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

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Berea Friendship United Methodist Church Newsletter

February 22 Newsletter

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

I have been sitting here for a while trying to start this newsletter. Doing nothing - staring at the computer is definitely not the answer! So here goes! Doing nothing is rarely the best approach to solving problems, especially serious problems. At this point in life, we all know that to be true many times over. Something else I know to be true by experience is that a Christ centered people can accomplish amazing things, when working in one accord. There is no problem present at Berea Friendship that can't be solved by Christ's Spirit working in us. Everything we need we have, or God will provide as we are faithful to his instructions.

The disciples followed Jesus three years, consistently discussing who was the greatest among them, who was right among them. They all failed Jesus, denying they knew him in a crisis of faith. They could not follow Jesus by their own strength and wisdom. In their pride they were as fragile as the day he called them. They had followed as best they knew how, but it was not enough. Blessed are the poor (paupers) in spirit, for they shall see the Kingdom of God. Once the disciples stood before Him paupers, no rightness of their own, Jesus began an amazing work in them and through them. Forty days later Christ's Spirit, His Disposition, came upon them and they began to understand Jesus and their purpose in life rightly. Following Jesus challenged everything their culture had taught them! It is our story Berea Friendship. Following Jesus will challenge every human attitude and every human disposition we have learned from the world; and, those challenges are exactly where our greatest potential blessings are. Christ does amazing things in us and through us when we submit to his Spirit, and take on His Disposition. Paupers can receive God, receive His Word, His strength, His wisdom; His blessings, they are enabled.

So let's talk about finances. Money - the topic that Jesus so frequently addressed because it so challenged His loved ones. I will try to be as graceful as I possibly can, true to Scripture, and uncomfortably honest. Church finances will be increasingly transparent and open in 2022. Berea Friendship is particularly blessed of God to have the financial options we presently enjoy! We must take full advantage of our options and time so as to create a sustainable future for Berea Friendship. We exist so the Kingdom Of God can come among us, and into our community. You and I will decide if we are a viable church with a thriving CDC in it, or a CDC with a church in it. Consider the averages below, they tell the current financial reality of Berea Friendship.

Average monthly expenses for 2021	$16781
Average monthly congregational offerings for 2021	$11271
Average monthly difference	$5510

Now let's count our blessings Berea Friendship!

CDC transfers monthly (Jan-April)	$2000
CDC transfers monthly (May-Dec)*see explanations	$3500
Monthly parsonage rental income *see explanations	$1166
Total Monthly Income (Blessings) applied to the Monthly deficit	$4666

Difference 5510-4666 = $844 monthly shortfall

Explanations: First, Administrative Council approved the use of the Ruth Bible Class room for CDC use during the covid crisis. Beginning May 2021 additional CDC profits from the classroom were to be used only for expenditures that clearly benefitted both CDC and congregation. Secondly, we are blessed to have income from parsonage rental! That blessing can quickly disappear if another pastor serves BFUMC. Thank God for the blessing today! Acknowledge parsonage income is a temporary blessing. Thirdly, sometimes we receive wonderful end of the year donations. That was the case in 2021 to the tune of $50000.00. Thank God for such generous blessings!!! To reflect our normal monthly reality the year end blessings are not included in my figures above. Additional expense due to inflation should be our expectation in 2022.

Let me sum up things in several concise statements. It is this congregation's responsibility to find a way to support the **ministry** of Berea Friendship UMC. We are a blessed congregation to have financial options which allow us time to set things right**. Without** our present monthly blessings, we would be $5510.00 behind each month, surpluses evaporating, quickly closing. What Berea Friendship has been doing for years is unsustainable. **Maintenance is not ministry.**

What does a solution look like? Typically there are 40 giving units/households present on normal Sunday mornings. What would 40 giving units have to give so as to not be constantly draining our CDC program, and evaporating generous gifts that do come our way? What would it look like for us to be in a position to glorify God with **ministries** funded by the abundant blessings available to BFUMC? That figure is $1653 dollars more, a year, $137.75 more monthly, $34.44 more a weekly, for 40 giving units. Ask God what you can do? If God is our answer Berea Friendship His Disposition will solve our problem. God will bless us as we agree with him.

(continued next page)

February Birthdays

05 Terry Bikas
05 Jeffrey Fann
06 Jane Walker
07 James Ferrer
Kenneth Tucker
11 Justin Bayne
12 Junior Neal
14 Collin Disher
19 Matthew Painter
22 Joan Kotrady
24 Judy Armstrong
26 Jessica Martin
28 Natalie Brown
Alyssa Dosser Smith
Summer Rawson

PLEASE HELP UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST

We are 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 each Month. Please help us with this important endeavor.

Miller Bogan
Ronnie Hunter
Larry McCants
Blanche Creswell
Janet Stone
Alex Stone
Millie Dunn
Kathleen Griffin
Carolyn Hunter
Shirley Dickson
Beverly Threatt
Allen Zorn
Gene & Jean Vaughn
Andy & Jan Vaughan

Happy Anniversary!
03 Barbara & Jim Durham
13 Janie & Carol Riley
12 Shanna & Wilson Creswell
17 Carol & Stanley Dunn

Men's Club.
Men's Club will meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Thrive Upstate Plans for preparing meals to take to Thrive Upstate will be discussed in February. Anyone interested in helping with cooking and delivering to Thrive, please sign up with Bobby Taylor.

Outreach Missions Projects 2022

The Outreach Committee will be collecting this month for Triune Mercy Center. Below is a list of items that are currently needed:

MEN & WOMEN CLOTHING AND HYGIENE NEEDS:

Warm coats (new or like new) - men's/women's M, L or XL
Warm scarves, knit caps and gloves - men's/women's
Women's white socks, ankle and calf height, thick and thin
Sports bras (new) white, sizes M, L, 1X and 2X
Men's briefs (new) - M, L, XL
Men's white athletic socks
Men's jeans - waist 32, 34, 36 and 38; length 30
Men's t-shirts (not undershirts) - XL and XXL
Full-size bottles of shampoo
Full-size cans of shaving cream
Warm Blankets - 60x90

POP-TOP BAG AND HYGIENE SUPPLIES:

Packs of peanut butter crackers
Fruit cups
Individual mac-n-cheese cups
Instant lunches
Tuna
Protein bars
Beanie Weenees
Individual boxes of raisins
Little Debbie cakes

ART ROOM NEEDS:
Acrylic (not oil) paints - Artist Loft tubes (any color), Apple Barrel 2 fl. oz. bottles (any color)
Canvases - 11x14 and 16x20 Jewelry Making - wood beads - (variety of sizes, especially large), and plastic cord
Brushes - Foam brushes (variety of sizes) White Gesso

SPECIAL GIFT:
8 ½ x 11 20 lb. white copy paper

Prayer Time

The sanctuary is open each week on Wednesday from 10 am—Noon for prayer. If you can help with opening the church during this time, please let Pastor Davon or Dena Nalley know

Inspiration Group

Saint Patrick's Day Lunch in the Social Hall: March 17th at 12:00 p.m. (noon)
Meat and Drinks will be provided. Watch for a Sign Up Sheet placed at the back of the Sanctuary. All Church Members are invited**.**

Project Connect 2022

We are excited to have "kicked off" Project Connect 2022 for the new year. Members are invited to join this project to reach out and connect with members we miss seeing. Forms are available at the back of the Sanctuary for members to "tear off a tab" which provides the name, address and phone number. Both Shut Ins and Church Members who have medical concerns will be remembered by cards, phone calls and visits if allowed. The List will be updated quarterly. Members are asked to tear off a new Name/Tab each quarter.
If you would like to be a part of "Project Connect" and have questions, contact Jan Smith or Dena Nalley for more details**.**

An Invitation to Serve

We continue to be blessed to be part of Berea Friendship's ministry to children both within our church and in the community beyond. A Children's Moment and Children's Church are again part of the Sunday morning worship hour.

As we move forward, we invite you to prayerfully consider joining – on an occasional basis - this important ministry as a teacher in Children's Church. (Leading the Children's Moment in the sanctuary is optional; if you prefer not to do so, that is perfectly fine.)

You may choose from lessons already prepared or teach a lesson of your choice. We invite you to select one Sunday a quarter or to choose any Sunday or Sundays that fit your schedule. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

May we be reminded of the words of our Lord: *Let the children come to me.* May we be ready when they do.

Thank you for considering this invitation to serve the youngest among us.

Children's Ministry Team

Sincere Condolences to the Family of Libby Dobson who passed away on Friday, January 21, 2022. Libby Dobson is the sister of our Laura Childs.

Sincere Condolences to the Family of Mark Guthrie who passed away on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Mark is the Brother In Law to our Brenda Guthrie of our CDC Staff.

Shrove Tuesday Celebration: The Children's Ministry Team is sponsoring a Pancake Supper and Preparation for Lent, Tuesday, March 1st, 2022 at 5:45 p.m. in the Social Hall. All Church Members and Guest are invited to register for this event by signing the Sheet at the back of the Sanctuary.

Easter! The Children's Ministry Team needs empty Egg Cartons and Plastic Eggs! You can help by donating Egg Cartons and Plastic Eggs by April 10th. Please place your donations in the "BOX" at the back of the Sanctuary.

Our Quilting Group has chosen a new name! **Berea Friendship Quilters and Crafters!** As we begin a new year, we want to invite Church Members and Guest from the Community to join us for fellowship and fun learning new skills!

Our Quilters and Crafters meet each week, Tuesday mornings at 11:30 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Join us this month February 1st, 3rd, 8th and 10th for Greeting Card Baskets or Baby Blanket creations. Then on February 15th, 17th, 22nd and 24th for Sampler Smocking for a Pillow Insert or Ornament creations. We look forward to seeing you there! Contact Janie Riley 380-6335, the Church Office 246-4311, or email BFUMChurch.office@gmail.com for details.

Admin. Council. Rescheduled for Tuesday, February 15th at 6:30 in the Social Hall.
Attention All Committee Chairpersons: If you have not already done so, please submit a written business report to Vickie Failor, (vfailor@bellsouth.net) Administrative Council Chairperson, by Friday February 11, 2022. Vickie will distribute the reports with an Agenda Sunday, February 13

Shalom Circle: February 19th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. All Ladies are invited to a light lunch and devotional, hosted by Bobby Nalley. We will also discuss 2022 plans

Family Ministries: Reminder that Family Ministries supports BFUMC Events by providing Paper Products, Tea, Coffee, and Condiments, stocked in the Kitchen! Contact Nancy McCants with details of your next event.

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Pastor Davon's message continued:

We must all work together to put BFUMC on solid financial ground again. That starts with being honest with each other, and honest about our circumstances. Can you pray more? Can you invest in God's Word more? Can you give more time and energy to your church? Can you love God More? Can you be more joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, faithful, gentle, self controlled, more generous with the means God has given you. Again, we are all old enough to know the answers to such questions. As each household prayerfully ask God what they can do, our present problem will be taken care of. We need a new disposition of giving at Berea Friendship UMC, and it will challenge everything culture has told us to be unquestionably true. Ultimately for sustainability we must inspire and attract a new generation who call BFUMC home. God has given us a window of opportunity Berea Friendship. We must all work together as never before, while the window is open.

My door is always open should you want to discuss.

In Christ,
Pastor Davon

Thank you!

Dear Friends, I wanted to express my thanks to all of you for the gift I received last week. I have enjoyed my years with you and appreciate your kindness and friendship. You are a very special congregation and I am fortunate that God has allowed me to spend time with you. Again, my thanks to you all.

Joan Kotrady
Music Director

United Methodist Women

Our prayer focus for February is on the Crossroads Urban Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. This non-profit agency was established in 1966 and has received a 4.4 google star rating. Today they are housed in a building owned by United Methodist Women and supported in part by the United Methodist Church. The building is maintained by the board of directors of Crossroads Urban Center.
They operate an emergency food pantry and a charitable thrift store. They were blessed to receive a bounty of the requested items this month - canned fruit, peanut butter, dishes, pots, pans, and men's pants. Twice a year they carry out a holiday food and gift program. They work to organize citizens in advocacy groups in order to make broad and needed changes and they have helped to establish homeless centers in the area.
Their mission statement reads "Crossroads Urban Center is a non-profit, grassroots organization that assists and organizes citizens with low incomes and those with disabilities to meet basic survival needs and to address the essential issues affecting their quality of life".

Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Judy Poole in Alabama and Marcia Maine in New York.

Responsively Yours: Build a Movement

by Harriett Jane Olson

For the past 20-30 years the “leadership” business has been booming, evidenced by countless books, seminars, consultants, mentors and memoirs. We need leaders—not just people who hold office or garner publicity, but people who have a vision for making the world a better place and who can enlist and empower others not just to follow their vision but to build a movement.
Leaders don’t emerge in times of quiet or calm. Leaders step up when change is needed. Leaders steer through tumult and loss. Leaders make hard decisions, often without perfect information.
Who are the leaders in the Bible? Not the heroes: the leaders. Think about the Hebrew midwives Shiprah and Puah, who took action against the edicts of Pharaoh. Think about the disciples after the resurrection who did not stay in their grief but believed God’s call, enlisting others on missionary journeys and in building on what they had learned from Jesus.
Members of United Methodist Women are called to be leaders at this time in our church. We are called because we know what it means to do God’s work in the world. We know what God’s love looks like—we see it reflected in a child’s face at a national mission institution or in a woman’s joy at obtaining a good job or at the graduation of a student who is the first in their family to attend college. We feel it in the a-ha moments at Mission u, we hear it in the voices demanding climate and racial justice, and we are enveloped by it when we worship together at Assembly and sometimes when we quietly read a Reading Program book. We have a vision for a Church called to be good news to the poor and to work for healing and release for the captives.
This is the best of times for those with this sense of God’s call and who dare to lead The United Methodist Church. What if women across the church took what they learned from countless studies at Mission u and Schools of Christian Mission, from programs from the Program Book, from local partnerships, from leadership experiences and encounters with mission of all shapes and sizes and said: The church can and must show the love of God to their community and demonstrate care for God’s good creation. The church can and must be a place of reconciliation and advocacy for justice, and when it is, it will also be a place of excitement and engagement.
If we work together, can we evoke a church that is not rooted in patriarchy? Can we help construct a church with diverse leadership that is welcoming to all? Knowing that our cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, sexuality and generational differences are among our most important strengths, can we find ways and places to worship that speak to our hearts and honor our histories? I believe that, together, and together with others, we can be part of building a church doing God’s work, reflecting God’s love in the world, sharing good news and setting captives free.
Now it is our chance—yours and mine—to act like leaders, to assess what’s happening, take action. Listen with empathy and curiosity. Talk about our vision. Enlist others. It’s only by each of us doing this, and doing this together, that we will be able to move toward the vision of where God is calling us.

Harriett Jane Olson
General Secretary
United Methodist Women
holson@unitedmethodistwomen.org

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 ***UMW Executive Board*** *meet* *11:00 a.m.* *Social Hall*
6 *Sunday School* *9:00 a.m.* *10:00 a.m. Worship live streamed at 10:00 a.m*	7	8 *Quilters* *11:30 a.m.* *Worship Committee* *6:30 p.m.* *Social Hall*	9 *Choir Practice* *6:30 p.m.* ***Prayer Time In Sanctuary 10:00 a.m to Noon***	10 *Quilters* *6:30 p.m.*	11	12
13 *Sunday School* *9:00 a.m.* *10:00 a.m. Worship live streamed at 10:00 a.m*	14	15 *Quilters* *11:30 a.m.* *ADMIN Council* *6:30 p.m.* *Social Hall* *Friendship Circle (TBD)*	16 *Choir Practice* *6:30 p.m.* ***Prayer Time In Sanctuary 10:00 a.m to Noon***	17 *Quilters* *6:30 p.m.*	18	19 ***Men's Club*** *8:00 a.m.* ***Shalom Circle*** *11:30 a.m.* *Social Hall* *Lunch and Devotional*
20 *Sunday School* *9:00 a.m.* *10:00 a.m. Worship live streamed at 10:00 a.m*	21	22 *Quilters* *11:30 a.m.*	23 *Choir Practice* *6:30 p.m.* ***Prayer Time In Sanctuary 10:00 a.m to Noon***	24 *Quilters* *6:30 p.m.*	25	26
27 *Sunday School* *9:00 a.m.* *10:00 a.m. Worship live streamed at 10:00 a.m*	28					