



The Friendship Connection

Monthly Newsletter of Berea Friendship United Methodist Church... January 2023 Edition

Many of us have guides and readings we turn to for our personal devotional times. We invite you to consider adding an additional resource to those you already have; it may be helpful to you as you continue your own journey of faith. As you know, several members of our congregation have had an online prayer team for several years. One member of the team has a specific day of the week on which he or she posts some thoughts and a prayer and sends it via e-mail to all who have added their name to the group.

The prayer team has been a tremendous blessing to its members; it is our hope that we are at the point now where the ministry can expand and become even stronger.

If you would like to be added to the e-mail list and receive a daily post from some member of the team, we would love for you to do so. Each day you would be able to check your e-mail and read what has been posted.

Should you add your name, you would not be required to respond or reply in any way. Our prayer is that just by checking in and reading the posts that you will receive a blessing just as team members do now. Of course, as time goes on, you may want to become more actively involved and post a comment or even give a person who currently posts one day a week a break and take over that responsibility for a specific time; that would be perfectly fine if you would like to do so.

We hope you will consider this opportunity; should you decide to add your name to the e-mail list, please contact Josh Durham at bfumchurch.office@gmail.com and he will add your name to the list of those receiving a prayer each day.

May the prayer ministry of BF be strengthened and used in even greater ways to support our mission and our vision as we continue to serve God in our community.

Prayer Team @ BFUMC

Our Church Family

Happy Anniversary

January Anniversaries

10 Judy & Ronnie Armstrong
22 Laura & Barry Childs

Happy Birthday!

January Birthdays

03 Preston Argo
04 Reagan Mann
Adam McCloud
07 John Ferrer
08 Emma Daveene Earnest
09 Haven Christine Miller
09 Dustin Hagins
09 Marcus Looper
10 Dena Nalley
10 Zack Philpot
13 Blanche Creswell
14 Collin Hamilton Disher
17 Kevin Wells
18 Carol Dunn
22 Teresa Jeffrey
22 Patty Bowers
23 Eddie Hughes
Josh Armstrong
25 Andy Vaughan
27 Stanley Dunn
31 Sue Coggins
31 Robert Bagwell



Josh's Jots...

2022 was a wonderful year for me...when the year began I had no idea I would wind up where I am at, but I am so grateful to be here...the thing about a new year is it's a fresh start & we have no idea where it will lead...but I am excited about the possibilities...we accomplished a lot as a church this year but none of it would have been possible without God...let us pray that He guides us in all we do in 2023...I am overwhelmed by the support we had for our 2 Sunday night Christmas Praise & Worship services & for our Choir's Christmas Program...we averaged over 50 people for those 3 services which is remarkable...I know it's Christmas & we were doing Christmas music & it's easier to get people to come when you are doing something special...nevertheless I am encouraged & excited about the growth of our Church moving forward...my goal is to try & do more special services throughout the year...we as a Church did a lot to help others during the Christmas season which is a wonderful thing to do...let us remember that those we have helped could use some help throughout the year...I would love to continue to more for the people in our community...thank you again for making me feel welcome at Berea Friendship in 2022...I love being here & look forward to 2023...Happy New Year!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I woke up at 4:28am this morning with something on my mind. Berea Friendship UMC was on my mind. The scenario is not unusual, in fact that's normal the majority of the time. I'm glad I made it to 4:28! I am going to say something that needs to be said now! It needs to be said now because I can see people getting heated up, anxiously thinking something needs to be done now. What BFUMC needs to do first and foremost is to be the church of Jesus Christ in Berea. We need to be about the business of renewing and transforming our minds through God's Word and Holy Spirit. We need to be about the business of allowing Jesus Christ to live through us more than ever before. We need to be the people God is calling us to be. We need to become better individuals In Christ each day! BFUMC, we need to take our time and discern our future together in the light of the scriptures - in the light of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Instead, I see people getting heated up and bent out of shape over possible doctrinal changes in the Discipline of the United Methodist Church. Methodists are getting heated and bent out of shape over the idea that an openly gay person could occupy the pulpit of a Methodist church. Some Methodists are concerned they will be forced to consider such lifestyles as acceptable. What has the debate frenzy turned into? It has turned into a property grab and a power grab! A person's or group's action is their truth. Their action is what they believe in! What does a property and power grab indicate about what a church believes in? I embrace a Christ-like approach to the debate facing us. Whatever you decide as a congregation - I am willing to be your pastor.

Here's some food for thought! I know my opinions will be controversial. I think the following actions have greatly diminished the Methodist Church, and its ability to share the truth of the Gospel. Methodists who taught their children that family time is more important than a relationship with Jesus Christ, and His church. Methodists who refuse to tithe and give to the poor. Methodists who believe their personal opinions are the truth of **their** church. We are quickly getting in a hole! Much renewal and transformation is needed throughout the church and society.

Berea Friendship, you have time to make thoughtful decisions and plans concerning your future together! There is no eminent change of pastor for the next 18 months (Lord willing). Much information needs to be considered and processed. There will be all kinds of legal challenges for the Conference ahead – who knows how that will settle out? Your next appointed pastor could be someone equivalent to a Jim Patterson or a Cy Rogers - a fantastic fit! The last thing BFUMC needs is a rash decision based on heated emotions, feelings, misinformation, and fears. First and foremost, we need to be the church of Jesus Christ in Berea, allowing Jesus to live through us more than ever.

We will begin discussions in earnest later this month. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit, and through much love and discernment among yourselves, make your decisions when necessary. We have time Berea Friendship, let's use it wisely In Christ!

In Christ with you,
Pastor Davon



Prayers For BFUMC's Ministry: Pray that God would open hearts to attend BFUMC. Pray for congregational boldness to invite others to BFUMC - family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers.

Continue To Remember: Patty Bowers in the loss of her son Sean, Jim Durham, Carolyn Earnest, Tony Earnest, Ronald Failor, Debbie Gissendanner in the loss of her aunt Henrietta Kennerly, Bob Helms, Donna Helms, Mike Hovious, Brenda Johnson, Steve Nabors (friend of Bobby Taylor), Jeffrey Moore, Ann Nicholson & Chris Nicholson (Friends of Jean Vaughn), Aurora Ray (granddaughter of Bob & Karen Leigh), Carol Riley, Janie Riley, Anne Marie Wallace, Rob Wallace, & Matthew Graham Wallace

Continued Prayer For Our Shut-Ins: Dr. Eugene Bondurant, Sue Coggins, Blanche Creswell, Shirley Dickson, Libby Gilliam, Carolyn Hunter, Gloria Moore, Alex and Janet Stone, & Barbara Thackston



The third Thursday of every month we will have dinner together as a church. Our first dinner will be on Thursday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m. The menu is fish, fries, slaw, drink & dessert. There is a sign-up sheet located on the door of the sanctuary. Please sign up so we know how much food to prepare.

“Thanks to everyone for the calls, cards, & prayers!”...from Brenda Johnson

Outreach Ministries: will meet on Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30 p.m. We will start making plans for the year 2023.

Shalom Circle: will meet on January 21st at 11:00 am at the church. We will plan our year during this meeting.

The Greenville District United Women in Faith will have their Officer training at our church on Saturday, January 14th from 8-12. If anytime can help with directing ladies around the church, please contact Vickie Failor.

The Administrative Council meeting for January 10th has been rescheduled for February 14th at 6:30 pm. All chairpersons are encouraged to attend, so church business can be attended to.

During the month of January we will be collecting nonperishable items for North Greenville Crisis Ministries.

United Women Of Faith: Our prayer focus for January is on Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, NC. It is a private, historically black, liberal arts school founded in 1873. It was originally intended to educate men and women to become teachers. Today, many courses of study are offered, and they have a 91% graduation rate. Here are a few fast facts about Bennett College. 1. Faculty student ratio is seven to one. 2. More than 2,000 students have studied abroad. 3. They are the only women's college in the country to have a women's business center located on campus. 4. They are a United Methodist Church related institution. 5. Martin Luther King Jr.'s only speech in Greensboro was given in the chapel of Bennett College. The college believes that education should be related to humanitarian ends. They keep their focus on leadership, civic engagement, global citizenship, communications, and entrepreneurship. Their vision statement reads "Bennett College is renowned for its intimate, engaging learning community that produces phenomenal women scholars and global leaders." Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Nora Cunningham in New York and Gwen Gibson in Wisconsin.

Fitness Fellowship: The weekly exercise group is going to take a break until the beginning of the New Year. We appreciate everyone that has come and joined us. Please watch the bulletin, website, Facebook page for information on the exercise group.

Former member Linda (Moser) Marshall's daughter has colon/liver cancer. Linda, Shellie and her family now live in Florida. Shellie Atchison 94 Vanderford Road East Orange Park, Florida 32073

A Message From The Office: If you have any announcements or prayer requests you would like included in the bulletin or the monthly newsletter, please call the church office (864) 246-4311 or email them to BFUMChurch.office@gmail.com by Wednesday of the previous week for the bulletin & by the 20th of the prior month for the newsletter.



We would love to
our new praise &
at Berea Friendship
Church!
Sundays at 5:00



have you join us for
worship service
United Methodist

p.m.



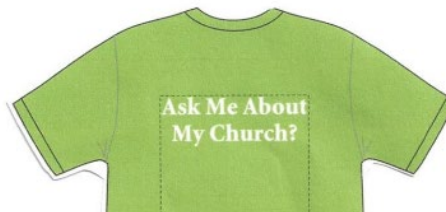
We would love to have you join us for our traditional service
at Berea Friendship United Methodist Church!
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

The Holy Spirit Word Search

Church T Shirts

The outreach committee has designed a t shirt for our members to wear at church events. The cost of the shirts is \$10.00 per shirt. We have pre ordered 100 shirts in various sizes from S-3XL. The shirts will be available to purchase starting Wednesday, August 24, 2022. If you would like to purchase shirts, please contact the church office or any member of the Outreach committee. We would love for everyone attending the back to school bash on the 28th to wear the shirt. If you have questions, contact Vickie Failor, Outreach Committee Chairperson.

Below is a sample of what the shirt will look like the church image will be on the left chest (the enlarged image that sys actual size, is just so we could see the image for proof). On the back of the shirt will be "Ask Me about my church?"

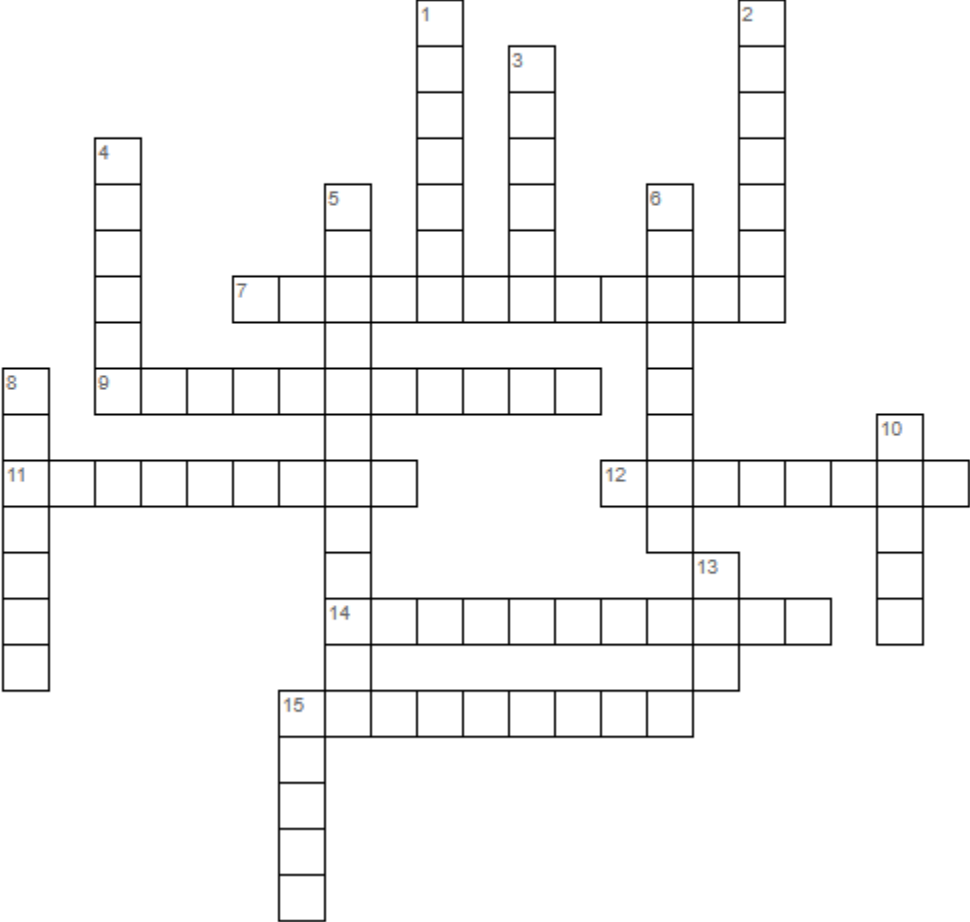


ABIDE
ABODE
ANOTHER
COME
COMFORTER
COMFORTLESS
DEPART
EXPEDIENT
GLORIFY

HENCE
HIMSELF
HOLY
JUDGMENT
KEEP
MINE
PROMISE
REPROVE
SAMARIA

SEASONS
SEETH
SHOW
SPEAK
TEACH
TIMES
UTTERMOST
WATER
WORDS

Holy Spirit



Across

- 7 Refers to the study of the biblical doctrine of the Holy Spirit
- 9 In the Creation account, (Genesis 1:2) He was hovering over the waters.
- 11 (Romans 8:15:16) The Spirit gives us our personal assurance of this.
- 12 Every _____ has the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- 14 Term for the Trinitarian event in which the Word became Flesh (John 1:14).
- 15 Term for the day the Spirit was received; the birth of the Church.

January

2023

Down

- 1 Symbolizes purification and regeneration. 'An outward display of an inward grace'.
- 2 The Holy Spirit is a member and as such, is a person.
- 3 Term for: 'feel deep regret, change one's mind, turn from sin'.
- 4 (Romans 8:26) The Spirit intercedes for us through these wordless sounds.
- 5 In the creation of man, (Genesis 2:7) God breathed this into man's nostrils.
- 6 The word 'Messiah' means: 'The _____ One'.
- 8 'Christ' is the Greek word for this.
- 10 (Romans 8:2) The Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and. .
- 13 The Holy Spirit convicts us of this (John 16:8).
- 15 (Romans 8:6) The mind governed by the Spirit is life and. . .

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship			6:30 p.m. Choir Practice			

8 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship	9	10 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Quilters	11 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	12	13	14 8:00 Men's Group
15 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship	16	17 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. Friendship Circle 6:30 Outreach Ministries	18 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	19 6:00 p.m. Third Thursday Dinner	20	21 11:30 a.m. Shalom Circle
22 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 5:00 p.m. Choir Christmas Program	23	24 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Quilters	25 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	26	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship	30	31 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Quilters				