

Benton Mennonite Church

February 21 2021 *First Sunday of Lent*

Worship leader: Dave Miller

Song leader: Lyn Buschert

Preacher: Doug Kaufman

Children's focus: Mary Ann Weber

Reader: Donna Risser

Peace prayer: Dave Baer

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 link in email. Follow the invitation found in the email. Contact Doug for assistance.

Deep in the sea: Called to deep relationship

Call to worship

Opening prayer Psalm 25: Selected verses

Peace prayer

Welcome

Introduction to the Lent theme: *Deep Calls to Deep*

VT 6 *Let's Walk Together*

Children's focus

VT 286 *Fierce Raged the Tempest*

VT 416 *Beyond a Dying Sun*

Scripture Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22

Confession

Scripture Mark 1:9-15

Sermon *Will God remember?*

Response ritual

Sharing and prayer

Announcements

VT 846 *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Sending blessing

Next Sunday

- Doug will preach on "Deep in the woods: Called to deep commitment" connected with Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8:31-38, Rom 4:13-25, Psalm 22:23-31.
- Worship leader: Patty Nofziger / Gloria Sowalter
Song Leader: Lyn Buschert Children's focus: Rich Meyer

This week

Thursday, 7pm, Church Board.

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

Couples: Monday February 22 is the last day you will be able to access the online couples assessment. See your email for more information or talk with Brenda.

The Benton Church directory phone app has been updated with the new contact information. If you haven't used this handy format and would like to, just download Universal Church Directory from your play store, and contact Bruce Nofziger (bpnofziger@frontier.com) for your unique code. Bruce will also be glad to add digital photos for any family who wants to add or update a photo.

There is still one *Rejoice* magazine and two Bible study guides available for the spring quarter. See Brenda if you would like one.

From the pastor - Brenda:

Lent is a time for confession. That does not mean, I remind myself, doing things out of guilt or to prove that I'm worthy; it means getting down to the truth. It's an opportunity to let reality sink in, to see myself in the mirror and admit I'm neither as heroic as I'd like, nor as flawed as I fear.

Confession means being honest about my own needs, fears, hopes, and dreams. It means noticing the pieces of my life that

seem to be alive and growing, and the pieces that are stuck or starting to smell of decay. Confession is also about confessing my faith, but not in abstract pronouncements. I can remind myself what matters most to me and notice when and how I'm living out of that center with trust rather than fear.

Confession as truth-telling opens new possibilities. Love and acceptance expand my heart and mind, fear and pretense shrink, and new options emerge. This is the season when Jesus steadfastly kept his face toward Jerusalem, choosing truth over fantasy, and invited his disciples to walk with him on that path. That invitation is open to all of us.

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 February 14: 65

Announcements can be sent to 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

office@bentonchurch.org

Pastors:

Brenda H Meyer, x203 | brenda@bentonchurch.org
Douglas D Kaufman, x202 | doug@bentonchurch.org

*Relying on the Spirit,
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 words "Benton" and "Mennonite Church" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of three overlapping, curved lines in shades of blue, suggesting a wave or a ribbon.

Benton
Mennonite Church