



The Friendship Connection

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

Fellow Church Members,

I have been thinking about Lent and Easter. I am reflecting on the reason we celebrate Lent for 40 days and what Easter means to us. While doing this, I am also thinking about the Worship/Attendance Crusade that has been initiated in our church. I think that all of this is happening at the same time for a reason. I hope that during the season of Lent, you will take time to reflect on the purpose behind this Crusade and our church.

I found this quote today while exploring devotions and prayers on the internet and wanted to share it with you "Lent is the season in which we ought to be surprised by joy. Our self-sacrifices serve no purpose unless, by laying aside this or that desire, we are able to focus on our heart's deepest longing: unity with Christ. In him-- in his suffering and death, his resurrection and triumph, we find our truest joy."

I would like for you to pray about the Crusade, our church, our families, and remember the reason we have Easter. If it has not been for Jesus' unselfish love for us, we would not have eternal life. I hope that you can find something meaningful to concentrate on during the 40 days of lent. I know that there are a lot of things that people think of doing or not doing during lent. Some people fast, some people give up soda/chocolate, etc. This lent, I do not think I will make a promise to give anything up, but I am going to work on making a greater effort of being the Christian that I need to be. I am going to share the love of God with others. I encourage you all to figure out what you would like to place an emphasis on this season of Lent.

I have given great thought into wanting to complete bible study during lent, in doing the research, I found a 40-day devotional series to do during Lent. I am planning on taking a few minutes every day to follow through with devotions. As Christians we need to do things to broaden our mind in Christianity. Take this time of lent to set priorities for yourself and for your Christian path. I think that Berea Friendship has some great things happening. I have found such inspiration in the new Praise and Worship services. The music that Josh is providing is giving me a great spirit. The messages that Pastor Davon is giving is making me think about things. I am excited about the Prayer 3:16 that has been started. I feel that we are moving in a very Christian spirit driven way. The mission's ministry emphasis that we started in February was awesome. We were able to meet the goal. I am also excited because in the month of March we are going to bring the children of the CDC into our mission emphasis and have them help with our mission work. Through example, we can make Christian servants in them. I hope that we can keep this energy going in the church. Please go out and make disciples and share the good news.

In closing I would like to share this prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we come to you asking for forgiveness of our sins. We ask that you be with those that need your love and those that are hungry for your forgiveness. Please help us to see the needs of others and to help as we can. Be with our brothers and sisters of this church that are sick or struggling with issues, you know their needs. Lord help us to do your work and be the Christians that we need to be. Please help us to serve you and our community. Lord without you, we would be nothing. In your name we pray. Amen.

Please go out and make disciples of Christ this season of Lent.

Vickie Failor

Certified Lay Servan



March Birthdays... 1st Craig McClain, 2nd Roth Paxton, 3rd Alex Stone, 3rd Michael Cook, 4th T.J. Melton, 5th Debbie Capps, 5th Elyse Evans, 6th Cindy Hester, 6th Bobby Taylor, 8th Jayne Ferrer, 8th Darrel Youngblood, 10th Ronald Failor, 11th Parks Evans, 11th Mark Miller, 12th Mark Wells, 13th Henry Philpot, 15th Rebecca Surett, 16th Kay Moorehead, 18th Bradley Armstrong, 19th Mike Hovious, 20th "Tari" Beeson, 26th Joel Sidney Disher, Betty Stover, Mark Nalley



March Anniversaries... 6th Robert & Betty Bridges, 13th Rox & Martha Oxley, 18th Jose & Jayne Ferrer, 18th Jimmy & Susan Kruse, 25th Tony & Carolyn Earnest, 25th Jim & Margaret Rawson



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.

Prayer List: Pam Bowers, Patti Bowers, Rob Coogan (Friend of Debbie Gissendanner), Doris Harrelson, Lauren Hensley, Corky Holman, Brenda Johnson, Jerry Kruse (Jimmy's Dad), Denise McCloud (Daughter of Dennis & Terri McCloud), Steve Nabors (friend of Bobby Taylor), Robert Moler (brother of Linda Crouch), Jeffrey Moore, Shelby Nations, Carol Presnell, Henry Philpot, Jean Vaughn (her aunt Anne Nicholson passed away), Anne Marie, Rob, & Matthew Graham Wallace, Gwen Williams, Julie Worley

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 Friendship Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 21st at 2:00 p.m.

Shalom Circle will join the ladies of the Greenville District UWF at New St Luke UMC on Saturday March 18, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. New St. Luke will be hosting a program for the Limitless Program of the SC UWF.

Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m. This month's Third Thursday Dinner will be on Thursday (fittingly enough) March 16th. The menu will be pancakes & sausage. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the door entering the sanctuary. The food is free, but please sign up to give us an idea of how much food we need to make! Invite your friends!

Fitness Fellowship meet each Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 in the Social Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. These chair yoga exercises are great for men and women of all ages and fitness levels. If you have any questions you may reach out to Laura Childs.

The Administrative Council will meet on Tuesday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m.

The Outreach Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 21st at 6:30 p.m.

PPRC will meet on Tuesday, March 7th at 6:30 p.m.

United Women Of Faith...Our prayer focus for March is on the Epworth Village in York, Nebraska. They are a Christ centered mission founded in 1889. Their mission statement reads "We believe all of God's people are of worth and value." They offer services to children, youth, and families who may feel left out, powerless, and needy. Their goal is to strengthen families to prevent abuse and neglect whenever possible. They are proud to be a recent National Mission Institute of the United Women in Faith. Three services they offer are 1. In home family services to educate young parents in their raising and teaching of their children. 2. A child care and enrichment center for ages six weeks to five years where social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development is achieved through games, music, stories, and art. 3. Foster care services for 24 nearby counties aimed at reducing trauma of separation from their own families.

Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Esther Hunter in Ohio and Laura Kirby in North Carolina.

Outreach Ministries...The outreach ministries committee has selected United Ministries as our agency to support for the month of March. United Ministries stated that they are in need of rice, canned fruit and mixed vegetables. We have decided to give the church a challenge to collect 75 bags of rice and 75 cans of fruit. You can place the items on the mission table at the back of the sanctuary.

In addition to our congregation participating in this ministry, we are going to invite the children of the CDC to help with the ministry and bring rice and canned fruit to chapel weekly.

Thank you to everyone that donated to the tomato sauce campaign during February for Triune Mercy Center. We were able to donate to them over 100 cans of sauce.

The outreach committee will meet again on March 21st at 6:30 p.m. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or would like to be involved, please join us.

The Greenville District United Women In Faith will be hosting a Day of Prayer virtual bible study on Friday, March 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The link for the meeting is below. If you have questions you can contact Vickie Failor, Greenville District UWF President. Greenville World Day of Prayer Session Mar 3, 2023 at 6:30 PM Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542156573?pwd=bnNYRVJqVm5FNtK2Q3ZjWFpwSWUrdz09MeetingID:81542156573> Passcode: 844574 # if dialing in: 305-224-1968

United Methodist Church Disaffiliation and Discernment concerns: Berea Friendship church leadership has put together some information on the UMC discernment process and disaffiliation. If you would like a copy of the information, it is located in Pastor Davon's office on the bookshelves. If you have further inquiries about this and our church, you can contact one of the church leaders, Ellen Holman, Vickie Failor, or Pastor Davon. On Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 3:30 p.m., we will have Rev. Don Brown, Pastor at Hopewell United Methodist Church, come and speak to our congregation on the subject and give his perspectives. We will have several other Pastor's come in and speak with us with in the next few months on this subject. The church will continue to share information as it come available on this matter. The General Conference of the UMC will meet April 23, 2024 – thru May 3, 2024. A decision on the Methodist standings will not be made until this conference. FYI, the church does not have to make a decision at this time on our standings in regards to this matter.

3:16 Prayer Ministry Begins

The prayer team is excited to announce a new component of the prayer ministry at Berea Friendship.

With its name taken from the familiar passage in the third chapter of John's Gospel, the **3:16 Ministry** will have both an "inward" and "outward" focus. We want to lift up those within our church family who are in need of special prayers, and we want to ask God's blessings as we prepare for our Attendance Crusade.

Our goal is for a minimum of **3 members** to pray for **16 minutes** during a designated time on a Tuesday morning. Certainly, more than 3 members may commit to come and pray; we just want to be sure we have at least three folks praying each Tuesday.

Here are the details:

- **3:16 Ministry** begins Tuesday, February 28, and continues on each of the following Tuesdays;
- the sanctuary will be open each Tuesday morning from 10:30 until 11:30; those participating are asked to enter quietly from the side of church closest to the fellowship hall;
- multiple folks may be in prayer at the same time; 3 is the minimum number we hope to be present;
- a prayer guide will be placed on the altar with suggested topics for prayer; please feel free to add persons or concerns or events to the guide;
- at the end of your time of prayer, please leave the guide on the altar.

The Prayer Team will have additional initiatives supporting our Attendance Crusade. We hope this new component will strengthen our ministry to each other and prepare us for ministry to all of God's people.



The Friendship Circle would like to invite the ladies of the church to a Prayer & Self Denial Bruch in the Social Hall on Saturday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m. Please come and enjoy the food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet is on the door at the back of the church.

Josh's Jots...Last month Bobbie Bogan asked me if I could send out a prayer for the prayer team email for her because she was having some computer issues. To be completely honest I've never felt like I was great at praying, but I'm doing my best on trying to get better at it! I got a lot of positive feedback from the email I sent out, so I thought I would share it in the newsletter...“To use a baseball analogy I'm pinch hitting for Bobbie today...I love baseball...I love the spring...I know the year technically starts out in January but to me when the weather starts to warm & the flowers start to bloom & the birds fill the sky with music that's more of a new beginning...each baseball season every team starts out with the same record...a clean slate if you will...everyone is hopeful and refreshed...now as much as I love baseball more importantly Easter is right around the corner...talk about stepping up to the plate...Jesus died for our sins...not His...for he was perfect...for ours...we are far from perfect! We are blessed to be on His team! Sometimes we strike out...sometimes we get in a slump...sometimes we go through seasons that are not our best...but God is always there cheering us on & we have victory in Jesus! As we continue to try to grow as a church in size and more importantly spiritually help us to remember we are all on the same team...we all have different strengths and talents...a good team is all well rounded...help us to strive to encourage each other when we are slumping & to cheer each other on when we step up to the plate...bless everyone on this prayer team... I was grateful to be called off the bench today and pinch hit!”...If you would like to be added



to the prayer team email list, please let me know. You don't personally have to send out the prayer yourself, as different members of the team take turns sending them out. I feel like that might be a reason some might be hesitant to join the list. All you have to do is read the prayers sent out. I guarantee you will be blessed by doing so! If you'd like to be added let me know! Have a blessed month!

March 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	2 5:30 p.m. Fitness Fellowship	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship	6	7 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Quilters 5:30 p.m. Fitness Fellowship 6:30 p.m. PPRC Meeting	8 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	9 5:30 p.m. Fitness Fellowship	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship	13	14 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Quilters 5:30 p.m. Fitness Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Men's Group 6:30 p.m. Administrative Council	15 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	16 6:00 p.m. Third Thursday Dinner	17	18 11:30 a.m. Shalom Circle
19 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship	20	21 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. Friendship Circle 5:30 p.m. Fitness Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee	22 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	23 5:30 p.m. Fitness Fellowship	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship	27	28 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Quilters 5:30 p.m. Fitness Fellowship	29 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	30 5:30 p.m. Fitness Fellowship	31	



love to have you join us for our Traditional Service
at Berea Friendship United Methodist Church!

We would

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

We would love to have you join us for our Praise & Worship service
at Berea Friendship United Methodist Church!
Sundays at 5:00 p.m.



Pray for Others

Job 42:10 AMP

And the Lord turned the captivity of Job and restored his fortunes, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 KJV

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Ephesians 6:18-19 NIV

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

James 5:16 AMP

Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

G	N	I	K	R	O	W	S	T	L	U	A	F	G	E
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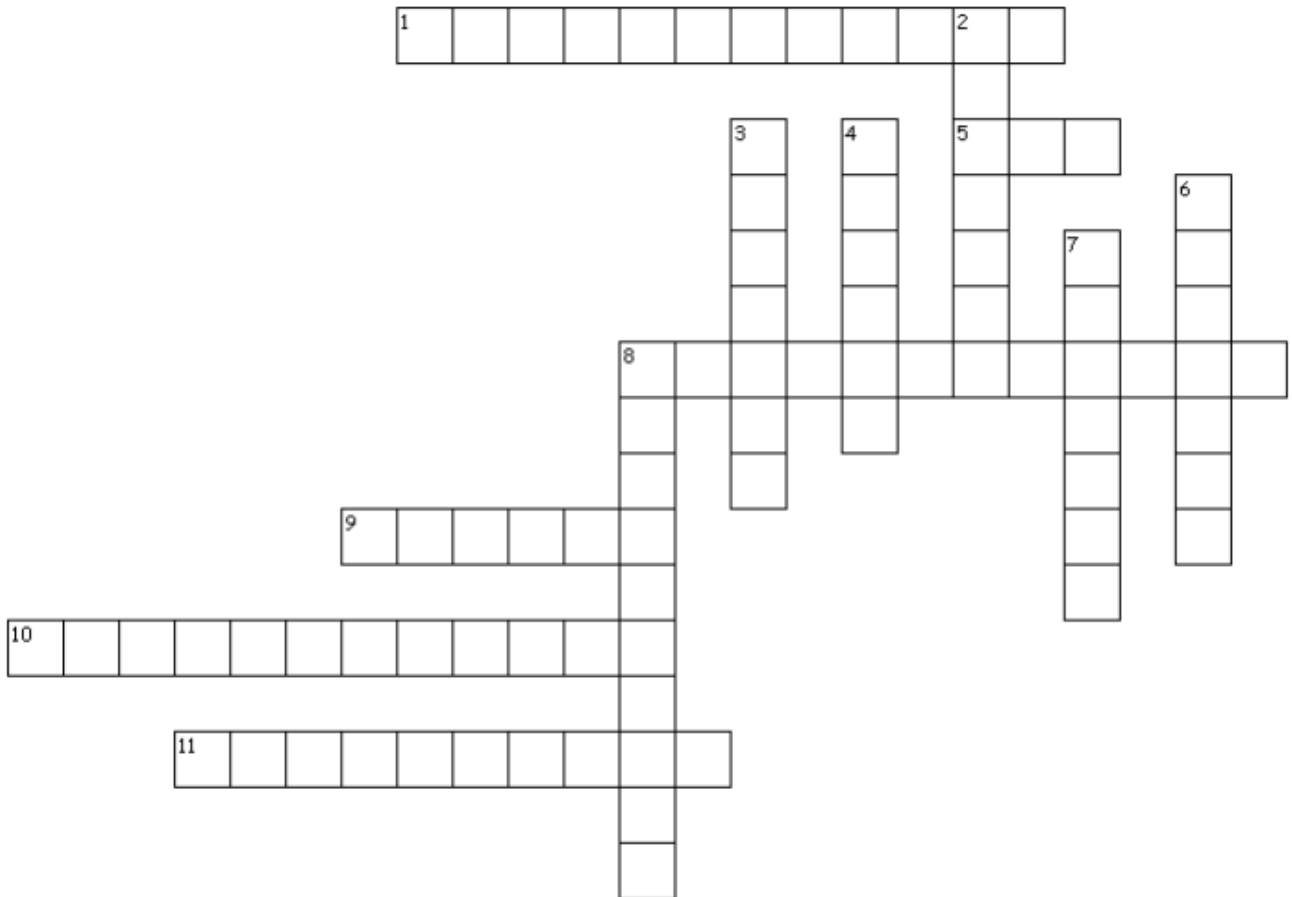
Pray for Others

ALERT
AUTHORITY
AVAILABLE
BEFORE
CAPTIVITY
DYNAMIC
EXHORT
FALSE
FAULTS
FORTUNES

FRIENDS
GIVING
GODLINESS
HEALED
HEARTFELT
HONESTY
KINDS
MADE
MYSTERY
OFFENSES

QUIET
RESTORED
SINS
SLIPS
STEPS
THANKS
TONE
TURNED
TWICE
WORKING

Lent



Across

1. Lent continues until _____.
5. The Church gives us _____ weeks of Lent to prepare for Easter.
8. The day Lent begins.
9. The liturgical color for Lent is _____.
10. Lent is the time that we prepare for Jesus' _____.
11. Giving to the poor.

Down

2. To go without.
3. Easter celebrates the _____ Mystery, the mystery of our dying to sin and rising with Christ to the new life of grace.
4. We open our hearts to God's love by the Lenten practices of _____.
6. Lent is a time of _____.
7. Going without food.
8. Not eating meat.

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BEREA FRIENDSHIP NEWS

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

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