



INsight

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MARCH 2017

Weekly Events at Benton UMC

Sundays

Sunday School9:00 AM
Worship 10:15 AM
Youth Small Groups5:00 PM
Bible Study (*Hearne Home*)6:00 PM

Mondays

Bodies On a Mission9:00 AM
First Place 4 Health6:00 PM
Beautiful Already (*Sellers Home*)7:00 PM

Tuesdays

Intercessory Prayer Team9:00 AM
Bodies On A Mission6:00 PM
Men's Basketball7:00 PM

Wednesdays

Donuts & Scriptures (*MS*)6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission9:00 AM
The Closet Workday (*2nd & 4th*) .. 10:30 AM
WOW! (*Wide Open Wednesdays*)5:30 PM

Thursdays

Donuts & Scripture (*6th girls*)6:45 AM
Spiritual Formation Group 11:00 AM
Choir Practice5:30 PM
Alcoholics Anonymous6:00 PM
Bodies On A Mission6:00 PM
Spiritual Formation Group6:00 PM

Fridays

Donuts & Scripture (*HS*)6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission9:00 AM

A Word From Pastor Brad

Dear Church,

I wanted to offer the text and titles I will be preaching from through the Lenten season building toward Easter Sunday. Ponder these scriptures as a Lenten discipline. See you in church Sunday!

Blessings,
Your Preacher
Brad

Lenten Spiritual Disciplines

Sunday, March 5, 2017

**The Practice of
Gratitude for Simple Things**
Deuteronomy 8:1-3; Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, March 12, 2017

The Practice of Encouragement
Exodus 17:1-7

Sunday, March 19, 2017

**The Practice of Welcoming
God into Your Next Task**
Deuteronomy 6:4-13

Sunday, March 26, 2017

The Practice of the Examen
Ephesians 5:8-20

Sunday, April 2, 2017

**The Practice of
Confession and Loving Actions**
1 John 3:18-23

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11

Sunday, April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday
John 20:1-18

*^s And **God is able** to provide you with every blessing
in **abundance**, so that by always having **enough** of **everything**,
you may share **abundantly** in every **good work**.*

~2 Corinthians 9:8

Monthly & Special Events

Wednesday, March 1	
Ash Wednesday Service.....	6:00 PM
Sunday, March 5	
United Methodist Men's Breakfast & Devotion	7:30 AM
Monday, March 6	
<i>Beautiful Already</i> Study Begins	7:00 PM
Tuesday, March 7	
United Methodist Women General Meeting.....	6:30 PM
Thursday, March 9	
Morning Glories.....	9:30 AM
Friday, March 10	
Sew Crazy Ladies	10:00 AM
Saturday, March 11	
<i>Sowing Seeds of Love</i> Style Show & Luncheon.....	11:00 AM
Spring Forward.....	2:00 AM



**DON'T FORGET TO
SPRING FORWARD**

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS **AHEAD 1 HOUR**
SATURDAY NIGHT

Monday, March 13	
Daycare Board Meeting	6:00 PM
Lay Leadership Meeting.....	6:30 PM
Tuesday, March 14	
NWLA Food Truck Unloading.....	9:00 AM
NWLA Food Bag Packing	10:00 AM
Church Council Meeting.....	6:00 PM
Wednesday, March 15	
The Closet at A Cross Faith.....	11:30 AM
The Table Food Distribution.....	12:30 PM
Friday, March 17	
Fundamentals of Forgiveness	7:00 PM
Sunday, March 19	
United Methodist Men's Breakfast & Devotion	7:30 AM
Tuesday, March 21	
Nightingales.....	6:30 PM
Friday, March 24	
Sew Crazy Ladies	10:00 AM
Saturday, March 25	
Souper Saturday	7:30 AM
Monday, March 27	
Worship Team Meeting.....	5:30 PM
Tuesday, March 28	
OPALS (<i>Older People with Active Life Styles</i>).....	11:30 AM

FUNdamentals of Forgiveness

March 17-19, 2017
Cost: \$125 per person
Contact:
Cheryl Nelson (318) 422-0914

FUNdamentals of Forgiveness March 17-19, 2017

Cheryl Fell and Cheryl Nelson are once again facilitating a Women's Weekend Retreat at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA, focusing on "forgiveness." As always, Cheryl N. will offer times of reflection and sharing our spiritual journeys, while Cheryl F. will lead interactive and fun activities. The cost of the retreat will still be \$125 for double occupancy, and \$165 for single occupancy; this includes five meals in the dining hall. There will be a snack supper Friday in the DeColores Building at 5:30 PM, and retreat activities will begin at 7:00 PM. We will walk the woodland labyrinth Saturday, have worship in the Chapel on Sunday morning, and the retreat will end around 2:00 p.m. In the evenings, there are games, snacking, singing, resting. You are encouraged to bring any devotions, poems, scriptures, etc. that inspire you – especially ones that center on forgiveness.

The two Cheryls have been leading these events for the past 16 years – they make a great team and the retreats are always a blessing. The Wesley Center is a treat in itself, with very comfortable accommodations, lots of hiking trails in the woods around the lake, a beautiful campus, and all just 2 ½ hours away! Women come from several different churches and denominations, bringing a spirit of fun and togetherness. All women are invited to join us – registration forms will soon be in the church office which you mail directly to the Wesley Center with your full payment before March 8, 2017. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Cheryl at (318) 422-0914.

Forms are in the church office and are due March 10th!
Treat yourself to a fun and spirit-filled weekend with the Girls!

Music Ministry

Choir Practice—Thursdays at 5:30 PM
All are welcome to come and make a joyful noise!

Contact:
Jennifer Hable at
hablesheros5@gmail.com

O.P.A.L.S.

(Older People with Active Life Styles)

OPALS

Tuesday, March 28 at 11:30 AM
Family Life Worship Center
Cost: \$5.00

The Older People with Active Life Styles will meet Tuesday, March 28, at 11:30 a.m. in the Family Life/Worship Center for their monthly lunch & social time. This is designed for the 55+ bunch but everyone is invited. Shirley Milam is presenting the program – a smorgasbord of her humor and faith told thru stories and some “interesting” information. She is one of our faithful Catholic friends who so enjoys the fun and fellowship we have at OPALS. I encourage all of you to join us. Lunch will cost \$5. Everyone is invited!

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



ASH

WEDNESDAY

REMEMBRANCE THROUGH SACRIFICE

Wednesday, March 1 at 6:00 PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection and penance.

We invite you to experience this holy season with us.

Reflection
Confession
Pardon



Benton United Methodist Women
President, Pat Mosher

onthelake8@bellsouth.net
(318) 572-3447

Circle Meetings

Morning Glories –March 9 at 9:30 AM in the Breakfast Club Sunday School Room

Nightingales - March 21 at 6:30 pm in the Breakfast Club Sunday School Room

We thank everyone for the participation in our Cookie Stroll – we made over \$748 for missions.

The cookies were plentiful and wonderful!!!

General Meeting

Easter Program—March 6 at 6:30 PM by the Morning Glories and refreshments by the Nightingales in the Family Life Center

Snacks for Sunday, March 5th

Nightingales

Sowing Seeds of Love
Style Show & Luncheon
Saturday, March 11
11:00 AM-1:00 PM

We need **attendees, table hostesses, and models**. Please call or text Pat at 572-3447. Tickets are \$20 and are available from UMW members and you can buy on line. Nursery by reservation only. Please plan to come and enjoy. Our youth is serving and the KoKoMo Cruisers are entertaining. Fashions are by Dress Barn, Main Street Trends, and the Dixie Dandelion. See page 5 for flyer.

UMW District Cluster Study

Bible and Human Sexuality, March 18 at Wesley Chapel, Homer; and taught by Catherine Long at Benton in April circles and **June 6 at 6:30 PM**

UMW State “Mission u”

July 19-22 at Wesley Center - Woodruff, LA

UMW District “Mini Mission u”

August 18 at Noel UMC, Shreveport, LA



As we journey into the Lenten season I wanted to offer some thoughts on the spiritual discipline of prayer that will hopefully help to enrich your 40 day experience.

What is Prayer?

The English word for prayer means “petition” or “request.” The Latin word for prayer, means, “to beg” The Hebrew word for prayer means “to meditate.” In Greek, the word for prayer means to “wish” or “vow”. Prayer is all of these things and more.

Prayer is above all else a response to God’s initiative. We can lift our mind and heart and voice to God in prayer because of the life and love that have first been given to us.

Prayer: Our Spiritual Legacy:

As a product of the Reformation and the first printing press, books become accessible, and Anglican Christians used such works as the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer in their communion with God. Later, other groups, such as the Methodists of the early eighteenth century, emphasized a variety of “felt” experiences-spiritual practices such as prayer, reading scripture, observing the Lord’s Supper, fasting, and Christian “conferencing”.

For about fifteen hundred years-this is before the Reformation that brought about the division of the Western Church-most Christians were part of either the Eastern Church of Constantinople or the Western Church of Rome. Before Martin Luther became a reformer, his faith was fueled by his life as an Augustinian monk; John Wesley, who lived and died an Anglican priest, studied at Oxford, where he was influenced by the lives of early church leaders such as Origen. Each generation learns from those who have gone before them.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

Prayer becomes not something we do, but who we are. A practiced prayer life lets go of the daily chaos and the whims of our mood to gain a deeper order, discipline, and focus.

For Your Reflection through March 4, 2017

- 1.What is your definition of prayer?
- 2.Why do you pray?

**For an interactive experience,
please join us online at:**

www.facebook.com/groups/BUMCPrayer

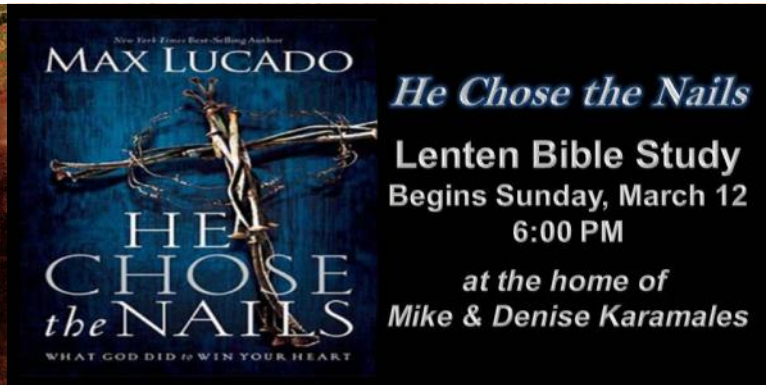
Source material and Resources:

Protestant Spiritual Exercises: Theology, History and Practice by Joseph Driskill

All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time by Robert Ellsberg

Paths to Prayer: Finding Your Own Way to the Presence of God by Patricia D. Brown

Prayer and Practice: A Biblical Approach by Pat Collins



He Chose the Nails

**Lenten Bible Study
Begins Sunday, March 12
6:00 PM**

*at the home of
Mike & Denise Karamales*

**Mike and Denise Karamales
1223 Big Pine Key, Benton, LA**

When Jesus took his last breath, did he secure salvation for humanity or perpetrate history's biggest hoax? Travel to Golgotha with Lucado and decide for yourself. With his characteristic insight, Lucado examines the extraordinary circumstances surrounding Christ's crucifixion and explains why the cross is central to our own search for significance.

**To order the study guide, please contact:
Mary Beth West at marybeth.west@bentonumc.org.**

Order deadline is Monday, March 6



**Beautiful
Already**

**Led by
Jennifer Hable
at the home of
Ann Sellers**

**Begins
Monday, March 6
7:00 PM**

**Beautiful Already
Women’s Study Led by Jennifer Hable
Monday, March 6 at 7:00 PM**

**At the Home of Ann Sellers
4126 Periwinkle Lane, Benton, LA 71006**

*Explore God’s truth about beauty
throughout the Scriptures.*

During this six-week Bible study, women will unpack the beliefs or experiences that are holding them hostage. Together they will explore God's truth about beauty throughout the Scriptures, digging into passages in both the Old and New Testaments and applying the truths in their lives. They will move away from over-focusing on unrealistic expectations and perceived flaws toward God’s viewpoint of their hearts, minds, bodies and souls.

**To register, contact the
Church Office at (318) 965-2273.**

**For more information, contact:
Jennifer Hable at (318) 294-5644**

Sowing Seeds



of Love

Style Show & Luncheon

Sowing Seeds of Love ~ Style Show & Luncheon

Saturday, March 11, 2017

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Tickets: \$20 per person

Come to our annual Style Show and Luncheon: *Sowing Seeds of Love!* Ladies decorate tables in any manner they like, from simple to elegant. It is so much fun to walk around and look at the creative and unique tables before we start the lunch and fashion show. Various vendors from the local area will feature spring fashions. *All proceeds support local, national and international missions.*

Nursery will be available for children 0–2 years.

Please call church office at (318) 965-2273 to reserve your child's spot.

**Tickets available online at:
www.bentonumc.org/StyleShow**

**Tickets may also be purchased in the church office
or from United Methodist Women Members.**

**For more information, contact:
Pat Mosher (318) 572-3447**

Ideas for Lent

Week 1

Fasting

It's not just chocolate, you can fast from social media, technology, or anything that takes you away from experiencing a relationship with Jesus. Make time to focus on Him.

Praying

Prayer can be difficult but it is how we most often communicate with our God. Challenge yourself to pray daily. Our Lenten Prayer Journey on page 4 can be just what you need to get started or strengthen your current prayer discipline.

Week 2

Giving

Find a ministry or charity in your church or community you do not normally support monetarily. Skip the morning coffee, sodas or tea with your dinner out and use the money you save for that specific cause.

Week 3

Serving

Serve in your church, the local soup kitchen, or other area you feel called. Love those in your community by sharing your God given gifts and talents.

Week 4

Giving Thanks

Start a gratitude journal and when you are thankful for a certain person, write them a note and let them know. Thank God for those things in life that can't be bought—family, friends, and the awesome God you serve.

Week 5

Reflect

Reflect on your action the past 5 weeks. What have you learned about others? Yourself? God? How did living sacrificially feel? How can you keep that journey of sacrificial living as a constant in your life?

Week 6

6 “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? **7** Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? **Isaiah 58:6-7**

Welcome New Members



Mike & Denise Karamales

Mike and Denise Karmales joined the church on November 13th by transfer from Asbury United Methodist Church. They both participate in the Pairs and Spares Sunday School class and are regular attendees for Sunday Worship Services. Mike enjoys weightlifting, fishing and yard work. Denise enjoys walking, golf and swimming. Welcome, Mike and Denise! We are so happy you joined us!

**The Karamales' address is:
1223 Big Pine Key Lane
Benton, LA 71006**

Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 15 at 2:00 PM
Benton United Methodist Church

Thank you, Benton UMC!



Louisiana Conference Ministries
The United Methodist Church

Raising Up Spiritual Leaders

Benton United Methodist Church
4615 Palmetto Road
Benton, LA 71006

Re: 2016 Conference Apportionments

Dear Rev. Franklin,

Thank you for the faithfulness of BENTON in paying 100% of your 2016 Conference Apportionments in December 2016. This commitment to responsible financial stewardship is most appreciated.

The prompt payment of apportionments enables us to do ministry in Jesus' name in all areas of the world through our connectional structure. I also thank you for your leadership in making this 100% payment occur.

In Christ's love and service,

Rev. Jan H. Curwick
Executive Director, Administrative Services

527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802-5720 225-346-1646

Thank you

25 DEC 2016

Hi!

I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for the gift bag which I received this morning at our Christmas worship service. I am currently deployed at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa working for Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.

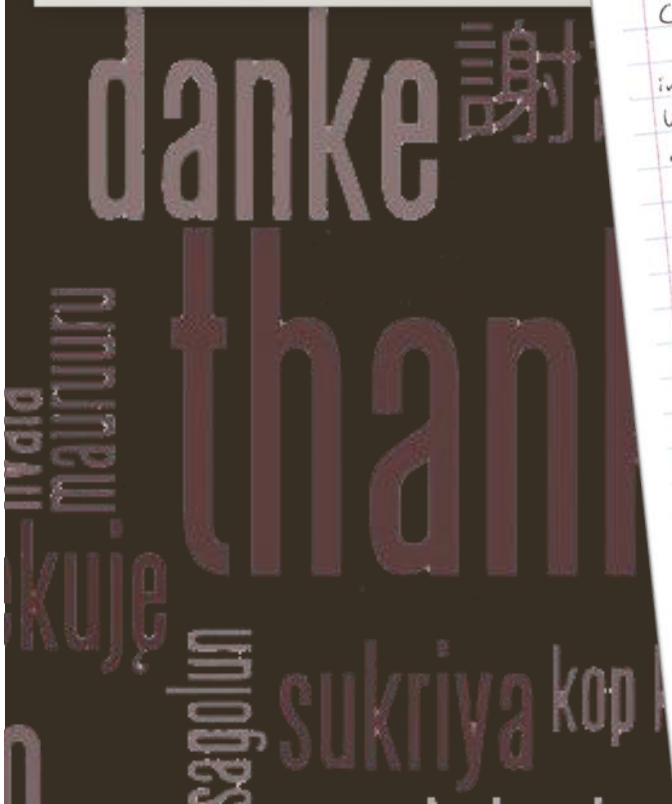
I'm also a member of Dahlgren United Methodist Church in Dahlgren, Virginia. It feels nice to have my extended United Methodist family reaching out to us while we are away from our homes and families during the holiday season.

I saw the video on your church's website showing all of the volunteers assembling the bags. It is a lot of effort to put a program like this together, and I just wanted to express my appreciation to the coordinators and volunteers who make it happen.

At our service this morning we were joined by Vice Admiral McCollum, the Chief of Navy Reserve; and by Rear Admiral Lee, the Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters. So in addition to our receiving our Christmas gifts, the senior Navy Reserve leadership also got to see your program in action.

Thank you again for all of the work that you do to support the troops.

Robert Setty
Commander, USNR
J-35 Future Operations, CSTF-HOA



Thank you, Benton UMC!

Together,
we give hope and a promise
of renewed life.

Thank you for all
your help on the blood drive.
We received 11 life-saving
units of blood. (Projection was 10)
I appreciate you and
all the donors at Benton UMC.
Sandra Planchard

THANK YOU

We Thankyou so much for
your love + compassion for
us + our needs! It is a struggle
to keep up w/ bills + have
food for the table. Maybe it'll
get better with the New Year!
God Bless You All!!

Sincerely,



Jonda
(Brandia
Grandma)

The Blunt
Family

Dear Rita,
Thank you so much for
the "We the Believers" cd.
What an amazing group of
young people. I know a
lot of time and energy went
into making this and know
you must be so proud having
had some of them in your
class. It's a great testament
to the love and support the
Benton UMC continues to
give.

We love you and appreciate
that you remembered us
with the special C.D. —

Love,
Bill + Ann

Dear Benton United Methodist
family

Thank you so very much for your
very generous gift to rebuilding
together Benton Park in the wake
of the recent flooding. We cannot
continue to serve the elderly and
low income citizens of our area
without your help and we
truly thank you from the bottom of
our hearts. Sincerely, Julie Fox
Board Member, and RTKR Board Members,

Serving Our Church Family

Shepherd Ministry 2017

Almost four years ago, we began the Shepherd Ministry at Benton UMC which puts every member and regular attender in a "flock" with a lay person for a "shepherd." This ministry is an extension of the pastoral office, intended to better meet the needs and share in the joys of our growing church family. Currently, there are 19 shepherds who tend to 195 family units. They make regular contact with each member of the flock by phone, text, email, or card (whatever they determine is their best means to connect). The shepherds notify the office of any change in the status of their sheep; and likewise, the office and Prayer Team keep the shepherds apprised of situations in the lives of their sheep. A letter is sent to each family unit when it is assigned to a flock, explaining what the ministry is and giving information about the shepherd. We are in the process of updating this ministry, so if you have lost your shepherd's information, or if you have not been notified about a shepherd, please let Pastor Cheryl know (318-422-0914).

This ministry is a vital part of the Congregational Care Team and it is always eager to welcome new people who would like to be a shepherd. Think about your own spiritual gifts and graces; if you have a caring, encouraging spirit and a heart for the members of your church family, perhaps you would like to become a shepherd yourself. Once again, let Pastor Cheryl know.

There will be a meeting of the Shepherd Ministry after church on Sunday, March 26, 2017. A light lunch will be served, and there will be a time of sharing and evaluating and brainstorming ways to improve the ministry. All present shepherds are encouraged to be there, and anyone from the congregation who would like to know more, or offer suggestions, is welcome to come. We are encouraged by the many benefits this ministry can offer, and we look for ways to strengthen it, which includes *You* – your prayers and participation.



GREETERS and ushers

Greeters and Ushers Ministries

Beginning Easter Sunday we will be going to two worship services each Sunday. In order to cover the new service we will need the services of a few more volunteers, primarily people that will be attending the early service.

Right now the plan is to have two greeters for the early worship service at 8:15 AM, seven greeters at the Sunday School hour at 9:00 AM, and six greeters for the second worship service at 10:15 AM. The Fellowship time will be 10:00 AM to 10:15 AM. The number of ushers needed has not been determined.

Sundays, March 5th, 12th, and 19th we will have a signup sheet on the Reception Counter for people to indicate their interest in serving and what service they would like to serve. An orientation session will be planned for later in March to go over the procedures for greeters and ushers.

Please consider volunteering for these ministries. They help our Sunday services go much smoother and you can have fun doing them.

Thank You,
Dick Mosher

**For more information about these ministries,
please contact:**

**Dick Mosher
(318) 965-2373 or onthelake8@bellsouth.net**

Communion Team

Help Needed

Join our team to set-up communion bread and juice on the fourth Sunday of each month.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact:
Kelly Denmon (318) 469-2769



Serving Our Community

Thank you!

Many thanks go to Ms. Loretta's preschool class for donating 185 canned goods and other perishables to the Benton UMC Emergency Food Pantry. That will supply over 10 emergency boxes with soup, canned meat, vegetables, and fruits! Some of the class came over for a picture in the food pantry.

Top row, left to right:
Ms. Loretta Davis and Rita Crosby

Bottom row, left to right:
Kennedy Matlock, Jagar Shadoin, Grayson Wakefield, Virginia East, and Arabella Pike



The Table Food Ministry

Tuesday, March 14 9:00 AM Truck Unloading 10:00 AM Bag Packing	Wednesday, March 15 12:30 PM Food Distribution
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For more information on The Table, contact:
Rachel Stoneman at (318) 965-2273

the table

Food Ministries @ Benton UMC

Tuesday, March 14
& Wednesday, March 15

Souper Saturday Needs You!

We need people to sub for delivery drivers and sandwich makers. 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



Sew Crazy Ladies

Contact: Sandra Upshaw at 326-5966
or Katherine Ashley 464-3798

Join this sewing ministry to work on mission projects (*like book bags for UMCOR*), update costumes for the Journey, or work on our own unfinished objects (aka UFO's). At the same time, we will be spending time with others in Christian fellowship. Also, anyone who wants to learn to sew is welcome, as we will be happy to help new crazy sewers!!! We will meet in the Bible Bayou on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 10 AM until 2 PM. Any and all are invited to join us.

Meeting dates are Friday, March 10 & 24, 2017



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



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.

Camp Caney

Registration for Summer 2017 is open!

Pre CampJune 2-4
 Jr HighJune 12-16
 ElementaryJune 19-23
 Sr High..... July 3-7

www.caneycamp.com

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

Thursday, April 13 at 6:00 PM

Good Friday~ *Encounter Jesus*

Friday, April 14 at 12:00 PM

Lunch and worship presented by the Benton UMC Youth.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15 at 2:00 PM

Easter Sunrise & Worship Services

Sunday, April 16

6:30 AM Easter Sunrise

at the home of Robert & Claudia Adley

(For directions, visit: www.bentonumc.org/sunrise)

611 Jessie Jones Road, Benton, LA

***8:15 AM Worship**

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

***New service at
 8:15 AM begins on
 Sunday, April 16, 2017.
 Please join us!**

