



The Friendship Connection

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

Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Where did the shepherds come from to see the baby Jesus? The scriptures tell us from the fields where they lay. They were out in the fields, shepherding their flocks through the Judean landscape. Their day to day existence was difficult facing the elements, predators, thieves, and the scorn of prideful people. Socially shepherds were on the bottom of the pile, and were treated that way. Yet, these were the first people God went to saying, go see the Christ child. I would suggest to BFUMC that God has a special place in His heart for the poor least and last, because humbled by life they can see God, and come into His presence. Persons who imagine their own truth and righteousness see themselves.

What did the shepherds see? In the manger of Truth they saw the Christ Child who could restore God's Kingdom in Israel; they imagined peace, prosperity, and freedom for God's people! The shepherds saw hope, peace, love, and joy as God defines it. No doubt, the shepherds comfortably quantified and defined the divine in natural physical context they readily understood. All humanity does the same, every generation.

Sometime later wise men from the east came before the Child of Truth. Somehow they had perceived Him from studying the stars in the sky. He is in all created things. In an act of worship they came from afar and brought Him extravagant gifts. Like the shepherds, the wise men responded, understanding as best they could. To whom much is given, much will be required. They left by another way, with new understandings of hope, peace, love, and joy.

So here we are Berea Friendship, Advent 2023, again looking into the manger of Truth, wondering what the Christ Child of Truth might do for us this year. I can't help but again look to the stain glass window in our sanctuary – Jesus upon His Cross. What Jesus tells me is that notions of hope, peace, love, and joy that come naturally to me are utterly useless. That's all about me, nothing but me. What Jesus can do for me correlates directly to my willingness to lay my life down for Him. In the manger is Truth. In the Christ Child there is Truth. On the cross is the Truth we need!!! On the Cross are God's justice, righteousness, hope, peace, love, and joy laid down so that all mankind "whosoever" may come. He has come down to us – are willing to lay our lives down so as to make our way up to Him?

My prayer for Berea Friendship is that we become wise as we live by another way. I pray that we can live ever more abundantly by way of the Cross, rising up with Him. Jesus draws all mankind to Himself by His loving Grace. It is His Truth that sets us free to be all He calls us to be. That's what I see in the manger of Truth, in the Child, in our Savior. I pray we can indeed embrace our Lord of Truth, laying aside our exceptions. I pray that in the 365 days of 2024, we may know him as King more each day.

There is always room at the foot of the Cross – where all stand poor, least, and last. There we see Him, and enter into His presence. As we do so Berea Friendship, others will come and likewise know their Truth.

Much Love In Christ,
Pastor Davon

BEREA FRIENDSHIP BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY
Birthday



December Birthdays... 2nd Harrison Miller, 2nd Danielle Melton, Eddie Sentell, 6th Lynne Coggins Dyson, 6th Bill Teat, 7th Buddy Stover, 8th Kyleigh Elizabeth Argo, 8th Joan Zepf, 12th Miller Bogan, 13th Becky Philpot, 14th Scott Beasley, 15th Laura Brown, 15th Heidi Caden Miller, 15th Barbara Durham, 15th Diane Greer, 19th Anne-Marie Wallace, 20th Kristie Argo, 20th Jim Humphreys, 20th Wyatt Sentell, 22nd Diane V. Sentell, 27th Patty Sentell, 31st Pam Harrelson



BEREA FRIENDSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Happy
Anniversary



December Anniversaries... 27th Ellen & Corky Holman

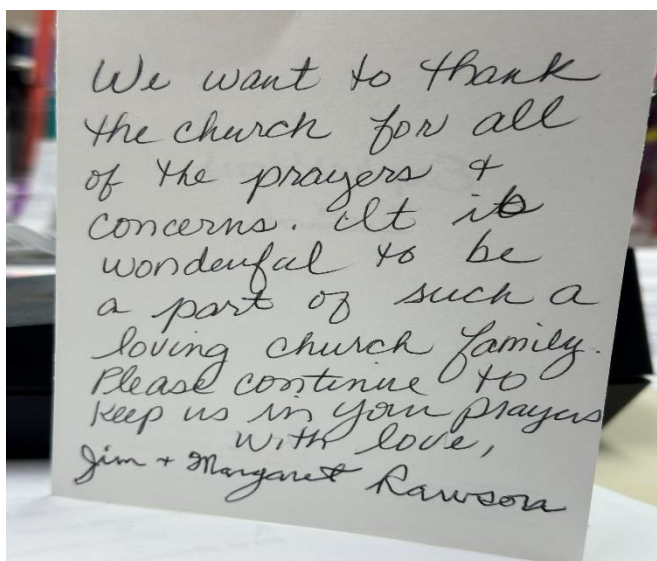
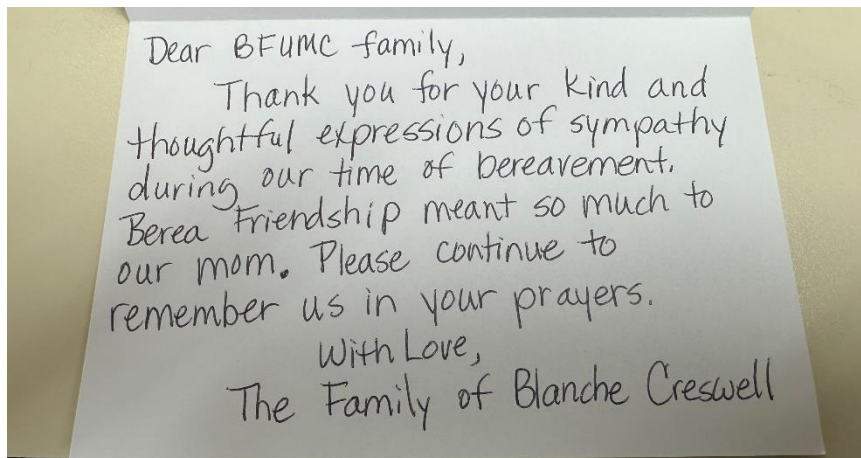


3:16 Prayer Ministry

Please Pray For: Angela Adcock, The Family Of Terri Adkins, Preston Argo, Shellie Moser Atchison, The Family Of Mary Alice Bowers, Cody Bynum, Kristie Carter, Rob Coogan, Michael Dow, Lainey Gilstrap, Scott Hall, Doris Harrelson, Amanda Hayes, Bob Helms, The Family Of Elizabeth "Nina" Garrison Hendrix, Corrine Hovda & Russell Redmond, Freda Hudson, Sue Foster Jones, Kenneth King, Carolyn Knight, Mike Lathem, The Family Of Jimmy Masters, Larry McCants, Robert Moler, Jim Rawson, The Family Of Patty Reeves, Batsie Styles, Daniel Surett, Jimmy Tarrant, Jordan Emory Turner, Anette Turley, Jan Vaughan, Steve Ward, Joe Williams, Allen Zorn

Continue To Pray For Our Shut-Ins: Dr. Eugene Bondurant, Sue Coggins, Shirley Dickson, Libby Gilliam, Carolyn Hunter, Alex Stone, & Barbara Thackston

Quilters will be hosting a variety of classes the fourth Saturday of each month. In January we will learn how to piece and create a throw pillow. See Margaret Rawson or Janie Riley for details.



DECEMBER OUTREACH MINISTRIES NEWS:

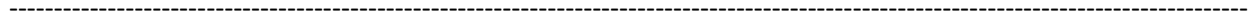
We will be doing a reverse advent food collection for the month of December. Please see enclosed flyer with details.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our November Mission project WE were able to provide shoes, socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste for 75 children in Greenville County.



Volunteers needed to help Christmas Shoe Ministries

Christmas Shoe Ministries has also asked if we could have 5-10 volunteers to help on the following days checking shoes on Tuesday, December 5th from 12 p.m. – 2 pm. If you can help, please let Vickie Failor know.



Caroling to Shut in and Assisted Living Communities

Mark your calendar, we will be going caroling on Saturday, December 16th. We will leave the church at 3:00 p.m. and return around 6 p.m. When we return we will have a dinner and a time of fellowship. There is a sign up sheet located on the back door of the Sanctuary.

United Women in Faith

The Friendship Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 19th at 2:00 p.m.

The Shalom Circle will meet on Saturday December 16th for a Christmas brunch. More details to come.

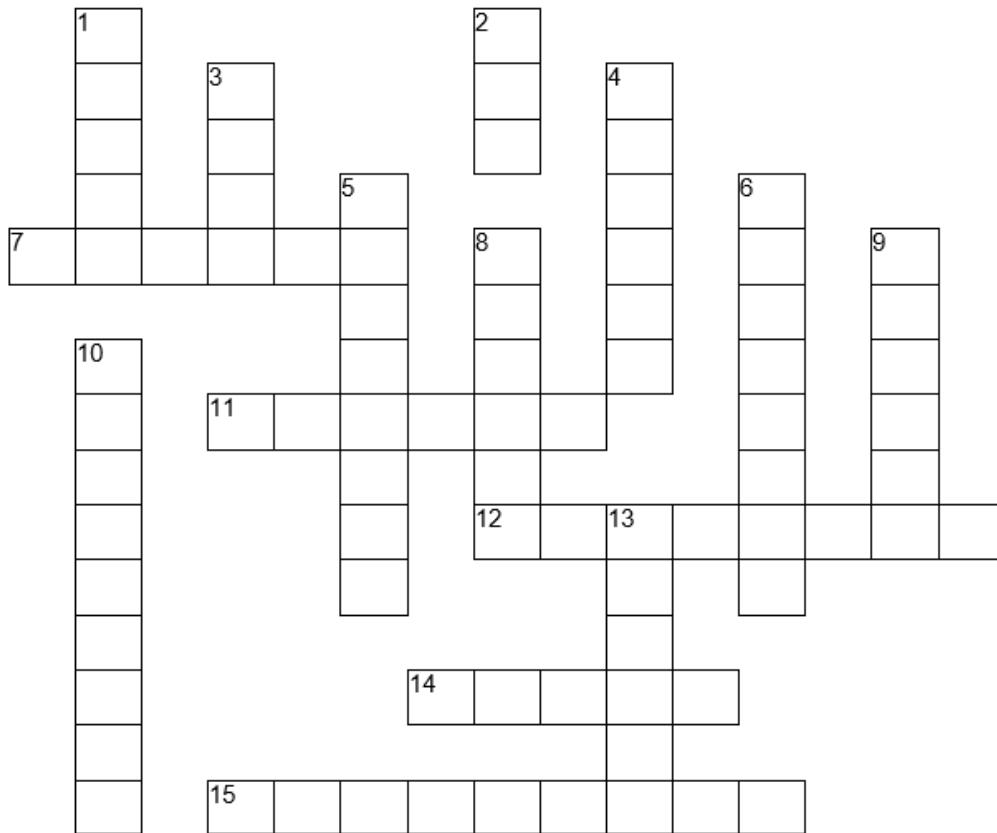
United Women in Faith

Our prayer focus for December is on Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina. It is a private, historically black, liberal arts college. They were organized in 1873 as a co-educational ministry school for newly emancipated slaves at Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church (now known as Saint Matthews United Methodist Church). In 1926 they became a college for women. The institution is credited with the education of many influential leaders, politicians, authors, and activists. Bennett is the only all female college in North Carolina and one of only two in the country. Their areas of study include business, economics, journalism, social work, humanities, and global and interdisciplinary studies.

They have a student/faculty ratio of seven to one. Recently they were recognized as a 2022-2023 best college by US News and World Report.

Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Carolyn Lawhorn in Tennessee and Cindy Johnson in Texas.

Christmas Crossword



Across

- 7. Angels' song when the savior was born
- 11. The coming of the savior
- 12. God with us
- 14. The magi
- 15. Worshipped Jesus at his birth

Down

- 1. Appeared to Mary and Joseph
- 2. Mary and Joseph found no room here.
- 3. What led everyone to Jesus?
- 4. Where did Mary give birth?
- 5. Christmas celebrates the _____ of Jesus.
- 6. The manifestation of Christ
- 8. _____ of peace
- 9. Scene of Jesus' birth
- 10. Birthplace of Jesus
- 13. Where was Jesus placed after his birth?

Christmas Word Search

X T N B Y Y V K N H C L J T M E M
R M G C A C A T T L E T M V C P W
E A V F S W G J X W Q H L H H M G
V N J E S U S H R I L J Y G R M T
V G H K G S M V J S E A H H I A G
F E E B Y T A G O E L N E Z S L A
T R R E Y A R Q S M Z Y R Q T W B
W O O T Z R Y V E E U Y W S M H R
L B D H A E I J P N E X U Q A H I
V A O L H K T W H W U T O A S Z E
W B X E D G O H C E N S U S J J L
D Y F H S H E E P X J J Z V I N U
S F V E A S E L Z R E E V D G U G
W S V M N A Z A R E T H R P D Y S
S U F S H E P A R D S M G B J W X
H H X I X G U M E W L W B B G S E
B N K M M A N G E L P B R Q Z K Y

Angel Baby Bethlehem Cattle Census
Christmas Gabriel Herod Jesus Joseph
Manger Mary Nazareth Sheep Shepards
 Star Wise Men

Berea Friendship

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Sunday at 5:00

Message by Davon Harrelson

Music by Josh Durham
& His Flock Of Friends

Communion every 3rd Sunday



3:16

Prayer Ministry

Berea Friendship
Tuesday 10:30-11:30
In The Sanctuary



BEREA FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

JOIN US AS WE VISIT MEMBERS, SHUT-INS, AND ASSISTED
LIVING CENTERS FOR A AFTERNOON OF SINGING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

DINNER TO FOLLOW AT CHURCH



The CHOSEN

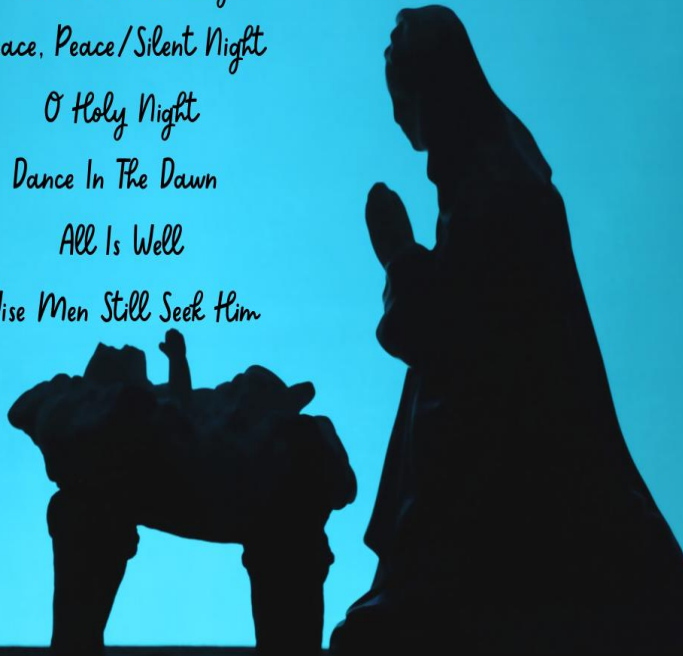
Season 3
Mondays
At 5:45



"WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM"

Mary Did You Know?
Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)
A Baby Changes Everything
He Shall Reign Forevermore
Little Drummer Boy
Peace, Peace/Silent Night
O Holy Night
Dance In The Dawn
All Is Well
Wise Men Still Seek Him

BEREA FRIENDSHIP
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 3RD
5:00



CHRISTMAS SONG SING-ALONG JOSH DURHAM & ANNA HENSON



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH 6:30
AT BEREA FRIENDSHIP
WITH COOKIES & HOT CHOCOLATE
IN THE SOCIAL HALL AFTER THE SING-ALONG!



A PLAY TO CELEBRATE THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

Songs of Christmas by CDC & Children's Choir

Sunday, December 10, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Berea Friendship United Methodist Church

Dinner Following Program



CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 17th 5:00
Berea Friendship United Methodist Church





REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DRIVE

Berea Friendship will be participating in a reverse food drive advent calendar for the month of December. We will collect the items and send them to local food banks: Triune Mercy Center/ North Greenville Crisis Ministry / United Ministries. If you would like to participate, please take a box from the tables at the back of the church and fill the box for the month of December. Return the box to the church by the 31st and we will donate to the food banks the 1st week in January. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help with this ministry, you may place donations in the donation boxes located on the tables at the back of the sanctuary. Members of outreach ministries will purchase food items for the boxes with the donations. You can fill a box for less than \$30.00.

- | | |
|--|---|
| December 1 st : Box Cereal | December 13 th : Package of rice |
| December 2 nd : Peanut Butter | December 14 th : Box of oatmeal |
| December 3 rd : Stuffing Mix | December 15 th : Box of pasta |
| December 4 th : Boxed potatoes | December 16 th : Spaghetti sauce |
| December 5 th : Macaroni and cheese | December 17 th : can chicken noodle soup |
| December 6 th : Canned Fruit | December 18 th : can tomato soup |
| December 7 th : Canned tomatoes | December 19 th : canned corn |
| December 8 th : canned tuna | December 20 th : Can mixed vegetable |
| December 9 th : Dessert mix | December 21 st : canned carrots |
| December 10 th : Apple Sauce cups | December 22 nd : canned green beans |
| December 11 th : Canned beans | December 23 rd : canned sweet potato |
| December 12 th : Boxed crackers | December 24 th : can cranberry sauce |

If you want to put other items in the box instead of these exact items, that is okay. The idea is to give items each day on December until Christmas. If you have questions, please reach out to the outreach ministries team: Vickie Failor/Anne-Marie Wallace/Laura Childs/Susan Kruse/Diane Greer/Margaret Rawson/Josh Durham/Bobby Taylor



DEC 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
9 Sunday School 10 Traditional 5 Wise Men Still Seek Him	5:45 Chosen	10:30-11:30 3:16 Prayer 9:00-3:00 Quilters	6:30 Choir Practice			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 Sunday School 10 Traditional 5 Christmas Light Show	5:45 Chosen	10:30-11:30 3:16 Prayer 9:00-3:00 Quilters 6:30 Christmas Song Sing-Along	6:30 Choir Practice			11 Shalom 3-6 Christmas Caroling
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9 Sunday School 10 Traditional 5 Choir Christmas Program	5:45 Chosen 6 Men's Group	10:30-11:30 3:16 Prayer 9:00-3:00 Quilters	6:30 Choir Practice			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9 Sunday School 10 Traditional 5 Christmas Eve Service	Christmas	10:30-11:30 3:16 Prayer 9:00-3:00 Quilters	6:30 Choir Practice			
31						
9 Sunday School 10 Traditional 5 Praise & Worship						

Berea Friendship United Methodist
Church

White Horse Road

Greenville, SC 29617

BEREA FRIENDSHIP NEWS

Church Office: 864-246-4311

Internet Homepage:

www.bereafrriendshippumc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am to 1:00pm

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NON-PROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT #08

TRAVELERS REST, SC 29690

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