



Life@Benevola

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



APRIL 2024

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

FROM THE PASTOR DESK ---Pastor Suzanne Jones

Greetings church family!

After the Resurrected Jesus appeared to many people after his death, and he gave them a challenge: follow me and go share the good news. How did they do it? What does it mean to live out a Christ filled life? How do we walk with Christ on the daily? What does that look like in our everyday lives? Recently, the upstairs adult Sunday School class studied *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life* by Rev. Adam Hamilton. In it, Rev. Hamilton examines the essential practices we can do to be rooted in our walk with God. The practices are Worship, Study, Serve, Giving, and Sharing. Below is a summary of these practices. Remember in school when students used to get a gold star for perfect attendance or a job well done? Well, I challenge you to get a gold star in spiritual disciplines this year! Take on one, two, or all of these practices. Jesus calls you to follow him and walk with him, and he promises to walk with you, too. Are you ready?

WORSHIP- Worship Each Weekend

Worship with us each weekend – in person when possible. Attending worship weekly gives you an opportunity to re-center your life, give God honor and glory, and remember what is really important in life. In worship, you grow to know God more deeply, and you express your love to God. If you are sick or out of town, we encourage you to worship online!

STUDY- Grow in Faith

Grow in your faith outside of worship through Bible studies, classes, or a small group. These classes are designed to help you know God through studying the Bible or other books that offer great teaching and insights. Small groups often grow to be like families as the groups strive to know, love and serve God together. If you cannot join a group, why not do a personal devotions and read 1-2 scriptures as part of your daily routine.

SERVE- Use Your Gifts

Serve by using your gifts and talents both inside and outside the walls of the church. Each of us is given spiritual gifts and natural abilities that we can use to serve others and glorify God. The church is the Body of Christ, and each of us is a member of the Body. We are ALL invited to carry on Christ's mission in the world to meet the needs of the people. Whether you are gifted in teaching, helping, encouraging or something else, God is counting on you to touch the lives of others as you serve God.

GIVE- Give Regularly

Give in proportion to your income, with the tithe (10%) as your goal (NOTE: if you cannot give 10% that is okay! Begin with a small amount and go from there.) Giving regularly not only supports the work of the church, but also is your way of giving God priority in your life. One way to determine what you really care about is to review where you spend your money. Sometimes life circumstances mean we cannot give regularly, but when we are able to do so, it deepens our faith as we love and serve God through our giving.

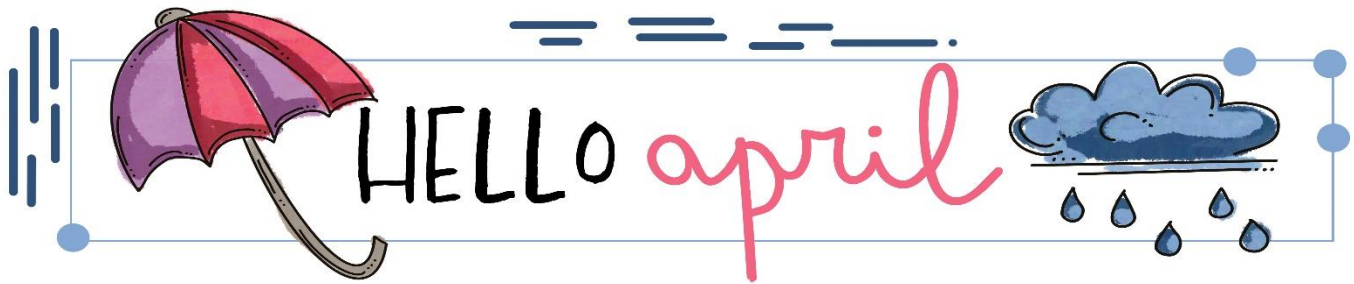
SHARE- Share Your Faith

Share your faith with others through words and actions. We are called to share the Good News with others. Often, we think this means awkward conversations, but it doesn't (and shouldn't) have to be like that. Sharing your faith with those around you through words and actions helps us grow deeper in our love for God and others. It includes inviting someone to church or talking with a friend about something you learned from the sermon or Bible study.

Imagine the potential impact these spiritual disciplines could have on you, your family, our church, and our community? I hope you will join me in getting a "gold star" in one or all of these spiritual disciplines.

Growing and walking with you,

Pastor Suzanne



| | Facebook Tech | Acolyte | Lay Reader | Head Usher |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 4/7 | Morgan Boyd | Porter Stipanovic | Ruth Ridenour | Bill Flook |
| 4/14 | Kevin Chesnutwood | Isaac Wescott | Bill Flook | Kevin Fox |
| 4/21 | Jason Weddle | | Jimmy Mills | Nelson Baker |
| 4/28 | Michael Wescott | Faith Boyd | Gale Barnes | Brenda Embly |

Mammon Minute

Mammon Minute April 2024

We return to the “Give” chapter in Adam Hamilton’s book *The Walk*. “The second key to experiencing ‘the good life’ is to live purposefully. The writer of Ecclesiastes found that a life of pleasure was meaningless. So, to find the good life it stands to reason that we might look for what is ‘meaning-full’. What adds meaning to our lives? What gives us fulfillment and a sense of purpose every day?” For Christians (or “apprentices of Jesus”), a significant part of the answer is following Jesus. It is He who said “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” This points to the truth of the previous discussion: we find meaning not in acquiring things, but in loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving our neighbor as ourselves.”

Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist, and Nazi concentration camp survivor Victor Frankl saw this first hand. He noticed that, “in these hellish places filled with despair, some of the prisoners woke up with the attitude that they still had something to live for, typically a sense of meaning they found in serving their fellow prisoners.” “Based on observations of life in the camps, Frankl concluded that human beings who found a sense of meaning in their lives dealt better with their bleak situation. They were mentally healthier when they believed they were living for some purpose larger than themselves.”¹ This is echoed in our mission here at Benevola to “Worship and witness, grow and give, love and live for the glory of God.” May it be so for all of us.

1-*The Walk: Five Essential Practices Of The Christian Life*, Adam Hamilton, excerpts from pp. 96-98 2019 Abingdon Press.

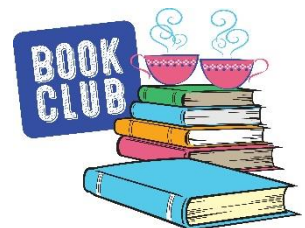
Blessings and peace, Bruce

Have you checked the book shelf in the front entrance to the Church?

There is a nice selection of faith based books there for you to take and enjoy. There are children’s books and many others for any age group. There are four books that were just added. They are written by Michael Ivanov. He is an author and motivational speaker who was born in the Soviet Union and came to America just before the end of the Cold War as a political refugee. He is a grandson of a survivor of Dachau camp. His message is one of resilience, hope and purpose. The books are [The Mount of Olives](#), [The Servant With One Talent](#), [The Traveler’s Secret](#), and [The Cabin at the End of the Train](#).

Book Club

Loretta’s Book Club will meet on April 19 at noon at Benevola. Our book is [The All Girl Filling Station](#) by Fannie Flagg.





2024 High School & College Graduates

If you are a 2024 Graduate, please let the Church office know. Please submit your information; including your name, high school or college attended. Please let me know your major or what college you will be attending or your future plans. Please include your senior picture (or other current photo). You can e-mail the information to benevolachurch@myactv.net. Please have all information to the Church office no later than May 19.

Stitching Fellowship

We have started a stitching group at Benevola. We get together every week to share, teach and work on projects such as knitting, crocheting, embroidery, cross stitch, etc. Several people new to stitching are learning to crochet and knit! We have found that there are many different ways to knot and crochet. Whatever works for you! We're having a great time! We meet every week, alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Check our weekly bulletin for day and time. Questions text or call Sue Barnes 301-465-0596. Friends are welcome!



Call Sally Barnhart (301-508-7355) to ask for prayer for a loved one.
You may reveal as little or as many details as you wish to share.
Your request will be sent along to our prayer angels.

Sally will call: Alice Hartzell (h 301-432-6493)
Alice will call: Linda Stump (h 301-790-0253)
Linda will call: Janet Fulton (301-465-3606)
Janet will call: Sue Barnes (c 301-465-0596)
Sue will call: Linda Grove (h 301-432-0056)
Linda G. will call: Cheri Sharpless (h 301-432-1940)
Cheri will call: Nicole Ritchie Conway (301-302-3152)
Nicole will call: Judy Green (c 301-302-6355)
Judy will call: Becky Hein (c 301-988-8003)
Becky will call: Cathy Collins (h 301-797-7961)
Cathy will call: Jodie Weddle (h 301-739-4369)
Jodie will call: Sally at (c 301-473-3137)

If you would like to be part of this ministry please call Sally Barnhart. Names that are mentioned in church during prayer time will not automatically be added to the prayer chain. Please contact someone on the list above to have a name added to the prayer list.



The 2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet April 23-May 3, 2024 at the Charlotte Convention Center in North Carolina. The 2020 General Conference was set to happen in Minneapolis, Minnesota, until the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the quadrennial legislative event until 2024.

Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering, which could attract as many as 7,500 people. Some 862 delegates, elected from around the world, will gather to set policies and direction for the church, as well as handle other important business. Meeting every four years, General Conference is the **ONLY** entity that speaks for the denomination. The United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, updated every four years, incorporates changes made by General Conference. The General Conference theme is “... and know that I am God” from Psalm 46:10

Voting delegates will come from the United States (55.9%), Africa (32%), the Philippines (6%), Europe (4.6%) and concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church (1.5%). Half of the voting delegates will be clergy, and half laity. All active and retired bishops do not vote at General Conference.

During the 11-day session, delegates will listen to reports and revise the *Book of Discipline*, which regulates how local churches, annual conferences and general agencies are organized. The *Book of Discipline* includes policies regarding church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures. The assembly may modify most paragraphs by a simple majority vote, but amending the Constitution of The United Methodist Church requires a two-thirds affirmative vote, followed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in annual conference sessions. Revoking or changing the Articles of Religion or Confession of Faith requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates, and three-fourths of the annual conference members must concur. Delegates also revise the *Book of Resolutions*, a volume declaring the church’s stance on social justice issues. The statements in the book are considered instructive and persuasive but are not binding on members. Because of the delay in scheduling this General Conference, every item in the entire *Book of Resolutions* will expire in 2024 unless renewed by action of this General Conference. In addition, the assembly approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years and elects members of the Judicial Council and University Senate.

For a full list of the major topics and legislation being discussed at the 2024 General Conference, check out: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>

Six clergy and six laity will represent the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference at General Conference this year. The clergy include Rev. Ianther Mills, Rev. Joe Daniels, Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Rev. C. Anthony Hunt, Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, Rev. Sarah Schlieckert. The voting laity include: Cynthia Taylor, Melissa Lauber, Ken Ow, Daniel Colbert, Sarah Ford, Chris Schlieckert.

Hey youth! There's a new Boonsboro area youth group just for you! Come check out Woven! See pastor Suzanne for more details.



WOVEN INVITES YOU TO

COMMUNITY KICKBALL

APRIL 20
12-3PM
SHAFER PARK
PAVILLION 1

COME HAVE LUNCH, PLAY BALL
AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
WOVEN

FOLLOW US:
INSTA: [WOVEN1820](#)
FACEBOOK: [WOVEN COMMUNITY](#)

Exercise this Spring
With Body & Soul Fitness!!

Join us in Benevola's Spiritual Life Gym on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**. There are 2 different Body & Soul Fitness programs conducted, both with motivating music. Choose the one that suits you and come try it for free! (See details below). We will introduce **new songs starting April 15!**

Programs:

LONGEVITY FIT 360 is designed for those needing a **low impact** program; it includes light cardio, balance, flexibility, and strength components. Join us from **4-5 PM** for exercise, a brief devotion, and prayer. The musical theme is "A God Thing"! All members currently are female.

CARDIO STRENGTH FIT runs from **5:30-6:35 PM**. This Co-Ed class includes high or low impact movements, work with weights, and strength/flexibility exercises on floor mats. It is designed to keep your heart rate up! The new musical theme is "Made to Worship". This full hour workout also includes a devotional thought and prayer at the end.

For more information see Connie Burley, Instructor, or go to bodyandsoul.org for more info about this international ministry—Where Faith and Fitness Meet!

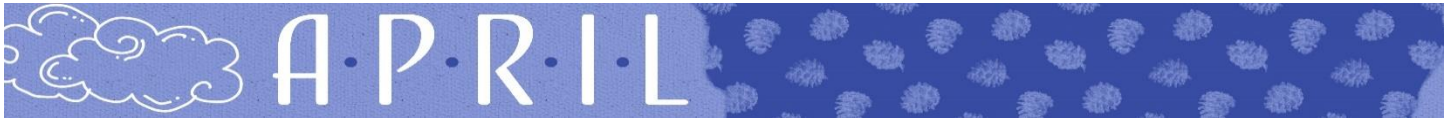


APRIL

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Adam Flook
- 5 Gary Baker, Kaylee Baker, Scott Coulter
- 7 Zachary Stanfield
- 8 Joey Mills, Kim Horner, Ashley Crncic
- 9 Elizabeth Wolfensberger, Sara Gossett, Kelby Burtner
- 10 Faith Boyd
- 12 David Slifer
- 14 Heather Leatherman, Nathan Baker
- 15 Patsy Campbell
- 17 Ariel Ritchey
- 18 Sydney Riccio
- 20 Andy Atkinson, William Fox
- 22 Tim Burtner, Charles Stump
- 24 Grady Haupt
- 25 Anna Haupt
- 28 Wyatt Burtner
- 30 Amy Jones, Justin Hartings

- 4 Jeff & Tonya Oberhaus
- 17 Leonard, Jr. & Michelle Embly, Eric & Debbie Stanfield
- 20 David & Bonnie Shifler
- 23 Nicholas & Danielle Baker
- 24 Steve & Karen Brightwell
- 30 Dean & Sue Reeder



A · P · R · I · L

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 31 | 1 4:00 NO B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 NO B & S Fitness | 2 9:00 Quilting | 3 12:00 Lunch Bunch @ King's 4:00 NO B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 NO B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB | 4 6:30 choir practice 7:00 SLC private event | 5 All day SLC private event | 6 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 VBS planning meeting All day SLC private event |
| 7 | 8 4:00 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 6:30 Ad Council | 9 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Katie's Cupboard | 10 4:00 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB | 11 Women's retreat | 12 Women's retreat 5:00 SLC scouts | 13 Women's retreat SLC all day scouts |
| 14 Women's retreat | 15 4:00 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness | 16 9:00 Quilting | 17 12:00 Moving On Group 4:00 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB | 18 6:30 SLC scouts | 19 12:00 Book Club | 20 4-8 Parent's Night Out |
| 21 | 22 4:00 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness | 23 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Katie's Cupboard | 24 4:00 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness 7:30 Men's BB | 25 6:30 Choir practice | 26 | 27 Pavilion private event |
| 28 | 29 4:00 B&S Longevity Fit 5:30 B & S Fitness | 30 9:00 Quilting | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

BENEVOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Change Service Requested

