

December

**THE BENTON CHRISTIAN**  
**November / December 2018 Newsletter**

*The Sound of Silence*

*"Hello darkness, my old friend. I've come to talk with you again.  
Because a vision softly creeping left its seeds while I was sleeping  
and the vision that was planted in my brain still remains, within the  
sound of silence..." ~ Bob Dylan & Paul Simon*

Hello darkness, you're really not my friend. As winter approaches I do not look forward to the increase of darkness. It used to bother me a lot more, so much so, that when I saw leaves falling in late August, I would want to stop and glue them back to their branches, thinking that somehow I could postpone autumn and winter. I dreaded the darkness. Anymore, I can cope with the dark a little better by planning some winter projects to keep my mind and hands occupied during the dark winter days and nights.

This year the leaves have not yet fallen but it has been the sound of silence that I have noted the most. Living in the quiet country as we do, it has been the absence of the familiar bird songs that have caught my attention: the red winged black bird with their familiar o-ka-lee, the killdeer strutting across the meadow singing its name kil-deee, kil-deee, and the mocking bird sitting high on my garage roof mimicking the songs of other birds.

November

**THE BENTON CHRISTIAN**  
**Benton Christian Church**  
*Disciples of Christ*  
**P.O. Box 264**  
**Benton, PA 17814-0264**  
*Return Service Requested*

**BENTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**

**Third & Church Streets • Benton, PA 17814**

Now in our backyard we have the sound of silence occasionally broken by the cawing of the crow or the feisty protest of the blue jay.

Winter is the season of silence. It is as if nature is putting its finger to her lips and telling us to shush..., be quiet. Perhaps God is giving us a season of silence so that we can truly listen, maybe even hear, God speaking to us. With winter comes the season of Advent, a time of waiting, watching and hoping. What better way to prepare for what is to come than to be still and quiet in anticipation. Perhaps then we will be able to say hello to the light and welcome the sound of the trumpet calling us all to meet our returning Savior in the air.

*Pastor Dave*



## THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

- |                 |   |                        |
|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>11/04/18</b> | <b>Paul's Mission</b>   | <b>Early Church</b>    |
|                 | Acts 13-14; 16-20; Romans 1; 3-6; 8; 12; 15;<br>1 Corinthians 1; 3; 5-6; 10; 12-13; 15; 16;<br>Galatians 1; 3; 5-6; 1 Thessalonians 1-5 |                        |
| <b>11/11/18</b> | <b>Paul's Final Days</b>  | <b>Early Church</b>    |
|                 | Acts 20-23; 27-28; Ephesians 1-6;<br>2 Timothy 1-4  |                        |
| <b>11/18/18</b> | <b>The End of Time</b>  | <b>A New Beginning</b> |
|                 | Revelation 1-5; 19-22   |                        |

### *Our Service Schedule:*

**Worship Services**  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

**Sunday School**  
9:00 AM

**Men's Prayer Meeting – Wednesday @ 7:00 PM**



### **Like us on Facebook**

Come check out our brand new facebook Page, listen to Pastor Dave's sermons, and get updates instantly on everything at Benton Christian Church. Search Benton Christian Church on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Benton-Christian-Church/371046732957622>

### **Staff and Office Information:**

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. David Mansfield**

Residence Phone: 570-336-4934

Office Hours – 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Board Moderator - Allen Turner (570-925-6052)**

**Church Secretary - Donna Lechleitner**

Secretary's Office Hours — 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Wednesday & Thursday

**Office Phone: (570) 925-2266**

**Email: [bentoncc@epix.net](mailto:bentoncc@epix.net)**

**Web site: [www.bentonchristianchurch.com](http://www.bentonchristianchurch.com)**

If you wish to be removed from the newsletter mailing list please call the Church @ 570-925-2266 or send an email to: [bentoncc@epix.net](mailto:bentoncc@epix.net)

# GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the death of  
a spouse, child, family member, or friend



## WEEKLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

**When:** Tuesdays @ 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.  
September 4th - November 27th

**Where:** Benton Christian Church,  
Corner of Church & Third St Benton, Pa

**Contact:** Kim Keller - (570)204-3888

**Registration Fee:** \$20.00 for workbook

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## Women's Group Christmas Party

Open to all Women of the Church, Community & Friends

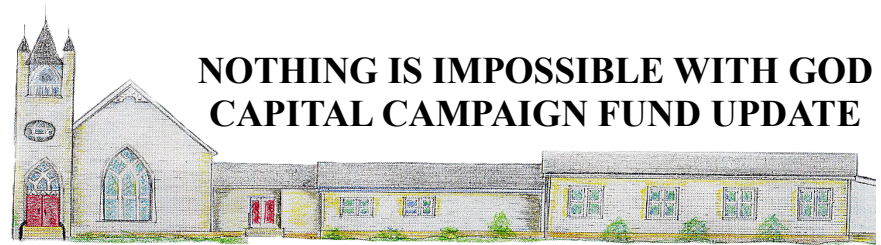
Saturday, December 8th from 1:00 ~ 3:00

@ the Benton Christian Church

If you would like to take part in the auction  
please bring a wrapped \$5.00 gift.

This will be a **covered dish meal**.

A meat tray, rolls and drinks will be provided.



## NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND UPDATE

### Capital Campaign Fund Monthly Report ~ August 2018

<b>Checking</b>					<b>\$194.42</b>
Date	Check #	Paid to:	Deposit	Amount	Balance
<b>Savings</b>					<b>\$28,480.89</b>
		<b>Withdrawals</b>		<b>Deposits</b>	
7-Aug				\$525.00	
16-Aug				\$1,221.00	
20-Aug				\$100.00	
Aug				\$575.00	
Aug		\$2,752.00			
27-Aug				\$441.00	
31-Aug				\$0.73	<b>\$28,591.55</b>

### Capital Campaign Fund Monthly Report ~ September 2018

<b>Checking</b>					<b>\$194.42</b>
Date	Check #	Paid to:	Deposit	Amount	Balance
<b>Savings</b>					<b>\$28,591.55</b>
		<b>Withdrawals</b>		<b>Deposits</b>	
4-Sept				\$467.00	
10-Sept				\$437.00	
17-Sept				\$402.00	
19-Sept		\$2,752.07			
24-Sept				\$691.00	
30-Sept				\$0.70	<b>\$27,837.18</b>

### Capital Campaign Fund Monthly Report ~ October 2018

<b>Checking</b>					<b>\$194.42</b>
Date	Check #	Paid to:	Deposit	Amount	Balance
<b>Savings</b>					<b>\$27,837.18</b>
		<b>Withdrawals</b>		<b>Deposits</b>	
2-Oct				\$315.00	
9-Oct				\$902.00	
15-Oct				\$562.00	



# Elder's Note

## The Gifts of Advent

*The last 2 months of the calendar usually go by very quickly. We're reminded daily of how many shopping days are left before Christmas, and we're easily caught up in the hustle and bustle of preparing for the holidays. We enjoy the gatherings of family for Thanksgiving and then for Christmas, but sometimes we forget to think about the origin of the season.*

*The ancient church fathers organized a church calendar that roughly followed the life of Christ. For them the church's New Year began in the 4 Sundays before Christmas, a season to begin the liturgical year called Advent. For the Christian, the observance of Advent candle-lighting can put one back in that time and place of the Jews who watched and waited for the Savior of the world to be revealed. As these first 4 Sundays pass, we are given gifts of this special season.*

*The first Sunday of Advent, which falls this year on December 2, focuses on Hope, with readings from the ancient prophets and songs of anticipation. Peace is the theme of the Second Advent Sunday, remembering all the preparations that had to be made to receive and take care of the newborn child. Bible readings center on Christ and the manger. The third Advent candle of Joy is rose-colored, and the Scripture readings center on the coming of John the Baptist. Christmas Sunday's candle represents Love, with readings centering on the Annunciation of Christ's birth. With all this harking back to the nativity of Jesus more than 20 centuries ago, we of the 21st century also are watching and waiting for the return of Christ, who will usher in a new age. Yet the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love remain ours as we wait.*

*So this December, as we experience the Advent season, let's linger on the gifts the season reminds us of. Take some time to focus upon each during that week of Advent, and ask God to show you how to receive each gift in your inner being. This focus is sure to help us with the demands that come our way, and help us center on the true reason for the season of Advent.*

Elder, Cathy Mansfield

# Soup Cook-off Winners

## 1st Place

~ Mary Keeney (Mert)  
with a Tomato Soup

## 2nd Place

~ Manford Caleed  
with a Cabbage & Pork Soup



We had a very successful turn out for our first Soup Cook-Off with a total of 13 different soup entries. A fun time was had by all! Thanks for coming out and sharing your delicious soups and fellowship. We are looking forward to our SECOND annual cook-off next fall!!



## Benton Christian Church

will hold its annual  
**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
on **Sunday, November 18th**  
after the 10:00 A.M. service  
in the church social hall.

**Sign up sheets** will be in  
the new lobby for the  
following:

### \*Attendance

### \*4 Large Turkeys

(cooked and dropped off at the church  
on Saturday morning, November 17th)

### \*Side Dishes

■ (mashed potatoes, stuffing & gravy  
will be provided by the Church)

### \*Pies (10)



*The  
Benton Area School District  
Faculty & Staff*

invite the Senior Citizens  
who reside in the Benton Area School District  
to a Free Holiday Meal.

Date: Sunday, December 9, 2018

Time: 12:00 noon (Reservations recommended)

Location: Middle/Senior High School Cafeteria  
We will be able to seat 250 people for this meal.

**Please make your reservations by calling  
the District Office at 925-0923, between  
8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., no later than  
Monday, December 3, 2018.**

The 7th-12th grade Band & Chorus students will  
be hosting a concert at 2:00 p.m. in the High  
School Auditorium.

This event is made possible by the generous donations of  
local individuals and businesses.

## *A Remarkable Gift*



*A remarkable gift can arrive in an unremarkable package. One did in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. No one expected God to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger is the message.*

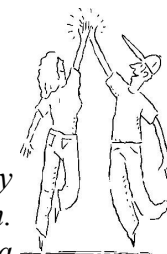
*During this Advent season we will be using Max Lucado's book and video series Because of Bethlehem. Beginning December 2 all of our Sunday school classes will be using lesson plans from Because of Bethlehem. The adult Sunday school class will be watching a video with Max Lucado. On Sunday mornings Pastor Dave will be presenting his messages from the same series. I'm looking forward to this Advent season for some new insights into the familiar story of Jesus' birth.*



## *Christmas Card Project*

*Once again this year we will be partnering with three congregations in Japan during Advent. Each Sunday we will pray for the churches and they in turn will pray for us. We will also exchange Christmas card greeting. This will be our fourth year doing this project which is coordinated by Global Ministries missionary to Japan, Jeffery Mensendiek.*

## *Flood Relief Giving*



*The Millville Christian church has been very supportive with donations for flood relief in Benton. Shortly after the flood hit Rev. Rich Plosinki brought a check to our church for \$500.00. In September the Millville church took up a love offering every Sunday for flood victims. On Sunday September 30th Allen Turner went to the Millville church to receive another donation for \$1,200.00. We are very grateful for the generosity of the Millville congregation. So far we have been able to assist four families with money for flood damage.*



## Worship Service Participants Schedule for November \*10:00 A M Service

### ~ November Diaconate ~

*John McMichael, Natalie Wilson, Mary Ann Bankes, Gayle Boudman*

**November 4**  
→

*Elders ~ Cathy Mansfield & Janet Kriebel*  
*Greeters ~ Kevin, Heather & Kaleb Zimmerman*  
*Children's Sermonette ~ Kim Keller*  
*Nursery Attendant ~ Faith Schlichter*

*Elders ~ Garry Ritter & Cathy Mansfield*  
*Greeters ~ Bob & Sandy Hess*  
*Children's Sermonette ~ Puppets*  
*Nursery Attendant ~ Natalie Wilson*

**November 11**  
←

**November 18**  
→

*Elders ~ Janet Kriebel & Jim Kremer*  
*Greeters ~ Peggy Follmer*  
*Children's Sermonette ~ Pastor Dave*  
*Nursery Attendant ~ The Zimmermans*

*Elders ~ Gloria Kremer & Garry Ritter*  
*Greeters ~ The Millers*  
*Children's Sermonette ~ Jim Kremer*  
*Nursery Attendant ~ Bob & Sandy Hess*

**November 25**  
←



## Announcements

- \* **Hoagie / Soup Sale:** Hoagies will be made on November 7th at 2:30 P.M. Hoagies and Soup must be picked up by 5:30 P.M.
- \* **Daylight Savings:** This year we will turn our clocks back before bedtime on Saturday, November 3rd.
- \* **Christmas Child Boxes:** Deadline for boxes is Sunday, November 4th. We will be packing the boxes on Sunday, November 11th. Anyone can assist with the assembling during the Sunday School hour, at 9:00 A.M. in the fellowship hall.
- \* **Hymn Sing:** Our annual Christmas Hymn Sing is Sunday, December 2nd at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments in the fellowship hall will follow.
- \* **Congregation Meeting:** Our annual congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2018 after the 10:00 A.M. Service.
- \* **Thanksgiving Service:** This year our Thanksgiving Service and Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 18th. The Thanksgiving Community service will be held at the **Benton Christian Church**, also on the 18th, at 7:00 P.M.
- \* **Benton Winterfest:** Breakfast with Santa will be held at the Benton Christian Church social hall on Saturday, December 1st.
- \* **Community Meal:** for the month of November will be on Saturday, November 17th, and in December, Saturday the 15th. Community meals are from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and are held in the Benton Christian Church Fellowship hall.
- \* **Food Bank:** The date for November is Tuesday, the 20th at 7:30 A.M. and in December, Tuesday the 18th at 7:30 A.M. at N4C's.
- \* **Pastors Cabinet Meeting:** on Tuesday the 11th of December at 7:00 P.M. If you will be the Chairperson of a Committee in 2019 you should plan on attending this meeting.
- \* **Poinsettia:** orders will be taken for our sanctuary. The order sheets for the Christmas Poinsettias will be in the new lobby towards the end of November. The deadline to place an order will be December 16th.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### November

- 2 - Montana Sellers
- 3 - Patricia Weaver
- 7 - Mary Lou Harvey
- 8 - Richard Bardo
- Gayle Boudman
- Joe Feola
- 12 - Kevin Schlichter
- 13 - Jim Kremer
- Zane Unbewust
- Jaidyn Laskowski
- Emma McHenry
- 14 - Margaret Hunsinger
- 16 - David McHenry
- Mikelanne Welliver
- 18 - David Diehl
- 21 - Erica Shultz
- 22 - Kristie Schaffer
- Justin Savage
- Sharon Remphrey
- 28 - Jean Hess
- 30 - David Mansfield



### December

- 1 - Kim Keller
- Shanna Hess
- 4 - Michael Welliver
- 6 - Mark Follmer
- 8 - Kim Notestine
- Brian Wolford
- 9 - Shane Fritz
- 10 - Dick Opdyke
- Chris Meigs
- Carson Welliver
- 12 - Denny Threlkeld
- Maria Shaurette
- 13 - Scott Follmer
- Stephen McHenry
- 15 - Kenneth McDormand
- Seth Lenhart
- 19 - Alyssa Kramer
- 21 - Alex Martin
- 24 - Michael Boudman
- 26 - Cathy Mansfield
- 27 - Harry Schlichter



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### November



### December

- 21 - Joe & Lorraine Feola
- 29 - John & Shirley Hittle

## Worship Service Participants Schedule for December \*10:00 A M Service

### ~ December Diaconate ~

*Rosa Miller, Elliot Miller, Faith Schlichter, Kim Keller, Joe Miller*

**December 2**

*Elders ~ Garry Ritter & Janet Kriebel*

*Greeters ~ Derl & Carol Remphrey*

*Children's Sermonette ~ Heather Zimmerman*

*Nursery Attendant ~ Kim Notestine*

*Elders ~ Gloria Kremer & Jim Kremer*

*Greeters ~ Mark & Deb Follmer*

*Children's Sermonette ~ Puppets*

*Nursery Attendant ~ Grace Swigart*

**December 9**

**December 16**

*Elders ~ Janet Kriebel & Cathy Mansfield*

*Greeters ~ Dick & Janet Kriebel*

*Children's Sermonette ~ \*Special\**

*Nursery Attendant ~ Faith Schlichter*

*Elders ~ Cathy Mansfield & Gloria Kremer*

*Greeters ~ Wendy & Kristen Kriebel*

*Children's Sermonette ~ Ron Kelsey*

*Nursery Attendant ~ Natalie Wilson*

**December 23**

**December 30**

*Elders ~ Jim Kremer & Garry Ritter*

*Greeters ~ Evelyn Janney*

*Children's Sermonette ~ Kim Notestine*

*Nursery Attendant ~ The Zimmermans*



It's that time of year, and we will once again be filling and collecting shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We will start collecting Sunday, September 30th. We ask that all boxes and donations be brought to the church by Sunday,

November 4th. We will be packing and shipping boxes on Sunday, November 11th here at the church. We also need monetary donations to pay for shipping. Please watch the bulletin for further instruction and dates.

### ***Suggested Donations:***

**Personal Hygiene Items:** toothbrush, hairbrush/comb, wash cloths, bar soap, kids band-aids, lip balm

**School Supplies:** crayons, pencils, small manual pencil sharpener, colored pencils, pens, markers, notebooks, index cards, solar-power calculator, ruler, glue sticks, safety scissors

**Crafts / Activities:** coloring books, word searches, age-appropriate puzzles, playdough w/plastic cookie cutters, stickers, jump rope, blow up balls, jacks, Soduko, small Bible

**Toys/Games:** yo-yo, slinky, small kite, etch a sketch, foam balls, plastic toys, playing cards, small stuffed animals

**Clothing/Accessories:** hair bows, hair bands, barrettes, socks, sunglasses, hats, friendship bracelets,

**Personal Note** – may include picture and address, the child may write back

### **Do Not Include**

Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

If packing a box please include the \$9.00 shipping cost. If donating items, monetary donations for shipping are also accepted and appreciated. Please see Heather Zimmerman for more information.

## ***Christian Women's Ministry***

**September 13, 2018** The Christian Women's Ministry met on Thursday the 13th, at 12:00 P.M. at the church. They were 6 ladies present. Betty Lewis gave the blessing before lunch. Co-president Shirley McHenry opened the meeting with us repeating the ladies opening prayer. Betty asked for prayer requests and prayer was lifted up. The Bible study was on Women of the bible. The secretary report was read by Mary Travelpiece. Treasurer's report was given by Nancy McClure. We have \$1,842.20 in the treasury. OLD BUSINESS: table cloths were ordered in ivory. Nancy discussed more about the Soup Cook off. Other food will be served as well. NEW BUSINESS: Donation made to fund for Donna Adams. Contact Nancy Musselman for more details on Soup Cook-off. Next meeting will be on Thursday, October 11, 2018 with pizza for lunch. Bring your drink. Those in attendance were: Shirley McHenry, Zane Umbewust, Mancy McClure, Betty Lewis, Nancy Musselman and Mary Travelpiece. Our meeting closed with us repeating our Ladies Closing Benediction.

**October 11, 2018** The Christian Women's Ministry met on Thursday the 11, at 12:00 pm at the church with 8 ladies present. Paula Sellers gave the blessing. Co-president Shirley McHenry opened the meeting with us repeating the opening prayer. Prayer requests were asked for and uplifted. The bible study was John 3-16 what does it mean to you by Gloria Kremer. The secretary report was read by Mary, Treasurer report was given by Nancy. OLD BUSINESS: we have 11 new ivory tablecloths the cost was \$228.84. Cook books are being worked on by Peggy. We get 200 books selling at \$10.00 and will be here in December. Nancy and girls set up for Saturday, October 13th soup cook off. She has 12 contestants. They will also sell bbq, hot dogs & drinks. NEW BUSINESS: We scheduled the Christmas Party for December 8th. Bring a \$5.00 gift to be auctioned. Meat tray provided. Please bring a salad or dessert. Next meeting in November 8 at 12:00 at the church with Nancy Musselman as hostess. We closed the meeting with benediction. Those attending were: Zane Umbewust, Nancy McClure, Peggy Follmer, Paula Sellers, Nancy Musselman Shirley McHenry, Gloria Kremer and Mary Travelpiece

Respectfully yours,  
Mary Travelpiece, Secretary