



Join us for a day of service to the Benton Community. Our goal is to install 7-10 raised garden beds in homes selected by our own Benton Police Department. The police, alongside members from Benton UMC, will go out into the community together to bring light and life to the neighborhood.

For more details and how you can help, contact:
Rachel Stoneman at (318) 469-9100 or
rachel.stoneman@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
Boy Scouts 2:00 PM
Bible Study at the Hearne Home 6:00 PM

Mondays

Bodies On a Mission 9:00 AM
It's Not Supposed to Be This Way .. 6:00 PM

Tuesdays

Intercessory Prayer Team 9:00 AM
It's Not Supposed to Be This Way . 10:00 AM

Wednesdays

Bodies On a Mission 9:00 AM
The Closet @ BUMC 9:30 AM
The Closet @ Chapel 11:30 AM
WOW! Dinner 5:30 PM
WOW! Studies 6:10 PM

Thursdays

Thursday Bible Study: *John* 10:00 AM
Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM
Choir Practice 6:00 PM

Fridays

Bodies On a Mission 9:00 AM

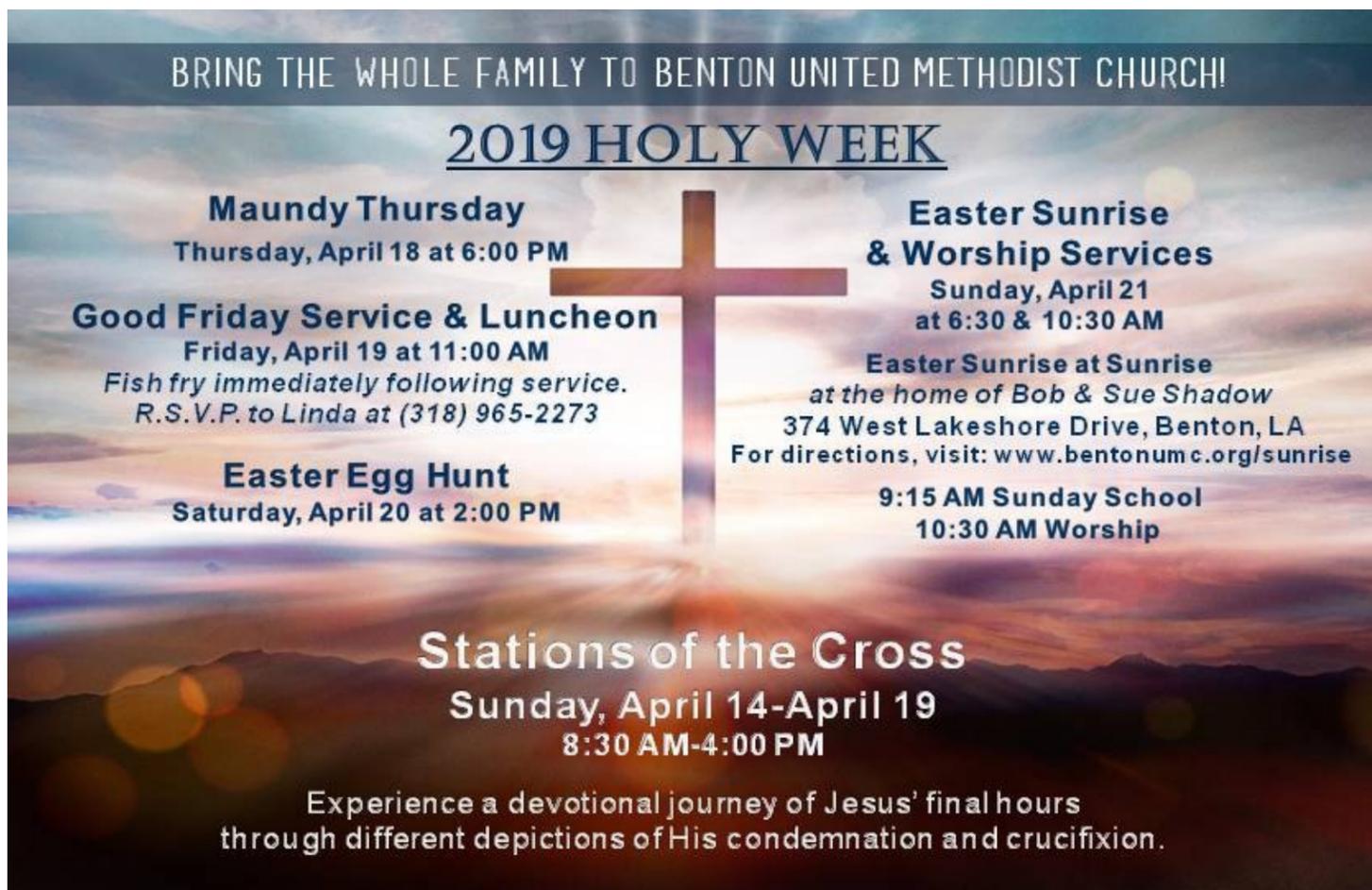
A Word From Pastor Brad

Dear Church,

As we approach Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season ponder this—what would your Lent be like if the mark on your forehead were made not with removable ashes, but with a forty-day dye? For one thing each morning and evening when you looked in a mirror, you would be reminded that you are a marked person, one who is homeward bound for heaven. For our spiritual ancestors, the people of Jewish and other Near Eastern cultures, wearing ashes was a sign of mourning and lamenting. Ashes were usually associated with sackcloth, which was clothing worn to mourn the death of a beloved or to lament a personal or communal disaster. In the early church, sackcloth and ashes were signs that marked the people who needed to do public penance throughout Lent, not just on Ash Wednesday.

As we come to be “marked” on Ash Wednesday, remember the why behind this sacred act—O God, today may I often trace the cross upon my forehead as I say, “I am dust that will return to dust, yet in God I trust.” Amen and Amen. Be blessed.

Your Preacher,
Brad



BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

2019 HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 18 at 6:00 PM

Good Friday Service & Luncheon
Friday, April 19 at 11:00 AM
Fish fry immediately following service.
R.S.V.P. to Linda at (318) 965-2273

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 20 at 2:00 PM

Easter Sunrise & Worship Services
Sunday, April 21
at 6:30 & 10:30 AM

Easter Sunrise at Sunrise
at the home of Bob & Sue Shadow
374 West Lakeshore Drive, Benton, LA
For directions, visit: www.bentonumc.org/sunrise

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship

Stations of the Cross
Sunday, April 14-April 19
8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Experience a devotional journey of Jesus' final hours through different depictions of His condemnation and crucifixion.

He is the God of All Seasons - His Love Never Fails & His Timing is Perfect

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

-Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Monthly & Special Events

- Friday, March 1**
 FUNdamentals of Compassion (Mar 1-3)
 Legacy Daddy-Daughter Dance.....6:00 PM
- Sunday, March 3**
 United Methodist Men Breakfast.....7:00 AM
 Safety Team Training.....11:00 AM
- Wednesday, March 6**
 Ash Wednesday Service5:30 PM
- Friday, March 8**
 Sew Crazy Ladies10:00 AM
- Sunday, March 10**
 Class Meeting.....11:30 AM
- Thursday, March 14**
 Morning Glories UMW Circle Meeting9:30 AM
- Friday, March 15**
 Just a Bunch of Lit Wits @ Panera Bread.....7:15 AM
- Sunday, March 17**
 United Methodist Men Breakfast.....7:00 AM
- Tuesday, March 19**
 NWLA Food Truck Unloading8:00 AM
 NWLA Food Bag Packing.....9:00 AM
 Nightingales6:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 20**
 The Closet Clothes Ministry @ A Cross Faith.....11:30 AM
 The Table Food Lunch & Devotion11:30 AM
 The Table Food Distribution12:30 PM
- Friday, March 22**
 Sew Crazy Ladies10:00 AM
- Sunday, March 24**
 Class Meeting.....11:30 AM
- Tuesday, March 26**
 OPALS11:30 AM
- Saturday, March 30**
 Souper Saturday7:30 AM
 Seeds for the Harvest Community Day9:00 AM



Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Dinner at 5:30 PM
 Service at 6:10 PM

Dinner will be cooked and served
 by our Souper Saturday Team.



Tuesday, March 26, 2019
11:30 AM in the Family Life/Worship Center
\$5 per person

The Older People with Active Life Styles will meet for a delicious lunch and a day of "St. Patrick" themed Bingo! Wear green and come prepared to share a little "blarney;" lunch is \$5 and you'll need to make a reservation with Peggy Rumbaugh by March 24. Our donation to Common Ground this month for their neighborhood pantry is breakfast cereals, oatmeal, grits, etc. – they are so appreciative of our support. Hope to see YOU at OPALS!

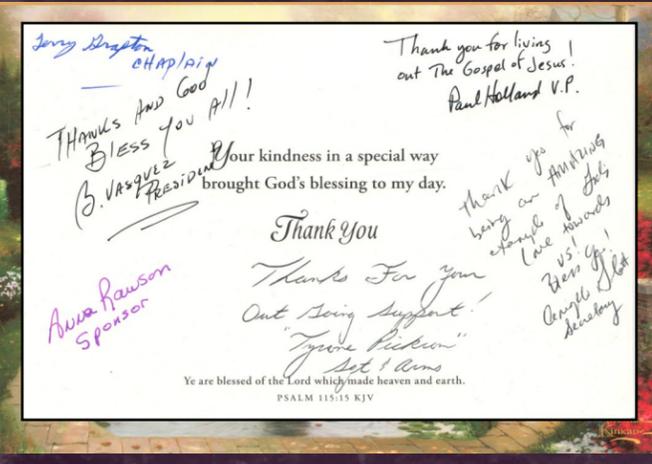
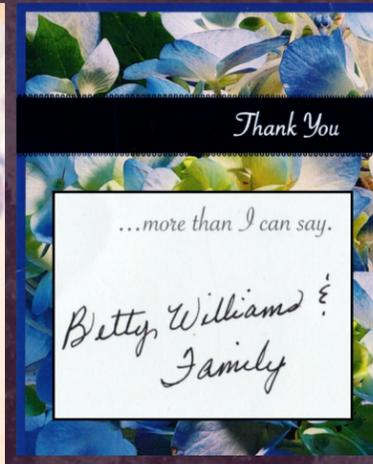
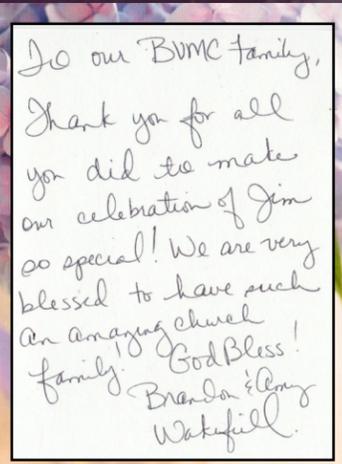
For reservations, please contact:
Peggy Rumbaugh (318) 349-1465



Nurturing Ministries Need YOU!

Pastor Brad has encouraged all of us in the Benton UMC church family to get involved in some ministry of the church. Just think about what you're passionate for, and then, consider your schedule – what do you really enjoy doing, and can you fit it in with your routine? However you choose to get involved, it will bless you in so many ways. There are many mission ministries in our church for you to participate in, but I want to remind you of the nurturing ministries that also need your help. These focus mostly on the church family.

- Prayer Ministry—the prayer team meets every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in the Prayer Chapel on the second floor – just come; everyone is welcome.
- Prayer Chain—the prayer chain is alerted at times of emergency and prayers are spoken immediately when they get the text; just contact Nancy Stinson (318) 455-4350 to be added to the chain.
- The Shepherd Ministry—it is designed so every member of the church family has a "shepherd" to call when they have a need or question, or new contact data. It is also a fast way for the church office to get information sent to the members or to use as a disaster response. We are in need of 2 shepherds now; just call Pastor Cheryl at (318) 422-0914 if you would like to volunteer – or if you need a shepherd.
- Holy Communion Servers—Holy Communion is very important to us. We need servers every 1st Sunday at both worship services.
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers—they take Communion to those who cannot come on 1st Sundays. There are 6 now who administer to 9 or 10 people, but there are that many more who need to receive Communion. If you would like to participate in either of these ministries, see Pastor Cheryl.
- Study Leaders, Sunday School Teachers & Substitutes—We are always open to new Bible studies, prayer & share groups, any small group activity that builds fellowship; just contact Pastor Brad and he will guide you.



Thank You

Many Thanks, Benton UMC!



Benton UMC
 Thank you for your support of Team Carson for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Marathon Weekend. We were able to raise over \$2000 this year. I look forward to participating in the half marathon again next year.
 Abigail Redledge



January 31, 2019

Gratitude!

One of the best things about my role as President and CEO of the Children's Home is the opportunity to thank you for your compassionate support of the children and families in our care.

In 2018 we shared with you true life experiences of children in our Children's Homes, Methodist Foster Care, Life Skills Training and OWL Equine programs. Each story contains the common theme of bringing a child from chaos to calm, from being lost to being loved. God has graced our ministry and extraordinary staff with these transformational skills over the last 100+ years of service to children and families.

Your generosity and trust inspire us to stay on mission no matter what challenges arise.

You can rest assured that your financial support is absolutely essential to our ability to offer more than basic services to the children and families who rely on us for guidance, shelter and love in their darkest hours.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Sincerely,

 Rick Wheat
 President and CEO

Community Bridges West, Inc.

P.O. Box 715 – 1201 Atkins Road
 Ruston, Louisiana 71273-0715
 318-255-9137 ext. 204
 318-255-8233 fax

January 16, 2019

Benton United Methodist Church
 4615 Palmetto Road
 Benton, LA 71006-0388

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Jericho and Grace Group Homes, thank you for your donation of \$234.00. We will use this donation to go towards their annual vacation fund. The clients will enjoy a recreational outing thanks to your thoughtfulness.

Happy New Year and God Bless.

Sincerely,

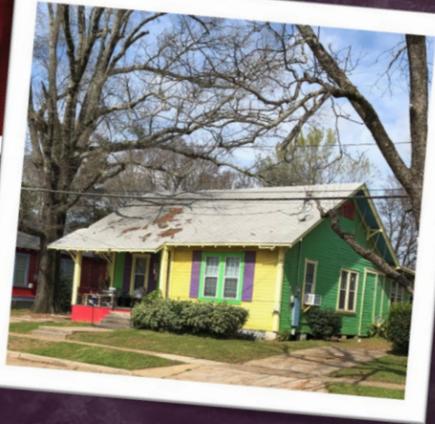
Deborah P. Wisterman, Administrative Assistant

MORNING GLORIES

Go to Common Ground

The Morning Glories visited a wonderful ministry in Cedar Grove that focuses on children and families. They serve dinner, open their clothes closet and food pantry for up to 350 people on Thursdays! How they love!!!

Right: The Morning Glories in the original sanctuary that will be remodeled into an all-purpose room/gym. The stained glass in the front will stay!



Above, left: Peggy Rumbaugh, Pam DeBusk, Myra Sobral, and Reba Hearne listening to Sarah Shoup explain the new Mommy & Me program in the room that it takes place.

Above, center: Sarah Shoup, Katherine Ashley, Sandra Upshaw, Irma Kennedy, and Peggy Rumbaugh in the Mommy & Me room.

Left: In the Common Ground Clothing Closet where Katherine Ashley found some great ideas!

Above: The first house that housed Common Ground before the Faith UMC building was donated by the Louisiana Conference.



Below, left : The sanctuary altar area, where they hold services on Thursdays. **Below, center:** A window covering that looks like stained glass—sewn and donated by Katherine Kavanaugh—beautiful! There is one on the opposite side of the sanctuary, also! **Below, right:** Sarah Shoup telling the Morning Glories about the sanctuary and uses for Common Ground Ministry.



Sounds of Benton

Thank you to all who came and supported Sounds of Benton. I really appreciate each and every one of you!! A great time was had by all!! We hope to continue to grow this to an annual event. A few special Thank Yous are in order:

Platinum Sponsors:
 Edko
 Barksdale FCU
 JW Malley Consulting
 Benton Physical Therapy

Special shout out to the 5 youth that served (and looked super sharp):
 Hayden Hable
 Ty Knippers
 Ella Kate Malley
 Davis Sellers
 Tate Sellers

Thank you TREMENDOUSLY to the ones who made the FLC look marvelous:
 Katherine Ashley
 Carolyn Collins
 Kay Etter
 Paige Malley
 Ann Sellers

To Mrs. Patsy Burns and her wonderful kitchen staff: THANK YOU!! The food was delicious!!



Loving Jesus Through His Children



Pictured above: Sorting clothing—women’s, men’s, children’s, and shoes.

Left: Men’s and Women’s carts are full!!

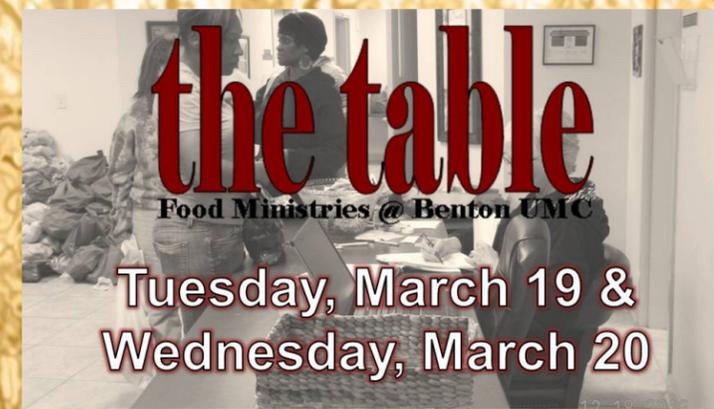
The Closet Clothes Ministry meets every Wednesday at Benton UMC and A Cross Faith. They sort the clothing at the church, just like we did at WOW!

The Joseph Ministry delivers these items using the blue and red laundry carts, and brings back donations for Goodwill (the clothing that hasn’t been chosen). *Thank you Joseph Ministry—for your work with The Closet and the Shreveport-Bossier area missions! We love you!!*

During the time the closet crew works at A Cross Faith, they are sorting, organizing, LAUGHING, visiting and praying with customers, which builds strong relationships within the community. *Closet Team, thank you for all you do for our church & community! We love you!!*

To find out more & to help, contact:
 The Closet—Sue Shadow (318) 965-2496
 Joseph Ministry—Ron Jones (318) 469-3693

Serving Our Community



Tuesday, March 19 & Wednesday, March 20

The Table Food Ministry

Tuesday, March 19 8:00 AM Truck Unloading 9:00 AM Bag Packing	Wednesday, March 20 12:30 PM Food Distribution
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For more information on The Table, contact:
 Kim Hauser kimdenise1996@gmail.com or Rachel Stoneman rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

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

HOURS:
 Wednesday, March 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