

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00pm
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
www.bereaFriendshipumc.org
Internet Homepage:
Church Office: 864-246-4311
BEREA FRIENDSHIP NEWS

864-246-4311—Office
Email: davonHarrelson070@gmail.com
864-979-6870
Davon Harrelson, Pastor



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Greenville, SC 29617
8001 White Horse Road
Church
Berea Friendship United Methodist

November 2021

Berea Friendship UMC Newsletter

The Friendship Circle will not meet in November; but will have a December 7th Covered Dish Luncheon at the Home of Ellen Holman at 11:30 a.m. Please reach out to Ellen H. or Jane W. for more details.

Bazaar, Vendor and Car Show, November 6th. Mark your calendar for this FUN DAY! Come see the Vendors who will be selling their products, the Men's Club who will be cooking that day, and lots of fancy cars!

We are in need of Volunteers for the Kitchen, outside and inside areas. Please reach out to Bobby Taylor, Larry McCants, or Vickie Failor if you are available to help.

CDC Meeting November 9th, 5:30 p.m.

PPRC Meeting November 9th, 6:30 p.m. To Finalize Performance Reviews.

DRIVE-BY SALUTE TO VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES *Honoring All Who Have Served in the Armed Forces of the United States*

Thursday, November 11, 2021 Drop by between 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored by The Friends of Berea High School, Inc. & Berea Friendship UMC

Dribble for Destiny will have a last try for Fall Basketball Games on November 13th. If there is ample participation, our Gym will be included. Dena Nalley will keep us posted on whether our Gym is included for that rotation that day.

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.

Thrive dinner will be from 4 pm—6 pm on Thursday, November 18th.

The outreach committee is planning on giving every child in the CDC and staff a Christmas Present from the church. If you would like to make a donation to help with this, please place it in the offering plate and designate it to CDC Christmas. We plan on buying each child a age level appropriate book and getting staff a gift card.

Please continue to bring items for the North Greenville Crisis Ministries. You can place the items in the shopping cart located at the front of the sanctuary.

Gingerbread Bash! Children's Ministry is sponsoring a Special Christmas Event for Families. Sunday, November 28, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Each Family will build a Nativity Scene. Light Supper/

Happy Birthday!

November Birthdays

- 02 Nancy McCants
- 03 Issac Stone
- 06 Hannah Claire Miller
- 08 Steve Capps
- 9 Kody Lee Bennett
Jimmy Kruse
- 10 Max Hovious
- 11 Julie Harrelson
- 16 Heather Philpot
Marc Metcalf
- 18 Calley Dunn
- 21 Jan Smith
- 23 Alex Smith
- 25 Davon Harrelson
Margaret Rawson
- 29 Gloria Adrienne Collins
(daughter of Katrina E. Collins)
- 29 Steve Hester

Deaths

Randall Griffin (son of Kathleen Griffin) Our Pastor and Congregation express sincere condolences to their family.

THANK YOU

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, prayers and well wishes that I have received after my fall. I am recovering slowly, which is to be expected. Please continue to remember us in your prayers. Thank you again for your kindness.

Jean Vaughn

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.



Happy Anniversary

November Anniversaries

- 01 Rhonda T. & Mike Hovious
- 06 Jim & Jan Martin
- 23 Tari & Dismas Beeson

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We are blessed to be part of the recently-revived Children's Ministry at Berea Friendship. A key part of this ministry is the Children's Moment and Children's Church on Sunday mornings. It's our hope to make this an ongoing part of our weekly worship service. We want to invite members of the congregation to become part of this ministry. Additional persons are needed to lead in Children's Church. The Children's Moment in the sanctuary is optional; if an individual would prefer, the pastor has graciously offered to do the Children's Moment. Members may choose from lessons already prepared or create a lesson of their own. Please consider joining us in this important ministry. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary. Choose a Sunday or several Sundays that fit your schedule.

Children's Ministry Committee

Prayer List

- Mary Bowers
- Milton Mullinax
- Caz McCaslin
- Beverly Threatt
- Brenda Johnson's niece, Debbie Hawkins as she takes Chemo
- Blanche Creswell
- Nancy McCants
- Robert Moler, Linda Crouch's Brother
- Janet Stone and Alex Stone
- Mildred Pollard
- Allen Zorn
- Millie Dunn
- Shirley Dickson
- Jane-Hunt Grady
- Kathleen Griffin
- Gloria Moore
- Donna Helms
- Betty Stover

NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

Welcome to our Members:

Jose and Jayne Ferrer of 86 Carpin Drive, Greenville, SC 29611;

Mark and Dena Nalley; of 707 Hunts Bridge Road, Greenville, SC 29617

Jimmy and Susan Kruse of 1304 Saluda Lake Road, Greenville, SC 29611. .

Thank you

Thank you for attending the Children's Ministry Kid's Night on Friday, October 22nd. It was very successful and we appreciate all who joined in this fun!

Thank you to everyone that came out and supported our Trunk or Treat on October

All Saints Sunday, November 7th, 2021

All are invited Sunday, to honor our Saints by signing the Linen Sheet at the back of the Sanctuary.

Good Neighbors

The Neighborhood Center in Utica, New York, walks the path with children, seniors and immigrants.

by Mary Beth Coudal

“Walking the path with our neighbors” is how Sandra Soroka describes the work of the Neighborhood Center. And there are as many paths and ways of walking with neighbors as there are facets to this longtime community gem in Utica, New York.

Over the past year, the center struggled to keep essential activities open for families, children and people in need. The center’s leaders, particularly Soroka, the executive director, were guided as always by the center’s original mission: to support folks with mental health issues, children in need of care and new immigrants settling in to a new neighborhood and culture.

For years, Utica, a hardscrabble town on the Erie Canal, once a stop on the manufacturing corridor, has seen a decline in population. Until recently, the overall population was decreasing by about one percent a year. Located between Syracuse and Albany, Utica residents are hoping for a renaissance through the public-private “Nano Utica” initiative, making the region a hub for nanotechnology. The pandemic slowed this progress.

Growth has occurred incrementally with the arrival of new citizens. The region has been a destination for new Americans originally born in Russia, Bosnia, Burma and Somalia. Around 19 percent of the approximately 60,000 Utica residents were born in a different country.

Thanks to the resettlement of refugees, the area has become increasingly multicultural. In one recent swearing-in ceremony, 30 refugees from 15 countries became U.S. citizens in Utica. Economically, the median income has risen slightly to \$35,394, and the poverty rate remains a stubborn 30 percent. The neighbors who are struggling with poverty, young children and mental health are the families that the Neighborhood Center, a United Methodist Women-supported national mission institution, has always served.

Methodist hospitality

The center began as the Italian Settlement House in 1905 by six Methodist women who helped Italian immigrants complete their naturalization papers. These women of the Woman’s Home Missionary Society procured six rooms in a two-story building for their work and expanded from there. In addition to sharing their faith with new immigrants, the women also taught life skills. For example, in 1952, 670 adults received training for new vocations at the center.

The center’s name was changed in 1945 from the Italian Settlement House to the Neighborhood Center. A playground was built. A child for whom a building was eventually named, Marie Russo, became the center’s fifth director.

“The thing I remember most about the first time that I went to the Settlement House was the unusual experience of being loved, unconditionally,” Russo recalled in *The House on Mary Street: The Early Years* by Kathryn Hartz Beard. “I can’t really explain it. The Settlement House was a place you could go and feel valued, loved and no one ridiculed you for having ‘foreign ways.’ And I was not exactly the kind of kid who was easy to love. I didn’t trust anybody, and I certainly did not believe them when they said they cared about who and what I was.”

For the first time in her life, Russo experienced many of life’s joys, including friendship and a hot shower.

“It was a refuge from the poverty and sorrow we all lived in,” she said.

The

UMW Monthly Prayer Focus

. Our prayer focus for November is on the Wesley House family services in Key West, Florida. They are a nationally accredited not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and nurturing children and strengthening families with their many programs and services spanning the Key West area. Founded in the early part of the last century by the Methodist Church, it began as a statement program for the Cuban community of Key West. They had a very successful kindergarten and child care center that taught English to children to ease their transition into public schools. In 2005, Wesley House was selected and accepted the responsibility for the child welfare system throughout the area of the Florida Keys.

Their mission statement reads "Promoting and enhancing the safety, well being, and development of children by educating, supporting, and meeting the needs of families."

Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Cheryl Farr in Mississippi and Mary Ellen Kilmer in Nebraska.

OUR CIRCLES

The Shalom Circle will meet on Saturday November 20th at 11:30am at the church. Our mission project for this month will be making Christmas gift bags for one of the Thrive houses

Methodist hospitality (continued)

The Neighborhood Center made it possible for young, old and new Americans to survive and even thrive. The center continues to live out this radical inclusiveness, even when the community feels divided.

“In today’s environment, we have such extremes and such strong beliefs,” Soroka said.

The center brings people together, regardless of their political leanings. Soroka found herself on the receiving end of verbal abuse when, during the presidential election, she asked several senior citizens to remove campaign signs that they had affixed to the Neighborhood Center’s signs. Because the center is a polling place, this level of promotion for a candidate was illegal.

The antidote, as Soroka sees it, is to fully embrace the “open hearts, open minds, open doors,” promise of The United Methodist Church. This mindset, she says, invites everyone to be a part of the solution.

Children persevering

Just as many of the United Methodist Women-connected national mission institutions, the Neighborhood Center has been hit hard during the pandemic. Early on, Soroka recommitted the work of the center to its earliest mission and legacy: child care. Following the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, the center transitioned to a hybrid model of learning, continuing to advocate for children and families who depend on the center for school, afterschool and early child care.

According to 12-year veteran child-care worker Janett Davila, who works with the youngest school-age children, “The kindergartners have persevered.”

The children enjoyed being together, even at a distance, at the North Community Center, an outpost of the downtown Neighborhood Center. Fifth grader Frankie prefers to learn in person rather than the hybrid online learning model in which he attended his classes from the community center. Mia, a second grader, who sat near Frankie, agrees.

As the students learned together on their separate devices in their disparate virtual classes, they were all in the same vast room, a bit of social interaction in an otherwise solitary learning environment. About once a month, the center offered a fun, socially distanced event for the students to socialize, according to the former Head Start teacher and current Division Director Patrice VanNortwick.

“We are losing quality child care left and right,” Soroka said. She points out that for an average family who makes an income of \$30,000 to \$40,000, the \$10,000 cost for early child care is prohibitive. Sabrina Lamie, the interim child care director at the northside location, is looking for new ways to recruit children who may have fallen away from organized schooling, to invite the families to return to preschool and afterschool.

As more families fall into cycles of poverty, there are fewer opportunities to lift themselves out. The Neighborhood Center staff has had to make tough decisions. In the first month of 2021, the center lost \$53,000 due to the pandemic as they fulfilled required staff quarantines and witnessed a reduction in income from programs. One program that was cut was the Circles Campaign, an innovative approach to entrenched poverty that reveals the hidden rules of society and fosters a mutuality of benefit across classes in society.

At the North Community Center location, the center is poised to reopen the senior day care services. The staff of the Neighborhood Center looks forward to its 380 seniors returning. The seniors often socialize with the children at the joint child care center for holiday parties.

According to VanNortwick, who works with the refugee health program and leads the children’s program, the diversity of programs and people is part of the center’s strengths.

“I’ve always loved different cultures. Why would you want to be with someone who is just like you?” she said.

As a child, Betty Youmans, a former Mohawk District United Methodist Women officer, took cooking classes and played on the Neighborhood Center playground.

“Growing up, the Neighborhood Center was part of my life.” In fact, her mother served on the board for 25 years.

Because Youmans remembers her childhood joy upon receiving Christmas gifts from the volunteers at the Neighborhood Center, as an adult, she donated 10 sleeping bags to the center, thinking the children who attend the nearby Methodist camp could use them. Instead, she learned that the sleeping bags were one of the only blankets some of the recipients owned, and they used them year-round.

Youmans encourages fellow United Methodist Women members to directly support the center and other United Methodist Women-connected mission institutions with their finances. And as the center reopens for programming, in-person volunteers will also be needed.

Support for mental health

The Neighborhood Center also offers an Adult Recovery Services program focusing on mental health. Soroko marvels at the clients’ “creativity, artistry and intelligence.” Part of the program’s work is to reduce the stigma attached to mental illness.

“A brain disorder is not a lot different than a heart disorder,” Soroka said.

Through her work at the center and as a member of the board at the nearby NAACP in Rome, Soroka has also seen the toll of racism on people. Racism triggers mental health issues, a result of “a life’s worth of dealing with being discriminated against.”

One recipient of mental health support is JoAn (who asked to be identified only by her first name). JoAn, an 86-year-old with a master’s degree in microbiology and a former avid tennis player, felt extremely lonely during the pandemic. She needed help with panic attacks and depression.

“Sometimes the void is great,” she said. She was advised to reach out to the Neighborhood Center, which provided help and healing. She calls the support she received from her therapist Heather “a wonderful service.”

A community that cares

“It’s exactly what it says it is: a neighborhood center,” said JoAn.

There are many stories like JoAn’s, of neighborliness and healing during the pandemic from this Utica community center. Some examples include donations of seven laptops to children who needed them for remote learning, support for 10 months of sobriety for a young person overcoming addiction, safe housing for a young man with suicidal ideations and meal delivery to a homebound 68-year-old.

While the path ahead for many of the approximately 90 community centers connected to United Methodist Women like the Neighborhood Center is not without challenges, the neighbors who lead and guide these centers are continuing to pave a better way for all, despite the divisions of society or the budget shortfalls. Drawing on its history, the Neighborhood Center, just as the kindergartners in Davila’s care, persevere.

State of the Church 2021

Berea Friendship - each year for Charge Conference I am required to write a "State of the Church" article. It is an article the congregation typically does not see. This year I'm sharing it with you in the Newsletter. It is your pastor's perspective of where we are, and where we're going as a congregation.

Berea Friendship UMC is making great strides forward. In the midst of the Covid pandemic, this faithful congregation has found ways to adapt and keep moving forward together. I am so proud of this congregation's determination to maintain and grow the fellowship, and their connection to the community. During these difficult times, the church completed a Forward Focus study, developed strategic goals, adopted the Forward Focus plan proposed, and began to implement said plan. Berea Friendship is stepping into its future, building upon the solid foundations of those who served here before us.

Berea Friendship is a place of family. There is an amazing church family that has served here together thirty, forty, fifty, and for a few even sixty years. They are beautifully and wonderfully woven together by countless acts of love and compassion, faithfulness and generosity, and much more in Christ. Out of the first family is growing another family. It is composed of some in the first family still able-bodied, and new persons coming into the church. This blossoming family is like the first, sharing Christ with each other, and reaching out to serve the Berea community. This slightly younger family is serving and sharing passionately in new ministry areas, and contributing to all the church's previously established ministries. There is a new sense of expectation and excitement concerning outward focused ministry. New opportunities to serve continue to come Berea Friendship's way.

There is a growing sense of unity within Berea Friendship. There will always be differences of opinion in every congregation. Despite these differences, the congregation as a whole is working together with increasing commitment and faithfulness. Presently there is an amazing willingness to serve on various teams (committees) within the church. In past years there have been tensions between the congregation and the Child Development Center (CDC). The establishment of financial policy applied to both congregation and CDC has alleviated most of that tension. The congregation and CDC are working together better than ever! And it is more apparent than ever that each is essential to the other's survival and well being. The church seems to understand the importance of this time we are in. As a predominantly older congregation, there is limited time available to insure Berea Friendship's future. As pastor, I am very proud of how the congregation is responding to the present challenge together.

Berea friendship is a growing church. Church growth is not always defined numerically, and sometimes it is. Numerically speaking the congregation has not really grown in size. The passing of precious saints is comparable to saints coming into the fellowship this year. The church has definitely grown in skill sets and talents with the addition of new members. The CDC is numerically prospering in every way, always at maximum capacity. Berea Friendship is definitely growing in ways not easily quantified. I have already mentioned growth in unity, commitment, faithfulness, and family relationships. In these difficult times, Berea Friendship is exhibiting an ever growing desire to draw closer to God. All fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22, I would consider growth areas this past year. And I sense Berea Friendship is growing in its understanding of God's Word, in what we are truly called to be and do inwardly and outwardly.

Finances remain an area of some concern. Weekly giving is currently not sufficient to meet operational expenses. Without tapping into CDC profits, the Berea Friendship congregation would quickly be out of monies. It is amazing how blessed BFUMC has been by unexpected donations the past three years. We have also taken advantage of government monies available during the pandemic. That being said, we have much to be thankful for as a congregation and CDC. I believe the present congregation will rise to the occasion with new commitments of giving. Ultimately the only way to resolve our ongoing deficit is by growing the congregation spiritually and numerically. Berea Friendship's goal is to grow the congregation such that we are able to meet our budget, generously participate in community ministries, pay our apportionments, and in no way be dependent upon the ministry we established (CDC) thirty years ago. To be in ministry to the community with our CDC is our goal!

It is this pastor's opinion that Berea Friendship's best days are ahead! That God has been good to us beyond measure for sixty eight years. And as we are increasingly faithful to Him in the future; He will bless us in like measure, again and again.

In Christ,
Pastor Davon

NOVEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 8 a.m-5p.m. Bazaar, Vendor and Car Show
7 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Worship live streamed at 10:00 a.m. ALL SAINTS SUNDAY	8 Church office Closed	9 Quilters 11:30 a.m. CDC Meeting 5:30 p.m. PPRC Meeting 6:30 p.m.	10 Sanctuary Open from 10 a.m. -12 noon for prayer 6:00 p.m. choir practice	11 Quilters 6:30 p.m. Veterans Day Salute 11:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m	12	13 8 a.m-8 p.m. Dribble For Destiny
14 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Worship live streamed at 10:00 a.m.	15 Church office closed	16 Quilters 11:30 a.m.	17 Sanctuary Open from 10 a.m. -12 noon for prayer 6:00 p.m. choir practice	18 Quilters 6:30 p.m. Thrive Dinner 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 Live streamed at 10:00 a.m.	22 Church office Closed	23 Quilters 11:30 a.m.	24 Sanctuary Open from 10 a.m. -12 noon for prayer 6:00 p.m. choir practice	25 Quilters 6:30 p.m. 4-6 pm Thrive dinner	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 Live streamed at 10:00 a.m. Gingerbread Bash 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	29 Church Office Closed	30 Quilters 11:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Open from 10 a.m. -12 noon for prayer 6:00 p.m. choir practice			