



## 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.

## Ice Cream & Fireworks

Wednesday, July 3 at 7:30 PM

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! We will have ice cream and watch the special fireworks show that Cypress Baptist hosts each year. Bring a lawn chair for your comfort!



Join us for a Vacation Bible School experience where kids (ages 3 years through entering 5th grade - children must be potty trained) discover a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life! Are you ready for an African adventure? Register online at <http://bentonumc.org/VBS2019>.



## Weekly Events

### Sundays

Worship .....8:15 AM  
Sunday School .....9:15 AM  
Worship .....10:30 AM  
Boy Scouts .....2:00 PM

### Mondays

Bodies On a Mission .....9:00 AM

### Tuesdays

Intercessory Prayer Team .....9:00 AM

### Wednesdays

Bodies On a Mission .....9:00 AM  
The Closet @ BUMC .....9:30 AM  
The Closet @ Chapel .....11:30 AM  
Choir Practice .....7:00 PM

### Thursdays

Alcoholics Anonymous .....6:00 PM

### Fridays

Bodies On a Mission .....9:00 AM



## A Word From Pastor Brad

Dear Church,

For the month of July we're going to be exploring several parables of Jesus. I love parables. Probably because there's both an engaging story and a truth about the Kingdom of God to glean from. And who doesn't enjoy a good story and a nugget of truth that can be applied in everyday life?

Kevin Halloran, a preaching professor that I follow, says that our understanding of a parable and its details should all flow from the main point (or points). This is a crucial step, because the main point of the parable is the reason Jesus said it in the first place!

Some recommended questions for finding the main point are:

- Who are the main characters?
- What occurs at the end?
- What occurs in quotation marks?
- Who/What is the focus of the story?

While longer parables share a lot of important details along the way, the key to understanding the implications of the parable is often found in its conclusion. In the parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matthew 13:24-30), the ending reveals what happens to the wheat and tares respectively and shows the ultimate purpose of the parable which is to indicate that God will judge who is really part of the church at the final judgment.

Apply this insight to the next parable you read and see if you don't read and experience it differently. Happy reading!! Looking forward to exploring the Parables with you in July.

God Bless,  
-Your Preacher

*Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,  
but living as servants of God.  
~ 1 Peter 2:16*

# Monthly & Special Events

**Tuesday, July 2**  
Safety Team Training.....6:00 PM

**Wednesday, July 3**  
Ice Cream & Fireworks .....7:30 PM

**Thursday, July 4**  
Church Office Closed in  
Observance of Independence Day



**Sunday, July 7**  
United Methodist Men Breakfast.....7:00 AM

**Monday-Friday, July 8-12**  
Vacation Bible School—Roar .....9:00 AM

**Friday, July 12**  
Sew Crazy Ladies .....10:00 AM

**Sunday, July 14**  
Tapestry & United Methodist Women Meeting ... 12:00 PM

**Tuesday, July 16**  
Food Truck Unloading .....8:00 AM  
Food Bag Packing.....9:00 AM

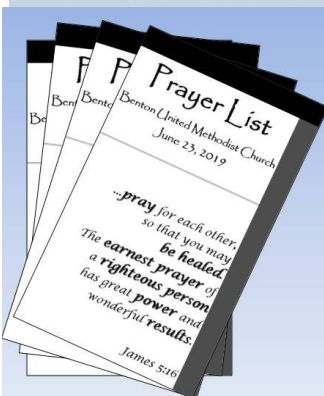
**Wednesday, July 17**  
The Closet Clothes Ministry @ A Cross Faith..... 11:30 AM  
The Table Food Lunch & Devotion ..... 11:30 AM  
The Table Food Distribution ..... 12:30 PM

**Friday, July 19**  
Just a Bunch of Lit Wits @ Panera Bread.....7:15 AM

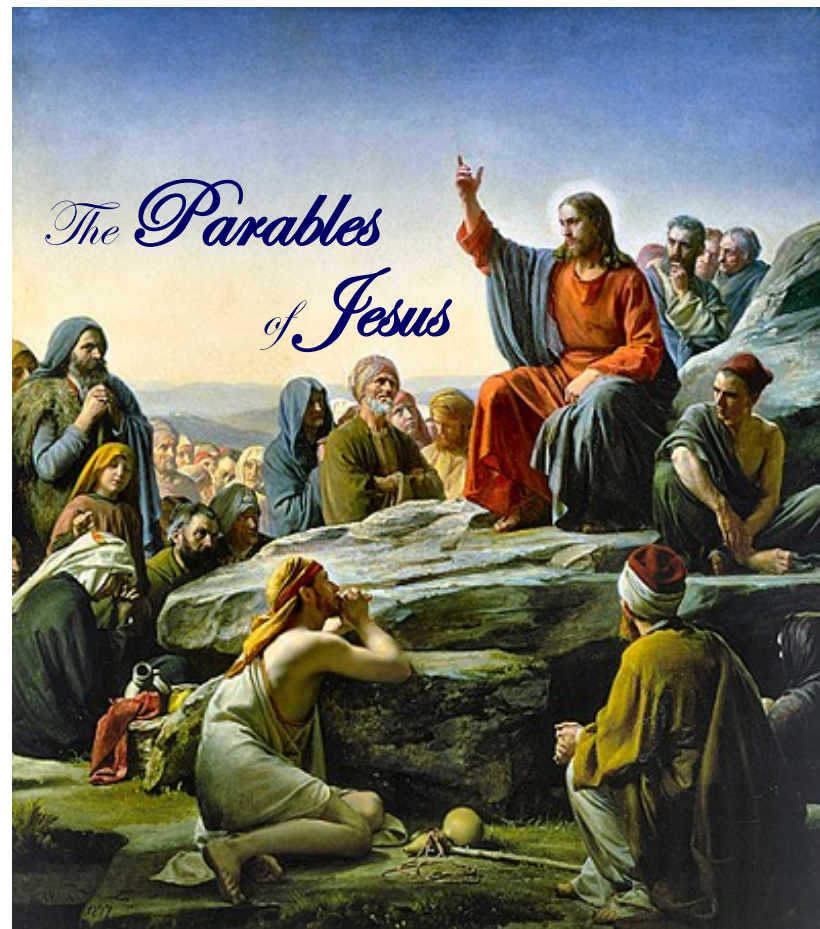
**Sunday, July 21**  
United Methodist Men Breakfast.....7:00 AM  
LifeShare Blood Drive .....7:45 AM

**Friday, July 26**  
Sew Crazy Ladies ..... 10:00 AM

**Saturday, July 27**  
Souper Saturday .....7:30 AM



Updated prayer lists are available at the hospitality booth in the Family Life Center.



## July Sermon Series

Pastor Brad will take a closer look at some of the parables of Jesus during this July sermon series.



## Blood Drive

**Sunday, July 21**  
**7:45 AM-11:45 AM**

**TO SAVE A LIFE!**

You never know what effect you can make on a life until you understand what giving blood means for those whose lives depend on it. This simple act of giving means the world for those who receive. Click below to hear some experiences of these recipients.

<http://www.lifeshare.org/recipients-stories>

## Save the Date, Benton UMC!!



## Ice Cream Social & Mini Mission

With the Gingerbread House!  
Wednesday, July 24 at 6:00 PM

Join us for an Ice Cream Social and special guest speaker, Alex Persons, Forensic Interviewer and Educational Coordinator for the Gingerbread House. Hear about the special ministry the Gingerbread House has in our community!

We are collecting **school supplies** and making snack bags for the children and family members who are being served by their programs.

### School Supply List Please bring by Wednesday, July 24, 2019

- Pens
- Pencils
- Notebook paper
- Notebooks
- Binders
- Dividers
- Markers
- Crayons
- Glue



**Wednesday, July 24 at 6:00 PM**  
**School Supply Drive & Snack Bag Packing for the Gingerbread House**

# 50's Sock Hop

Sponsored by the Benton United Methodist Women

**Friday, August 2, 2019 from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM**



**ICE CREAM FLOATS**

**MUSIC BY THE KOKOMO CRUISERS**

**Best Dressed Contest**



## Benton United Methodist Church

Family Life Center • 4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, LA • (318) 965-2273

For more information, please contact: Joann Horton (318) 347-8844

# Serving Our Community



## The Table Food Ministry

<b>Tuesday, July 16</b> 8:00 AM Truck Unloading 9:00 AM Bag Packing	<b>Wednesday, July 17</b> 12:30 PM Food Distribution
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For more information on The Table, contact:  
Kim Hauser [kimdenise1996@gmail.com](mailto:kimdenise1996@gmail.com) or Rachel Stoneman [rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org](mailto: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:

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays ..... 11:30 AM-4:00 PM

All Other Wednesdays..... 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

**A Cross Faith Advocacy Center**

**HOURS:**  
Wednesday, July 17  
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](mailto:shadow781@bellsouth.net)



## Souper Saturday Needs You!

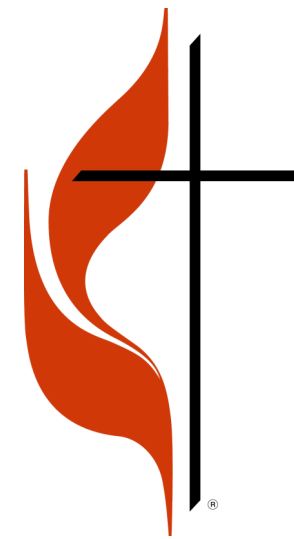
We need people to ride along with drivers for deliveries, substitute drivers, soup cooks, and sandwich makers. We have very dedicated volunteers—a family of Christ's servants! We serve on the last Saturday of each month. Please join us to see if this is where you connect in service.

For more information on Souper Saturday, contact:

Katherine Kavanaugh  
318.218.7730

[katkavanaugh@bellsouth.net](mailto: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



## Louisiana Annual Conference 2019

Every quadrennium at Annual Conference, delegates from all across the connection gather to elect lay and clergy delegates to both [General Conference](#) and [Jurisdictional Conference](#).

The number of delegates an Annual Conference is entitled to send to a General Conference is based on two factors: the number of clergy members of the Annual Conference and the number of members of local churches in the Annual Conference.

In the case of Louisiana, this meant electing three clergy and three lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference and two alternates for both clergy and lay for a total of sixteen.

The election results are below with clickable links to information about each delegate:

### Clergy, General Conference

[Brady Whitton](#)  
[Karli Pidgeon](#)  
[Katie McKay Simpson](#)

### Clergy, Jurisdictional Conference

[John Cannon](#)  
[Matt Rawle](#)  
[Simon Chigumira](#)

### Alternates

[Marissa Teauseau](#)  
[Ellen Alston](#)

### Laity, General Conference

[Sarah Kreutziger](#)  
[Ronald Helaire](#)  
[Michelle DeRouen](#)

### Laity, Jurisdictional Conference

[Jennifer Swann](#)  
[Lesh Nettles Brown](#)  
[Margaret Washington](#)

### Alternates

[Adam Philley](#)  
[Deborah Todd](#)

***If you would like to learn more about these delegates, click the links above or look at our Conference Delegate Election Results 2019 book in the work room in the church office.***

## Looking Back at Annual Conference 2019

Click the links below to find out more about what happened at Louisiana Annual Conference 2019:

[Delegation Election Results](#)

[Meet the Louisiana Delegation](#)

[Watch and read the Episcopal Address](#)

[Read the Ordination Sermon](#)

[Meet the Ordination Class of 2019](#)

# Loving *Jesus* Through His Children



## Storm Response

**Above:** Saturday, June 22, 2019, ERTs & volunteers from 4 local churches responded to our own John & Jennifer Carter's home to remove the tree that had fallen Wednesday, June 18th.

From Benton UMC: Henry Simons, David & Kelly Denmon, Robert Hauser, Jon Novak, John White, Andy Holley, and Gary & Rachel Stoneman.

*Thank you, Scott & Renee Spalding from First UMC in Bossier for leading this team in Plain Dealing!*



**If you would like to help in disaster response,  
please contact:**

**Rachel Stoneman**

**(318) 469-9100—Call or Text**

**[rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org](mailto:rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org)**