



Life@Benevola

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



FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday Worship: 9am Sunday School 10:00am 301-791-3576

FROM THE PASTOR DESK ---Pastor Suzanne Jones

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, does not boast, is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"God is love." - 1 John 4:16

Dear Benevola,

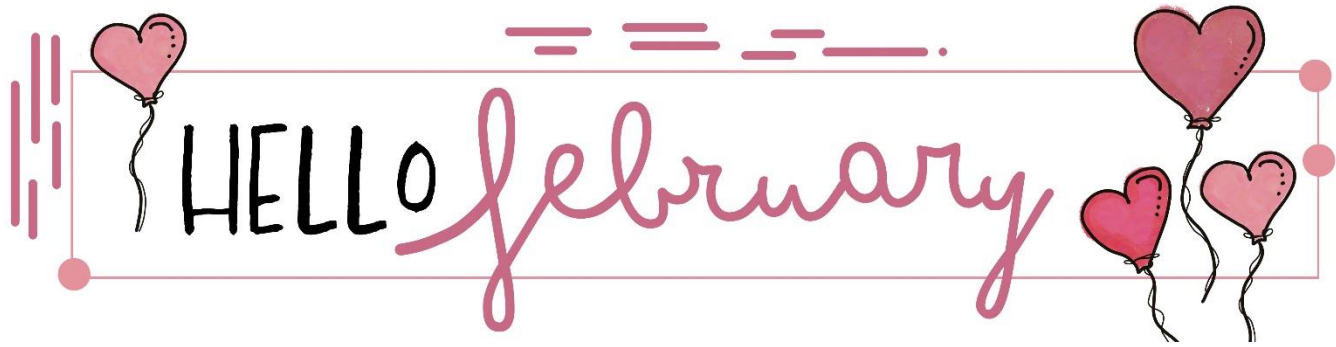
In February, we will dwell much on love whether we want to or not. Sure, it's the month of candy hearts, Valentines, and ubiquitous red will express our cultural celebration of love (...it's also my birthday month and I just LOVE that, lol!). However, I pray we will live as testimonies to the most wonderful of love—the love we rest in with God. The patience and kindness God has towards us—love that seeks us as lost sheep and rejoices when we are found. Protective, trusting, hopeful love. Unfailing persevering love.

This year, culture and faith collide as Ash Wednesday falls on St. Valentine's Day. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent—a time in which we reflect on the ultimate love that was shown to us through Jesus, God's son. I invite you to begin to think of how you will choose to celebrate Lent, to honor the tradition of pausing and reflecting. How can Lent be a place that grounds you in the love of God?

During Lent, we will have many opportunities to connect both personally and communally. Our children and youth will be growing in their faith with curriculum that will share the stories of Jesus and his journey to the cross. Our Adult Sunday School classes will be offering different options for you to deepen your understanding of the Bible: one class will be watching the popular series *The Chosen*, and the upstairs class will be diving into *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton. I will be offering a mid-week pastor led Bible study called *The Third Day* by Bishop Tom Berlin and Mark Miller. It will be offered in the evenings at Salem UMC and during the day at Benevola. You are welcomed to either setting. If you are unable to join us in person, why not get a copy of the book and follow along at your own pace. Also, the South Washington County Ministerium will have a daily devotional available on Ash Wednesday which has been written by members of our faith communities and we also have The Upper Room books and devotionals available in our church main hallway. Let the office know if you need any of these resources.

Thank you for being an active part of life at Benevola UMC. We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I pray you are disciplined in the love of Jesus Christ and are used to transform the world around you.

With love, Pastor Suzanne



	Facebook Tech	Acolyte	Lay Reader	Head Usher
2/4	Michael Wescott		Ruth Ridenour	Bill Flook
2/11	Kevin Chesnutwood	Ted Fox	Rick Stotelmyer	Kevin Fox
2/18	Morgan Boyd	Faith Boyd	Ruth Ridenour	Nelson Baker
2/25	Jason Weddle	Katelynn Boyd	Becky Hein	Joe Reed

Mammon Minute

This new year we return to Adam Hamilton 's chapter entitled simply "Give", from The Walk- Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life. This may be a bit odd today, but bear along. We'll get to the point in future months. Here we go. "Hedonism, drawn from the Greek word for pleasure, is a philosophy that taught that the highest good is pleasure and that the chief end of humanity is to maximize pleasure and to minimize pain. In and of itself seeking pleasure over pain isn't a bad thing. But if pleasure is your primary definition of the good life, and your primary aim in life is to pursue it, you will find satisfaction and fulfillment elusive and a deep spiritual life impossible to attain. This is why Jesus said, "You cannot serve God and wealth (mammon)." (Matthew 6:24) It's not that possessions or experiences can't bring us some measure of pleasure- they can. But when pleasure and possessions are what we live for, like the writer of Ecclesiastes we find that we have been chasing the wind." So, if lasting fulfillment, contentment, satisfaction, and joy aren't found at the Amazon Fulfillment Center, where do we find them? More on this from Dr. Hamilton in future newsletters.

The Walk: Five Essential Practices Of The Christian Life, Adam Hamilton, excerpts from pp. 92-94 2019 Abingdon Press.

Blessings,
Bruce



SHROVE TUESDAY

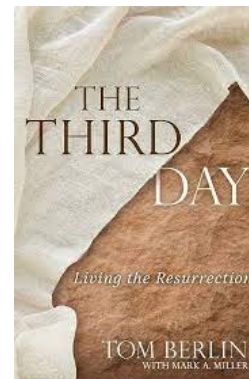
Fellowship and Ministries Committee will be hosting its 2nd Family Pancake Dinner on (Fat Tuesday) February 13th at 5pm in the Spiritual Life Center. We will be providing pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, fruit cocktail, and hot & cold drinks. Mark your calendars and join us for an evening of great fellowship. If you are available to help with this event or have any questions please call or text Brenda Embly 301-331-7176 or Gena Norwood 301-462-9194. Again, the theme is Mardi Gras wear your beads.

Join the Lenten Bible Study

The Third Day: Living the Resurrection by Tom Berlin and Mark A. Miller

On the third day, he rose again. In "*The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*", recently elected UMC Bishop Tom Berlin uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss.

Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives.



This study will allow us to do some personal reflection and take a deeper look at the power of the Resurrection for our lives. Participant books will be available (*donation of \$12 each*) or may be purchased online. Please contact Pastor Suzanne for more details.

Times offered:

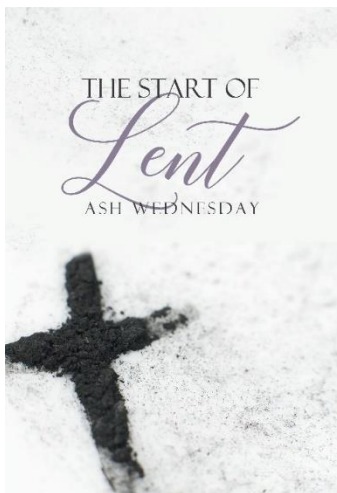
Wednesdays – (February 21-March 27) 6:30pm at Salem UMC, Keedysville

Thursdays – (February 22-March 28) 10am at Benevola UMC

Safe Sanctuaries-Time to Update:

It's that time again! The Baltimore-Washington Conference asks that we update our Sexual Misconduct Questionnaire yearly; therefore, I will have everyone's paperwork available starting Sunday, February 4 before and following Worship. I'll be located in the corner close to the restrooms off the Vestibule. Just so you're aware, your background check is good for two (2) more years so there's no paperwork involved for that. Just pick up your paperwork, answer two (2) questions and then sign and date the document. That's it! See you on February 4th!

Respectfully -- Cindy Reeder, Safe Sanctuaries Chair



Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday Services will be held on Feb. 14 at 7pm at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Boonsboro.

Children's Choir

On Sunday Feb 11th, the kids will be singing a praise song for the prelude to start off the service and we will be continuing this every 2nd Sunday throughout the year. We've started learning it in Childrens Church and I'll post links to the song on the BUMC Family FB page. Anyone wanting the link can message me (anotherplottwist@gmail.com or 301-302-3152) and I can share via email or text message if they don't use FB.

Gift of Love

On Sunday February 11th we will also be re-viving a "tradition" from Benevola's days gone by with a "Gift of Love" Sunday. There will be sign-up sheets in the vestibule area as well as by the children's church and Sunday School areas with needs/wish list items that our teachers and helpers would love to have gifted to the program. These can be small items like markers or snacks all the way up to furniture or other equipment. They can be secondhand, new, etc. There will be an Amazon wish list link to make shopping easier for those who prefer to use that method as well. Also, gifts of time, service, and talents needed to round out our children and family ministries. We would like to encourage EVERYONE in the congregation to find SOMETHING on one or more of the lists that they can contribute to the children's ministry!

HELP!! We will need volunteers (especially those with Safe Sanctuaries clearance) to help feed, play games, do crafts, supervise, and set up/clean up. Especially need those **WITHOUT KIDS** to come take part so that our families can benefit from this opportunity as well as those in the community.



Parent's Night Out @ Benevola UMC Boonsboro MD

**Saturday February 10th
5-8 pm**

**Dinner & fun for the kids!
An evening for a date, errands,
Or just peace and quiet for parents!**

**\$10/child suggested donation (\$25 max/family)
Ages 3-12**

For info and to register call/text 301-660-2771



FEBRUARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 Alexander Stevens
3 Hayden Shank, Kelly Schultheis
4 Colton Bare
5 Becky Hein, Abbie Jones, Faye Slye
10 Jeremiah Weddle
11 Otho Baker, Jr., Haley Gordon, Dan McElrath
13 Rachel Brightwell
14 David H. Baker
16 Eloise Hartings, Charlene Lloyd
17 Christopher Mills
18 Quinn Rose Stipanovic
19 Adna Fulton, Dee Jenkins
20 Betty Flook, Richard Babst
22 Michael Wescott
27 Colette Riccio
28 Suzanne Jones

12 Scott & Maureen Baker
14 Richard & Caren Babst
16 Gale & Sue Barnes
17 Keith & Lynette Potter
19 John & Charlene Lloyd



Congratulations to Phillip and Karla Green on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Daniela Green born on December 29, 2023.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 5:30 SLC private event 6:30 choir practice	2	3 8:00 Men's Breakfast
4	5 6:30 Ad Council meeting 4:15 NO B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 NO B & S Fitness	6 9:00 Quilting	7 12:00 Lunch Bunch 4:15 NO B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 NO B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB	8 5:30 SLC private event 6:30 choir practice	9 SLC scouts	10 8-1:30 SLC scouts pinewood derby 4-8 Parent's Night Out
11	12 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness	13 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Katie's Cupboard 5:00 Fat Tuesday Family Pancake Dinner	14 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB 7:00 Ash Wednesday @ Trinity	15 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Worship Meeting 6:30 SLC scouts	16 12:00 Book Club	17
18	19 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness	20 9:00 Quilting	21 12:00 Moving On Group@ John Allison House 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB	22 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 choir practice 5:30 SLC private event	23	24 10:30 SLC Private event
25	26 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness	27 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Katie's Cupboard	28 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB	29 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 SLC private event 6:30 choir practice	1	2

BENEVOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
19925 Benevola Church Road
Boonsboro, Maryland 21713
301-791-3576

Change Service Requested

