



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

Security System Upgrade

Please prayerfully consider giving toward this worthy cause as an investment that adds an extra layer of safety for our church family, staff, and the many precious lives we are helping to raise up and educate in the daycare.

There are several ways to give:

- By check or cash; please earmark the gift for the security system
- You may call or come by the church office and have an ACH processed
- Visit www.e-giving.org where you will find a giving option for the security system under special offering

Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

For more information about donating to this and other ministries at Benton UMC, please contact:
Millie Crites
(318) 965-2273 or millie.crites@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.



Weekly Events

Sundays

Worship 8:15 AM
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
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
First Place 4 Health 6:00 PM
Grief Support Group 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 Middle School 6:45 AM
Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bodies On A Mission 6:00 PM
Choir Practice 6:00 PM

Fridays

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

A Word From Pastor Brad

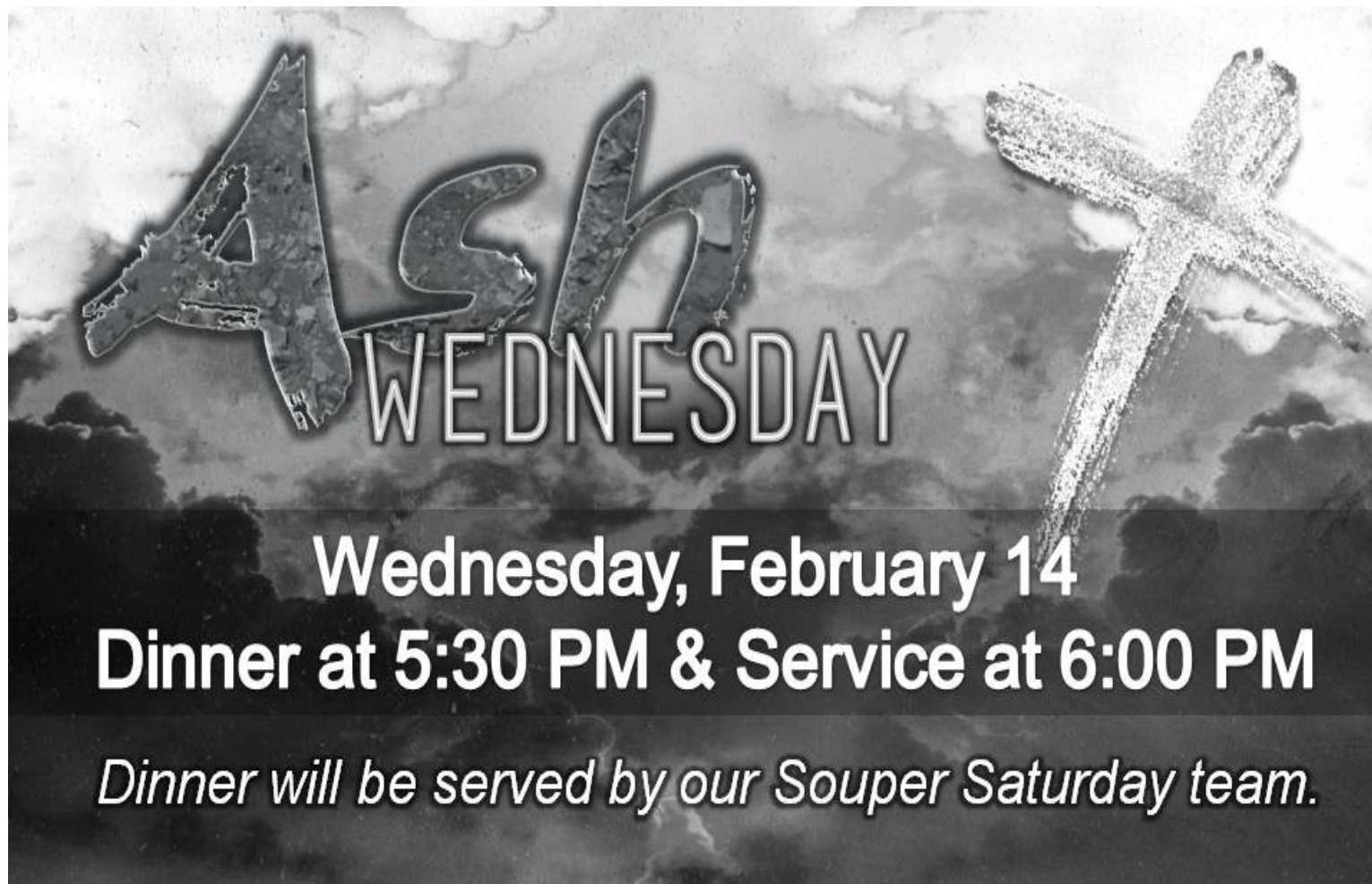
Dear Church,

On February 14th we will have our Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 PM, which will begin our Lenten journey to the cross at Calvary. Motivation is the key to making Lent a success. And an excellent source of motivation is found on the first day of this season of transformation. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded that we will die. We all know that it is necessary to frequently remind ourselves of that most basic of all truths. A sacramental reminder of our own deaths has the power to cleanse our inner eyes so that we can see more clearly the ultimate purpose of life.

One of the rich gifts of the tradition of our faith is that we have several new beginnings each year besides the New Year. The sacred seasons of Lent and Advent both call us to remember our mortality and to prepare our hearts so that we can truly live the life that Jesus promised us in its fullness. And a great obstacle to such whole-hearted enjoyment of his gift is our self-inflicted blindness to our own deaths. This refusal to ponder death is a primary reason why we waste so much of life. It is the reason why we delay, put off till a better time, a host of activities that would enrich our lives and the lives of others. So even if your previous Lents may have missed the mark, this may be the year for hitting the bull's eye; motivation is the key!!

Our supper for the evening of February 14th at 5:30 PM will be the food items that are prepared and delivered for Souper Saturday every month. It will be a wonderful way to hear and witness another way in which BUMC is extending the hand of Jesus' love in our community. See you then!!

God Bless- Pastor Brad



Monthly & Special Events

- Sunday, February 4**
 United Methodist Men Breakfast & Devotion 7:00 AM
 Flood Relief Team Deployment (2/4-2/7)..... 11:30 AM
- Monday, February 5**
 Worship Team Meeting..... 6:00 PM
- Thursday, February 8**
 Morning Glories 9:30 AM
- Friday, February 9**
 Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM
- Sunday, February 11**
 Cookie Stroll—United Methodist Women 8:00 AM
 District Committee Nominations..... 3:00 PM
- Tuesday, February 13**
 Church Council Meeting 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, February 14**
 Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 PM
- Friday, February 16**
 Just a Bunch of Lit Wits @ Panera 7:15 AM
- Sunday, February 18**
 United Methodist Men Breakfast & Devotion 7:00 AM
- Monday, February 19**
 United Methodist Women Executive Meeting..... 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, February 20**
 NWLA Truck Unloading..... 9:00 AM
 NWLA Food Bag Packing with Youth 3:00 PM
 Nightingales Circle Meeting..... 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, February 21**
 The Closet @ Benton UMC 11:30 AM
 The Closet @ A Cross Faith 11:30 AM
 The Table Food Distribution..... 12:30 PM
- Friday, February 23**
 Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM
- Saturday, February 24**
 Souper Saturday..... 7:30 AM
- Tuesday, February 27**
 O.P.A.L.S. 11:30 AM

For more information about these and other events, or to schedule use of a room at the church, please contact Linda Silas in the church office at (318) 965-2273. Regularly scheduled events are listed on page 1.

O.P.A.L.S. (Older People with Active Life Styles)

O.P.A.L.S.
 Tuesday, February 27 at 11:30 AM
 in the Family Life Center
 Cost: \$5.00

The Older People with Active Life Styles will meet for their monthly gathering of fun, food and fellowship! BINGO with a Valentine theme is our program. Don't forget to bring spaghetti sauce for the Common Ground pantry. They are our mission focus as we partner with them to provide food staples for needy families in the Cedar Grove neighborhood.

For reservations, please contact
 Peggy Rumbaugh at (318) 349-1465

BIBLE STUDY
Genesis
 Begins Sunday, January 21, 2018
 Sundays at 6:00 PM
 at the Home of
 Buddy & Reba Hearne
 3408 Shirley Court, Benton, LA
 (318) 965-0122

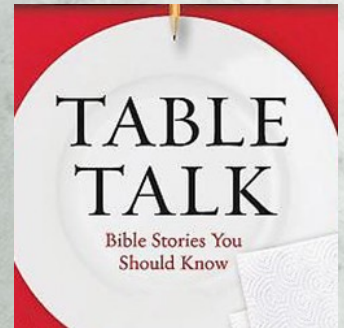


TABLE TALK
Bible Stories
You Should Know
 Led by Rev. Brad Franklin
 & Dianne Wilkinson

Wednesdays
5:30 PM—Dinner and 6:00 PM—Study
 *Ash Wednesday Service will be
 Wednesday, February 14 and Table Talk
 will resume on the 21st.

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. Materials needed: Notebook, pen, and a Bible.

For information, contact: Linda Silas
 (318) 965-2273 or linda.silas@bentonumc.org

Serving Our Community

the table
 Food Ministries @ Benton UMC
 Tuesday, February 20
 & Wednesday, February 21

The Table Food Ministry

Tuesday, February 16 9:00 AM Truck Unloading 3:30 PM Youth Bag Packing	Wednesday, February 17 12:30 PM Food Distribution
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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 Wednesdays 11:30 AM-4:00 PM
 All Other Wednesdays..... 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

A Cross Faith Advocacy Center
 Providing the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and advocacy.
HOURS:
 Wednesday, February 21
 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
Saturday
February 24
7:30 AM

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

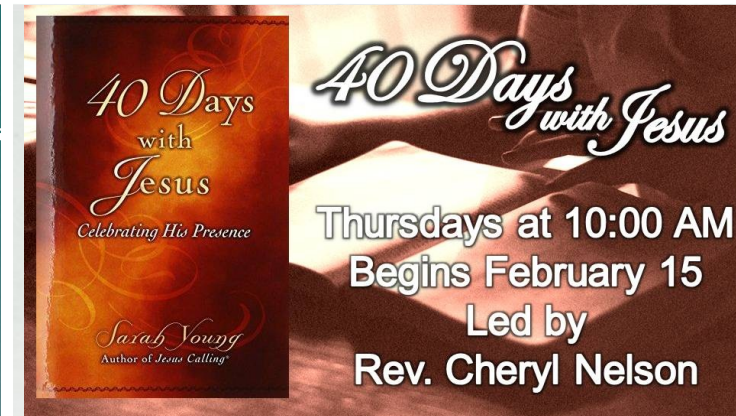
Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ~ 1 Peter 4:10

Mission Spotlight

What is so special about Souper Saturday?!?

It's early Saturday morning when the pot starts to boil and the kitchen smells like grandma's house in the winter—soup just does that to a home—and a church kitchen. It's quiet, until the sandwich and bag crew shuffle in, make their coffee, and begin spreading peanut butter and packing brown paper bags. It's serious business, you know, talking and laughing, preparing for the delivery crew to come in and pick up their meals. The soup crew begins to dip and pour, filling each of the 16 ounce styrofoam cups with what could be the world's best soup while Katherine talks to a delivery driver who has a concern about a recipient. The last driver finally picks up and the kitchen is clean.

You wouldn't know what miracle just happened if you just happened in—that miracle of teamwork. It just doesn't run any better than Souper Saturday—it's a well oiled machine. And it's Biblical—*20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.* ~ 1 Corinthians 12:20-27 This is the body of Christ at work in the community, through this church, through YOU! You make this happen each month, and our crew invites you to serve with them and love this community with them—so that Christ's love is shared in tangible ways—and that's what is so special.



40 Days with Jesus
Celebrating His Presence
Sarah Young
Author of *Jesus Calling*

40 Days with Jesus
Thursdays at 10:00 AM
Begins February 15
Led by
Rev. Cheryl Nelson

Lenten Study

40 Days with Jesus

A meditative, devotional Lenten study will be offered at Benton UMC, beginning Thursday, February 15, facilitated by Pastor Cheryl Nelson. A booklet by Sarah Young, *40 Days with Jesus: Celebrating His Presence*, will guide the group through a daily exercise in study, prayer and journaling, which they will share in their weekly gathering. The booklet will be provided, and the participants will need to have their own journal. They will meet at 10:00 AM on Thursday mornings in the Pairs & Spares Sunday School room. This 6-week study is open to everyone, as a means of focusing on the purpose and power of the Lenten season, preparing us for the glory of Easter.

For more information, contact:
Pastor Cheryl at (318) 422-0914.



Daycare Art 2018



United Methodist Women
FAITH-HOPE-LOVE IN ACTION

Benton United Methodist Women
President, Pat Mosher
onthelake8@bellsouth.net
(318) 572-3447

CALENDAR:

Thursday, February 8, 2018
Morning Glories Circle meet at 9:30 AM
in the Breakfast Club Classroom.
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
Nightingales meet at 6:30 PM
in the Breakfast Club Classroom.

Cookie Stroll &
Valentine Basket Auction
Sunday, February 11
Mark your calendars for our
Cookie Stroll &
Valentine Basket Auction!
All ladies are invited to join us.



Methodist Women in the Kitchen #2

Our **Cookbook** is still available in the church office at **\$20 each or 6 for \$100**. They make great house warming or birthday gifts for those who love to cook or are learning to cook! The cookbook has over 600 recipes.

Proceeds go to United Methodist Women supported missions.



YOUNG, SINGLE AND PREGNANT?
YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Join
AN EMBRACE GRACE
GROUP!

Tuesdays • 6-7:30pm • Start January 9, 2018
St Jude Church • 4700 Palmetto Rd
Benton, Louisiana 71006

Dear Church,
 The BUMC staff spent several days in early January calendaring, visioning, brainstorming and bonding at Mt. Ida, Arkansas. It was a wonderful experience that allowed us to focus on the mission and vision of BUMC for 2018. I'll preach a sermon on the importance of a Vision Sunday February 4th. See you then!!
 -Your Preacher

Advent Study



Dinner with Friends



Friends
 Joy
 Fun
 Love

