



Life@Benevola

*“Together we are called to worship
and witness, grow and give, love and
live for the glory of God.”*



DECEMBER 2019

Sunday Worship: 9am Sunday School 10:30am 301-791-3576

FROM THE PASTOR DESK

Dear Church—

As I write my last pastoral letter to you, I want to thank you for the many ways you have allowed me to serve as your pastor. My tenure at Benevola will come to an end after worship on Sunday, December 15. On January 1, I will begin a new appointment at First Saints Community Church in Leonardtown. It is an exciting opportunity that suits us well in a beautiful waterfront community, and we're excited to go.

Mac and I are both feeling thankful and blessed by the time we've spent with you and the ministries we've shared. I will always remember Benevola as a close-knit family church that works hard for the community and loves to have fun, that creates beautiful quilts, serves up famous oyster dinners and makes, *literally the best* apple dumplings in the world.

I will remember the special worship times that we've shared—Christmas cantatas and candlelight worship, Easter sunrise at the pavilion, Holy Week services with our neighbor churches, and worship in Shafer Park.

“Benevola” is a name that means “we wish you well”. Members of Benevola live up to that name in the ways that you care for each other and serve your neighbors, through Katie's Cupboard, Samaritan's Purse, Habitat for Humanity, the Community Breakfast, and much more.

I will miss my friends from Bible study, and our wonderful confirmation students; the laughter, the searching conversations, the times of prayer and praise. I'm thankful for the many words of encouragement and acts of hospitality that you have shown. And I will cherish the memories of saints we have laid to rest, who will always be part of Benevola's legacy.

Advent is a season for looking to the future and living expectantly into the plans God has for us. Sometimes the wait is painful and long; other times comfortable and safe. And then sometimes God opens a door unexpectedly and a path is before us, full of unknown challenges and blessings. In that way, every season is Advent, a time to be faithful where we are and yet ready to embrace the way forward with a fresh commitment of faith. The child who came to Bethlehem has shown us the way of life, and given us grace for the journey. He is Emmanuel, the God who is always with us.

As you may know, the Baltimore Washington Conference has specific policies regarding pastors returning to a previous appointment. These policies are explained on p. 2 of this newsletter.

I pray these things for Benevola's future: that you will have a wonderful ministry with whomever God sends to lead you; that you will always find new ways to connect with your neighbors and invite new people to worship; that you will deepen your relationships with God so that you will always know that God is the source of all hope and strength and vision; that every ministry and mission will be grounded in Christ who is our sure foundation;

that you will know the unity of the Holy Spirit and the bond of peace, and open your hearts to the transforming power of God's amazing grace; that you will be people of prayer. I pray that as disciples of Jesus you will worship and witness, grow and give, love and live for the glory of God.

When you think of it, please also pray these things for Mac and me.

Grace and Peace, Benevola. We wish you well.

Pastor Cindy

Policy on Pastors Returning to a Previous Appointment

1. As of the effective date of a new appointment, a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with members or member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announce several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to affect closure and make appropriate referral to another for the pastoral care of members.
2. Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings, and funerals; or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, active or retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former parish. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. The present pastor, at his or her discretion, may invite the previous pastor to return for pastoral functions. However, the present pastor should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor.

--BWC Policies and Procedures Manual pp. 4015.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting took place on Sunday, 24 Nov 19 at 10:30 a.m. Reverend Wunderlick, our District Superintendent was in attendance to answer questions. Discussions were held for about an hour, then the congregation (church members only) was invited to vote on whether to pursue a part-time minister, who will devote 50% of his/her time to Benevola. Results were as follows:

Number of attendees: 58

Number of Non-voting attending: 13

Number voting to pursue 50%, part-time minister: 45

No votes to NOT pursue part-time minister

Results - the vote was unanimous to pursue a 50%, part-time minister.



Are We There Yet?

Journeys begin with a choice. Shall I go or not? Shall I stay and embrace the known and the comfortable, or shall I go, and be unsettled for awhile, upset, uncertain—and maybe find something wonderful?

December 1: Peace

Matthew 24:36-44

December 8: Hope

Matthew 3:1-12

December 15: Joy

Matthew 11:2-11

December 22

To Be Announced

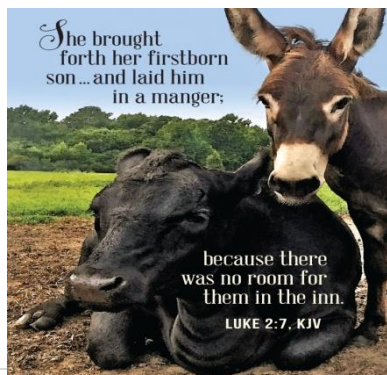
December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

7:00 & 11:00pm

December 29

Gifts and Talents Sunday





	Greeter	Liturgist	Acolyte	Pew candles	Head Usher
12/1	Gale & Sue Barnes	Gale Barnes	Brett Sharpless	Bella Gordon	Bill Flook
12/8	Siri Young	Siri Young	Isaac Wescott	Aubrey Wescott	Kevin Fox
12/15	Debbie & Zack Stanfield	Siri Young	Zack Stanfield	Bailey Gordon	Nelson Baker
12/22	Amy Jones	Amy Jones		Ayden Chesnutwood	Joe Reed
12/29	Chris & Pam Ion		Liam Boyd	Katelynn Boyd	Brenda Embly



BENEVOLA UMC 2019-2020 SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Grants are available to active members of Benevola UMC who are full-time students in an accredited 2-year or 4-year college working toward a college degree. The grants are made possible by the Benevola Scholarship Fund. Grants will not be given for graduate study.

Eligible applicants may receive a grant for one year. Application forms are available from the church web site or the church office and must be completed and returned to Jack Slye, Scholarship Chairman by Sunday, December 8, 2019.

In addition, the Lana Chaney Long Scholarship is available to a church member who is a full-time college student majoring in music or preparing for the ministry. To apply for this scholarship, please prepare a letter outlining your studies, and your plans for the future, and submit to Jack Slye by Sunday, December 8, 2019.

· F L O W E R C H A R T ·



Many thanks to all those who signed up to put flowers on the altar for 2019. The new 2020 Flower Chart will be posted in the main hallway starting Sunday, December 1st along with the contact information for Gibney's Florist. If you have any questions please contact Brenda Embly 301-739-0394 or JoAnn Duffey 301-432-6462.



Christmas Banquet

This year's Christmas Banquet will be held on Sunday, December 8th. We will gather in the Spiritual Life Center following the 9am church service. The church will provide chicken, ham and drinks. We ask if you could please bring a side dish and or dessert to share. Come and join us for a morning of special music and great fellowship. If you have any questions please contact Brenda Embly 301-739-0394 or brendaembly@aol.com

HAMS FOR KATIE'S CUPBOARD

Katie's Cupboard is asking for donations of hams to give to the recipients of KC for Christmas. Any size or brand of ham will be great. Please see Joanne or Wayne Duffy or Kathy Witman to donate a ham. We'll need all donations by December 6, as we will be giving the hams out on Dec. 10. Thank you all for your support in this and for all donations throughout the year.

New Church Lighting

New LED lighting has been installed in the Spiritual Life Center and parking lots during late October. This \$12,000 project was offered by Potomac Edison who will pay approximately \$8,000 of it. Because of the energy saving light bulbs, our share of the project's cost (\$4,200) will pay for itself over the course of several years.

Earlier this year Potomac Edison supplied free LED bulbs for all our classrooms and hallways. This completes our transition to all LED lighting. Thanks to all who contributed to these projects. If you would like to contribute to the lighting fund, place your donation in the offering plate or see Jack Slye for more information.

Bell Ringers



BELL RINGERS - The signup sheets are in the hallway by the altar flower sign up. The dates this year are Friday the 6th of December and Saturday the 7th. You can sign up for hourly slots from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Please consider taking a slot. Questions? See Kathy Witman, 301-676-5758.



THANK YOU FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Many folks are generous at Christmas. Food, toys, clothes and many other items are purchased and donated to those who may be struggling through difficult times. And of course, that's wonderful! But you, the Benevola congregation, have been generous throughout the entire year. You've stepped up to purchase food for Katie's Cupboard, filled shoeboxes, donated money, participated in church outreach activities and much, much more. And for this, the Outreach Committee sends to you a great big THANK YOU! We couldn't do what we do without you. Please take this time to consider how blessed we all are and how blessed others are because of your generosity. We wish you the merriest of Christmas's and the happiest of New Years!

LOVE AND BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL, FROM:

The Outreach Committee – Cindy Caldwell, Becky Hein, Amy Jones, Cathy Collins, Teri Baker, Dottie LaBrush, Judy Green, Siri Young and Kathy Witman

Katie's Cupboard – Ron Schilling, Wayne & Joanne Duffy, Nelson Baker, Cathy Collins, Jodi Weddle, Sally Barnhart, Carol Rowland, Becky Hein, and Kathy Witman



OUTREACH JOYS

OUTREACH JOYS! The Outreach committee would like to share some of our joys for 2019:

- **CROP Walk** - Benevola UMC raised \$750.00 for the CROP Walk that was held on October 13, 2019. This was largely due to the efforts of Liam Boyd who raised \$400.00 himself. Way to go Liam. The total raised by the South Washington County Walk was \$6,857.88.
- **Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes** - A total of 52 shoeboxes were turned in to go to children all around the world. There will be many happy children thanks to your efforts. Many thanks too to those who contributed extra money for the shipping.
- **Angel Tree** - Coming soon there will be an opportunity to help a child in the local area to have a happy Christmas as we have done in the past. Watch for the names and suggestions on the Bulletin Board in the hallway at church. Special thanks to Sue Barnes for taking the lead on this.
- **UMVIM Trip Opportunity** - You are invited to join the Hope Builders March 14 to 28, 2020 as they travel back to Newport, NC to help in the rebuilding following the many hurricanes and flooding that has hit that state. The team is going for 2 weeks. You may go for all or any part of that time that your schedule allows. If you go for one week, the cost is \$175, and the full 2 weeks is \$300 per person. Becky and Klaus Hein have joined this group in the past, and they plan to go again in 2020. They would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. The next meeting for the UMVIM team is Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7 pm at Mt. Nebo UMC in Boonsboro.
- **Quilting Group** - The quilting group has been busy this year. We've completed and given away a lot of quilts. We've provided 10 big quilts to Church World Service, 10 lap quilts to Doey's House, 10 baby quilts to the Pregnancy Center in Hagerstown and many, many more. We've also sold a few quilts this year. The proceeds go right back into the bucket for future quilting supplies. We have a great fellowship time as well as making quilts. Come join us on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in the church basement.
- **Katie's Cupboard** - Benevola's food pantry, lovingly named for Katie Schilling, has been successful this year as well. We generally have anywhere from 15 - 25 recipients who attend on a regular basis. Thanks to our congregation for the money donations as well as the donations of food, we've been able to provide thousands of items to help those in need. A complete, traditional Thanksgiving meal was given to all who came to the November cupboard and a complete, traditional Christmas meal will be provided in December.

The Outreach Committee is also joyful about having had the opportunity to support work camps, a missionary, and the Advent craft workshop; provided a dinner and service for the Hagerstown Rescue Mission, family game night, made casseroles, as well as monetarily supported many local community organizations, and reaching out to invite folks who are new to our area to worship with us.

Thanks again to all who have supported US! If you'd like to know more about the committee or would like to join us, please see Kathy Witman.





- 1 Pam Ion
- 3 Caleb Wescott
- 4 Ronald Ford, Lisa Schilling, Tina Stotemyer, Susan Simonson
- 5 Glenda Kendle,
- 6 Jeff Royce, Brett Sharpless
- 7 Robert Kendle, Jr, Lynnette Potter, Penny Slifer
- 8 Cinnamon Rowland
- 9 Bill Eccard
- 10 David Coulter
- 12 Alex Leadingham
- 14 Daniel Poffenberger
- 15 Jason Embly, Alexei Chesnutwood
- 16 Klaus Hein, Katrina Bigelow
- 18 Ruann George
- 19 Brittany DeLuca, Tonya Meadows
- 20 Jeb Shank, Mac Caldwell
- 21 Bradley Stotemyer
- 22 Jackie Robbins
- 23 Jennie Slye, Landon Reeder
- 25 Adrienne Lego
- 27 Bella & Bailey Gordon, Carter Kappler
- 28 Alexandra Jane Wolfensberger, Sylvia Harris
- 30 Kaylie Spencer
- 31 Kim Higman, Chris Ion



- 18 Chris & Pam Ion
- 19 Steve & Nancy Green
- 22 Bill & Ginger Bigelow
- 28 Debbie & Greg Moser



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 5:30 Body & Soul 6:30 Ad Council meeting	3 9:00 Quilting	4 12:00 Lunch Bunch @ El Ranchero 5:30 Body & Soul 8:00 Men's Hoop	5 6:30 Choir practice	6	7 7:00 Men's Breakfast 8:30 Angel Breakfast
8 11:00 Christmas Banquet 	9 5:30 Body & Soul 6:30 Outreach	10 9:00 Quilting 4:00 Katie's Cupboard	11 12:00 Moving On @ Airport Inn 5:30 Body & Soul 8:00 Men's Hoop	12	13	14
15 	16 5:30 Body & Soul	17 9:00 Quilting	18 5:30 Body & Soul 8:00 Men's Hoop	19	20 12 Book Club	21
22 	23	24 7 & 11 Christmas Eve Service 	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31 9:00 Quilting				

BENEVOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**19925 Benevola Church Road
Boonsboro, Maryland 21713
301-791-3576**

Change Service Requested

Benevola's staff and leadership:

Pastor: Rev. Cindy Caldwell
Administrative Assistant: Teri Baker
Organist: Ruann George
Child Care: Megan Brooks & Jenna Hornbaker
Lay Leader: Becky Hein
Treasurer: Dawn Baker
Financial Secretary: Bill & Karen Flook
Ad Council Chair: Klaus Hein
Trustee Chair: Jack Slye
Outreach Chair: Kathy Witman
SPPRC Chair: Becky Hein & Morgan Boyd
Worship/Music Chair: Cindy Stevens
Finance Committee Chair: Nelson Baker
Fellowship & Ministries: Brenda Embly/Gena Norwood
Education Chair: Linda Stump
Youth Ministry: Mike & Amy Wescott
Family Ministry: Heidi Boyd
Newsletter Editor: Teri Baker

