

Benton Mennonite Church

September 6 2020

Worship leader: Ruth Mischler

Song leader: Lyn Buschert

Today

- 9:10am: For young children, Rich will host a Zoom check-in. Families will receive a link.
- 9:30 am: Worship through Zoom. Follow the invitation found in the email. Contact Doug for assistance.
- Worship will follow "Forest Church" where we will be given time to experience the Spirit outside and then share together. Those who cannot go outside will have the option of seeing the outdoors on Ruth Mischler's laptop.

Order of worship

Welcome

Opening song I sing the mighty power of God

Explanation of Forest Church

Scripture Isaiah 55

Outdoor or other exploration

Song *Tree song*

Sharing of "Forest Experience"

Sharing of prayers and concerns

Prayer

Birthday recognition, song, and blessing

Announcements

Sending song *O God in restless living*

Breakout Groups

Next Sunday

- Doug begins a new worship series on "River of Life" with "River from God" connected with Genesis 2:10-14.
- Worship leader: Ruth Mischler Song Leader: Lyn Buschert
- Children's focus: Mary Ann Weber

This week

Saturday, 8:30am, Church workday. Masks expected. Call Bruce Nofziger if you have questions.

Announcements

Here at Benton

Consider joining Doug and Brenda for a series of webinars this fall on confronting racism in our society and church co-sponsored by Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference and College Mennonite Church. The webinars will feature Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, Inter-cultural Competence and Undoing Racism coordinator from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. The webinars are free but you need to register on the IMMC webpage:

<https://im.mennonite.net/anti-racism-page/>. A week before each webinar you will be sent 30-60 minutes worth of preparatory work. Please let Brenda know if you register – participants from BMC may meet between webinars.

Tuesdays September 15, October 13, November 10, and December 8, all at 7pm

The Church Board made a decision to contribute to Kelby Youngberg's Service Adventure year in Anchorage, Alaska from our Peace/Service Fund. Kelby has raised \$3525 of the \$4000 needed, so we will contribute \$475 to finish it off. Thanks to those of you who also made individual contributions to his account!

Wish you could have been at Phil Chan and Chelsea Risser's wedding? Check out Nik Risser's Facebook page to see a short video he created that beautifully captures the spirit of the day.

Thank you for your continuing support of the work of the church. You can send checks to the church office, authorize automatic payments from your account, or use the donate button on the website.

From the pastor - Doug:

When I discovered that the Elkhart River, where we often baptize people, sometimes has too much manure for safe contact, I learned that I cared about the river. Then I asked myself a question. Does God care about the Elkhart River? What I discovered as I searched the Scriptures with this question in mind is “Yes, God cares about rivers!”

The Bible richly describes rivers in the ecology of God. The Bible begins with a river in Eden and ends with a river in the New Jerusalem. Rivers can be polluted, as when the injustice of the Pharaoh leads to a bloody Nile. Rivers can also become places of God’s affirmation, as when Jesus was baptized as “God’s beloved child.”

This fall our worship series explores rivers in the Bible and in our lives and our life with God. Rivers are not just part of the scenery, but play a role in God’s intentions for the world. Water is basic to life and rivers provide habitat and sustenance for countless creatures, including humans. Our hope is that this series will help us follow this aspect of our congregational vision: “Pursuing God’s peace at the river.”

The pastors are not keeping regular office hours. Feel free to call with pastoral care concerns, prayer requests, personal updates, and announcements. Steve Johns is in the office on Fridays.

Estimated attendance for August 30: 64

Announcements can be sent to office@bentonchurch.org or called into the office. All information is due by 7pm, Thursday.



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Pastors:

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***We will love as Jesus loves,
pursuing God’s peace
at the river and
at the table.***

