

Quarterly & Yearly Events

Angel Tree UMC&FS and Kingston Elementary Shoes

Benton UMC collects gifts requested by the United Methodist Children and Family Services and shoes for Kingston Elementary school during Christmas.

For information on the Angel Tree, contact:

Kim Hauser
kimdenise1996@gmail.com

Beat the Heat Fan Drive

Benton UMC collects fans for the elderly and low income families in our immediate area. We serve Benton and Plain Dealing Council on Aging and those served by Benton UMC.

For information on the Fan Drive, contact:

Gail Pitts
(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

LifeShare Blood Drives

Benton UMC hosts LifeShare Blood drives quarterly. Benton UMC has to meet the required minimum donation of 150 units per year to qualify for this program.

For donation schedule, contact:

Rachel Stoneman
(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

Operation North Star

Serving those military service members that are serving our country in Djibouti, Africa by sending care packages for Christmas.

For information on Operation North Star, contact:

Jon Novak
jonnovak@live.com

Prison Holiday Outreach

Our ministry with the Bossier Correctional Facility began in 2020 with "Pies for Prisoners" at Thanksgiving and "Snack Cakes for Prisoners" at Christmas. On Thanksgiving morning, we deliver 736 slices of pies to the Re-Entry and Medium Security facilities. We buy the pies with donations from the congregation. For Christmas, we deliver 1200 Little Debbie Christmas Tree snack cakes to the Re-Entry, Medium and Maximum Security facilities. We collect these in the sanctuary until delivery.

For information on Prison Holiday Outreach, contact:

Ashley Stinson
patash1210@aol.com

Souper Saturday Christmas Boxes

A new addition to the Souper Saturday Ministry is "Souper Saturday Christmas Boxes." This ministry invites the church to give the Souper Saturday team a break and allow a more flexible delivery so others with more strict schedules can participate. The box is filled with some holiday offerings and can be delivered anytime after Thanksgiving.

For information on Souper Saturday Christmas Boxes, contact:

Rachel Stoneman
(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

The Toy Shoppe Angel Tree

Benton UMC collects toys, gift cards, and wrapping paper each year to bring a little Christmas joy to the children served by The Table Food Ministries. We begin collecting gifts November 1st of each year for ages 0-12 years old and gift cards for those 13-17 years old.

For information on The Toy Shoppe Angel Tree, contact:

Rachel Stoneman
(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

National Mission

Disaster Relief Missions
Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, & Sulphur, Louisiana
Heifer International

For information on National Mission, contact:

Rachel Stoneman
(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

The Penny King Ministry

Mark David Crosby, the Penny King, began collecting pennies for missions in 1988 at the age of three. During VBS that year, he listened intently to Pastor Rob Weber's message about collecting pennies for missions. This made a tremendous impact on Mark David. All week he eagerly collected pennies to bring to VBS each day. At the end of VBS, Mark David made the comment, "Mom, we need to collect pennies all year round", and that is just what he did. Mark David realized God's desire to use him and so he encouraged his family and friends to save their pennies, too.

This passion for serving the Lord through pennies grew with each year. Mark David was later coined, "The Penny King" by Bill Moon, who was Pastor of Benton United Methodist Church at that time. Through Mark David's faithfulness, he made people realize that no act of service is too insignificant for the Lord. Every penny counts.

Mark David's penny ministry did not conclude at his death in December of 1999, but rather lives on through hundreds of thousands of pennies being collected each year for missions at Vacation Bible School.

Pennies Outreach:

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at Ochner/LSUS • Prison Ministry • Camp Caney
Benton UMC Table Food Ministries • Benton UMC Fire Recovery • Think First
St. Jude Cancer Research • Louisiana United Methodist Children & Family Services
Benton UMC Prayer Shawl Ministry • American Bible Society • Bossier Sheriff's
Children's Miracle Network • Boy Scouts of America

Group Outreach

United Methodist Men

Methodist Children's Home—Ruston, LA
Gingerbread House
Teen Challenge
Operation Blessing

United Methodist Women

Samaritan's Purse
The Toy Shoppe
The Table Food Ministries
Purchased, Not For Sale
Providence House
Common Ground

Bodies On A Mission

The Closet Clothes Ministry

Dinner with Friends

The Dream Team

Breakfast Club Class

Manna Bags

Children's Ministry

Heifer Project, Int.
Souper Saturday
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Eva Smith Class

Heifer Project, Int.
Louisiana Methodist Children's Home
Special Offerings

Grumpy Old Men Class

Louisiana Methodist Children's Home

Pairs & Spares Class

Fire Recovery Ministry
The Closet Clothes Ministry
Souper Saturday
Helping Hands
The Table Food Ministry

The Potter's Hand Class

Benton UMC Emergency Food Pantry

Clergy Information

Rev. Brad Franklin, Senior Pastor
brad.franklin@bentonumc.org

Revised: 11.30.21



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www.bentonumc.org
www.facebook.com/servingbenton

Community Outreach
Serving in Mission & Ministry

Benton UMC Mission

The mission of Benton United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by *inviting in, growing up and sending out* transformed persons in mission and ministry. We seek to accomplish our mission through dynamic worship, life-changing small group interaction, and engaging mission and service opportunities. Every element of our mission is designed to invite others into a relationship with Jesus Christ to experience His salvation through spiritual growth and service for the Kingdom with others.

Outreach Mission

The congregation serves in various mission projects in the immediate area and throughout the world. We invite people to established mercy (*the door through which relationships can be formed*) ministries to build relationships, learn about community needs, and grow hearts and minds to develop a closer community through our growing *justice ministries (*intentional development through educational programs and advocacy—those ministries have a asterisk beside them*). We advocate for the hungry, the homeless, and the hurting. We invite you to show God's love is real, face-to-face or behind the scenes.



*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young,
but set an example for the believers
in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12*

**If you are interested in serving
or have an idea for a service opportunity,
please contact:**

Sue Shadow, Mission Chair
(318) 965-2496 or shadow781@bellsouth.net

Rachel Stoneman, Director of Missions
(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

*A Cross Faith Advocacy Center

A Cross Faith Mission Statement: Churches of North Bossier Parish uniting the Body of Christ across faith lines to serve those in need

A Cross Faith is an ecumenical ministry founded by St. Jude Catholic Church, Elizabeth Baptist Church, and Benton United Methodist Church which advocates for transportation, food, shelter, clothing, and physical and mental health.

Rachel Stoneman(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

Care Bears

Care Bears serves local children traumatized by abuse, disaster, or other tragic circumstance. First responders of the Benton Police Department and Bossier Parish Sheriff's Department keep these stuffed animals with them to give to children who have suffered or witnessed traumatic events. Studies show that stuffed animals can be a comfort because children benefit from the embrace they give these softly textured toys. It offers them a friend in a chaotic time and these stuffed animals will be prayed over with focus on the recipient. God knows who that will be. To help this ministry, please bring new and very gently used stuffed animals to the church office.

Linda Silas(318) 965-2273 or linda.silas@bentonumc.org

The Closet Clothes Ministry

The Closet Clothes Ministry serves those in need of clothing and household items and there are no requirements to meet to shop—everyone is welcome. Donations of clothing, shoes, and linens are accepted at Benton UMC.

Hours: Wednesdays 11:30 AM-1:30 PM; 3rd Wednesdays 11:30 AM-4:00 PM

Sue Shadowshadow781@bellsouth.net

Disaster Relief Ministry

The Disaster Relief Ministry serves those in the midst of disaster including floods, fires, tornadoes, and other disasters which cause displacement of families in low or mass quantities. Response is activated by UMCOR's Early Response Team and District Disaster Preparedness Coordinators.

Rachel Stoneman(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

Fire Recovery Ministry

This ministry meets people at one of the most devastating times of their lives and helps the recovery process begin, all while the fire is **still** burning. House fires can be emotionally, physically, and financially devastating, so the Fire Recovery Ministry is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

How it works: The fire chief or fire fighter calls the Rachel and we respond immediately with the fire box and their servant partner. (This can be a husband and wife team or 2 other people that are male and female.) Then, the team will arrive at the house (ID cards are issued by the fire chief), meet the family, and do what is called for at that time. Often, they need hugs, someone to hold their hands, answer questions about what is next, and most importantly, to pray with them. *If you are interested in this ministry, training is available.*

Rachel Stoneman(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

Joseph Ministry

The **Joseph Ministry** serves mostly where needed in the church and community. They transport clothing to and from Benton UMC and A Cross Faith Advocacy Center. They also makes deliveries of clothing and furniture to places like Common Ground, the Renesting Project, Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission, Providence House, The Learning Center, St. Vincent de Paul's and many more.

Ron Jones(318) 469-3693 or ronald.r.jones@att.net

Sew Crazy Ladies

Sew Crazy Ladies works on many projects like book bags for UMCOR Sager Brown Depot, the costumes for Journey to Bethlehem, and other items for ministries and people in need.

Katherine Ashleylucykatherine52@yahoo.com

the table

Food Ministries @ Benton UMC

The Table encompasses a variety of hunger-focused ministries at Benton UMC. Listed below are opportunities to fight hunger in our community.

Benton UMC Emergency Food Pantry

This ministry provides food for families during the unexpected situations, including but not limited to homelessness, fire, and job loss, who are unable to qualify for the NWLA Monthly Food Pantry. The supplies for this pantry come from food and monetary donations from the church.

Ginny Jones & Gail Pitts(318) 935-8515 or covey21@att.net

Food for Backpacks @ Plain Dealing K-12

As an agency of the NWLA Food Bank, we provide food-insecure children with "weekend" food. The gallon size packs are distributed on Fridays by Melanie Welch.

Mackenzie's Manna Bags

The congregation packs gallon plastic zippered bags with a protein bar, canned fruit, water bottle, rehydration drink, canned meat, devotional, and a list of assistance resources for homeless people in need.

Rachel Stoneman(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

NWLA Monthly Food Pantry

Benton UMC is an agency of the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank that serves the 71006 zip code area. The supplies are purchased from the NWLA Food Bank at very little expense to the church. Applicants must meet USDA requirements to be approved for this program. Food distribution is on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12:30-4:00 PM. Unloading is done the Tuesday before at 9:00 AM and packing at 10 AM.

Kim Hauser(318) 965-2273 or kimdenise1996@gmail.com

Souper Saturday

Souper Saturday serves the last Saturday of each month to prepare soup and bag lunches for those in the Benton community who receive *Meals-on-Wheels* or are referred to the program. The ministry ensures that these recipients receive at least one warm meal on the weekend. Servants gather to cook, package, clean-up, or deliver the soup and lunches.

Joan Greathousejoan.greathouse@gmail.com

*Seeds for the Harvest Community Garden

This ministry has an educational garden with beds available to anyone who would like to reserve a bed for use and also builds raised beds for the community. The raised beds on church property are used by individuals who have never gardened or who have gardened all their lives. The community garden team fills the raised beds with compost and turns you loose to try your hand at gardening. This ministry is an educational outreach. There are many different opportunities to serve in the garden—watering, digging, helping in cooking and storing classes, and many others. Individual raised beds are available. No skills needed.

The garden team also builds raised beds for property owners and renters with landlord approval. This builds relationships with the church and our community, educates people on the importance of healthy food, and helps those with transportation and financial obstacles grow their own vegetables.

Rachel Stoneman(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org