

**BEREA FRIENDSHIP NEWS**  
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9:00 AM—1:00 PM  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
Friday—Closed

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Debbie Gissendanner, Treasurer  
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Methodist Church  
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**December 2020**

Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Berea Friendship UMC Newsletter

I am sitting here the last day of November, winter cold blasting in later today, and I'm excited about gardening this spring. I suppose I should be trying to share a message about the season of Advent. But, at the end of the day I am just an ole farm boy at heart. I am in tune with weather and seasons informing me when and how to work, for the best effect. What I learned on the farm growing up readily transferred into the nursery business and landscaping. A farmer's mindset will always be part of who I am, and will affect how I approach tasks before me. Those attitudes and dispositions are thoroughly ingrained in me, both good and bad.

Obvious connections between gardening and ministry are not as apparent, but do exist. Both professions require patience; there is a divine timing to harvest that can't be rushed. Both professions require faith; there are no guarantees. There is never a shortage of work to be done. It is necessary to know what you want to produce in order to obtain the desired harvest. The garden space one has must be appropriate for the desired harvest. In both professions the objective is to bear fruit. And most importantly, it is God who will ultimately produce the harvest.

My backyard gardens have basically been the same for the past thirty years. I've had four distinct garden spaces moving up the hill. My first garden goes from the patio area up to the hedge of yaupon holly. While I'm on the topic of hedges - those hedges I used to maintain simply and quickly are now challenging work. Something has to change - fencing though expensive is very appealing now. The first garden is strictly for looks. The second garden is for butterflies and the beauty of summer. Each year it colorfully regenerates itself without much effort from me, but is a major fall cleanup project. The second garden ends at the wax myrtle hedge. The third garden is a space that has fallen out of use. It used to be a little mini farm where both kids raised all kinds of animals they enjoyed. The space is a source of wonderful memories for my family. The old cages and pens are still there slowly falling apart. Fourth was my vegetable garden on the power line right of way, not actually my property.

The basic layout of the past thirty years is not working any longer. I am going to have to change things around moving forward. My vegetable garden is now a feeding station for deer and groundhogs. The only thing I can grow there is onions because the critters leave them alone. I enjoy growing vegetables to give away! My second garden, within our fenced yard will now become my vegetable garden. There will be a few butterfly attracting perennials mixed in with the vegetables. That third space, the former mini-farm is getting a complete overhaul. I'm going to do a mini-farm/petting zoo for my grandkids, even bigger and better! And I'm going to open it up to other grandparents, and young families in my neighborhood. I'm going to start a new generation of memories. My first garden around the patio will stay the same, just for looks, with a few improvements. I am excited about my garden moving forward!

Berea Friendship, we have a garden of fellowship within this church. Christian fellowship is a beautiful part of God's grace that He gives us. And just as we have been blessed with wonderful memories in this garden - it is time to plan such that we and another generation can be blessed. Some parts of the garden will have to be let go, some parts improved better than before, other parts combined together and some staying essentially the same. Maybe we add a new section. The one thing that is for sure - change is going to take place. God will work all things together for good as we come alongside Him, or follow Him.

As we begin this Advent season, I hope you see Christ coming into BFUMC in a new and living way. The garden here has served us well; we have been greatly blessed! I am even more excited for the garden to come in 2021 and beyond. I hope you are equally excited about gardening this spring and in years to come. I will gladly share my visions with you. Please share your visions with me and with the church.

As I write this 2020 has been a tough and confusing year. Let us remember those who had additional losses and burdens to deal with. God will bring us through the valleys, and place us on mountain tops, as he has done before. Much love Berea Friendship!

In Christ,

Pastor Davon

## United Methodist Womens

### Newsletter article

December 2020

The Friendship Circle will meet on December 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Huckaby Classroom  
The Shalom Circle will meet on Saturday, December 18, 2020. More details to come.

#### 2021 UMW Executive Board

President: Anne-Marie Wallace  
Vice President: Vickie Failor  
Treasurer: Dawn Stewart  
Secretary: Vivian Day  
Morning Circle Rep. Martha McWhite  
Brenda Benton

#### PRAYER FOCUS

Our prayer focus for December is on the Westside Community House in Cleveland, Ohio. It was established in 1890 by the Methodist - Episcopal Church. In the beginning they offered mother's meetings, sewing classes, an infant nursery, and a kindergarten with an emphasis on Christian education. In later years, more day care programs, youth and senior citizen programs, a soup kitchen, and a food pantry were added.

Their mission is to transform lives in the community. Westside Community House envisions a people transformed in mind, body, and spirit. They continue to create and refine programs that will empower and inspire, and to build relationships that support and sustain their mission. They strive to cultivate a spirit of neighbor caring for neighbor that gives the community back to the people with hope for a brighter future.

All services and programs are open to every racial, social, ethnic, and income group, but are targeted to those who are most vulnerable and at-risk. Programs are designed to strengthen the family, provide opportunities to learn and grow, support independent living, encourage economic self-sufficiency, and renew life spirit.

Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Shelly Owen in Oklahoma and Cindy Johnson in Texas.

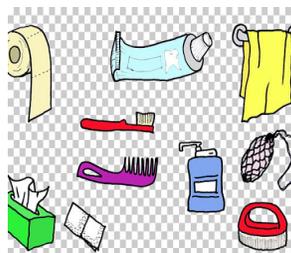
#### Christmas Caroling

A group of us will be going caroling to our shut-ins during the month. More details will be given on the website, Facebook page and at Sunday services. Anyone that would like to join us, is welcome.



#### **North Greenville Crisis Ministries monthly collections**

Do not forget that we are still collecting donations of nonperishable food, cleaning supplies, paper products, personal care items, etc. for North Greenville Crisis Ministries.. The food pantries are being hit hard during this pandemic. If you would like to assist with delivery, please let Vickie Failor . Thank you to Ronald Failor and Margaret Rawson for making our monthly deliveries to North Greenville.



# Responsively Yours: Give Us Grateful Hearts

by *Harriett Jane Olson*

Growing up my grandmother taught me to pray, "Give us grateful hearts our Father, for all thy mercies." It was the grace we said before dinner at my grandparents' home. I called it "Grandma's grace." This prayer has particular resonance for me in this season. Many of us are grieving losses. We've lost family members. We've had to physically distance from loved ones when we yearn to be celebrating or grieving together. Many people have lost jobs and suffered illnesses. Some of our neighborhood institutions have closed. We've had to give up plans. The list goes on. This is all taking place while our work for racial justice seems both more essential and more demanding, while we see the effects of a warming climate in storms, fires, droughts and floods. Praying for grateful hearts may be just the discipline we need right now.

We know God is continuing to bless us, even now. As Christians we believe in Emmanuel—God with us, in good times and in hard times. Without denying the struggle, this Thanksgiving and Christmas season may be exactly the right time to ask for and exercise grateful hearts.

What might happen if we trained our minds and hearts to see where God is at work, even while pleading for God's sustenance? While I chafe at the limits of physical distancing, I'm grateful for every day that I get to be outdoors. I'm grateful for tele-appointments with my physical therapist that help my body endure and recover from hours of online meetings. I'm grateful for important work to do as United Methodist Women, responding to ongoing crises and ushering in the future by the choices we make today.

As this issue of response goes to press, we are seeing rising rates of COVID-19 infection, persistent climate-related disasters, and seemingly intractable systemic racism. It seems very likely that our holiday celebrations will be quite different this year. I may not get to pray Grandma's grace at a large table full of family who traveled from many locations.

But what traditions can we continue in a new way? What if some of our baking and cooking and bounty of gardens provide food and comfort to struggling families? What if we pull out some of those beloved recipes and share them with younger family members or circle and unit members as we explore expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving? What if we started a practice of making a call, sending a message or writing a note to someone every day between now and New Year's Day who has made a difference in our lives? What if, out of gratitude for God's unconditional love for us, we found ways to challenge racism when we see it? What if we found new ways to make monetary gifts to United Methodist Women, to our churches and to organizations serving those in need?

As Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians, I too do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. May God bless us with grateful hearts, may our attention be focused on God's action in the world and may our actions flow from the confidence that, even now, God is with us.

**Congratulations** to **Kevin Baker and Kelly Mae Curry** on the birth of their new baby girl Parker Jane Baker born on Thursday, November 26, 2020 at 3pm, she weighed 8lbs. & 7 oz. Congratulations to the proud grandmother **Anita Baker** and the proud great **Grandfather Eugene Bondurant**.



**Congratulations** to Victoria Smith who is going into her own law firm, Victoria Smith Law Firm, LLC  
Her new contact information is (843) 800-0365  
Phone (843) 535-8959  
Her office is located at  
186 Seven Farms Drive  
Suite F374  
Daniel Island, SC 29492  
Her new website will be up in early 2021.

# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 S.S. 8:30 Worship 10:00  Fellowship hall reserved after church	7	8	9	10	11	12 Fellowship Hall Reserved 3pm to 10pm
13 S.S. 8:30 am Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hall Reserved 1:00 to 3 pm	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 S.S. 8:30 Worship 10:00	21	22	23	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Office closed	26
27 S.S. 8:30 Worship 10:00  Fellowship Hall Reserved after church 2-8pm	28	29	30	31	January 1, 2021  New Years	



**December Birthdays**

- December 02** Harrison Miller
- December 02** Eddie Sentell
- December 04** Bill Teat
- December 06** Lynne Dyson
- December 06** Mildred Pollard
- December 06** Kirby-Anna Philpot
- December 07** Buddy Stover
- December 08** Kyleigh Elizabeth Argo
- December 08** Joan Zepf
- December 12** Miller Bogan
- December 13** Becky Philpot
- December 14** Scott Beasley
- December 15** Laura Brown
- December 15** Heidi Caden Miller
- December 15** Barbara Durham
- December 15** Diane Greer
- December 19** Anne-Marie Wallace
- December 20** Kristie Argo
- December 20** Jim Humphreys
- December 20** Wyatt Sentell
- December 22** Diane V. Sentell
- December 27** Patty Sentell
- December 29** Nancy McWhite Tackett
- December 31** Pam Harrelson

**PLEASE HELP UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST**

We are only listing those who we know are in nursing/Assisted living homes, the home-bound, those who are hospitalized at present, and those who are at present under going medical procedures such as chemo, etc. We do not want to leave anyone out so if you want your name or loved ones name listed, please notify the church office. We will up-date this list every 30 days—please help us with this important endeavor.



**Sympathy** to **Bobbie Nalley** in the death of her sister in law, JoAnn Rooper who passed away on Sunday, November 22, 2020. We also express our sympathy to **Vickie and Ron Failor and Anne-Marie and Rob Wallace** upon the death of Vickie's aunt. Graveside services were held on Friday, November 27, 2020.

- Rick and Diane Greer
- Rev. Matt Greer (Amber) & family
- Durham Family in the loss of Barbara's sister
- Holman Family in the loss of Corky's brother in law
- Patty Bowers
- Joe Philpot
- Wilson Creswell
- Nancy McCants
- Richard Jardin
- Mary Penland
- John Disher
- Robert Moler, Linda Crouch's brother
- Alex Philpot
- Janet Stone and Alex Stone
- Barry & Laura Childs
- Caroline Shelton, Cy & Lou Rogers granddaughter and Sarah & Andrew Shelton
- Mildred Pollard
- Blanche Creswell
- Allen Zorn
- Elmo Mann
- Molene McDuffie
- Millie Dunn
- Shirley Dickson
- Jane-Hunt Grady
- Kathleen Griffin

*Happy Anniversary*

**December 27**  
Ellen & Corky  
Holman

**Sympathy**

The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to Jim and Barbara Durham upon the death of Barbara's sister Patricia Belcher Shetley, 87 of Greenville who passed away on Monday, November 9, 2020 at her home. The family received friends Saturday, November 14, 2020 at The Howze Mortuary and the funeral was held Saturday, November 14, 2020 at the Howze Mortuary Chapel with burial at Greenville Memorial Gardens.

The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to Corky and Ellen Holman in the loss of Corky's brother in law, Bill McCormic, who passed away on Saturday, November 14, 2020. He lived in Clemson, SC.

**Thank You**

Dear Friends, Heartfelt thanks to our church family for your many acts of kindness during the passing of our loved one, Troy Clements. We appreciate your cards, calls, and most of all your prayers.

Love,  
Rick, Diane, Matt, and Amber

The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to **Rick, Diane, Rev. Matt Greer, Amber, Audrey Joy, Elliot James and all the family and friends**, on the death of Diane's father, **Troy Clements** who passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. The funeral was held on Monday, November 23, 2020 at Thomas McAfee Northwest with burial at Graceland Cemetery West. Memorials may be made to Berea Friendship United Methodist Church.

Dear Friends  
Just a note of thanks for the cards, calls, and expressions of sympathy at the passing of my sister Pat. It's a real blessing to have such a caring church family. Thanks again, Barbara Durham

**To the Friendship Circle**

Tom and I want to thank you for the donation you made in memory of our sweet Mildred Bray. We know she would be so happy and pleased about it. She loved her church! God Bless You!  
Tom & Beth Bray

The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to **Rev. Don Cavin**, (former pastor at Berea Friendship UMC) on the death of his wife **Catherine Cox Cavin**, 81. Catherine passed away on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at her home in Surfside Beach, SC.

**Mary Penland** has moved to River Falls Rehab and Health Care Center  
2906 Geer Hwy  
Slater Marietta, SC 29661

**Serving in December**

**Altar Guild** - Anne-Marie Wallace

**Trustee**—Steve Hester

**New Email for church office**

Please change your email address for the church office to  
**Debbie@bereafriendshipumc.org**

**New Address for Pat and Bill Teat**

Vinings at Laurel Creek  
3434 Laurens Road  
Apt. 178  
Greenville, SC 29607

