

Benbrook United Methodist Church

JULY 2023

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

Syuzanna Kaszo
Pianist

Terry Grant
Preschool Director

Jane McMillan
Administrative Assistant
Director of Children's Ministry

**Focused on Christ;
United in Prayer**

Dear Church Family,

Mark 5:21-43 tells two accounts of healing in Jesus' ministry, namely that of a synagogue leader's daughter near death, and that of an older woman who has been hemorrhaging for 12 years. I remember the first few times I read these stories together that I missed the points that Mark was trying to make. I thought, as it appears at first glance, that one story, and one person interrupts the other. It could even be weakly argued that if Jesus hadn't stopped in the midst of the crowd, the daughter might not have died. But to misunderstand the arrangements of these stories is to get upset in the same way Mary and Martha get upset when Jesus lingers in John's Gospel, arriving after Lazarus has been dead for four days. One of the main points that both Mark and John make is that Jesus always arrives on time.

In our life it is easy to presume that we have control. So much of our life is the product of free will. We choose so many things that it seems as if we have control of everything. Time is not one of those things though. To be sure, we have a construct of time. We make plans and set dates on calendars. But how often do our plans not go according to the timing we encounter in the world? How much more is it a saving grace then to know that things happen that need to happen in God's time?

Mark wants us to know for certain that these two individuals are linked, a prominent leader's 12 year old daughter, and a woman who has been bleeding for 12 years. The same number for both is intentional. What Mark is also saying is that neither one's life is more valuable than the other to Jesus. They are both deserving of healing. And yet, if we view Jesus' schedule as just like our own, then there will only be time for one healing. These healings happen in God's time. So there is always time for more miracles.

What a relief to know that things happen that need to happen in God's time! What an even greater relief to know that no one's life is more valuable than another's to Jesus! I often have conversations with people who find themselves worried that what they are concerned about is not worth God's attention. They worry that it is not even worth catching the thread of Jesus' robe as he walks by, much less summoning him to our house. And so they make up their minds not to pray about their smallest needs because they are worried they will trouble God. What troubles Jesus is those who hold those in need back. Shame now, as then, is a powerful motivator indeed!

So take heart then, and take every need to Jesus. You are not holding Jesus back! You are not interrupting something more important! Let God sort out the timing. But don't forget to pray and to seek God. Healing is found in even the briefest encounters and it is always life-changing!

Grace, Wisdom, and Peace,
Pastor Don





Prime Timer events are open to those 50+.

Remember our home bound members and those in assisted living. Please consider sending them a note or making a call to brighten their day.

Frances Covington hosts a Bible Study in her home every other Friday at 1:00pm. They will meet July 7th and 21st. Feel free to contact Frances for more information at 817-475-4684.

Missed someone in church for a few weeks? Please call to check on them.

“The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image.”
—Thomas Merton

Patriotic trivia

As we celebrate America’s birthday, it’s interesting to note that clergymen wrote both the Pledge of Allegiance and the hymn “My Country ’Tis of Thee.” Rev. Francis Bellamy wrote the pledge in 1892. Rev. Samuel Francis Smith wrote the hymn in 1831. Both men were Baptist ministers.

The pledge was first used in public schools in 1892 during Columbus Day observances. “My Country ’Tis of Thee” was used as a national song before “The Star-Spangled Banner” was named America’s national anthem in 1931.

We are one

Christendom is one great people composed of persons of every country in concord in their faith and their love because there is One God, One Lord, One Spirit, One Hope. That is the marvelous mystery of the people of God. —Dietrich Bonhoeffer

An abundance of gifts

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you’re good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to “outdo one another in showing honor” (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.
—Stephanie Martin

Not healed, but whole

While researching America’s Prosperity Gospel movement, Kate Bowler was saddened by its implications — namely that God is present in people’s triumphs but not their suffering, and that every aspect of life is either “your fault or your reward.” When Bowler was diagnosed with stage IV cancer at age 35, the prosperity-minded messages of well-wishers made cancer seem like a punishment.

In *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I’ve Loved)*, Bowler asks: “What would it mean for Christians to give up that little piece of the American Dream that says, ‘You are limitless’? Everything is not possible. The mighty Kingdom of God is not yet here. What if *rich* did not have to mean *wealthy*, and *whole* did not have to mean *healed*? What if being people of ‘the gospel’ meant that we are simply people with good news? God is here. We are loved. It is enough.”

Words of thanks

Dear BUMC Church family: Lanny and I would like to thank you for all your prayers during his recent illness. We appreciate the snacks, phone calls and cards also. He's making progress and should be back at church very soon. -- Jo and Lanny Green

Thanks to Lynn James for delivering bears to Cook Children's hospital. Thanks to everyone for your generous support of this important children's outreach ministry. — Jane McMillan

School is out for the summer WestAid needs

WestAid is trying to fill the shelves with more kid friendly items while the children are home for the summer. In order to do this though they need our help! They are in need of the following items:

applesauce	canned fruit
mac'n'cheese	peanut butter
jelly/jam	canned meats
canned pasta	cereal

Game time

A group meets at 10:00 am the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month to play various games. This months dates are July 11th and 25th. They will be meeting in the Companion Classroom. Come join the fun and fellowship.

Military care update

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

Consider wearing red, white and blue to church on Sunday, July 2 in celebration of our freedom to worship. We will be distributing small American flags for you to place in your yard on July 4th.

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

Independence Day lessons for church life

- Return to the basics — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
- Honor the gift of freedom — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- Enjoy community — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
- Be light in the darkness — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word dynamite and the Greek word for power — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.

—Heidi Mann



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

W.D Jones Wayne Wilson

Ongoing need for prayer

Randy Welch
Jane Houdek & Family
Jane Wilson & Family
Family of W. D. Jones

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

Homebound
Donna Davis
Karen Witchley

Jane Wilson

Assisted Living
Jane Houdek
Ron Woodhull

Care Facilities
Don Clark

**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.