



INsight

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 2017

*⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Weekly Events

Sundays

Worship	8:15 AM
Sunday School	9:15 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Because of Bethlehem	
Advent Study @ Grisso Home	5:30 PM
Bible Study @ Hearne Home	6:00 PM

Mondays

Slushies & Scripture HS Girls	6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission	9:00 AM

Tuesdays

Slushies & Scripture 6th & 7th Grade ...	6:45 AM
Intercessory Prayer Team	9:00 AM
Bodies On A Mission	6:00 PM
Men's Basketball	7:00 PM

Wednesdays

Slushies & Scripture HS Boys	6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission	9:00 AM
The Closet Workday	11:30 AM
The Closet Distribution	11:30 AM
WOW!	5:30 PM

Thursdays

Slushies & Scripture 8th Grade	6:45 AM
Bodies On A Mission	6:00 PM
Choir Practice	6:00 PM

Fridays

Slushies & Scripture 9th Grade Girls	6:45 AM
Just a Bunch of Lit Wits (3rd Fridays)	7:15 AM
Bodies on a Mission	9:00 AM
Sew Crazy Ladies (2nd & 4th Fridays) ..	10:00 AM

A Word From Pastor Brad

Dear Church,

As we approach the busyness of what the month of December brings remember the season of Advent, a holy way in which we can mark time for the coming of the Christ child. Let your festive Christmas activities not overshadow a sense of gratitude that the birth of Jesus Christ was the beginning of a new era of peace and justice for all people. Let Jesus be born anew in you this Christmas! And may today not be the end but rather the beginning of celebrating in various ways the Advent season as well as the twelve holy and merry days of Christmas.

Glory! Halleluiah! Jesus is born! Merry Christmas!

Your Preacher,
Brad Franklin



CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight

SERVICE

**Sunday,
December 24
5:00 PM**

Monthly & Special Events

Sunday, December 3

United Methodist Men Breakfast & Devotion 7:00 AM
 Dinner with Families at 7th Heaven Ranch..... 3:00 PM
 Youth Christmas Program Practice 5:00 PM

Monday, December 4

Staff/Parish Relations Committee Meeting..... 6:00 PM
 Youth Christmas Program Practice 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 5

Youth Christmas Program Practice 6:00 PM
 United Methodist Women General Meeting..... 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 6

Youth Christmas Program..... 6:00 PM

Thursday, December 7

Dinner with Friends..... 6:30 PM

Saturday, December 9

Journey to Bethlehem..... 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 10

Youth at Brookdale for Lunch & Bingo 12:00 PM
 Children's Christmas Program Practice 6:00 PM

Monday, December 11

Children's Christmas Program Practice 6:00 PM
 Special Session of Charge Conference 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 12

Children's Christmas Program Practice 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 13

Children's Christmas Program 6:00 PM

Thursday, December 14

Morning Glories..... 9:30 AM

Friday, December 15

Youth Prep for Providence House Party 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 17

United Methodist Men's Breakfast..... 7:00 AM
 Providence House Christmas Party 2:15 PM

Monday, December 18

Eva Smith Sunday School Social 1:30 PM
 Staff Christmas Party..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 19

NWLA Truck Unloading..... 9:00 AM
 NWLA Food Bag Packing with Youth 3:00 PM
 Random Acts of Christmas 5:00 PM
 Nightingales Circle Meeting 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 20

The Closet @ Benton UMC 11:30 AM
 The Closet @ A Cross Faith 11:30 AM
 The Table Food Distribution..... 12:30 PM
 The Toy Shoppe & Wrapped in Love..... 12:30 PM

Thursday, December 21

Youth Progressive Dinner 5:00 PM
 Daycare Christmas Party 6:30 PM

Friday, December 22

Youth Snack Prep..... 4:00 PM

Saturday, December 23

Youth Feeding Downtown Friends 7:15 AM

Sunday, December 24

Cantata (One Service, no Sunday School) 10:30 AM
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 PM

Thursday, December 28

Youth Movie—Ferdinand 9:00 AM

Saturday, December 30

Souper Saturday 7:30 AM

Sunday, December 31

Worship (One Service, no Sunday School) 10:30 AM
 Watch Night Service 7:00 PM

*The church office will be closed
 from Monday, December 25 to Tuesday, January 2
 in observance of Christmas and the New Year.*



Louisiana United Methodist Children & Family Services Christmas Eve Offering

Please plan to honor the activities of Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services in your donation this Christmas Eve. They offer the most intensive levels of residential care in Louisiana for children whose emotional and behavioral needs require extraordinary care, put family therapists directly in the homes of families experiencing stress, work to keep their children at home and prevent the need for out-of-home care, offer counseling services in communities across Louisiana, and serve in many other ways to offer support to individuals and families experiencing stress or brokenness.

Join with us as we provide care and protection for children who cannot care for themselves! Pray for our children and their families.

For more information on Louisiana United Methodist Children & Family Services, please contact:

**Kim Hauser
 (318) 344-3176**

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month in both worship services. Every other Sunday in the month, Holy Communion is offered in the Ed DeBusk Prayer Chapel on the second floor (directly across from the elevator) between 10:10 AM and 10:25 AM. Pastor Cheryl invites all who would like to receive Holy Communion more often, or who may miss 1st Sunday, to join her there immediately after Sunday School, which ends at 10:15 AM, and before the 10:30 AM worship service.

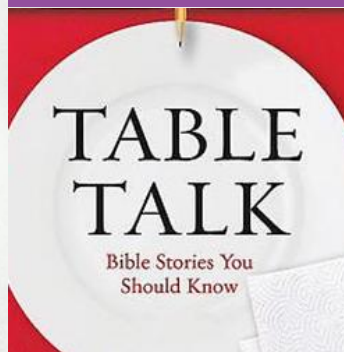


TABLE TALK Bible Stories You Should Know

**Led by Rev. Brad Franklin
 & Dianne Wilkinson**

Wednesdays

**Begins Wednesday, January 10, 2018
 5:30 PM—Dinner and 6:00 PM—Study**

This series of six-week programs for the whole church family is designed to bring all ages together for dinner, fellowship, study, and engage with the Pastor in conversation about key stories of the Bible. Volume 1 presents the stories of Creation, The Fall, The Flood, Father Abraham, Ten Words, and The Great Commandment.

For book orders, contact:

**Linda Silas
 (318) 965-2273 or linda.silas@bentonumc.org**

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Saturday, December 9, 2017
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

As you read this article, final preparations are being made for the gift Benton UMC gives to the Benton/Northwest Louisiana area each year. We have missed the last two years after the 2015 storm that destroyed 4 of our scenes just before our Saturday performance. Journey to Bethlehem drive-through started many years ago when a group of men and the pastor decided to put on a "Birth of Jesus" drive-through at the Black Bayou boat launch. After the 2015 destruction, 2016 was not long enough to rebuild the scenes. But it was resolved that we would start early and get the scenes rebuilt for the 2017 Christmas season and return with a better-than-ever drive-through. That goal has been accomplished and the new JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM will occur on Saturday, December 9, 2017 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Sunday, December 10 will be a weather back-up only if needed. Hopefully if all goes well, we will try to set next year for a Saturday and Sunday evening performance.

If you have not signed up to be in one of the scenes, you still have time to do that. The sign-up forms are in the Family Life Center until December 8th. You can also call into the church office (at 965-2273) and ask Linda what is open for you. If you don't want to be in a scene, there are a lot of other places you can help make this the best gift ever given to our Benton area friends. Simply show up at the Family Life Center between 5:00 and 5:30 PM on the night of December 9th and the directors will plug you in where the need is the greatest. What ever you decide remember that Methodists EAT. So make sure you bring a lot of you favorite snacks to share with all of those present. If you have a friend who would like to help or participate, ask them to join in and volunteer in some capacity.

Join us in the Family Life Center on Saturday, December 9th and enjoy the celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Be a part of the Benton UMC gift to our friends and neighbors.

Blessings, Ron



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH•HOPE•LOVE IN ACTION

Benton United Methodist Women
President, Pat Mosher

onthelake8@bellsouth.net

(318) 572-3447

CALENDAR:

December 5 General Meeting
Christmas Program by Nightingales and
Installation of Officers by Monica Arredondo

Thursday, December 14
Morning Glories Circle meet at 11:30 AM
Olive Garden
RSVP to Katherine Ashley at (318) 464-3798.

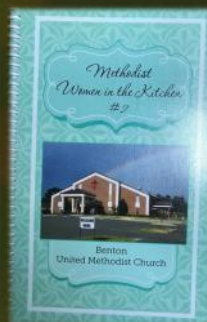
Thursday, December 19
Nightingales meet at 6:30 PM
Ralph and Kacoo's
We will take up a love offering for Providence House.
RSVP to Lea Ann Clements (318) 470-8025.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting the Samaritan Purse Shoe Box. We sent 31 boxes to children! **Thanks** also for supporting our casserole sale.

SHARING:

All ladies are invited to join us.



Methodist Women in the Kitchen #2

Our **Cookbook** is available at **\$20 each or 6 for \$100**. They will make great Christmas presents. Proceeds go to United Methodist Women supported missions and has over 600 recipes.

Circles meet in Breakfast Club Classroom:
Thursday, January 11 – Morning Glories 9:30 AM
Tuesday, January 16 – Nightingales 6:30 PM

Program will be Call to Prayer and Self Denial-Mona Bartage will present to both circles.

Saturday, January 27
United Methodist Men Dinner and Auction

Sunday, January 28
United Methodist Women Sunday
Rev Cheryl Nelson "Caring For God's World"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!!!

Preparing for **CHRISTMAS** at Benton UMC

Sunday, November 26

5:30 PM Because of Bethlehem Advent Study
At the home of Martha Grisso
3302 Cane Break, Bossier City, LA

Wednesday, November 29

5:30 PM WOW! Dinner
6:00 PM WOW! Decorating for Hanging of the Greens

Wednesday, December 6

6:00 PM Youth Christmas Program

Saturday, December 9

6:00 PM-9:00 PM Journey to Bethlehem:
A Drive-Through Live Nativity (Free to public)

Wednesday, December 13

6:00 PM Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 24

10:30 AM Cantata
5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service

Sunday, December 31

10:30 AM Worship
7:00 PM Watch Night Service

Sunday Advent Worship Services in December

8:15 AM & 10:30 AM Worship & Message with Advent Focus

- 1st Sunday of Advent: Advent Wreath and Chrismons
- 2nd Sunday of Advent: Evergreen Tree/Wreaths and Garland
- 3rd Sunday of Advent: Holly/Ivy/Poinsettia
- 4th Sunday of Advent: Manger Blessing (*One Service at 10:30 AM*)

**IT'S A VERY
YOUTH
CHRISTMAS**

**RANDOM ACTS OF
CHRISTMAS**
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 @ 5:00 PM

**PROVIDENCE HOUSE
CHRISTMAS PARTY**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 @ 2:15 PM

**PROGRESSIVE DINNER
THURSDAY,
DECEMBER
21 @ 5:00 PM**

*Special
Service Times
in December*

Sunday, December 24, 2017
10:30 AM Cantata
5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight
Sunday, December 31, 2017
10:30 AM Worship
7:00 PM Watch Night Service

*New Year's Eve
December 31
7:00 PM*

**Watch Night
Service**

The Gift of Love
*The Toy Shoppe &
Wrapped in Love*

Help Needed

Tuesday, December 19

10:00 AM—Set-up & Shopping

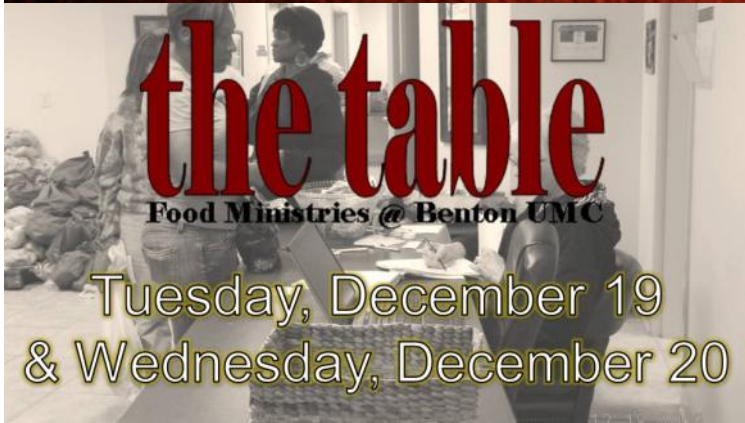
Wednesday, December 20

12:30 PM—Helping Shoppers & Wrapping Gifts

Toys needed for ages 0-12
(*\$10-20 in value*)
Gift cards needed for teens
(*\$20 in value from Bass Pro, Academy, etc.*)
Wrapping Accessories needed
(*Bows, gift boxes, ribbon, etc.*)

**To serve, please contact:
Millie Crites at (318) 965-2273**

Serving Our Community



The Table Food Ministry

Tuesday, December 19
9:00 AM Truck Unloading
3:30 PM Youth Bag Packing

Wednesday, December 20
12:30 PM
Food Distribution

For more information on The Table, contact:
Joel Carter at jlcumc@yahoo.com
or Kim Hauser kimdenise1996@gmail.com

The Closet Clothes Ministry

We need your help at our bustling clothes closet at A Cross Faith Advocacy Center (1659 Palmetto Road in Benton) and at Benton UMC.

Hours at Benton UMC & A Cross Faith:

3rd Wednesdays11:30 AM-4:00 PM

All Other Wednesdays11:30 AM-1:30 PM

**A Cross Faith
Advocacy Center**

HOURS:
Wednesday, December 20
11:30 AM-4:00 PM

Benton United Methodist Church • Elizabeth Baptist Church • St. Jude Catholic Church

Transforming the community...

For more information on The Closet Clothes Ministry, please contact:

Sue Shadow
(318) 965-2496
shadow781@bellsouth.net



Souper Saturday Needs You!

We need people to ride along with drivers for deliveries, substitute drivers, soup cooks, and sandwich makers. We have very dedicated volunteers—a family of Christ's servants! We serve on the last Saturday of each month. Please join us to see if this is where you connect in service.

For more information on Souper Saturday, contact:

Katherine Kavanaugh
(318) 218-7730
katkavanaugh@bellsouth.net

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ~ 1 Peter 4:10



INVITING IN...
 GROWING UP...
 SENDING OUT...

Benton United Methodist Church
 4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, Louisiana 71006
 Office: (318) 965-2273 Fax: (318) 935-8516
 Email: bentonumc@bellsouth.net
 Website: www.bentonumc.org



**Poinsettias
 \$10 each**

Adorn the altar with poinsettias in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Poinsettias can be taken home immediately following Christmas Eve Service.

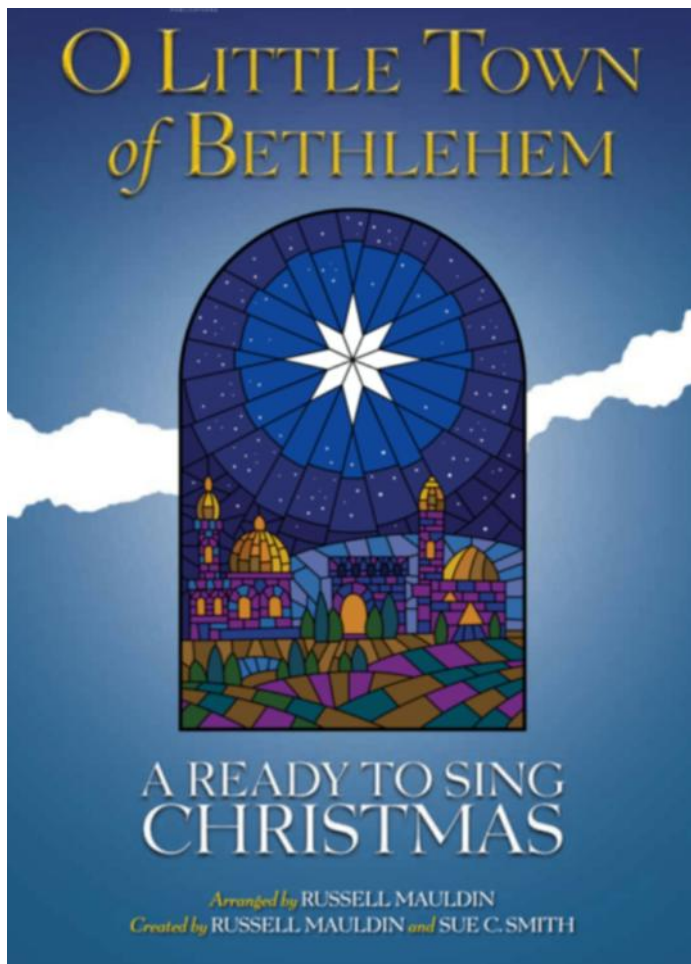
Place your order in the church office at
 (318) 965-2273 or emailing
linda.silas@bentonumc.org.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please e-mail all newsletter articles to:
rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

All articles are due by the 20th of each month for the next month's newsletter.



**O Little Town of Bethlehem
 Christmas Cantata**

Sunday, December 24 at 10:30 AM
(One service, no Sunday School)

On a quiet, calm night in Bethlehem, heaven's light broke through the darkness with the birth of Christ. Shepherds and wise men joined a host of angels to rejoice in this divine arrival on earth. 2,000 years later, we reflect on how this single event in a humble stable would change the rest of history.

Join us as we take a journey back in time to this incredible story and unfold the wonder of the events that took place in Bethlehem as we move our hearts to songs of celebration of the greatest gift we know.

**For more information on Music Ministries,
 please contact:
 Jennifer Hable
 (318) 294-5644
hablesheros5@gmail.com**