

Benton Mennonite Church

November 22 2020

Worship leader: Ruth Mischler **Song leader:** Lyn Buschert
Preacher: Doug Kaufman **Children's focus:** Rachel Versluis
Thanksgiving offering: Cora Brown, Emerge Ministries

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.
- 9:30am: Worship through Zoom. Follow the invitation found in the email. Contact Doug for assistance.

Order of worship

Welcome

Peace prayer

Gathering song *Could it be that God is singing*

Children's focus

Scripture Revelations 22:1-5

Message *River of life for the nations*

Song of response *O healing river*

Thanksgiving offering

Sharing

Announcements

Sending song *May the blessing of God go before you*

Breakout Groups

- Thanksgiving offering. The local half supports Emerge Ministries, a housing ministry for women and children run by Church Without Walls, a sister congregation in Elkhart. The global half supports the COVID-19 pandemic response and other projects of Mennonite Central Committee. Designate a contribution and send to the church or use the donate button on our website.

- 11am: Welcome Statement exploration session: How will our congregation make the welcome statement a reality? Come learn and share ideas and questions. We will use the Zoom worship invitation. The statement says: *Believing that the image of God is found in every person, we commit ourselves to welcome as full participants in our congregational life people of any age, ethnicity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship status, and ability. This commitment means increasing our awareness of power and privilege as we stretch ourselves to become more inclusive and loving in all our relationships.*

Next Sunday

- Guest preacher Matthew Pflederer will speak on "On the road of readiness" connected with Mark 13:24-37; Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19.
- Advent begins and this year's theme is "On the Road" imagining how our own journey intersects with that of the Magi. It may seem odd to think of a journey when many of us are staying home, but this is also a time of inward journeys as we explore who we are becoming in the midst of a pandemic..
- Worship leader: Ruth Mischler Song Leader: Lyn Buschert

Upcoming Event

- December 6, 1pm. Congregational meeting. Agenda includes: budget and slate for the coming year, new vision, understandings, and welcome statements, updates, and approving construction plans for the building. (An agenda with attachments will be sent by email and next week's snail mail)

From the pastor - Brenda:

If you heard my sermon a few weeks ago you know that I am thinking about power – how it's used in politics, but mostly how we use our own power. Sometimes as Mennonites we have thought that the goal was to avoid any kind of power over others. That is half right, but often blinds us to a bigger picture. Jesus strongly critiqued the domination system, where the goal of power is to have control of circumstances and people and the earth to make them fit our purposes. But Jesus also exercised power and encouraged and trained his disciples to do the same!

Jesus' Jewish tradition warned against power exercised through wealth and armies; he encouraged people to trust in and imitate God's power. Jesus modeled letting go of control, humbly accepting

and sharing mercy, and doing justice – treating every other life as if it matters. This is God’s power, and it is revolutionary.

We may feel powerless right now in the face of COVID, climate change, and political instability. My challenge to myself and to you is to wake up to our power: both the kind we are often mostly unaware of that dominates and controls, and to the potential for daily practice of God’s power in whatever circumstance we find ourselves. God is at work and we are invited to be part of that revolution.

The pastors do not have regular office hours. Feel free to call to update them. Steve Johns is in the office on Fridays.

Offering, November 15 2020

Weekly received: \$4,052

Weekly expected: \$2,827

Difference: \$1,225

YTD received: \$129,824

YTD expected: \$130,042

Difference: (\$218)

Building Campaign

YTD received: \$54,546

Total received: \$156,673

Estimated attendance for November 15: 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.***



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