

Benbrook United Methodist Church

MAY 2021

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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
Director of Children's Ministry

**Focused on Christ;
United in Prayer**

Dear Church Family,

After the subject of love, musicians tend to write most about home. You hear it in country songs where crooners desire to be with their wife, their dog, and a good meal on the table at home. You hear it in Broadway musicals where a small town girl longs to find a place where she's made it in the big city that she can finally call home. You hear it in Motown numbers where singers desire to settle down and make a home. You hear it in teenage pop/rock/metal angst where outcasts are looking for that place of rest and relief that is home.

Part of what makes the sanctuary building so important to our congregation at Benbrook UMC is that it is our spiritual home. In our heads, we understand that the body of Christ, the church, is more than just a building. In our heads we understand the missional purpose of our congregation is to be the hands and the feet of Christ out in the community, and that that is not confined to a building. But in our hearts, there is something deep within us that resonates deeply with the wonder of worship in our sanctuary.

I liken it to a childhood home that you remember fondly. Every time I go to my hometown of Carthage, Tennessee I drive the kids past the house I lived in at their age. I point to the Tulip Poplar trees in the front yard, to where the giant magnolia once stood that I climbed up and almost broke a limb falling down is, to the pine tree with the secret base that had to be removed after we left because the roots were digging into the foundation of the house, to the honeysuckle bushes on the side where I pretending I buzzed around like a bee, to the very spot in the yard I stood in the snow and lost my first tooth as it fell out in my blue mittens.

We have fond and vital memories of our sanctuary that make us come alive when we retell them. We remember the spot we stood at when a friend or family member was confirmed. We remember the exact spot we knelt when we were baptized. We remember the choir seat with the bird's eye view of the congregation in worship, and who sat next to us, and who sat next us before that. We remember the pew where our family and friends sat. We remember receiving Communion and kneeling for prayer at the railing. We remember the funerals, and weddings, and maybe even a good sermon or two. It has memories that linger like a sweet perfume.

Might it be that while we long for the past we can also yearn just as much for the future? Might it be that the memories we have had will lay cornerstones for future generations of the church? Memories for our children, and grandchildren even? For strangers as well as neighbors? Who will come to know Christ when we step back through those doors? Who will begin using their gifts and talents in ministry and service to the community because of the call of the pastor in a sermon or the challenge of a Sunday School teacher at the back door at the close of a service? Who will yet put on the full armor of God in our sanctuary, and what light and truth yet will shine through the window above the cross? Let us move back into the sanctuary with an eager desire that God be at work making all things new yet again. After all, we are Resurrection people!

Grace, Wisdom, Mercy, and Peace,
Pastor Don





Prime Timer events are open to those 50+.

Frances Covington has resumed the Bible Study in her home every other Friday at 1:00pm. They will meet May 14 and 28. Feel free to contact Frances for more information at 817 249-0084.

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.

If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way mom told you to in the beginning.

—Unknown

Preschool registration opens

We are pleased to announce that Benbrook United Methodist Preschool will be able to open again in September. Tuesday, September 7 will be our first school day of the 2021-2022 school year. Our hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This year's program will serve children ages 3 and 4. All classes are for children of the appropriate age by September 1.

Registration forms and reopening informative letter for parents can be found under the preschool tab on our website. www.benbrookumc.org

Out of office

The church office will be closed Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

Prayer bears spread God's love



Every year the Pastoral Care Department of Cook Children's Medical Center gives out nearly 12,000 Prayer Bears to their young patients, but it's during the summer months that supplies tend to get low.

Beginning May 2 through May 16 we invite you to bring new cuddly, soft bears to fill this need. **Their only rules are they must be new and must be bears** (no kittens, dogs, rabbits or other friendly critters please). You may bring them with you on Sundays or drop them off at the church during office hours. Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm

We will bless the bears during a worship service, commissioning them as ministers of God's love before delivering them to the hospital. Last year we delivered 97 bears. Let's top that this year!

Everyone hears what you say. Friends listen to what you have to say. Best friends listen to what you don't say!

WestAid update

While WestAid is not open to clients inside they continue to serve many people with outdoor pickup opportunities. Their current needs are:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Peanut butter | Jelly | Mac n cheese |
| Canned vegetables | Canned meat | Raman noodles |

| | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------|
| Soap | Shampoo | Deodorant |
| Toothpaste | Toilet tissue | |

Place donations in the bin provided on Sundays or stop by the church during office hours. Monday - Thursday 9am - 3pm

Welcome new baby



Bryan and Amanda Dames are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Evelyn. She was born on March 27. Bryan is currently serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. We welcome this blessed baby into our church family.

Congratulations graduate

David Merworth graduates from UTA on May 14 with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Biochemistry. He plans to go on to medical school to become a cardiologist. We join with him in celebrating this wonderful achievement and pray for great success in his future.

Worth celebrating

While going through the so-called “daily grind,” it’s fun to anticipate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holiday meals — especially when other people cook and clean up! Although *every* day is full of countless reasons to rejoice, we may not always feel like celebrating. Life’s concerns pile high, distracting us from gratitude, joy and intentional acknowledgment of our blessings.

When you need a reason to smile and celebrate, head to www.NationalDayCalendar.com. Almost every food item and hobby now has its own day, and you’ll even find gems such as National Be Late for Something Day (September 5, if you want to plan ahead!).

These fun “occasions” can help you embrace small joys and may even inspire you to celebrate them with family or friends. As you do, consider what it is about today and each gift from God that makes this day special.

God can mend all broken hearts. You just have to give Him all the pieces.



LET’S CELEBRATE! Sunday, May 30 following Worship

Join us for a Pot Luck Lunch to celebrate our first church family gathering since January 2020. Bring a favorite dish to share as we enjoy fellowship time.

A real Christian is a person who can give his pet parrot to the town gossip. – Billy Graham

Ministry project cancelled



Plastic bags were needed at the time we asked you to save them. Since then we’ve been informed the person asking for them has decided to retire and has moved from the area. Please contact the church office if you know of another person / group who could use them.



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

Agnes Cassady

Ongoing need for prayer

Phillip Witchley
Karen Witchley
Jean Hefty
Wilson McPherson
Tessa Trimble

Pastor Don Petty and family
Our Country's Leaders
Church Staff and Lay Leadership
First Responders

Homebound

Marge Cole
Lolly Pinkston
Wayne & Jane Wilson

Jean & Thurman Hefty
Barbara Spears
Ron Woodhull

Assisted Living

Dell Smith
Linda Sullivan

Nursing Facilities

**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.