



Greeters and Ushers Ministries

Help us welcome our guests! This is an excellent way to reach out through the church to those who don't know Benton UMC. Find out if this is where you connect through ministry.

For more information about these ministries, please contact:

Ron Jones
(318) 469-3693

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.

2020 HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 5
8:15 AM & 10:30 AM Services
with Sunday School at 9:15 AM

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 9 at 6:00 PM

Good Friday Service & Luncheon

Friday, April 10 at 11:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11 at 2:00 PM

Easter Sunrise at Sunrise

Sunday, April 12, 2020

at the home of Bob & Sue Shadow

6:30 AM Refreshments

This special service is held in a beautiful back yard overlooking Cypress Lake. Everyone is welcome. Bring a lawn chair for your comfort—there are no seats available.

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

374 West Lakeshore Drive, Benton, LA

Sunday School & Worship at Benton UMC

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship



INsight

March 2020
Monthly Newsletter of
Benton United Methodist Church

A Word From Pastor Brad

Church,

As we move into the Lenten season please consider doing two things. Reflect on the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting. There are scriptures and exercises below that can help you along the way. But first a quote from the now deceased Father Edward Hayes.

"Come, O Life-giving Creator, and rattle the door latch of my slumbering heart. Awaken in these fortified days of Lenten prayer and discipline my youthful dream of holiness. Show to me during these Lenten days how to take the daily things of life and by submerging them in the sacred to infuse them with a great love for you, O God, and for others."

— Prayers For a Planetary Pilgrim, Edward Hayes

Prayer

"But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your (God) who is in secret and your (God) who sees in secret will reward you."

— Matthew 6: 6, 9-15

Pray the Lord's Prayer slowly and intentionally.

Reflections on the Lord's Prayer may lead to praying more deeply for personal needs and needs of family.

- How do I honor God as creator of all things? How do I honor God in my thoughts, my words, and my actions?
- How does my life reflect God's Reign of love, justice and mercy? Am I putting too much emphasis on material things?
- Can I trust God to provide for my daily physical, emotional, and spiritual needs?
- When I have sinned, do I admit my wrong, ask God's forgiveness, and start anew?
- When people have wronged me, am I able to forgive them as God forgives me?

Fasting

"But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your (God) who is in secret; and your (God) who sees in secret will reward you."

— Matthew 6:17-18

Fasting from an overly busy pace of activities allows one time to rest in the presence of our Redeemer and time to fortify self so as to nourish our neighbor.

Matthew 6:16 reminds us: "When you fast, do not be somber." We are united with each other in almsgiving, prayer and fasting.

Being joyful during Lent is expressed in our belief in triumph over evil, love over death.

Be blessed!
Your Preacher

Weekly Events

Sundays

Worship8:15 AM
Sunday School9:15 AM
Fellowship10:15 AM
Holy Communion.....10:15 AM
Worship10:30 AM
Boy Scouts2:00 PM
Bible Study (at the Hearne home) ..5:00 PM

Mondays

Bodies On a Mission9:00 AM
Exploring Prayer6:30 PM

Tuesdays

Intercessory Prayer Team9:00 AM
Exploring Prayer10:00 AM

Wednesdays

Bodies On a Mission9:00 AM
The Closet @ BUMC9:30 AM
The Closet @ Chapel11:30 AM
WOW! Dinner5:30 PM
WOW! Study & Activities6:10 PM
Choir Practice7:00 PM

Thursdays

Gospel of John Bible Study ...10:30 AM
Alcoholics Anonymous6:00 PM

Fridays

Bodies On a Mission9:00 AM

Monthly & Special Events

- Sunday, March 1**
United Methodist Men Breakfast..... 7:00 AM
Illuminate Ministry Meeting..... 2:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 3**
Finance Committee Meeting..... 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 4**
Cypress Area Garden Club Meeting..... 9:30 AM
- Thursday, March 12**
Morning Glories 9:30 AM
- Friday, March 13**
Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM
- Saturday, March 14**
Community Garden Bed Deliveries 9:00 AM
- Sunday, March 15**
United Methodist Men Breakfast..... 7:00 AM
Illuminate Ministry Meeting..... 3:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 17**
Food Truck Unloading..... 8:00 AM
Food Bag Packing..... 9:00 AM
Nightingales Circle..... 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, March 18**
The Closet @ A Cross Faith 11:30 AM
The Table Food Lunch & Devotion 11:30 AM
The Table Food Distribution..... 12:30 PM
SNAP Coordinator w/ NWLA Food Bank .. 12:30 PM
- Friday, March 20**
Just a Bunch of Lit Wits..... 7:15 AM
Prayer Shawl Ministry..... 10:00 AM
- Friday, March 27**
FUNdamentals Retreat (March 27-29)
Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM
- Saturday, March 28**
Souper Saturday 7:30 AM
- Sunday, March 29**
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon..... 11:30 AM

January 2020 Financial Snapshot	
Income General Fund	\$47,078.48
Expenses.....	\$28,564.36
Building Fund Income	\$5,407.00
Mortgage Note	\$163,399.05
Apportionments	\$ 46,985.00

Women's Weekend Retreat
March 27-29 at the Wesley Center

FUNdamentals of Goodness is happening at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA, from Friday to Sunday, March 27-29. This annual event, sponsored by Benton UMC and supported by FUMC Lafayette, is open to all women. Cheryl Fell brings the "FUN" and Cheryl Nelson supplies the "fundamentals." The Wesley Center has a beautiful campus, comfortable rooms and a spacious DeColores Building where we meet. The weekend will hold table discussions, a woodland labyrinth, good food, games and free time, closing with a meaningful Communion service. Reservation forms are on the Welcome Center and in the church office, due back at the Center by March 20. The total cost of the weekend is \$130.00 if you share a room and \$180.00 if you have a single room.

For more information, call 422-0914 or wait for the March Newsletter to learn all the details.

Holy Communion

Sundays
10:15-10:30 AM

in the
Ed DeBusk Prayer Chapel
on all Sundays except the first
Sunday of the month.

Robert Hauser who leads our Eucharistic Ministry will be upstairs in the Prayer Chapel every Sunday (except 1st Sunday) to serve Holy Communion during Fellowship time. We are hoping this is a more convenient time for you, if you are someone who wants Communion more often. There will be no formalities; you just step in, receive the elements and step out - of course, you are also invited to stay as long as you wish in this worshipful setting.

OPALS

Tuesday, March 24, 2020
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 listen to Mr. Warren G. Ward, Ret. USAF Colonel speak about around the world mission. Mr. Ward is Chief of the Plans, Programs and Requirements Division of the Air Force Nuclear Command, Control and Communications Center, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB.

Our donation to Common Ground this month for their neighborhood pantry is canned vegetables – they are so appreciative of our support. Hope to see YOU at OPALS!

For reservations, please contact:
Peggy Rumbaugh (318) 349-1465
or Mae Miller (318) 746-8193

Serving Our Community

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Friday, March 20 at 10:00 AM
Bible Bayou

Our goal is for a fun, faith based, educational time. Learn to knit or crochet while we make projects for various uses - some for congregational care and some for local mission. Come one, come all, both inexperienced and experienced and in between! We hope to see you there.

For more information, contact:
Brenda Paul at (478) 919-9199
or Myra Sobral at (318) 840-8008

Impact Mini Mission

Wednesday, March 25 at WOW!
Dinner at 5:30 PM
Mission at 6:10 PM

Our Mission: Bossier Sheriff & Benton Police!

Register by emailing:
linda.silas@bentonumc.org

Impact Mini Missions

Wednesday, March 25 at WOW!
Dinner at 5:30 PM & Mission at 6:10 PM
Our Mission: Bossier Sheriff & Benton Police

Souper Saturday

Saturday
March 28
7:30 AM

Souper Saturday Needs You!

We need people to ride along with drivers for deliveries, or to be 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 or 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

the table

Food Ministries @ Benton UMC

Tuesday, March 17 &
Wednesday, March 18

Tuesday, March 17 8:00 AM Truck Unloading 9:00 AM Bag Packing	Wednesday, March 18 12:30 PM Food Distribution
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The Table Food Ministry

For more information on The Table, contact:
Kim Hauser kimdenise1996@gmail.com or Rachel Stoneman rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org



Five first grade classes, including Rachel (Mitchell) Stuckey's class, learned about Mardi Gras at the Crew of Centaur. Benton UMC provided the King Cakes for 5 First Grade classrooms and they had a wonderful time!



Ladies' Luncheon

Sponsored by the
Benton United Methodist Women

3.21.2020
11:30 AM
GUEST SPEAKER
BILLY WEATHERALL
OF CHRIST FIT GYM

Tables of 6 - \$120
Reservations per person - \$20
Contact the church office at
(318) 965-2273



We are so thankful for the positive thoughts, donations, and generosity shown due to the Benton storm. Our hearts have been overwhelmed with joy by all of the kindness shown. With appreciation, Mrs. Kratzer, Mrs. Livers, Mrs. Nugent, & Mrs. Salley

Benton UMC Donations for Benton Middle School totaled to **\$637.00** plus supplies. Each teacher was given a gift card to Amazon and the supplies are going to Arden Madden. Thank you for your support!

Presenting the gift cards to the teachers affected by the storm.

Pictured Left: Brad Franklin, Ms. Nugent, Ms. Livers, Ms. Salley, Mr. Machen; **Pictured Right:** Ms. Linda Silas, Brad Franklin, Ms. Nugent, Ms. Livers, Ms. Salley, Ms. Madden & Ms. Stringer; **Pictured Below:** Storm damage



Office LaRandle Taylor

On Saturday, Jan. 11, at approximately 1:59 a.m., while on duty, Officer Taylor sustained life-threatening injuries during the severe storms that tracked through the Benton area. Officer Taylor was attempting to keep vehicles from hitting downed utility lines on LA Hwy 3 just north of Burt Blvd. An inattentive driver failed to slow down and the vehicle hit the downed utility line causing the utility line to strike Officer LaRandle Taylor and his police unit. As a result, Officer Taylor was electrocuted and sustained other serious injuries from the incident.

Officer Taylor serves as a part-time police officer with the Benton Police Department, and with his part-time status, he is not eligible to receive sick pay and he does not have insurance to help cover his medical expenses.

Benton UMC, you were very generous with your love offering of **\$2,154.00**. Our pastor, Brad Franklin, delivered the check to Officer Taylor and he was so appreciative.

Benton UMC is in active ministry through our Benton Police Department and the Bossier Sheriff's office through ministries like Community Garden (Benton Police volunteered their time off to help deliver and fill raised beds for the Community Garden), Care Bears (stuffed animals for children experiencing trauma through Linda Silas), the Gingerbread House (requests from officers as needed), The Table Food Ministry (allows officers to deliver food to those in need as a way to engage and build trust in the community), and many other needs as they come up.

Thank you for your support of all of our mission and outreaches here at Benton UMC!

Seeds for the Harvest

Raised Bed Deliveries

We need 6 trucks to deliver 6 beds!

Saturday, March 14 | **Contact Rachel Stoneman**
9:00 AM | **at 318-469-9100**

Seeds for the Harvest will be delivering 6 raised beds this year to those who are in need. We need 6 teams of at least 3-4 people to make this happen. We will meet at the church at 9 AM, caravan to Eco Mulch in Shreveport to pick up compost, then go to the church to place the beds on top of the compost. At the church we will be assigned a home to deliver the beds. Fresh veggies are sometimes very hard to get if you are limited on transportation. These beds have been a hit, especially with the elderly because they are raised and easier to reach their veggies.