

# Benton Mennonite Church

January 3 2021 *Epiphany Sunday*

**Worship leaders:** Gloria Showalter and Patty Nofziger  
**Preacher:** Doug Kaufman      **Song leader:** Lyn Buschert  
**Peace prayer:** Beka Youngberg      **Scripture reader:** LaJane Yoder  
**COVID creativity:** Grace Leatherman

## 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.

## Order of worship

Peace prayer  
Call to worship  
Opening song      *Angels we have heard on high*  
Scripture      Isaiah 60:1-6  
Song      *Love has come*  
Candlelighting      *Hope is a candle*  
Scripture      Matthew 2: 1-12  
Message      *How was God revealed to you this year?*  
Song      *Solemn stillness, weary streets*  
COVID creativity  
Birthday recognitions  
Sharing, prayer  
Introductions, announcements  
Closing song      *O beautiful star*  
Benediction  
  
Breakout rooms

## Next Sunday

- Brenda begins a new series “Our Vision: Loving as Jesus Loves” based on our new vision, understandings, and welcome statements. This first Sunday will focus on our newly revised vision statement “Relying on the Spirit, we will love as Jesus loves, pursuing God’s peace at the river and at the table,” connected with Mark 1:9-15 and Genesis 1:1-5.
- Worship leader: Gloria Showalter and Patty Nofziger
- Song Leader: Lyn Buschert      Children’s focus: Rich Meyer

## This week

Tuesday, 7pm, Pastoral Team.

## Announcements

### Here at Benton

Interested in seeing the videos of the Christmas program and the hymn “O come all ye faithful”? Follow this link:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nd9m2tva8zq3llt/AABL12\\_nBXe\\_UYuDJ\\_7wTq3Wa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nd9m2tva8zq3llt/AABL12_nBXe_UYuDJ_7wTq3Wa?dl=0).

### From the pastor - Brenda:

My hopes for this new year are simple. I hope before the year is over to be able to gather with family, to give hugs and kisses long overdue. I long for the day when our church family can gather to sing and eat and laugh and talk freely. If we can sing out of new hymnals and eat and wash dishes in our new space that will be extra sweet.

My longing for these simple physical manifestations of community reminds me that the God we worship chooses to live inside the limits of creation. God is not up in a heaven somewhere but is in the vulnerability of a baby born into poverty, of bodies stressed and lonely and sick and dying. God is the one who sustains us in the hard work of caring for each other, even from a distance, because God is intimately familiar with, and loves, vulnerable bodies.

Even more mysterious: vulnerability and glory go hand in hand. We don’t know how long it might be until we see the end of this year’s miseries and insecurities, but the angels are already singing Glory to God and peace on earth! God’s church is being renewed

as we long for this simple miracle: to live out our calling to be a vulnerable and glorious BODY, together.

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.

**Offering, December 20 and 27 2020**

Received: \$3,912

Expected: \$5,650

*Difference: (\$1,738)*

2020 received: \$144,761

2020 expected: \$147,000

*Difference: (\$2,239)*

**Thanksgiving Offering: \$2,525**

**Building Campaign**

2020 received: \$72,941

Total received: \$175,068

**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.

**Estimated attendance** for December 27: 73

*Announcements can be sent to [office@bentonchurch.org](mailto:office@bentonchurch.org) or called into the office. All information is due by 7pm, Thursday.*



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**Pastors:**

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**Douglas D Kaufman**, x202 | [doug@bentonchurch.org](mailto:doug@bentonchurch.org)

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

