

# Benton Mennonite Church

January 31 2021

**Worship leader:** Anne Meyer Byler      **Song leader:** Lyn Buschert  
**Preacher:** Doug Kaufman              **Peace prayer:** Jacob Kaufman  
**Children's focus:** Jennifer Youngberg      **Scripture:** Mary Grove

## Today

- 9am: No Sunday school for grades 1-5.
- 9am: For young children, Neil Detweiler 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 third priority, that we cultivate “relationships with neighbors near and far, in witnessing to God’s mercy and welcome, by building peace with justice”

## Order of worship

Light candle

Welcome

Call to worship

Peace prayer

Opening song              *Joyful, joyful we adore thee*

Children's focus              *The Doorbell Rang*

Scripture                      Ephesians 2

Song                              *Come, let us go*

Message                        *How far do we go?*

Song                                *I Bind My Heart This Tide*

Sharing and reflections

Announcements

Closing song                *In the Lord I'll be ever thankful*

Benediction

Breakout rooms

## Next Sunday

- Doug will preach on “Relationship with the earth” connected with Colossians 1:15-23 and Genesis 2:4-9. This continues our exploration of our new vision and understandings with the fourth priority, cultivating “relationship with the earth, in caring for creation as creation cares for us by enjoying and participating in creativity and beauty”.
- Worship leader: Anne Meyer Byler      Song Leader: Lyn Buschert

## This week

Tuesday, 7pm, WorShip.

## Upcoming event

**Sunday March 14, 1pm. Congregational meeting.** We plan to have final details of the building project together so that we will be ready for a final vote on moving ahead.

## Announcements

### Here at Benton

**Kelby Youngberg was recently featured** for his work with Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure. This is a shorter version of the YouTube video we shared from him a few months ago. <https://www.mennonitemission.net/video/Peek-into-Service-Adventure-with-Kelby>.

**The board approved a sabbatical for Doug Kaufman** for mid-May to mid-August with one focus on reading Martin Luther King Jr. and Bartolome de las Casas on racial justice, and another focus on learning more Spanish.

### From the pastor - Brenda:

What are you afraid of? All of us have basic fears that control a lot of what we do and how we organize our lives. As I turn 64, I'm noticing this more clearly – maybe a pandemic and political mayhem helps. Recently I read through the long saga of Jacob in the book of Genesis, maybe my first time reading it all as one piece. What stood out to me is that throughout his scheming life, Jacob is acting out of his need to protect himself. Even his prayers (there are some long ones recorded!) reflect that self-defensive and bargaining mentality.

I'm confident the storyteller wants us to notice this prayer posture and what changes as Jacob struggles with the stranger at the river. Jacob's stubbornness is not gone, in fact it helps him hang in there, struggling for blessing. What's new is that he finally acknowledges fear. He is terrified of meeting Esau and facing the consequences of his life of scheming. The prayer at the river has few words but is an intense plea to know and be known, an insistence on the blessing he trusts is there. Jacob's prayer is answered. He limps out of a face-to-face encounter with God to an even more surprising one with his brother: he is seen and known and forgiven. Not dead as he feared, but more alive than ever.

In this fearful time I want my prayers to struggle for knowing and being known. I hope the Spirit will keep revealing my fears and reminding me to dare to live from a place of freedom rather than self-protection. I want that elusive blessing, even though it comes with a limp.

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 January 24: 78

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



15350 County Road 44 | Goshen, Indiana 46528  
(574) 642-3245 x201 | [bentonchurch.org](http://bentonchurch.org)

[office@bentonchurch.org](mailto:office@bentonchurch.org)

**Pastors:**

**Brenda H Meyer**, x203 | [brenda@bentonchurch.org](mailto:brenda@bentonchurch.org)

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

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

A large, stylized graphic of three overlapping, curved lines in shades of blue, similar to the church logo, positioned behind the text "Benton Mennonite Church".

**Benton  
Mennonite Church**