always watching you to see when you do wrong, in order to punish you. I don’t want you to think of it that way. Instead, take the text home and remember all your life that God loves you so much he can’t take his eyes off you.”

Be yourself for God

Rabbi Joseph Liebermann describes a dream where he dies and goes to stand before God’s judgment seat. As he waits, the rabbi fears that the Lord will ask him, “Why weren’t you a Moses ... or a David ... or a Solomon?” Instead, God surprises him by simply asking, “Why weren’t you Rabbi Liebermann?”

When our lives are over, God won’t ask us why we weren’t a Mother Teresa or another saintly soul. He simply wants us to be who he created us to be.

“We are his workmanship,” St. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:10. In Greek, *workmanship* means “a piece of art.” You are God’s masterpiece. Life isn’t a game of comparison. It’s a journey of discovery of how God has uniquely created you to perform specific tasks in this life.

Your life is God’s canvas. Don’t hinder the painting process!

—Mike Paulison

Everyday heroes

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

—Helen Keller

Words of thanks

Many thanks to everyone for your prayers, food, cards, calls and flowers during my recovery from knee surgery. The surgery went very well, and I am getting better every day. Bill and I miss all of you and will be glad when we can worship together again. LaVerne Moore



The labor to which we're called

In words attributed to Mother Teresa, “Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus.” As we celebrate Labor Day, what does such a distinction mean?

Vocation comes from Latin for “calling.” Christians understand vocation as that for which God created you, involving activities you do well, enjoy and feel good about doing, and that serve others. If you’re blessed to earn a paycheck doing something that fits those categories, then your profession or occupation — your work —likely is your vocation.

Other people work a paying job because an opportunity presents itself and the income is needed, even if it isn’t their favorite thing to do. Perhaps they live out their truest vocation during non-employment hours: singing with a choir, raising children, building houses with Habitat for Humanity.

Christians in any capacity, paid or not, can live out Jesus’ calling to love God and neighbor with our whole being (Luke 10:27). When God is “CEO” of our lives, it shows in how we treat our fellow laborers.

Military Care update

Please send a card or call to celebrate the following birthdays.

September 5	Jimmy Montgomery
September 15	Suzi Feigenbaum
September 17	Dick Hardin
September 27	Matt Martin
September 29	James Nixon

Remember to include all military personnel in your prayers. They make great sacrifices to protect our freedom.

“Don’t worry about failures. Worry about the chances you miss when you don’t even try.”
—Jack Canfield

Office closed

The church office will be closed Monday, Sept. 21 thru Thursday, Sept. 24. Pastor Don can be reached at 276 685-1999.



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

Web Site: www.benbrookumc.org

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

Celebrations

Remembrance and Celebration of Life

Patricia Clayton

Ongoing need for prayer

Annette Lockwood
Wanda Owens
LaVerne Moore
Dr. David Rhodes Kievlan
Tessa Trimble

Pastor Don Petty and family
Church Staff and Lay Leadership
Community First Responders

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.