

Benton Mennonite Church

October 11 2020

Worship leader: Kate Friesen **Song leader:** Lyn Buschert
Preacher: Brenda Meyer **Children's focus:** Jennifer Youngberg
Scripture reader: Scott Kempf

Today

- 9am: Brenda will host a 25-minute Sunday school for children in grades 1-5. Families will receive a Zoom link.
- 9am: For young children, Rich will host a Zoom check-in. Families will receive a Zoom link.
- 9:30 am: Worship through Zoom. Follow the invitation found in the email. Contact Doug for assistance.
- 11:15 Orientation for new attenders (same Zoom link as worship)

Order of worship

Peace prayer

Gathering song

Welcome and opening prayer

Call to worship

Song

Scripture II Kings 5:1-27

Children's focus

Message *The healing river*

Song *O healing river*

Sharing and prayer

Announcements

Sending song

Breakout rooms

Next Sunday

- Doug will preach on "River of calling" connected with Ezekiel 1-3:15.
- Worship leader: Kate Friesen Song Leader: Lyn Buschert
- Children's focus: Jennifer Youngberg

Announcements

Here at Benton

Student Aid for attending a Mennonite school is available to Benton participants. If you are planning or considering attending Bethany Christian School, a Mennonite college or seminary full time next year (anytime during 2021) we offer financial support that the school matches. Please let Pat Baer know by Oct 21st so it can be budgeted. Call or text Pat 574 238-7240 or if you have questions.

StewardShip reminds people that pledges and budget requests are due by October 21. Please submit them to Jonny at treasurer@bentonchurch.org or you can text pledges to 574 202-3963.

Attached to this email you'll find a draft of the congregational vision, understandings and welcome statements from the pastoral team. This draft adds a phrase to the vision that was approved four years ago and includes understandings and a welcome statement that are slightly modified from what came to the last congregational meeting. Our goal is to present this for approval at the December 6 congregational meeting. We welcome feedback. The pastoral team is Doug Kaufman, Brenda Meyer, Dave Miller, and Patty Nofziger.

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:

After hovering around 10% for almost two months, Elkhart County is experiencing another spike in our percent positivity rate for COVID-19. That is, this week 15% of unique individuals who took the test were positive for COVID-19. The church board and pastors watch this rate to help us decide when to meet again in person. According to the county health department, both local hospitals are full. This is

disappointing news and I invite our prayers for those who are getting sick and for their families.

The pandemic is going to be a longer haul than we desired. We go through ups and downs. We struggle to see the end, and we honestly do not know when it will end or what kind of ending it might be. Some things will change in ways we had not anticipated. I do my part to stop the spread by wearing a mask whenever I am inside with other people. I keep six feet distance.

I remember to take one day at a time. Recently I have been helped in that with the litany of the hours, seven pauses throughout the day that many monastic communities follow. I don't pause every time, but when I am at a point of feeling overwhelmed, I remember the hour closest to me and I breathe a prayer. I was inspired in this through my spiritual director and reading Macrina Wiederkehr's *Seven Sacred Pauses*. The prayers focus on vigilance, delight, blessing, truth, wisdom, gratitude, trust, and other stances. These all are part of the experience of the day and it helps me to recognize what is going on within me and that things will change throughout the day. They remind me of God's presence in the midst of the joys and challenges of this time

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 October 4: 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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office@bentonchurch.org

Pastors:

Brenda H Meyer, x203 | brenda@bentonchurch.org

Douglas D Kaufman, x202 | doug@bentonchurch.org

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

The logo for Benton Mennonite Church features the name "Benton Mennonite Church" in a dark blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of three overlapping, curved lines in shades of blue and white, suggesting a wave or a river.

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