



# Life@Benevola

*“Engaging in Worship, Encouraging Study,  
Energizing for Missions, Enriching the  
Community.”*

*“Hearts, Heads, & Hands for Christ”*



**NOVEMBER 2017**

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### And. Be. Thankful.

*“Let the word of Christ<sup>1</sup> dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him..” Colossians 3:16-17*

I'm grateful for God's gifts. But there are times when I take for granted all the things God provides and even begin to live as though I'm entitled. I *deserve* to go out to dinner tonight, to have a new pair of shoes. I *take for granted* my family, my education, my job and my health. Of course I thank God, but there is a big difference between remembering our “thank-yous” and living gratefully every day of our lives.

Max Lucado wrote: *“A grateful heart is like a magnet sweeping over the day, collecting reasons for gratitude. . . . To reflect on your blessings is to rehearse God's accomplishments. To rehearse God's accomplishments is to discover his heart. To discover his heart is to discover not just good gifts but the Good Giver. Gratitude always leaves us looking at God and away from dread. It does to anxiety what the morning sun does to valley mist. It burns it up.”*

I come from a large family that is very vocal and doesn't agree on much. Our past Thanksgiving gatherings have often become platforms for debate over politics & religion, with football games, noisy kids, and parades. But there is a moment on Thanksgiving day when everything stands still. The feast is ready, and we gather in a big, crooked circle to give thanks. In that moment, the bragging and bickering fades away. You can hear a pin drop as Dad begins to pray a prayer of thanks, for the food, for our family, and for God's abundant provision.. Because there's not a belief system in that room that will allow us to take the credit for gifts that surround us, or deny that someone, somehow, has blessed us far more than we deserve.

Paul writes: *“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Let the peace of Christ dwell in you.”*

**There are some things in life that we don't get to choose or change, but we can always choose our clothes.** Gratitude is what we wear in the presence of the God who deals wondrously with His people. It is the rule of Christ in our hearts. And you cannot be any richer or more content than when Christ is dwelling richly in you. As Max Lucado says, *“Join the ranks of the 10 percent who give God a standing ovation.”*

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Cindy

## NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES

### “The Church We’ve Always Wanted” Upcoming Themes

**October 29:** Jesus at the Center (Colossians 1:15-23; John 15:1-5)  
A faithful church keeps Christ at the center of all things.

**November 5:** Saints & Skeletons (Philippians 3:10-16)  
A hopeful church remembers its saints and retires its skeletons.

**November 12:** Triangles of Trouble (Matthew 18:15-20)  
A peaceful church speaks the truth in love, and avoids gossip.

**November 19:** Circles of Care (John 13:34-35)  
A witnessing church reveals Christ through sacrificial love.

**November 25:** Just Say Welcome! (Romans 15:1-7)  
A growing church welcomes all people. No exceptions.



**Join us on an unforgettable journey this season to experience  
Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace**

Over two thousand years ago, a star burst through the darkness and signaled the long-awaited, yet still unexpected birth of a Savior.

Christmas can still truly give us a taste of the most wonderful time of world history. Jesus—the Messiah, the Savior—came as the light into the darkness and stress and pain of the world—our world. That world then, just like our world now, including our lives, needs the light to illuminate, clarify, guide, and heal. Christ’s coming brings that ultimate light through hope, love, joy, and peace. This is the journey of following the star to Christmas—and beyond!

This Advent season, you and your guests are invited to follow the star. It’s not just about the destination, but also about a journey we can take together to experience God’s love and grace in the midst of real life. Check out [www.benevolaumc.com](http://www.benevolaumc.com) and watch the weekly email for more information about *The Star: A Journey to Christmas*.



Advent Workshop will be held on Saturday, Nov 25th starting at 9a.m. This is the time we get together and decorate the church for the Christmas Season. We have wreaths and garlands to hang and trees to trim. If you would like to help contact Brenda Embly 301-739-0394 or [brendaembly@aol.com](mailto:brendaembly@aol.com)

Christmas Program, Banquet, and Silent Auction will be held on Sunday, Dec 10th. We will gather in the Spiritual Life Center, after church, for our program. Following the program we'll share a meal together and end with the silent auction. The church will provide a meat, vegetable, and drinks, please bring a side dish and or dessert to share. Mark your calendar and join us for some great fellowship. If you have any questions please contact Brenda Embly 301-739-0394 or [brendaembly@aol.com](mailto:brendaembly@aol.com)



### **BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 10 am & 7pm**

A quiet Christmas service will be offered especially for those feeling broken, lonely, or living with loss at this time of year. Both services will be opened to the community.



## WHAT IS ALPHA?

Is there a God? Why am I here? Who is Jesus? We all have our questions. And chances are somebody you know is wondering the same things you are.

Alpha is a unique opportunity to explore the validity and relevance of the Christian faith to your life today. It's a respectful presentation on many facets of Christianity centered around a meal, some music, a talk, and lively small group discussion. People come for different reasons, with different beliefs, backgrounds and opinions. But at Alpha, those differences only enrich the conversation and often lead to greater understanding for all.

Benevola UMC will be hosting *Alpha* for our congregation and the guests you bring, in January 2018. Watch for specific dates, times, and details to arrive by December 1.

# INT



# NOVEMBER 2017

	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Head Usher</b>	<b>Cribbery</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>
<b>11/5</b>	Lorraine & Bill Eccard	Eileen Stipanovic		Dean Reeder	Shank Family	Sally Barnhart
<b>11/12</b>	Darrell & Amy Jones	Amy Jones	Brett Sharpless	Kevin Fox	Stipanovic Family	Boyd Family
<b>11/19</b>	Cindy Burtner	John Burtner	Lydia Shank	Joe Reed	Fox Family	Gordon Family
<b>11/26</b>	Ruann George	Ruth Ridenour	Stetson Cunningham	Joe Reed	Siri Young	Linda Stump

### Pastor's Christmas PJ Party

**Friday, December 15, 6:00-8:30pm**



Children in grades 3-5 are invited to Pastor Cindy's house for a Christmas PJ Party! We'll celebrate the Advent season with an evening of fun, food and games! The address is 18122 Samuel Circle, Hagerstown. Friends are welcome. RSVP to Pastor Cindy at [pastor@benevolaumc.com](mailto:pastor@benevolaumc.com) or 410-937-0458.



# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Brenda Fox
- 2 Chuck Weaver, Mary Ellen Waltemire
- 3 Mark Leadingham
- 4 Phillip Green, Brooke Angle
- 6 Michael Miller, Angela Michael, Baylee Peperak
- 8 Sally Barnhart, Andrew Quail
- 9 Sophie Haupt
- 10 Bryan Reeder, Ray Grove
- 11 Hazel Schwab, Ian Hutchinson
- 13 Patricia Young, Rachel Pullaro, Isaac Wescott, David Lewis, Jodie Weddle, John Lloyd
- 14 Evelyn Shank
- 15 Meredith Gill, Joe Hamilton, Sr.
- 16 Beth Zentmeyer, Samaria Burtner
- 17 John Burtner
- 18 Brian Genco
- 19 Jackie Row, Lydia Shank, Mackenzie Peperak
- 21 Bill Flook
- 22 Hannah Moats
- 23 Ruth Ridenour
- 26 Amy Campbell
- 27 Ashley DeLuca
- 29 Cindi Hawfield, Dorothy Fuller
- 30 Woodrow Shifler, Tammy Arnold



# NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Doug & Janine Suffecool
- 9 Adna & Janet Fulton
- 12 Ron & Katie Schilling, Bob & Hazel Schwab
- 22 Dustin & Susan Simonson
- 24 Ronald & Joyce Rowe, Tina & Jess Routzahn
- 25 James & Laura Mills
- 27 Kevin & Shawn Chesnutwood



## OUTREACH CORNER

Outreach: ***the activity or process of bringing information or services to people beyond the usual limits.***

This month, I'd like to take a moment to let everyone in on some of the things in which the Outreach Committee has recently been involved, or are considering for involvement.

First of all, we have contributed monetarily through our 2017 budget to the Red Bird Mission (\$400), Hospice (\$400), Board of Child Care (\$300), South County Emergency Fund (\$200), Baltimore Co. Christian Work Camp (\$500), FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes, \$300). and the Habitat for Humanity (\$1,375). To round up our contributions for 2017, we will also be contributing to Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC, \$150), Support/Relief for Veterans (\$500), Some of these have been highlighted in previous Benevola Newsletters. Keep your eyes open for others to be highlighted in future newsletters.

We received a request from Habitat for Humanity to attend a dinner/auction and provide a gift basket to be auctioned. This years' basket theme is "Home for the Holidays". We plan to donate a basket and are considering whether or not someone will attend the auction.

Goodie boxes containing snacks, puzzle books, hand sanitizer, hand cream and other items were sent to four of our military in July. We heard back from most of them, thanking us profusely. They were extremely appreciative, not only for the things in the boxes, but for the cards and the fact that they know we are thinking about them and as always, praying for them.

We are considering providing a meal and an evening service to the Hagerstown Rescue Mission. Many great ideas have been tossed into the arena and we are currently considering how we will handle this and when we will do it. More information will be provided when it is available.

The suggestion was made that we provide care packages to college students during finals week just prior to Christmas. An announcement about this has been put into the bulletin and newsletter. The care packages will contain things like, healthy snacks as well as guilty pleasure snacks, gum, hot chocolate mix, and other assorted goodies. If you have a college student in your family and want them to receive a package, give the student's name, address and the name of the college they attend to Kathy Witman as soon as possible. It might seem like finals week is a long time off, but we'll need time to put the boxes together and ship them and it'll creep up on us before we know it.

We will also be participating in the Angel Tree again during the holiday season. Keep your eye out for the tree containing mittens that you can pick to provide a gift for a child that might not otherwise get much (if anything) for Christmas.

If you have any questions about the causes we support through your tithes and offerings or about anything the Outreach Committee does, please don't hesitate to ask anyone on the Outreach Committee.\* Our next meeting is on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. Please feel free to join us if you'd like to help.

\*Outreach Committee Members – Amy Jones, Elaine Semler, Katie Schilling, Jamie Johnson, Becky Hein, Cathy Collins, Siri Young, Cindy & Mac and Kathy Witman (Chair)

## Outreach - Benevola Blessings

The food pantry is in need of canned fruits and vegetables and canned meat.

### The Moving On Group

The Moving On Group will meet on November 15 at 12:00 pm. We will be meeting at The Parlor House.

### Lunch Bunch Group

The lunch bunch will be meeting on November 1.



Benevola UMC 2017-2018 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 Loretta Stotemyer, Scholarship Chairman by Sunday, December 10, 2017.

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 Loretta Stotemyer by Sunday, December 10, 2017. Any questions, call Loretta at 301-302-7271.



## Paint Party



Paint Party to Benefit Hurricane Relief

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>; 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Benevola SLC; All ages welcomed

Autumn Theme Painting 12x16

\$30.00. Contact Gena Norwood; 301-462-9194.

## College Goodie bags



The Outreach Committee plans to send goodie boxes to our college students during "FINALS" week just before Christmas. If you have a family member in college and would like a goodie box sent to them, please provide their name and the name and address of the school they're attending. We know that many schools actually provide this service to their students at a small cost. If you know or even think the school your family member attends does this, please also provide a POC and phone number if you have it. All info can be given to Kathy Witman. Please provide this info by Sunday October 22. This might seem early, but we have the potential of a lot of students, and arrangements will take a good bit of time.



**Nursery:** **Volunteers are needed** to care for infants through 4 year olds during the 9 AM service. Please consider volunteering periodically so that our parents of young children can enjoy our worship service on a more regular basis. **If you would be willing to help with care during the service, please contact Ashley Shank. ([Ashley9601@aol.com](mailto:Ashley9601@aol.com) or 301-491-8304)**

**Children's Church:** Following Children's Moments, children ages 3 through grade 2 will move downstairs for Children's Church which lasts from approximately 9:20 until 10:10. **Volunteers are needed** to both lead and help with this ministry. **If you would be willing to help in either capacity, please contact Heidi Boyd. ([hboyd86@aol.com](mailto:hboyd86@aol.com) or 301-432-4704)**

**Sunday School:** **We are in need of a second middle school teacher.** You don't have to be a trained teacher, you just have a willing heart and a desire to make a difference in a child's life. Low prep curriculum is provided and you would alternate with another teaching with another teacher.

**If you have questions about Sunday School or would be willing to teach, please contact Linda Stump @ 301-790-0253 or email @ [c.stump@myactv.net](mailto:c.stump@myactv.net).**





## ***Prepare the Way***

An Advent Devotional by the members of Benevola

This Fall, in preparation for the Advent Season, Benevola UMC will publish a special Advent Daily Devotional prepared by—and for—members of our church. You can participate in this whole-church blessing to make the Christmas season extra-special at Benevola. Here's how it works:

- Visit the large Advent Calendar located in the first floor hallway. Choose a day, and note the scripture for that day.
- Sign your name on the date you choose (one person per day).
- Take the corresponding post-it note with scripture reference.
- Write your devotional.
- Submit your entry to the church office by November 15.

Optional: You may submit a picture with your entry.

### **Please use the following format:**

- Write out the scripture passage, pray for insight, and then write your response, using the following questions as your guide:  
What is its message for us? What promise or challenge does it hold? How can we respond with faithful action?
- Your reflection should be 100-200 words.
- Follow this with a short prayer (1 or 2 sentences).
- Two or more individuals may work together on one devotional.
- All contributions are subject to editing.
- No anonymous contributions, please.

For questions, contact Pastor Cindy, 410-937-0458, [pastor@benevolaumc.com](mailto:pastor@benevolaumc.com).



## ANGEL BREAKFAST

### HELP NEEDED for Angel Breakfast

For the angel breakfast "wiseman work-shop" please donate "trinkets" or little items you think would be nice for the kids to shop for and give as presents. Ideas would include- coffee mugs, little trinkets, small purses, Christmas items, avon items, little kids gifts from \$1 store, candles, bath and body works items, etc. A lot of us have these items lying around the house that we haven't used that they could donate for the kids to feel like they're shopping and getting something for their loved ones to put under the tree and open. These items can be dropped off upstairs in the k/1st grade SS classroom or in the office.

Dec 2 is the Angel Breakfast @8:30 am. For ages 3yrs old to 2nd grade. Invitations will go out mid-November. Each Angel can bring one adult guest with them. We will read the Christmas story, have a craft, take pictures and we will have a "Wiseman Workshop" (like a Santa Workshop). Invitations will allow the children to choose up to 4 people they'd like to pick a present for. At the breakfast the kids will be allowed to shop for presents for these 4 people. We will have helpers to help them wrap the presents. Please contact Heidi Boyd [hboyd86@aol.com](mailto:hboyd86@aol.com) or **301-432-4704**) to volunteer to help with making breakfast and to help with the "Workshop".



I was inspired by an article I came across recently. "ALWAYS LEAVE A PLACE BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT". I went into to the kitchen at church the other day and admired how it sparkled. This was due to the efforts of some dedicated volunteers in our church. We have many who work behind the scenes to make our church a pleasant place. Often, we get busy as we go about our church activities and leave a space without tidying up. Since many people share spaces, I would encourage everyone to take a last look as you leave an area to be sure that you leave it even better than you found it. But, as mentioned in the article, leaving a place better might also include taking the time to give a word of encouragement or saying thank you. Thank you to those who made the kitchen sparkle! -----Linda Stump

# ALWAYS LEAVE A PLACE BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT

Written by Michelle Braden, CEO



Do you remember those things your mother always said to you? Do you also remember when you realized those things she said were meaningful to life? One of the things my mother used to always say was, "Always leave a place better than you found it". She was referring to cleanliness. She taught me when I stayed at someone's house, before leaving I should put clean sheets on the bed, empty the trash and make sure the rooms I used (including the bathroom) looked better than when I arrived. I value this lesson and still live into it.

It is a joy for many reasons to have my parents visit us, but one of those reasons is because my mom lives into this advice she gave me as I was growing up. As I have gotten older, I realize there are other meanings to the saying, "leave a place better than you found it." As a leader, I hope each place I go, and each person I talk to feels like they are in a better place afterward. A better place can be:

- A word of encouragement or inspiration
- A challenge to think differently
- A newly-found confidence that something can be accomplished
- An understanding that was not there before
- A deeper awareness of oneself...

The list could go on and on. The point is I hope you have had the privilege of having someone in your life that makes life a better place for you. I am grateful for these people in my life and I want to live into being a person who makes life a better place every day. Sometimes these people are in your life for a long time, and sometimes it is a brief encounter. Either way, they left "the place" - your life - better than they found it mentally, emotionally or physically. How about you? What do you do to leave a person or place in better shape than when you first entered? Whose life have you made better today?



# November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10/29 9a church 4:30p soup competition an	30 Trustee meeting 5:30p Body & Soul	31 9a Quilting	11/1 6:30 Bible study 12 lunch bunch 5:30p Body & Soul	2 6:30 choir practice 9:15 sweet hour of prayer 10a Bible Study	3	4 7 Men's Breakfast @ Red B)
5 9a All Saints Sunday church	6 5:30p Body & Soul 6:30p Ad Council meeting	7 9a Quilting	8 6:30 Bible Study 5:30p Body & Soul	9 6:30 Choir practice 9:15 sweet hour of prayer 10a Bible Study	10	11 7:00 community breakfast
12 9a church 6:30p YF	13 5:30p Body & Soul 6:30p Outreach Comm	14 9a Quilting 4p Benevola Blessings	15 6:30 Bible Study 12 moving on lunch	16 6:30 Choir practice 9:15 sweet hour of prayer 10a Bible Study	17 12 Book club	18 9 2018 calendar planning
19 Membership Sunday 9a church	20 6:30p Lay Leadership meet	21 9a Quilting	22 6:30 Bible Study	23 9:15 sweet hour of prayer 10a Bible Study	24	25 9 advent workshop
26 9a church	27	28 9a Quilting 4p Benevola Blessings	29 6:30 Bible Study	30 9:15 sweet hour of prayer 10a Bible Study	12/1	2 7 Men's Breakfast @ Red B) 8:30a Angel Breakfast

## "Time to Thank, Time to Share"

Thanksgiving is a time to share. A roasted turkey stuffed with care, potatoes, yams and buttered rolls are passed around in festive bowls. But first we thank our God above and share with others his great love. The dish served last is always best — a slice of pie for every guest.

Thanks  
be to God  
for his  
incredible  
gift!  
2 Corinthians 4:15

**BENEVOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**19925 Benevola Church Road**

**Boonsboro, Maryland 21713**

**301-791-3576**

**Change Service Requested**

Benevola's staff and leadership:

Pastor: Cindy Caldwell

Administrative Assistant: Teri Baker

Organist: Ruann George

Lay Leader: Becky Hein

Treasurer: Dawn Baker

Financial Secretary: Amy Jones

Ad Council Chair: Klaus Hein

Trustee Chair: Jack Slye

Outreach Chair: Kathy Witman

SPPRC Chair: Jim Weddle

Worship/Music Chair: Cindy Stevens

Finance Committee Chair:

Fellowship & Ministries: Brenda Embly

Education Chair: Linda Stump

Newsletter Editor: Teri Baker



November 2017

