

Benton Mennonite Church

June 27 2021

Worship leader: Ruth Mischler

Faith story: Jherlly Acosta-Fecher

Song leader: Lyn Buschert

Peace prayer: Dee Swartz

Scripture reader: Helene Hoover

Childcare: Janet Byler, Detweiler/Versluis

Order of worship

Welcome

Peace prayer

VT 6 *Let's Walk Together*

VT 136 *Santo, Santo*

Offering

VT 793 *Siyahamba*

Scripture *Philippians 1: 9-11*

Children dismissed

Faith story

Song of response

Sharing joys and concerns

Announcements

Closing song

VT 838 *The Peace of the Earth*

Today

- The candle to the left of the pulpit burns as a prayer of connection to all those still suffering from COVID, grieving lost family members, and suffering insecurity and injustices.
- Because of a high congregational vaccination rate we are able to gather for worship without masks. We are asking adults doing indoor childcare to wear masks.
- Children will be dismissed before the faith story, 4 and under to childcare and 5 and up for planned outdoor activities.

Next Sunday

- **Peace Sunday.** Brenda will share a faith story.
- Communion.
- Peace offering will be shared between the MCUSA Justice Fund and the Mennonite Creation Care Network:
 - **Justice Fund:** In the midst of significant social unrest in the United States, Mennonite Church USA has launched this fund to support MCUSA churches that are active in dismantling racism, addressing police brutality, reimagining policing or combating poverty. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/the-justice-fund/>.
 - **Mennonite Creation Care Network:** The cross bridges the broken relationship between humans and God, and between people and the earth. We invite you to join in God's mission of bringing people and earth and God back into harmony. —Dave Hockman-Wert, Creation Care Council <https://mennocreationcare.org/about/goals/>.

Announcements

Here at Benton

The pastoral team is recommending that the congregation join the Supportive Communities Network. The decision will come later this fall, but you can learn more at <https://www.bmclgbt.org/scn>.

From Rich Meyer: BMC is supporting two teams in the Tour de France bicycle race this year, we'll have updates the next three Sundays.

From the pastor - Brenda:

A study released this week shows that life expectancy in the US dropped almost two years from 2018-2020, and for people of color significantly more. Other wealthy countries dropped about two months in the same time frame. The doctor who led the study notes that life expectancy is not primarily about the level of medical care, but about the quality of people's lives, whether they have access to reasonable income, housing, and basic health care, whether they live in fear or with a sense of security.

Next Sunday, on our country's Independence Day, we're having a Peace Sunday. Peace, *shalom* in the biblical tradition, is about the kind of wholeness that produces longer life expectancy for all of us. Less fear and more security. In Philippians 1:27 Paul says "be

citizens worthy of the good news of Jesus Christ” and in 3:20 “our citizenship is in heaven”. Paul exercised his Roman citizenship but was also willing to be jailed for exercising his heavenly one.

Communion next week reminds us of the invitation to live as citizens of God’s beloved community. Our special offerings will be an opportunity to exercise that citizenship, working here and now for God’s peace with justice.

Brenda and Steve are in the office on Fridays. Contact Brenda by email or on her cell phone.

Offering, June 20 2021

Weekly received: \$2,168

Weekly expected: \$3,020

Difference: (\$852)

YTD received: \$76,139

YTD expected: \$75,500

Difference: \$639

Building Campaign

YTD received: \$179,561

Total received: \$355,603

Thank you for your continuing support of the work of the church. You can bring offerings to in-person worship, send checks to the church office, authorize automatic payments from your account, or use the donate button on the website.

Attendance for Sunday June 20

Total: 61

Visitors: 3

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 | *on sabbatical*

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

**Benton
Mennonite Church**