



# INsight

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTON  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
APRIL 2014

## Over the Hill, In a Hole, and Out by Easter

Grace and peace to you in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ!

### Over the Hill

As you read this I am officially middle aged. I turned the half-century mark (50 years old) on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and some would say that I am “**over the hill**” now. In January my dad’s health became serious and now we are making preparations for hospice to care for him. On March 12<sup>th</sup> we celebrated my dad’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. With these milestones happening in my life lately I have done a lot of soul searching. What I have determined thus far is that life on earth is short and every single second is a gift from God! Today is all we have. Tomorrow is a hope and we pray that it will come, but today is all we have. Yesterday is a memory and if we spend too much time in the past we miss the present. So, how are we treating today? Are we living in the moment or waiting for something better to come by? Are we actively loving God and actively loving the people that God has blessed us to be in relation with and given us to share life? Take the time; make the time to make memories while time is still available.

### In a Hole

As we wind down the latter part of the Lenten season, Holy Week will soon be upon us. I invite you to join me for our special Holy Week services beginning on Palm Sunday (April 13), Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion (April 17 at 6:30 pm) and the Good Friday Stations of the Cross service (April 18 at 6:30 pm). Good Friday is the day when we remember that Jesus died upon a cross and his body was **laid in a hole** in the side of a rock quarry. While in Jerusalem I stood in that tomb that was hewn out of the slab of rock that held Jesus’ body for only three days. I was overcome with amazement of the sheer amount of love that Jesus has for me that he would give his life for me, he would die my death, and that Jesus’ death would atone for my sins. Amazing! Amazing grace indeed!

### Out by Easter

While in that same tomb I realized that there was no body in this tomb. The glory of Easter is that the tomb was empty. This means that the promise of resurrection was and still is a reality. The power of the resurrection means that atonement for our sins that happened on the cross is permanent and eternal. Whatever is bound by a Good Friday moment is unbound and cast **out by Easter**! Through the cross and the empty tomb we are freed from the past that haunts us, freed to live in the moment and freed to have a future that does not end in death.

I invite you to join me for Easter sunrise service (April 20 at 6:30 am) at Robert and Claudia Adley’s home on Black Bayou. I also invite you to join me in our Resurrection services on Easter Sunday at 8:30 and 10:50 am. I also invite you to invite someone that you know who needs to hear the good news of grace to join you for these grace-filled and spirit-filled worship services.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Dr. Danny Gleason  
Senior Pastor

## Mark the Date

- |      |  |            |
|------|--|------------|
| 4.8  | Health Kit Packing.....                            | 11:00 a.m. |
| 4.9  | Prayer Shawl Meeting .....                         | 2:00 p.m.  |
| 4.11 | UMW Bazaar Set-Up.....                             | 11:00 a.m. |
| 4.12 | UMW Spring Bazaar .....                            | 9:00 a.m.  |
| 4.15 | Food Truck Unloading.....                          | 9:00 a.m.  |
|      | Food Bag Packing.....                              | 12:00 p.m. |
|      | Food Distribution.....                             | 12:30 p.m. |
|      | Nightingales .....                                 | 6:30 p.m.  |
| 4.17 | Maundy Thursday .....                              | 6:30 p.m.  |
| 4.18 | Good Friday Service .....                          | 6:30 p.m.  |
|      | <i>(Church Office Closed)</i>                      |            |
| 4.19 | Easter Egg Hunt.....                               | 3:00 p.m.  |
| 4.20 | Easter Sunrise Service.....                        | 6:30 a.m.  |
|      | <i>(at the home of Robert &amp; Claudia Adley)</i> |            |
|      | Traditional Service .....                          | 8:30 a.m.  |
|      | Contemporary Service ...                           | 10:50 a.m. |
| 4.26 | Souper Saturday .....                              | 7:00 a.m.  |
|      | Miles for Missions 5K .....                        | 8:00 a.m.  |





# MILES FOR MISSIONS 2014

## Miles for Missions 5K

April 26, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.

Same day registration begins at 7:00 a.m.

Cost: \$20 per person

Our Miles for Missions 5K Run-Walk for Missions will support our effort in spreading the Good News while being the hands & feet of Jesus. There are many ways you can participate:

1. Be a sponsor - [www.bentonumc.org](http://www.bentonumc.org) (home page has a link "Sponsors click here")
2. Walk or run the 5K - T-shirt included in registration
3. Be a "ghost" runner - just register and receive a T-shirt - no running or walking necessary
4. Serve at the race by working the registration table, handing out water to the runners, getting fruit and drinks ready

**To guarantee a T-shirt, registration deadline is April 16, 2014**

\*Registrations continue until the start of the race, but there is no guarantee on T-shirt (there will be some extras).

For more information, contact:

Rachel Stoneman at 965-2273

[rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org](mailto:rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org) or scan code to right



## Coffee With the Pastor

Sunday, April 13, 2014

9:45 a.m.

Bible Beach Classroom

(2nd floor of the Family Life Center)

If you are new at our church or want to learn more about Benton United Methodist Church, make plans to join our Sr. Pastor on Sunday, April 13 at 9:45 a.m. during the Sunday school hour in the Bible Beach Classroom on the second floor of the Family Life Center. During this time you will have an opportunity to get to know more about the United Methodist Church and meet other folks. We will also take time to explain church membership.



Reserve your spot by:  
Calling the church office at  
318-965-2273 or  
email Carolyn at  
[carolyn.collins@bentonumc.org](mailto:carolyn.collins@bentonumc.org)

## Faith Lessons: The Death & Resurrection of the Messiah

Faith Lessons with Buddy & Reba Hearne  
Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.

Middle School Classroom (upstairs in Family Life Center)

Pack your bags—we're going on a journey and our tour guides are Buddy and Reba Hearne. This journey is a quest to uncover Scripture and its meaning across history. Filmed on location in Israel and throughout the Middle East, the *Faith Lessons* DVD series is an adventure in biblical learning. Teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan brings together history, culture, and geography to illuminate the Gospels. He reveals keen insights into the Scripture's significance for modern believers. This study will let you walk with Jesus through the days of his ministry on this earth. The insights you gain will transform your reading of the Gospels and inspire a deeper faith commitment. *Faith Lessons: The Death & Resurrection of the Messiah* focuses on the last week of Jesus' life, his death and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit's visit on Pentecost. Join us Wednesday nights!

## Sunday School Spotlight

### Christ's Melting Pot - Teacher: Stacy Smith

Find your way in this welcoming community of variety. Our backgrounds range from north to south, Baptist to Catholic, married to single, kids to no kids, and everything in-between. We use the *Faithweaver* curriculum and our lessons are easily applied to our daily lives. If you are not already a part of a Sunday School class, we invite you to join us as we study and discuss God's word to find our way in this crazy world. We meet in the children's building across from the Grumpy Old Men's classroom.

### INFORMATION UPDATES:

Address or E-mail change?

Please go to:

[www.bentonumc.org/updates](http://www.bentonumc.org/updates)

or contact:

Carolyn Collins

(318) 965-2273 or [carolyn.collins@bentonumc.org](mailto:carolyn.collins@bentonumc.org)



Dear friends,

In case you didn't hear about it or read it in the Louisiana Now!, Danny has been selected to participate in the Leadership Excellence Advancement Program (LEAP) provided by the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana. This program, held over a two-year period, is provided to 15 clergy leaders chosen from around the state to further enhance their ministerial gifts. Selection for this program is a wonderful affirmation of Danny's ministry and recognition of his leadership. Congratulations, Danny!

--Gordon Bartage

## Gold Medal Giver: Ron Jones

### An excerpt from KTAL NBC 6 News:

It's a selfless act, that helps so many. It's volunteering. That's why here at KTAL NBC 6 News, we like to honor those who give a helping hand in our community.

### This week's Gold Medal Giver is Ron Jones.

He's been volunteering every single day of the past five years, and he says he loves every minute of it. We first met Ron Jones as he was helping set up for Sunday Service.

"There's always time to serve others," said Jones.

It was supposed to be his day off from volunteering, but he was there, with a smile on his face. "It's just something I like to do," Jones stated. "But it's not an honor, it's a privilege."

To see full video click on Ron's picture at [www.bentonumc.org](http://www.bentonumc.org) or scan this code:



Thank you, Benton United Methodist Church, for allowing me to use your facilities for my Eagle Scout Ceremony. It was a huge success thanks to both my family and my church family!

~ Noah Leo, Eagle Scout

## The Closet Clothing Needs

It's time to clean out your closet and check for all those seasonal clothes that "shrunk" over the winter. Bring those items to the church and we will offer them to individuals who visit our clothes closet. We need adult, teen, children, and infant clothing. Spring is coming up and Easter Sunday clothes are in demand.

For more information about  
**The Closet Clothes Ministry**, contact:  
Sue Shadow at (318) 965-2496

## Christian Stewardship Report

First Quarter Income \$124,568.45  
First Quarter Expenses \$119,736.58

For quick access to E-giving—scan here:



## United Methodist Women

April 12 is the date of our SPRING CRAFT FAIR. The hours are 9 until 2(?) We will have vendors selling their wares and will also have a face painting booth. Patsy Burnes and her faithful kitchen crew will be selling soup and roast beef sandwiches. Joann Horton and Billie Mack are busy reserving booths for the vendors – many were also at our Fall Craft Fair. If you would like to reserve a booth, please call Joann @ 318-347-8844 or Billie @ 318-347-3194. Plan to attend as this promises to be a great outing for the entire family.

The Benton United Methodist Women invite everyone to join us. We have two circles (small groups) that meet monthly. The Nightingales meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Eva Smith Room. The Morning Glories meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am in the Pairs and Spares Room. You do not have to join a circle to become a member of the Benton United Methodist Women to participate in any of our activities.

The executive committee of the Benton UMW will meet Monday, April 28, at noon.

*Have you remembered  
the church in your will?*

## FUNDamentals of Praise

Once again Rev. Cheryl Nelson and her friend, Cheryl Fell, are leading a women's weekend retreat – May 2-4, 2014, at the Wesley Center near Alexandria. The theme this year is "FUNDamentals of Praise." Cheryl Fell is a motivational speaker and author of the book, Sunny side Up: Health and Happiness by the Dozen; she will provide the "fun" while Rev. Cheryl will bring the spiritual content. There will be ample time for resting, hiking, walking the outdoor labyrinth, participating in board games and card-making – all done in a spirit of praise! The cost of the weekend is \$135, which includes two nights' lodging (double occupancy), six meals, and the use of the facility. There is a wonderful sense of unity and relaxation at these annual retreats – a great Mother's Day gift to give yourself! There are registration forms in the church office which you will send directly to the Wesley Center, along with your registration fee. If you have questions or need more information, contact Rev. Cheryl.

## OPALS

The OPALS, Older People with Active Life Styles, will be meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, as usual, April 22, at 11:30 in the Family/Life Worship Center. The Hummingbird program that was canceled in February is returning! Debbie Filler, Margie Covington and Louise Carter have pictures and tales of a very interesting event they attended in Metarie where they learned **All About Hummingbirds**. Everyone is invited to join us for lunch and a delightful program. Lunch costs \$5 and reservations can be made by calling Sandra Upshaw at 326-5966 by April 20.





Join us for an afternoon of food, friends and fun on  
**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM!**

**Join us for:**

- Hot dogs
- Snow cones
- Popcorn
- Cotton candy
- Age-level egg hunts every 20 minutes
- Pictures with family and friends in the photo booth
- The cow train!!!

**Needed for the Easter Egg Hunt:**

If you would like to fill plastic Easter Eggs for the hunt, please bring them to the church office by Wednesday, April 16. Please do not use chocolate because it melts.



Children's Choir



Isella Reed



The Valentine Family



Katherine Ashley



The White Family



The Mad Hatter by Kim Cox

**Tables of Love Style Show 2014**

Many thanks to each and every one who helped make our annual Tables of Love Style Show and Luncheon a success. We were able to raise over \$2,000.00! This money will all be given to the various ministries we support.



Betty Russell's Table



Tanya White's Table



Beth Gleason's Table



Isella Reed's Table



*Maundy Thursday  
 Holy Communion Service*

Thursday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m.

*We will celebrate Holy Communion with the full liturgy including responsive readings. This special worship service will focus upon the love that Jesus shared with His disciples in His last supper and through his transformation of the Paschal meal into the Eucharist.*

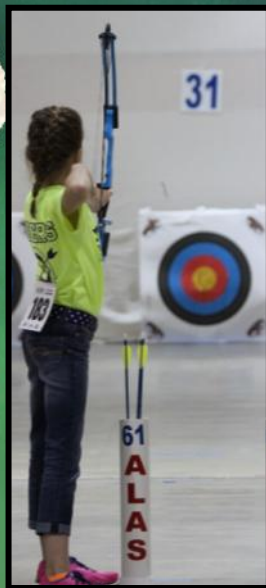




**Abigail Suzanne Rutledge  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade at Benton Middle  
School**

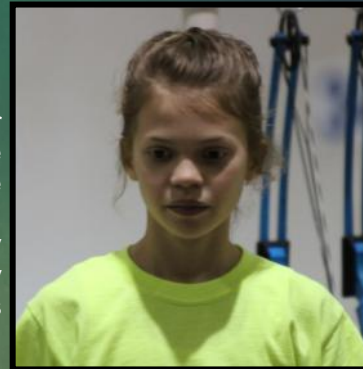
Abbie is the daughter of John Rutledge and Brenda LeChien. She is the younger sister of Jackson and older sister of Emma. She was born in Belleville, Illinois. She moved to Benton in 2003 and has been a member of Benton UMC since 2004. She has served as an acolyte, participated in the *30 Hour Famine*, helped with food distribution and served communion. She is a member of Ms. Connie's knitting class with

her fabulous confirmation mentor, Katherine Ashley. Her favorite subject is English. She is a member of the State Champion Benton Middle School Archery (see article to the right) team that is headed to the national tournament in May in Louisville, KY. While not on the archery range, she can be found racing toward the goal on the soccer field, flipping her way down the tumbling mat, playing the piano or cheering on her brother and sister at their activities. In the few minutes a week she is not busy, she enjoys jumping on the trampoline, exploring the woods around the neighborhood and reading. Whenever you see her in the halls at BUMC, she always has a smile on her face and a spring in her step.



# Abbie Rutledge

The Benton Middle School Archery Team placed **FIRST** in the Middle School Division—and **OVERALL HIGHEST SCORE** ever made—at the State Championship tournament held Saturday, March 1. Our very own **ABBIE RUTLEDGE**, a sixth grader at BMS and a member of the 2014 Confirmation Class at BUMC, is on this team. In fact, her score automatically qualified her for the **NATIONAL TOURNAMENT** to be held May 9-10, in Louisville, Kentucky.



Abbie has been "arching" for three years. Before joining the Middle School archery team, she was a member of the Benton Elementary School Archery team. The Benton Elementary team has been state champions 2 of the last 3 years. Go Abbie!

## Confirmand Spotlight: Above: *Abbie Rutledge* Below: *Colton Sessions*



**Colton Sessions  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade at Evangel  
Christian Academy**

Colton is the son of Chris and Teresa Sessions and the older brother of Bo Sessions. He is 15 years old and an honor student at Evangel Christian Academy. He maintains a 4.0 GPA is on the Chancellor's List and is also a linebacker on the ECA Eagles football team. He says football is his favorite subject, which is good because he spends a lot of time at school practicing and working out. Colton's other passion is playing the guitar. He loves music, especially heavy metal and rock. He plays in the

youth band, *Bringing Two*. As an active member of INstudent Ministries, he enjoys being involved in all of the youth activities. Last summer he attended Camp Caney where *Bringing Two* led worship all week. Colton has also been a part of the *30 Hour Famine* the past few years and helped raise money and awareness for childhood hunger.



### Youth Knitting at Benton UMC!

Sarah Wise is proudly modeling her first hand knitted scarf. Sarah started the Youth Knitting class in January and was able to finish this project in between school work, Bible study and her other activities. Sarah has been an inspiration to family and friends and now has a list of orders to complete as gifts. You, too can join the class and model your own completed project. We knit every Wednesday afternoon starting at 3:30 and work until the dinner bell rings at 5:30. See you soon!

**For information, contact:  
Connie Wasson at  
[connie.wasson@bentonumc.org](mailto:connie.wasson@bentonumc.org)**

**Good Job!  
We are proud of you!**



# Prayer Ministry

One of the oldest ministries we have at Benton UMC meets every Tuesday morn at 9:00 in the Ed DeBusk Memorial Prayer Chapel. They offer prayers for the many requests that come to the church and send cards of encouragement to those who have especially heavy burdens. They also pray for the needs of our church, community and nation. Anyone is welcome to join them.

Here is a letter our Prayer Ministry received last month:

*Benton UMC Prayer Team,*

*Thank you for my Valentine and for the blessing of your prayers. Your prayers cover the varied needs of those who ask for prayer. They turn on a stream of love throughout this church. Precious Jesus, bless us all.*

*In His name,  
Betty Griffen Wilmarth*

## Easter Lilies

You may order Easter lilies to adorn the altar in honor or memory of a loved one.

To order Easter lilies, please fill in the order forms found in your bulletin or go to [www.e-giving.com](http://www.e-giving.com) to order online. Mark your check or envelope (if paying by cash) 'Lilies'.

You may drop them in the offering plate or bring to the church office by Sunday, April 14th.

For more information, contact:

**Carolyn Collins**  
(318) 965-2273  
[carolyn.collins@bentonumc.org](mailto:carolyn.collins@bentonumc.org)

*Please pray for the ministry and mission of Benton United Methodist Church. May we follow and love Christ with all of our hearts, all of our souls, and all of our minds—and our neighbors as ourselves.*

### Retirement & Nursing Homes

#### The Arbor House

Frankie Rodes  
(W. Monroe, LA 71291)

#### Cypress Point

Beverly Quillin  
Freeman Flowers  
Ed Berridge

#### Horizon Bay

Bill & Liz DeBusk  
Ruth Dixon  
Frances Dunnam  
Evelyn Futch  
Everlene Harvey/healing  
Martha Ree Jones  
Elsie Whittington  
Sybil Vickers  
Emmie Green  
Betty Wilmarth

#### NWLA War

##### Veterans Home

Bernie Duddy

#### Heritage Manor West

Wayne Sorenson

#### Pilgrim Manor

Nellie Wyche  
Virginia Duke

#### Promise

Mimi Richardson

#### Military

Our military troops and leaders  
Thomas Greathouse  
Etienne Menard  
Brian Leo  
Josh Van Boening  
Ben Stafford  
Jonathan Glasgow  
James Earl Braggs, Jr.  
Tom Robertson

#### Community Concerns

Government Leaders  
Gun Violence  
Peace in Middle East  
LSU/Schumpert transitions  
Country of Ukraine

#### Church Concerns

Victory Bible Camp ~ Alaska  
Daniel Plan Continues  
Daycare transitions  
Spiritual Gifts Ministry  
School testing

### Our Church Family & Friends

Jennifer Warner	lupus/chemo
Ben Gleason	peace of mind
Kim Pullen	healing
Mary Mitchell	lung cancer last stages
Charlotte Woods	COPD/hospice
Dana Cherry	MRSA/healing
John and Carol Arnold	strength
Joan Gleason	health issues/pain
Martha Jane Gormanous	heart problems
Steve Lowe	brain cancer/hospice
Pam Taylor	personal
Lainey Ward	serious health issues 8 y/o
Barry Welch	brain stimulation surgery
Bobby Whittington	hospice
Mark Landrum	recovering at home
Frederick Kraus	liver cancer
Seth Emerson	rehab
Betty Russell	health issues
Pam DeBusk	surgery
Jackson Kennedy	brain cancer
Art and Becky Connor	health issues
Pete Odom	serious heart issues
Jo Ann Sprute	hospitalized
Dick and Pat Mosher	travel mercies
John Meschell	health concerns
Gary Leon	cancer
Rene Cavanaugh	brain surgery
Kurt Satter	employment
Michelle Curtis	medical tests
The Lexi Family	death of child
Don Mason	health issues
Janice Haynie	cancer
Don Farnam	shoulder replacement
Kathy Craft	melanoma
Tim Wilhite	gall bladder surgery
Frank d'Autremont	serious illness
Lisa Gore	serious illness
Peggy Durant Raymose	chemo therapy
Rachel Stoneman	health issues
Judy Cummings	respiratory issues
Wilda Ritzheimer	cancer
Bess Drake	terminal cancer
Johnny Santanglo	brain tumor
Don Reed	back problems
Hilmon Mitchell	broken leg surgery
Frank Melton	cancer

Family of Mary Kennedy  
Family of Hugh Lee

*Prayer requests remain on the list for 30 days.*

*Please help us keep the list current by submitting updates. If someone's name comes off and they still need prayer, please submit a new request.*





## Servant of the Month

### Jemi Adcock

Have you ever wondered where the beautiful altar arrangements come from? Our April "Servant of the Month" gives them as an offering to the church – not just the flowers and other props, but the creativity and time and love she pours into them on a Saturday evening. This quiet "servant" is Jemi Adcock. She uses the resources from her floral business (Adcock and Associates) to adorn the altar table, connecting it as much as possible to the Scripture and message for that Sunday. Jemi is our resource person for the palm branches, Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias. She is a member of the newly formed Worship team and, having studied with Mary Dark and the "Tribe of Dan," will bring her expertise and ideas to create more evocative displays. In the Old Testament, the Tribe of Dan went before the people to prepare the altar for worship. Her florist shop is located at 101 Red River in Benton; go there for your floral needs – and thank her for her gift to our church. We appreciate you, Jemi!

*22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. Galatians 5:22-23*



### Red Bird Mission Team 2014

I would like to thank this team for all their hard work and dedication to the project they were given by the Red Bird staff. Sometimes it is hard to do the "behind the scenes" work on a mission trip, but this team was up for the challenge. They may not be able to meet the people that will benefit from their hard work, but that was okay with them. They knew who they were working for and that was all that counted. Gary even found a reminder of whose work we were doing in a natural knot of an 8 foot long 2x4! Look closely at the picture in the upper right corner. Thank you, team, for all your hard work and love that made this trip possible! ~ Rachel

**Left to right:** Gary Stoneman, Josh Odom, Katie Barton, Alyssa Hughes, Grady Estes, Haley Neal, Elisha Texeira, Austin Stoneman, Sarah Stoneman and Rose Whittington

See [www.bentonumc.org/RedBird](http://www.bentonumc.org/RedBird) for a link to the photo album on Facebook!







INVITING IN...  
GROWING UP...

**Benton United Methodist Church**  
4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, Louisiana 71006  
Office: (318) 965-2273 Fax: (318) 965-5360  
Email: bentonumc@bellsouth.net  
Website: [www.bentonumc.org](http://www.bentonumc.org)

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## *The Message*

**April 6, 2014**

*Final Words From the Cross: I Thirst*  
John 19:28-29

**April 13, 2014**

*Final Words From the Cross:  
It Is Finished...Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit*  
Luke 23:43-47

**April 17, 2014**

Maundy Thursday (6:30 p.m.)

**April 18, 2014**

Good Friday (6:30 p.m.)

**April 20, 2014**

Sunrise Easter Service (6:30 a.m.)  
*Raised with Christ*  
Colossians 3:1-4

**April 20, 2014**

Resurrection Services (8:30 & 10:50 a.m.)  
*He Is Not Here! But He IS Here!*  
Matthew 28:1-10

**April 27, 2014**

*On The Road Again—The Road to Emmaus*  
Luke 24:13-33

## Good Friday

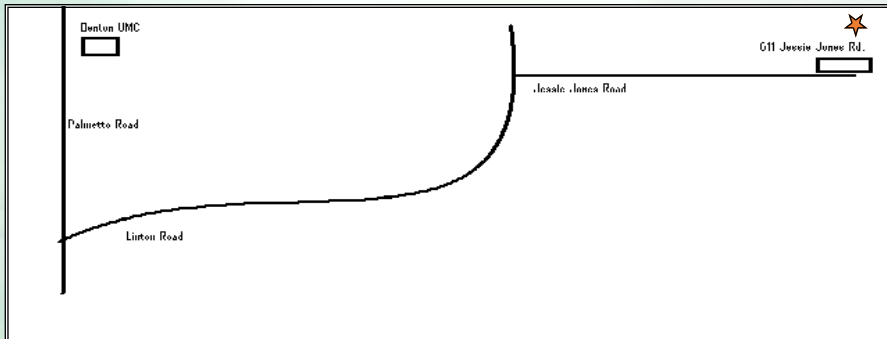
**April 18, 6:30 p.m.**

*Walk the road to Calvary with Jesus as we visit the stations of the cross along the way. This moving service promises to put us in the moments of Jesus' final day.*

## Sunrise Service—6:30 a.m.

at the home of Robert & Claudia Adley  
611 Jesse Jones Drive, Benton, LA 71006

Like us on Facebook,  
scan here:



## Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.—Traditional  
10:50 a.m.—Contemporary  
Sunday School—9:40 a.m.  
Benton United Methodist Church  
4615 Palmetto Road  
Benton, LA 71006



Resurrection Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m.

## Easter Egg Hunt

*Free family fun – egg hunts, snow cones, hot dogs, cotton candy,  
popcorn, photo booth and the cow train!*

Saturday, April 19 at 3:00 p.m.

