

Benton Mennonite Church

January 24 2021

Worship leader: Ruth Mischler **Song leader:** Lyn Buschert
Speakers: Jodie Biggers, Suzanne Mahaja, and Rich Meyer
Children's focus: Neil Detweiler **Scripture reader:** Mary Grove
Peace prayer: Lyn Buschert

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.
- Our service focuses on our second understanding, that “we prioritize relationships with each other, in table fellowship and shared leadership, by speaking directly to and not about each other.” Someone will share about each of these three areas of congregational life.

Order of worship

Welcome

Peace prayer

Opening song *Could it be that God is singing?*

Vision sharing

Children's focus

Scripture Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 4:11-16

Song *Heart with loving heart united*

Table fellowship sharing (Jodie)

Shared leadership sharing (Suzanne)

Speaking directly sharing (Rich)

Song *Summoned by the God who made us*

Sharing and reflections

Announcements

Closing song *Praise God from whom*

Benediction

Breakout groups

Next Sunday

- Doug will preach on “Relationship to neighbors near and far” connected with Ephesians 2:11-22 and Psalm 85:8-13. This continues our exploration of our new vision and understandings with the third priority, cultivating “relationships with neighbors near and far, in witnessing to God’s mercy and welcome, by building peace with justice”.
- Worship leader: Anne Meyer Byler Song Leader: Lyn Buschert

This week

Thursday, 7pm, Church Board

Announcements

Here at Benton

From Cora Brown: Thank you for your generous support of Emerge Ministries!

Sunday Mahaja has three pieces in an art show at the Carnegie Center for the Arts, 107 N Main St, Three Rivers MI from January 21-February 20. It is open Tuesday-Thursday 10a to 5p

Couples: you should receive an email with information about taking the Prepare/Enrich assessment. If you have questions or did not receive an email contact Brenda Meyer.

An updated contact directory and phone list are being sent in a separate email. Hard copies will be mailed with the bulletins next week. Thank you for all your help! Updates and corrections are always welcome.

From the pastor - Doug:

This was an eventful week, though not as eventful as many feared. After the insurrection attempt at the election certification on January 6, many expected something similar at the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris. But with the police making many preparations and the FBI making many arrests, the transition happened peacefully. Not surprisingly, QAnon theories about a sudden turnaround in the outcome did not come to pass. While former president Donald Trump did not attend the ceremonies, breaking a more than century old precedent, he did leave a note for Biden on the resolute desk in the Oval Office.

A colleague in climate advocacy said this week that now we do not need to work very much at advocacy. After all, Biden has promised that climate change is one of his top priorities, along with

the economic recovery, responding to Covid-19, and racial equity. But if we are going back to a more normal presidency, then the need for advocating for climate justice and equity continues, perhaps even more. American politics are highly influenced by the wealthiest and most powerful, and the rest of us need to make our voices heard. Those of us who bring a unique faith perspective need to be heard.

This past week a couple of us from Benton met with some other local Mennonites to talk with Clara Weybright of the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, where I work, to talk about what kind of advocacy we might do related to climate change. If you are interested in joining us as we decide our priorities, let me know and I will be sure to include you in the next Zoom gathering.

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.

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 January 17: 66

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

The right side of the page is decorated with large, stylized, light blue waves that sweep across the page from top to bottom. These waves are layered, with some appearing in front of others, creating a sense of depth and movement. They complement the church's logo and the overall theme of the text.

***Relying on the Spirit,
we will love as Jesus loves,
pursuing God's peace
at the river and
at the table.***

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