

Benton Mennonite Church

February 7 2021

Worship leader: Anne Meyer Byler **Song leader:** Lyn Buschert
Preacher: Doug Kaufman **Peace prayer:** Susana Stinson
Scripture reader: Beka Youngberg
COVID creativity: Dave Miller

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

Call to worship

Peace prayer

Scripture Genesis 2:4-9

Opening song *I sing the mighty power*

Scripture Colossians 1:15-23

Song This is God's wondrous world

Sermon *Creation in Christ and Christ in Creation*

COVID creativity

Song of response *Touch the earth lightly*

Sharing, reflections.

Birthday recognition, song, blessing

Announcements

Closing song *Go, my friends, in grace*

Benediction

Breakout rooms

Next Sunday

- Brenda will finish the series on our vision and understandings with a sermon about the welcome statement, based on Matthew 4:1-11 and Romans 15:7-9.
- We will have communion; have drink and bread ready.
- Worship leader: Jerrol Shaum Song Leader: Lyn Buschert
- Children's focus: Mary Ann Weber

Announcements

Here at Benton

Shrove Tuesday Poetry Zoom Party for all ages. Get ready for Lent by using up the fat and having a little fun. Bring a poem to share and eat pancakes and donuts before or during our poetry reading. For fun, we will follow Danish tradition where children and young at heart are encouraged to wear a costume or mask or hat. Everyone is encouraged to practice pancake racing and flipping to be ready for next year. How many flips can your pancake make? Come and enjoy poetry! Use the same Zoom link as we use for worship. Ask Donna Risser if you have questions.

Tuesday February 16, 6:30pm

This year's Lent theme is "Deep Calls to Deep." As part of our worship we invite people to create a bowl of six stones for each person in the household. Each Sunday we will take one stone and reflect on the day's theme. Week to week, we will watch the vessel empty, as we dig deeper for what is essential. Not sure where to find stones? Jerrol Shaum will have river stones available on his front porch beginning this Sunday. Drop by and take some.

Correction to the phone list distributed last week: Arleta Kilmer's cell # is area code 219, not 574.

From the pastor - Brenda:

Last weekend Rich and I stayed in the lodge at Amigo Centre, and the first night we were there I suddenly felt teary. I realized the space was bringing back memories of being with all of you. It's been too long! And then I could see Lois there, and Troy, and Deanna...reminders of more losses. In some ways I've felt that this past year hasn't been bad for me. Many people have lost more than I have. But my tears were a clear reminder that I am grieving.

As we all are. When the pandemic began this congregation was coming out of a string of unexpected funerals. Although no one in

our congregation has died of COVID so far, some of us have lost family members. Some because of our living or work situations have been intensely affected by the isolation and overload. And all of us have participated in the trauma and uncertainty of mixed messages and overwhelmed health care systems, watching unarmed black men die at the hands of police, our elected officials fighting rather than leading.

Part of the reason we are all grieving is that we are empathetic creatures. We grieve along with our fellow humans! We grieve for injustice and those who take the brunt of it! The losses the world has experienced this year are going to be with us for a long time. Our opportunity is to carry the grief forward together: by telling stories and remembering, by doing our part to make the world safer and more compassionate, by slowly encircling the grief with our shared tears and laughter.

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.

Doug is on vacation this week.

Estimated attendance for January 31: 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:

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.*

A large, stylized graphic of the Benton Mennonite Church logo, consisting of two overlapping, curved lines that sweep upwards and then downwards, resembling a wave or a ribbon. The lines are dark blue with a white outline.

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