

December

**THE BENTON CHRISTIAN**  
**November / December 2019 Newsletter**

## Indescribable Gift

*A pastor friend of mine told me this story. He was driving from up north on route 220 and stopped at a convenience store in New Albany to get a coffee for the road. Ahead of him in the line was a biker guy who had come in to cash in his winning lottery ticket which he thought was for a thousand dollars. The clerk said to him I'm sorry but we do not have that kind of money around here. The clerk said, "You will have to wait for your million dollar payout". The biker guy was floored, since he did not realize he had won not a thousand dollars but a million. My pastor friend said as he left the store he saw the guy sitting on the curb with his hands in his head trying to comprehend what had just happened to him.*

*Paul in speaking to the Corinthians about God's abundant generosity said, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15) How do you describe the indescribable? How do you describe the color blue or the passion of love or the deep peace that God gives in a crisis? Paul was trying to describe for us the gift of Jesus and could only come up with the word indescribable. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life" Sounds to me like an indescribable gift! God reminds us at Christmas of the most wonderful gift that has ever been given the gift of Jesus: The babe in a manger, the Savior of the world, who brought the promise of unconditional love, unending hope, and eternal life to every person who believes in him.*

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**

He was thinking of Jesus who came to us in Bethlehem and gave his life for us all. Paul was overwhelmed at the thought of all that God had given us. He was like the biker sitting on the curb trying to take in the undeserved gift. So instead of putting it into words, he ended up saying "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift" Jesus is God's indescribable gift and the amazing thing is that we are able to receive this gift that is too wonderful for words but we are able to share it with others.

I look forward to contemplating God's indescribable gift with you this Advent and Christmas season..

*Pastor Dave*



## 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 sixth year doing this project which is coordinated by Global Ministries missionary to Japan Jeffery Mensendiek.

### *Our Service Schedule:*

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

**Ministerial Assistant: Gloria Kremer - (570) 925-1056**

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

**Church Secretary: Donna Lechleitner**

Secretary's Office Hours —

Weds 8:00AM - 3:00PM, Thursday & Friday Afternoons

**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)

# Bus Trip

Sight & Sounds,  
Lancaster, Pa.



presents:



Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Cost: Adult: \$90.00 per person (*non-refundable*)  
Child: \$40.00 (*up to and including age 12*)

Price Includes: Bus transportation (*rest room equipped*),  
the show, and a meal at Shady Maple

6:45 A.M. - Bus departs Benton Christian Church

11:00 A.M. - Presentation of Queen Esther

3:00 P.M. - Meal at Shady Maple

7:30 P.M. - Return to Benton

Contact: Gloria Kremer at 570-925-1056 or email at  
[gikremer@frontiernet.net](mailto:gikremer@frontiernet.net) for more info or to  
reserve your seats!!

Sign up and money must be paid by February 1, 2020

## NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND UPDATE



### Capital Campaign Fund Monthly Report ~ August 2019

<b>Checking</b>						<b>\$194.42</b>
<i>Date</i>	<i>Check #</i>	<i>Paid to:</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Balance</i>	
<b>Savings</b>						<b>\$19,525.83</b>
		<b>Withdrawals</b>		<b>Deposits</b>		
5-Aug				\$1054.00		
12-Aug				\$594.00		
19-Aug		\$2,752.07				
21-Aug				\$520.00		
28-Aug				\$614.00		
31-Aug				\$0.51		<b>\$19,556.27</b>

### Capital Campaign Fund Monthly Report ~ September 2019

<b>Checking</b>						<b>\$194.42</b>
<i>Date</i>	<i>Check #</i>	<i>Paid to:</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Balance</i>	
<b>Savings</b>						<b>\$19,556.27</b>
		<b>Withdrawals</b>		<b>Deposits</b>		
3-Sept				\$515.00		
10-Sept				\$455.00		
16-Sept				\$1,974.00		
19-Sept		\$2,752.07				
24-Sept				\$670.00		
30-Sept				\$0.51		<b>\$21,393.71</b>

### Capital Campaign Fund Monthly Report ~ October 2019

<b>Checking</b>						<b>\$194.42</b>
<i>Date</i>	<i>Check #</i>	<i>Paid to:</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Balance</i>	
<b>Savings</b>						<b>\$21,393.71</b>
		<b>Withdrawals</b>		<b>Deposits</b>		
2-Oct				\$310.00		
9-Oct				\$399.00		
15-Oct				\$499.00		



## Elder's Note

### God Guides

*As this season of transition from fall to winter continues, a familiar task faces our church: we need to nominate and fill open positions within our congregation. Each year, according to the master plan in our Constitution and Bylaws, we need to find a number of individuals who are willing to serve the church in given capacities, such as deacon, elder, trustee, or chairperson of a committee. Because a church is different from a civic group, we do seek God's guidance in the selection process. Prayer begins the Nominating Committee meetings, and prayer also bathes the entire process of calls, consideration, and acceptance.*

*The wonderful thing is, God guides this process!  
Romans 12: 4-8 tells us:*

*For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith. If it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach. If it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

# Soup Cook-off Winners

### 1st Place

*~ Manford Kocher  
with a Chicken Dumpling  
with Corn Soup*



### 2nd Place

*~ Nancy Musselman  
with a Tortellini Broccoli Alfredo Soup*

We had a very successful turn out and a fun time was had by all! Thanks for coming out and sharing your delicious soups and fellowship. We are looking forward to our THIRD annual cook-off next fall!!

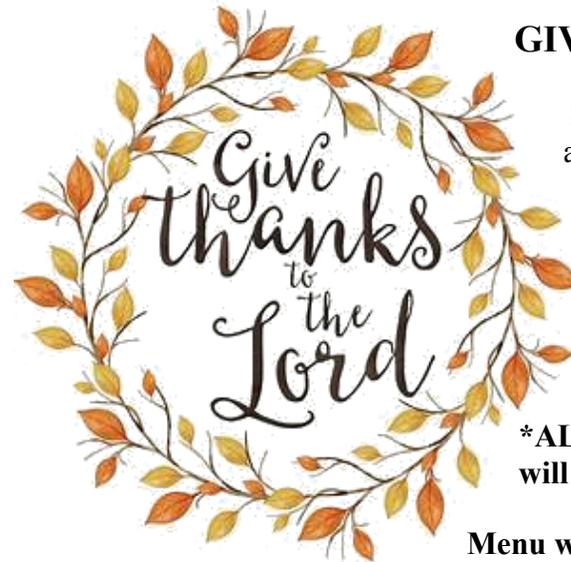
## Benton Christian Church

will hold a

### GIVE THANKS DINNER

on

**Sunday, November 17th**  
after the 10:00 A.M. service  
in the church social hall.



**Sign up sheets  
for attendance**  
will be in the Narthex

**\*ALL food, drinks and desserts  
will be provided by the church**

**Menu will include:**

**\*Ham, Potatoes, Baked Corn  
Various sides, desserts, and  
beverages**



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 8, 2019

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 2, 2019.

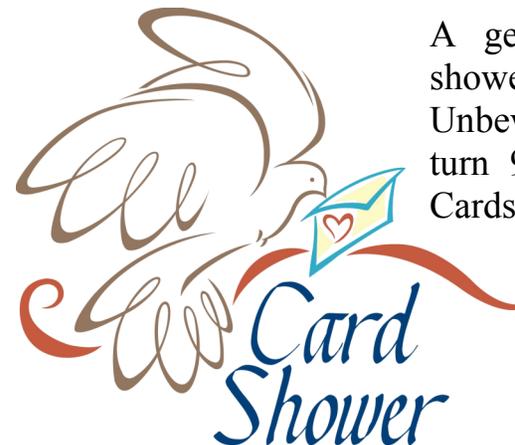
The 7th-12th grade Band & Chorus students  
will be hosting a concert at 1:30 p.m. in the  
High School Auditorium.

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

God has already prepared for the needs of our congregation by gifting individuals to contribute their creativity and effort to fulfill the needs of each open position. It isn't that the church members invited to serve will feel fully ready or even able to carry out their function. Being an officer of the church will stretch our confidence and faith, and invite us to rely on God himself for strength. If someone feels fully adequate and prepared to serve, perhaps their pride will keep them from this reliance on God that our congregation needs. Truly, God guides our congregation when we follow His leading. Our pastor, elders, deacons and church officers function differently, but they function best when unified in purpose of serving God and the church humbly. We are the body of Christ in this place, among other bodies (churches), and Christ is our leader, our head.

If you are invited to consider serving our church, please ask the Lord for His will concerning your service. Please devote prayer to consider the opportunity. And do not shrug off the opportunity, thinking others will do it. Together, with God in charge, we will be ready for the opportunities and challenges the future brings to the Benton Christian Church!

Elder, Cathy Mansfield



A get well and birthday card shower is requested for Zane Unbewust of Benton, who will turn 97 on November 13, 2019. Cards may be sent to:

Lake Manassas Health & Rehabilitation Center,  
14935 Holly Knoll Lane,  
Room 102,  
Gainesville, VA 20155

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

*~ November Diaconate ~*

*John McMichael, Dan Conner, Mary Ann Bankes, Gayle Bondman*

*November 3*  
→

*Elders ~ Janet Kriebel & Cathy Mansfield  
Greeters ~ Ron & Cheryl Kelsey  
Children's Sermonette ~ Ron Kelsey  
Nursery Attendant ~ Kim Notestine*

*Elders ~ Garry Ritter & Kevin Schlichter  
Greeters ~ Natalie Wilson  
Children's Sermonette ~ Pastor Dave  
Nursery Attendant ~ Grace Swigart*

*November 10*  
←

*November 17*  
→

*Elders ~ Cathy Mansfield & Garry Ritter  
Greeters ~ Gayle Bondman  
Children's Sermonette ~ Puppets  
Nursery Attendant ~ Faith Schlichter*

*Elders ~ Gloria Kremer & Janet Kriebel  
Greeters ~ Dick & Cindy Opdyke  
Children's Sermonette ~ Linda Campbell  
Nursery Attendant ~ Natalie Wilson*

*November 24*  
←



*Announcements*

- \* **Fellowship Meal** Give Thanks Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 17th after the 10:00 A.M. Service. See next page for details.
- \* **Hoagie / Soup Sale:** Hoagies will be made on November 6th 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 2nd.
- \* **Christmas Child Boxes:** Deadline for boxes is Sunday, November 17th.
- \* **Hymn Sing:** Our annual Christmas Hymn Sing is Sunday, December 1st at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments in the fellowship hall will follow.
- \* **Congregation Meeting:** Our annual congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2019 after the 10:00 A.M. Service.
- \* **Thanksgiving Service:** This year our Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 24th. The Thanksgiving Community service will be held at the **Assembly of God Church**, also on the 24th, at 7:00 P.M. The theme of the evening service is "Calling Forth Songs of Joy"
- \* **Benton Winterfest:** Breakfast with Santa will be held at the Benton Christian Church social hall on Saturday, December 7th.
- \* **Food Bank:** The date for November is Tuesday, the 19th at 7:30 A.M. and in December, Tuesday the 17th at 7:30 A.M. at N4C's.
- \* **Pastors Cabinet Meeting:** on Tuesday the 10th of December at 7:00 P.M. If you will be the Chairperson of a Committee in 2020 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 15th.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## November

- 7 - Mary Lou Harvey
- 8 - Richard Bardo
- Gayle Boudman
- Joe Feola
- 12 - Kevin Schlichter
- 13 - Zane Unbewust
- Jaidyn Laskowski
- Emma McHenry
- 14 - Margaret Hunsinger
- 16 - David McHenry
- Mikelanne Welliver
- 18 - David Diehl
- 22 - Kristie Schaffer
- 28 - Jean Hess
- 30 - David Mansfield



## December

- 1 - Kim Keller
- 4 - Michael Welliver
- 6 - Mark Follmer
- 8 - Kim Notestine
- 10 - Dick Opdyke
- Carson Welliver
- 12 - Maria Shaurette
- 13 - Scott Follmer
- Stephen McHenry
- 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 & Shirlee Hittle

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

~ *December Diaconate* ~  
Rosa Miller, Elliot Miller, Faith Schlichter, Kim Keller

**December 1**  
→

*Elders* ~ Garry Ritter & Cathy Mansfield  
*Greeters* ~ Kim & Emily Notestine  
*Children's Sermonette* ~ Heather Zimmerman  
*Nursery Attendant* ~ Kevin & Heather Zimmerman

*Elders* ~ Gloria Kremer & Garry Ritter  
*Greeters* ~ Grace Swigart  
*Children's Sermonette* ~ Kim Keller  
*Nursery Attendant* ~ Kim Notestine

**December 8**  
←

**December 15**  
→

*Elders* ~ Kevin Schlichter & Janet Kriebel  
*Greeters* ~ Shirley McHenry  
*Children's Sermonette* ~ Puppets  
*Nursery Attendant* ~ Grace Swigart

*Elders* ~ Cathy Mansfield & Gloria Kremer  
*Greeters* ~ Gloria Kremer  
*Children's Sermonette* ~ Sunday School Play  
*Nursery Attendant* ~ Faith Schlichter

**December 22**  
←

**December 29**  
→

*Elders* ~ Janet Kriebel & Kevin Schlichter  
*Greeters* ~ Judy Bankert  
*Children's Sermonette* ~ Yvonne Grose  
*Nursery Attendant* ~ Natalie Wilson



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 17th. Our goal is to fill 20-25 boxes. 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 12, 2019** *The Christian Women's Ministry met on Thursday the 12th, at 12:00 P.M. at Shirley McHenry's home for our picnic. We had 9 ladies present. Peggy, Gloria, Jesse, Judy, Betty, Nancy, Mary, Nancy & Shirley. Gloria gave the blessing. Peggy opened our meeting. Betty did a program on colors. Secretary & Treasurer's report were read.*

*We are selling Rada Knives, have some cook books left as well. We gave \$1500.00 to the capital campaign. We will have a soup cook-off October 19th.*

*Next meeting is October 10th at Kings restaurant, Orangeville. We closed our meeting with benediction.*

**October 10, 2019** *The Christian Women's Ministry met on Thursday the 10th, at 12:00 pm at Kings Restaurant, Orangeville, with 8 ladies present. Jesse, Nancy, Shirley, Peggy, Nancy, Betty, Judy & Mary. Betty gave the blessing. We enjoyed a great lunch. Shirley opened the meeting. Betty led us in prayer and also did a program on baking bread from the bible.*

*Secretary & Treasurer's reports were read. Saturday October 19th is our soup cook-off. In new business we donated \$1000.00 to the parking lot paving. Our next Wendy's fund raiser will be Monday November 4th from 5-8 P.M.*

*Our next meeting is Thursday, November 7th because several people are going on a bus trip. Next meeting is at church with Nancy Musselman as hostess. Our December meeting is the 12th at the church with everyone bringing a covered dish and wrapped present. We will watch a movie after. Our meeting closed with benediction.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Travelpiece, Secretary*

### ***~ CWM Sponsored Christmas Project ~***

*There will be a basket in the Narthex starting the Sunday after Thanksgiving for non-perishable items to be given to a needy family at Christmas. Thank you in advance for helping.*

*CWM*