



Weekly Events at Benton UMC

Sundays

Sunday School.....	9:00 AM
Worship	10:15 AM
Youth Small Groups	5:00 PM
Bible Study (<i>Hearne Home</i>)	6:00 PM

Mondays

Bodies On a Mission	9:00 AM
First Place 4 Health	6:00 PM
Beautiful Already (<i>Sellers Home</i>)....	7:00 PM

Tuesdays

Intercessory Prayer Team.....	9:00 AM
Bodies On A Mission	6:00 PM
Men's Basketball.....	7:00 PM

Wednesdays

Donuts & Scriptures (<i>MS</i>).....	6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission	9:00 AM
The Closet Workday (<i>2nd & 4th</i>) ..	10:30 AM
WOW! (<i>Wide Open Wednesdays</i>)	5:30 PM

Thursdays

Donuts & Scripture (<i>6th girls</i>).....	6:45 AM
Spiritual Formation Group.....	11:00 AM
Choir Practice	5:30 PM
Alcoholics Anonymous	6:00 PM
Bodies On A Mission	6:00 PM
Spiritual Formation Group.....	6:00 PM

Fridays

Donuts & Scripture (<i>HS</i>).....	6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission	9:00 AM

A Word From Pastor Brad

Dear Church,

Recently I offered this devotional to the staff before our March meeting. It spoke to me as I hope it will speak to you. Be blessed this Easter and proclaim with a joyful heart that Jesus is Risen!

A springtime refection on planting a garden might provide us with some insights into the meaning of Easter. Planting potatoes in some parts of the United States is a ritual that takes place on St. Patrick's Day or Good Friday, but the ritual is ancient. Before planting potatoes, you must first cut out those pieces containing eyes. Then those pieces are ready to be buried in the good soil of the garden.

In a play on words we see a similar relationship between Easter and the destruction of the "I". For without cutting out the "I", without the death of the ego, there can be no personal resurrection experience. Easter is a joyous event which we may express with elaborate alleluias, feasting, new clothes, candy rabbits and brightly decorated eggs. But it is a painful experience as well! Easter is the celebration of the resurrection, but a resurrection implies death. We are eager to celebrate life but reluctant to die first!

The death of Easter is more than the death of the body. It is that deeper death of the "I". If we seek holiness and wholeness, we must "cut out" the great "I" and bury it. The "I" wants to have its own way and to have it right now, with no compromise and no opposition. We want what we want when we want it!

Part of the mystery of this death to the self is found in service to others, and part of it is found in the ability to invest oneself in something greater than the self. We all need a "beyond" to which we can consecrate ourselves, a dedication to something bigger, greater, and more transcendent than the self. We need to find something worth the investment of our whole self, an investment that can be made with our whole heart.

This Easter season make the life changing investment of burying the "I" of self and be made new through the resurrection good news that Jesus is Alive.

Hallelujah!!

Your Preacher,
Brad

In the same way, my friends, you have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit to God.

~Romans 7:4

Monthly & Special Events

Sunday, April 2

United Methodist Men's
Breakfast & Devotion 7:30 AM
Greeters Orientation..... 11:30 AM

Wednesday, April 5

The Closet at A Cross Faith..... 10:30 AM

Thursday, April 6

Dinner with Friends 6:30 PM

Tuesday, April 11

Lay Leadership Meeting..... 6:30 PM

Thursday, April 13

Morning Glories 9:30 AM
Maundy Thursday Seder Meal 6:00 PM

Friday, April 14

~Church Office Closed~
Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM
Good Friday~Encounter Jesus 12:00 PM

Saturday, April 15

Easter Egg Hunt..... 2:00 PM

Sunday, April 16

Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 AM
Worship 8:15 AM
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

Monday, April 17

~Church Office Closed~

Tuesday, April 18

NWLA Food Truck Unloading 9:00 AM
NWLA Food Bag Packing 10:00 AM
Nightingales..... 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 19

The Closet at A Cross Faith..... 11:30 AM
The Table Food Distribution..... 12:30 PM

Saturday, April 22

Spring Cleaning Day 8:30 AM

Sunday, April 23

United Methodist Men's
Breakfast & Devotion 7:30 AM

Monday, April 24

United Methodist Women
Executive Meeting..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday, April 25

OPALS 11:30 AM

Friday, April 28

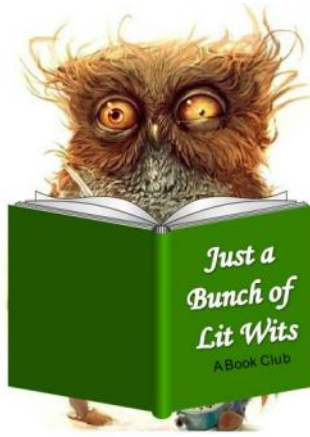
Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM

Saturday, April 29

Souper Saturday 7:30 AM

*For more information about these and other events,
please contact the church office at (318) 965-2273.*

Regularly scheduled events are listed on page 1.



*Just a Bunch of
Lit Wits*
A Book Club

Book club begins
Friday, April 21 at 7:15 AM
at Panera Bread on Airline

For more information, contact:
Joel Carter
jlcumc@yahoo.com

Just a Bunch of Lit Wits ~ A Book Club

Welcome to book club! We are an informal group that will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at Panera Bread to discuss our chosen books and pick new ones. Each member will "host" a month, which means they pick the book and lead the discussion on their chosen literary adventure. To keep it simple, we will meet at Panera through the first round picks and re-evaluate at the start of another round. Each round is as many months as there are members up to 12. If more people than 12 join - we will split into 2 groups. If that happens, there will be options to change location/time for the added group. We will work everything out at our first meeting!

Types of books we will read:

Thrillers, action, biography, science fiction, Christian, and many more genres are allowed in this club. Each member will pick a book they are interested in reading whether or not they have read the book. Series are allowed, but only the first in each series. Members can choose to read the rest on their own.

Expectations:

Whenever possible, please attend the discussion and be open to people's book selections. The great thing about book club is that we are able to expand our literary horizons and see the writings from other perspectives. Please respect each other's opinions and ideas - we all have a different lens in which we view things. We hope you join us!

For more information, please contact:

Joel Carter
jlcumc@yahoo.com

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

OPALS

Tuesday, April 25 at 11:30 AM
Family Life Worship Center
Cost: \$5.00

Windmills and Tulips will be the theme for the OPALS April meeting! Benton UMC's 55+ bunch (Older People with Active Life Styles) will meet in the Family Life/Worship Center for their monthly lunch & social time. This is designed for the 55+ bunch but everyone is invited. Lea Ann & Charlie Joe Clements, Pam DeBusk & Cheryl Nelson will share pictures and stories from their Viking River Cruise in the Netherlands last May. You will learn about the tulip industry and the history of the windmills, plus their favorite sites and memories from the trip. All are encouraged to join us. Lunch will cost \$5. Everyone is invited!

For reservations, please contact
Peggy Rumbaugh at (318) 349-1465
by April 23, 2017.



Dinner With

Friends

Dinner with Friends
April 6, 2017 at 6:30 PM
Youth Room (Former Sanctuary)

This **Empty Nester** group is always looking for new people to join. At this quarterly meeting, small groups will be assigned. These small groups meet about once a month for a meal or other activity, either in a home or a restaurant, to hang out and get to know each other. We will be having a catered fish fry. Please bring \$6.00 to cover the cost.

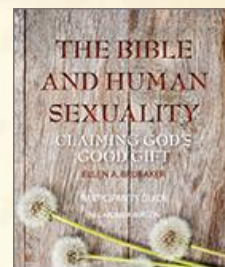
Since this meal will be catered, we will need a head count. Please let your group leader know if you will attend; and if you are new, please contact Reba Hearne at (318) 965-0122.

CIRCLES:

MORNING GLORIES – April 13, at 9:30 am in the Breakfast Club SS room.

NIGHTINGALES – April 18, at 6:30 pm in the Breakfast Club SS room

Catherine Long will be presenting the intro to our UMW Spiritual Growth Study, **The Bible and Human Sexuality** at both circles. We will finish up at General Meeting, June 6th. This is a really interesting study and we welcome all ladies to attend either or both times. We will be hosting other UMW units on June 6th as a Cluster Study.



The 2016 Spiritual Growth study invited us to explore the complexity of the biblical text and our varied understandings of it in light of human sexuality. It examines the influence of church leaders throughout thousands of years of Judeo-Christian history. It also considers the influence of faith, family systems, heritage, and changing gender roles, along with the impact of race, class, age, ethnicity, and orientation.

CALENDAR:

Executive Committee – **April 24** – 6 pm. NOTE the time change -- Evening meeting

Circles meet **May 11 and 16**

Morning Glories have fellowship snacks Sunday, **May 28th**

General Meeting **June 6 – 6 pm** NOTE: time change so we have plenty of time for study. Sandwiches and snacks will be served.

LA Annual Conference – **June 7-10** at Centenary

No circle meetings June- August

UMW State “Mission u” –Wesley Center - Woodruff, LA **July 19-22**

UMW District “Mini Mission u” **August 18** Noel UMC, Shreveport

THANK you everyone for participating and supporting our Fashion Show and Luncheon. It was very successful and earned mission and community outreach recognition.



Join the discussion on FaceBook at www.facebook.com/groups/bunchoflitwits



Grief Ministry

Grief is a natural emotion for people who have suffered some loss. There are stages of grief that need to be worked through in order to recover a healthy outlook, and sometimes, people need help with this journey. Benton UMC is preparing to begin a Grief Ministry which will provide just such a support group, open to the community, that will meet weekly during the evening or on weekend. There will be a trained facilitator leading the group in six-week sessions.

People experience grief for many reasons – loss of a job or a life-style, loss of a loved one or a marriage. The grief support group will provide a safe place for them to share their pain (and what has helped) with others in a similar situation, while being guided through the stages of grief. The meetings are always grounded in spiritual practices and are strictly confidential. We have seen a need in our church family for this ministry and believe God is leading us in this endeavor.

If you have suggestions, or know of someone who would benefit from this ministry; or if you would like to be part of a grief support group, please contact:

Pastor Brad at (318) 965-2273

Pastor Cheryl (318) 422-0914



Donor Recognition Tree New Leaves Placed In Memory of:

Sarah O'Neal
by Bob & Marilyn McGowen

Donor leaves are available for a minimum donation of \$100 in the church office in memory or in honor of your loved one.

All donations go to the Building Fund.



Spring Cleaning Day

Mark your calendar!
April 22, 2017

Lay Leadership Report

Lay Leadership is working with the Trustees and the Space Search Team to sponsor a church Spring Cleaning day on Saturday, April 22nd. Our goal is to reorganize the church in a more efficient manner. We need congregation members of all ages to serve in the kitchen, youth, children's area, Bible Bayou, and the BUM shack—just to mention a few. Springtime is a busy time—can you spare a few hours to serve with us? We start at 8:30 AM with coffee, drinks and donuts and will work until 4 PM. You can serve at any time between those hours for as long as you have available. A light lunch will be included. Please keep your eyes out for the sign-up sheets on Palm Sunday.

After our initial cleaning, we will evaluate our space needs again to maximize our ministry potential. The space search team is well on its way and can really use everyone's help to build up Benton United Methodist Church.

Blessings,
Ron

Holy Week at Benton UMC

Thursday, April 13, 2017

6:00 PM

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

R.S.V.P. to Mary Beth West at marybeth.west@bentonumc.org

Friday, April 14, 2017

12:00 PM

Good Friday ~ *Encounter Jesus*

Lunch and worship presented by the Benton UMC Youth

R.S.V.P. to Mary Beth West at marybeth.west@bentonumc.org

Saturday, April 15, 2017

2:00 PM

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 16, 2017

6:30 AM

Easter Sunrise Service

*at the home of Robert & Claudia Adley
611 Jessie Jones Drive, Benton, LA*

8:15 & 10:30 AM

Worship

9:15 AM

Sunday School

**For more information about these
and other events, please contact:**

**Mary Beth West
(318) 965-2273**

marybeth.west@bentonumc.org



Serving Our Church Family

GREETERS and ushers

Greeters and Ushers Ministries Orientation Lunch Sunday, April 2 at 11:30 AM *(immediately following worship)*

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 9:15 AM, and six greeters for the second worship service at 10:30 AM. The Fellowship time will be 10:15 AM to 10:30 AM. The number of ushers needed has not been determined.

If you haven't signed up but want to know more about the greeter and usher ministry at Benton UMC, please consider joining the orientation on Sunday, April 2 and find out if this is the area you connect with in ministry.

Thank You,
Dick Mosher

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

**Dick Mosher
(318) 965-2373**

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

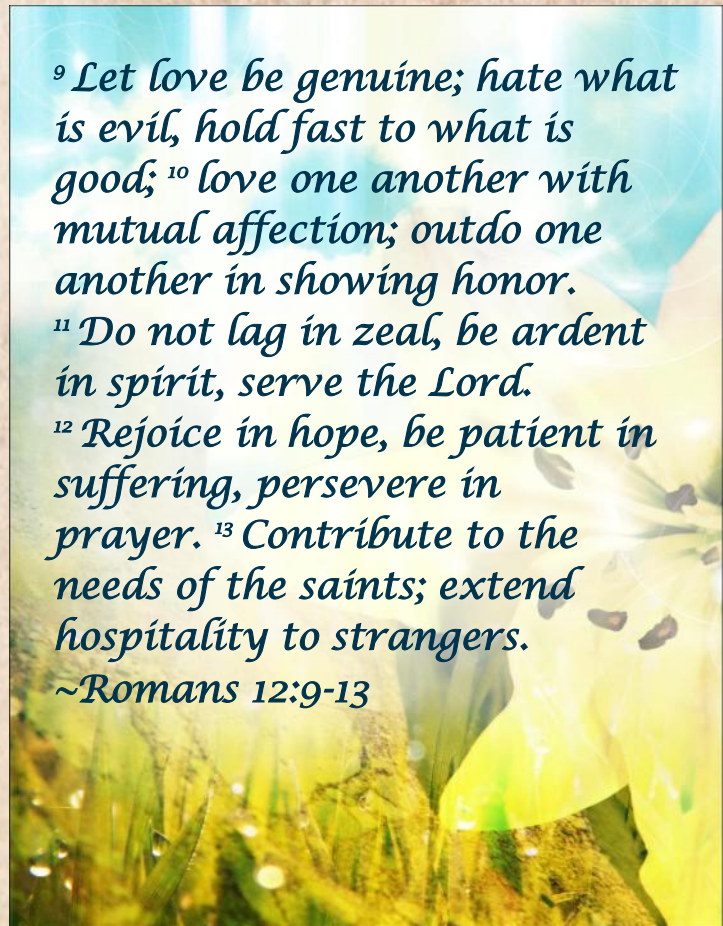


⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

~Romans 12:9-13



Sew Crazy Ladies

Contact: Sandra Upshaw at (318) 326-5966
or Katherine Ashley (318) 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, April 14 & 28, 2017

Serving Our Community



The Table Food Ministry

Tuesday, April 18
9:00 AM
Truck Unloading
10:00 AM Bag Packing

Wednesday, April 19
12:30 PM
Food Distribution

For more information on The Table, contact:
Rachel Stoneman at (318) 965-2273
or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

Souper Saturday

Saturday

April 29

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

katherine.kavanaugh@cookyancey.com



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

**New service times
 beginning
 Sunday, April 16!**

**8:15 AM – Worship
 9:15 AM – Sunday School
 10:30 AM – Worship**