



Life@Benevola

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



NOVEMBER 2023

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

FROM THE PASTOR DESK ---Pastor Suzanne Jones

Don't I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I'm generous?' —Matthew 20:15

Each Sunday for the last 2 months, my sermons have revolved around Jesus's teachings in Matthew's gospel, specifically his parables. Jesus loves a good parable, but sometimes they really irk me! I often find myself wishing they made a little more sense and Jesus would be more straight-forward. Perhaps his hope was that we didn't find comfort in easy answers, but instead found joy in questioning with curiosity.

For example, the parable of the vineyard workers is so common that it's beginning to ease its way into the "easy answer" category. Ask someone what the parable is about and they may say: it's about how God's forgiveness extends to everyone, whether they came to faith at the beginning of their life, or at the end. But, what if there's more?

Let's think about it more literally: if we were the vineyard worker who has labored all day long in the hot sun, who receives the same amount of pay as the worker who only labored for an hour, we would probably feel some resentment. Just as they do in the story!

The amount they receive is a day's wage: a *darius*. It was usually enough to feed a family for a few days and was understood as a fair and good wage. That is why, when it was offered to the laborer early in the morning, they agreed to it. It was *enough*.

The vineyard owner challenges the laborer: *why are you resentful? Why are you mad that they also received enough to feed their families?*

In the Kingdom of God, it's not about getting what we *deserve*. It's about making sure everyone has *enough* - that *everyone's* needs are met and cared for.

This parable isn't just about God's grace and mercy. It is also about a God of justice: a God who cares that the Kingdom on earth reflect the Kingdom of Heaven, where everyone has enough food, enough water, enough resources to live an abundant life.

As we enter these winter months, my prayer is that we, as individuals and as a church, will do our part to find ways in which we can be helpers in providing enough to make sure that needs are cared for.

Peace be with you my friends,

Pastor Suzanne



November

	FaceBook/Tech	Acolyte	Pew Acolyte	Lay Reader	Head Usher
11/5/23	Kevin Chesnutwood	Porter Stipanovic	June Stipanovic	Ruth Ridenour	Bill Flook
11/12/23	Morgan Boyd	Will Fox	Katelynn Boyd	Heidi Boyd	Kevin Fox
11/19/23	Jason Weddle	Laura Mills	Faith Boyd	Jimmy Mills	Nelson Baker
11/26/23	Michael Wescott	Liam Boyd	Liam Boyd	Bill Flook	Joe Reed

Mammon Minute

Mammon Minute

For the next several “episodes” of Mammon Minute, I’d like to use thoughts from *The Walk: Five Essential Practices Of The Christian Life*, by Adam Hamilton. This is the Sunday School resource that John Burtner is leading with us in the upstairs adult Sunday School class. Chapter 4 of Rev. Hamilton’s book is titled simply “Give”. Please join us if you’d like to learn more with us.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put in your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:38 NRSV)

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

“As we continue to explore the Christian walk and the essential spiritual practices that shape our hearts, we turn to the connection between money and the spiritual life. This may seem an odd topic— prayer, worship, Scripture reading, and even serving feel like spiritual activities to us. But money? Yet when we read Jesus’ words in the Gospel we find that he speaks about money and material possessions more than he speaks of worship, prayer, and Scripture study COMBINED. Jesus makes clear that our relationship with money can either sabotage our spiritual life or deepen and support it.” (p. 88) “What we do with our money tells us something about the condition of our heart. Jesus said it this way: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)” (p.90) *The Walk: Five Essential Practices Of The Christian Life*, Adam Hamilton, 2019 Abingdon Press.

Blessings, Bruce
Finance Committee Chairperson



CHRISTMAS EVE

Mark your calendars and join us for
Christmas Eve on Sunday Dec. 24.
Morning service at 10:30 am at Salem
UMC in Keedysville. Christmas Eve traditional candlelight
service 7pm at Benevola UMC.

A/V Team looking for Help

The A/V Team is looking to grow its group! Commitment is approximately one Sunday every 5-6 weeks. Training will be provided. If you feel called to participate in this ministry, please call or text Michael Wescott at 301-465-9459.

**There will be an Ad Council meeting on November 6, 2023
at 6:30pm**

Thank You

Many thanks! Thank you to all who helped to make desserts for Roger Burtner's Celebration of Life reception. You all helped to make the occasion a Celebration! Thank you too for all who helped to serve and clean up. We make a wonderful team!



Christmas Card Making

Outreach will be holding a Christmas-card-making party in the Spiritual Life Center on November 11, 2023 from 9 until noon. Come whenever you can during that time. All supplies will be provided. All you have to bring is yourself, your family, your neighbors and your friends. This years' cards will be sent to our Benevola shut-ins, as well as any military who are part of the BUMC congregation, Charlotte's Home (2 different addresses), the workers at Doey's House and Farney Keedy residents. **If you know of someone in the military whom you believe would like to receive a card, please provide their name and full address to Kathy Witman at jkjwitman@comcast.net** Please put this on your calendar. We look forward to having a lot of fun and especially to seeing you there!

Candy Making

Outreach will be making Judy Green's famous candies in the SLC kitchen on Thursday, November 30th at 8 a.m. The boxes of buckeyes and peanut butter fudge will be sold for \$10 each. An order form will be placed in the hallway by the Sunday bulletins. The candies will be available to all on Sunday the 10th of December after church at our Christmas banquet.

Bell Ringing



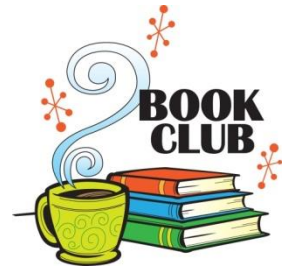
Salvation
Army Bell
Ringing

We will be participating in the Salvation Army bell ringing again this year. Our dates are Friday the 1st of December and Saturday the 2nd of December from 10 – 6. Sign-up sheets will be placed by the Sunday bulletins in the hall. Please sign up to support this cause. There's always a lot of fun to be had during this time.

Loretta's Book Club

November's book is March by Geraldine Brook. The book is the story of the father of the girls in Little Women. We will meet on Nov. 17 at noon.

Also please note the book case in the front hall by the main door. Lots of books have been added. Thanks to all for your donations. Take and read a book or two for faith based reading.



Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes – due by November 12, 2023



Again this year at Benevola we will be filling Christmas shoeboxes. This is a simple yet powerful way to share hope in the Lord is to pack a shoebox for a child to be sent to places that even missionaries can't go.

If you do not want to shop for gift items right now, you may want to build personalized shoeboxes online at Samaritanspurse.org/occ. Guidelines for filling the boxes will be provided the beginning of October. **We are also planning to have a box filling party on Nov. 5 from 6-8 pm.** You may want to join the party or get some items to donate. Put your donations in the box in the hallway by Sunday, October 29, 2023.

Quilts

We continue to make quilts on Tuesday mornings from 9 am to noon. We welcome anyone who has an interest in helping especially if you want to learn to sew. Note, you do NOT need to be great at sewing to join us.

There will be a Quilt dedication on Sunday, November 19, 2023. We have given quilts to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Nursing Homes, the Pregnancy Center, and Church World Service, as well as some of our Shut Ins. If you would like to purchase a quilt for a Christmas Present, that is also an option.

Decorate the Church



Come join us with hanging off the greens on Saturday, November 25th at 9am. This is when we get together and decorate our church for the advent season. Any questions contact Brenda Embly 301-331-7176 or JoAnn Duffey 301-432-6462.



Mark your calendars for this year's Christmas Banquet on Sunday, December 10th. After our church service we will gather in the Spiritual Life Center for a special children's presentation starting at 10:30 with banquet to follow. The church will provide chicken, pulled pork, macaroni and cheese, bake beans, and drinks. We ask if you could please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Any questions please contact Brenda Embly 301-331-7176 or Gena Norwood 301-462-9194. Come and join us for some great fellowship.

Memorial Meals

The Fellowship and Ministries Committee would like to update a list of those who would be willing to donate desserts, salads, or side dishes for our Memorial Meals. Also, those who can help with setting up and taking down tables and chairs. Memorial Meals can happen at anytime it would be great to know we have a list of those who are willing to be contacted with not much notice. To sign up see Brenda Embly or JoAnn Duffey.

Angel Tree

Benevola will once again be helping families in south county to provide Christmas gifts for their children. Watch the hall bulletin board for information and sign-up for children this month. Ages will range from infants to high school siblings. Thank you in advance for your continued support. Contact Sue Barnes at 301-465-0596.

We need your gifts and talents for the new year!

Benevola UMC will be kicking off the new year by hosting a Showcase of Talent on Sunday December 1, 2023 during the 9am worship hour. Whether you can sing, play a musical instrument, perform a monologue, read poetry, or have the gift of dancing, storytelling, painting, telling jokes... WE NEED YOUR TALENT! Please sign up by contacting Ruann George at 301-739-3930 or zrngeorge@gmail.com





Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Blessings

It's turkey roasting time again!!!

Julie Williams, member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Boonsboro, has asked Benevola UM Church to help her by prepping and roasting turkeys again this year. Our part of the ministry is critical in order that a cooked meal can be delivered to 70+ families in the South County school area. The schools include: Sharpsburg, Pleasant

Valley, Greenbrier, Fountain Rock, and Boonsboro Elementary Schools, and Boonsboro Middle and High. The total number she is preparing to serve is approximately 400+ individuals (children & adults).

If you would like to help, please reserve the following dates:

Thursday, November 16th (I'll need 4-6 people, probably in the morning; and **Friday, November 17th** (I'll need 12-15 people, starting at 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Times that suit your schedule will be worked out with each person).

I'll thank you for considering this ministry and if you want to volunteer at the church on November 16th or 17th or have questions, **PLEASE contact me on my cell phone: 301.462.9510**. If you want to know of other ways to help this ministry, please call me and I can give you other ways.

I'll thank you in advance for your prayers that we meet the needs of the families we plan to serve.

Many Blessings!

Cindy Reeder



All Saints Day is an opportunity for Christians to give thanks for all those who have gone before us into glory in the past year. While the day is somber, it's also a time for us to honor the lives of faithful believers. This year, our All Saints service will be Sunday, November 5 during the normal 9am worship hour. We will also celebrate communion during this special service. We hope you will join us as we remember and celebrate those saints and the lives of faithfulness they lived.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2 Mary Ellen Waltemire
4 Phillip Green
6 Michael Miller, Angela Michael, Baylee Peperak
8 Sally Barnhart
9 Sophie Haupt
10 Bryan Reeder
11 Ian Hutchinson
13 Isaac Wescott, Jodie Weddle, John Lloyd
14 Evelyn Shank
15 Joe Hamilton, Sr.
17 John Burtner
19 Lydia Shank, Mackenzie Peperak, Amy Walsh
22 Bill Flook, Hannah Moats
23 Ruth Ridenour
29 Cindi Hawfield, Sharon Loudenslager
30 Tammy Arnold

9 Adna & Janet Fulton
10 Scott & Hannah Stevens
24 Ronald & Joyce Rowe
25 James & Laura Mills
27 Kevin & Shawn Chesnutwood

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12 Lunch Bunch @ Supreme Buffet 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness	2 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Choir practice SLC private event	3 SLC private event	4 8:00 Men's Breakfast SLC private event
5 SLC private event Daylight Savings End All Saint's Sunday 6:00 Shoebox Packing Party	6 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 6:30 Ad Council Mtg.	7 9:00 Quilting	8 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB	9 6:30 choir practice	10	11 9:00 Christmas card making
12	4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 6:30 Outreach meeting	14 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Katie's Cupboard	15 12:00 Moving On Group @ Cracker Barrel 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB	16 SLC prep turkey 6:30 choir practice	17 SLC cooking turkey 12:00 Book Club	18 SLC cooking turkey 9 Church planning meeting
19 Quilt dedication	20 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness	21 9:00 Quilting 6:30 SLC scouts	22 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24 3-8 SLC private event	25 9:00 Hanging of Greens
26	27 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:00 Trustees meeting	28 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Katie's Cupboard	29 4:15 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB	30 8:00 make candy 6:30 choir practice		

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

Change Service Requested

