

BEREA FRIENDSHIP NEWS
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9:00 AM—1:00 PM
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Berea Friendship United
Methodist Church
8001 White Horse Road
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August 2020
Berea Friendship UMC Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

One thing is obvious in scripture. People weren't really sure who God was. People weren't really sure who Jesus was, including those closest to him earnestly trying to understand. It seems to me things are very much the same today. Given the physical realities faced, given the human attitudes and dispositions, given present circumstances being faced, people in scripture struggled to understand God. Each day I am constantly seeing and understanding more! The only things I am sure of to date: I know very little; His ways and thinking are infinitely above me; the only way I can approach God is humbly; to experience His blessings I will have to agree with him and follow. That pretty much means I know very little! That's why God wants our relationship based on faith in Jesus Christ, the One He sent for us to believe in. It is our work to believe and rest in Jesus.

If you encounter that person, sure they know God rightly, and sure they know what God would do; my suggestion is a quick exit. Run!

What do we really know about Jesus, the perfect reflection of God sent into the world? I have been spending considerable time in John's Gospel lately, listening and reading. Like us the disciples were trying to understand, but were consistently below the heavenly reality. "Show us the Father, and that will be enough Lord! Have I been with you all this time, Phillip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." Each day the disciples were reconsidering what they thought they knew from the day before, in the light of a new day with Jesus. It is the same with us, or should be. We should exist in a consistently ascending learning curve. We do as we agree with and follow Jesus; then we experience His kingdom come, the good He intends. We should never be discouraged in our setbacks, agree and try again.

The scripture that got me started down the line of thought was John 11, the death and resurrection of Lazarus. Lazarus and his two sisters Mary and Martha were dear friends and followers of Jesus. It is an amazing text, filled with spiritual truth that can be approached and applied many ways. This family was passionate about Jesus Christ; it is obvious that their faith in Him was profound, far exceeding most. I wonder if that is why He liked to stay with them, their faith pleased Him? Here's the bottom line - they really weren't sure who Jesus was. He was infinitely more than they imagined!

You know the storyline. Lazarus falls ill, the sisters call Jesus to come and make their brother better. Lazarus dies while Jesus takes his time getting there. Without going into extensive detail, God knows exactly what he is doing. It is not death. The plan is that people will be able to believe, and that God will be glorified. Mary and Martha certainly didn't see their loss that way, but that was the heavenly reality. And although they both believed in the resurrection, they did not really understand that Jesus was the resurrection and the life. People who truly believe in and love Jesus always have much to learn in this world.

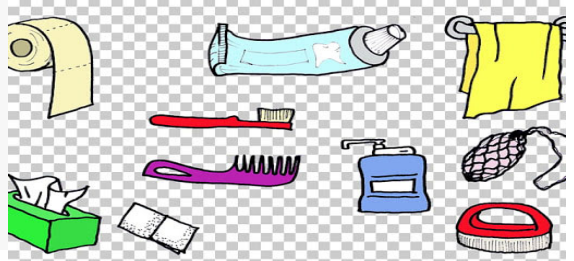
Jesus begins His ministry to Martha and Mary, and to all mankind. Both sisters said, "Jesus if you had been here my brother would not have died." Ministering to Martha and Mary, Jesus brings them to the place their faith in Him faltered. Martha says, "even now I know, my brother will rise again in the resurrection." Martha does not know, even now is as far as her faith would go. Mary goes to Jesus and He says to her, "take me to where you laid Lazarus." Translation, take me to where you stopped believing." The sisters really didn't know Jesus, and neither do we. Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God." In His wisdom Jesus specified Lazarus, otherwise graves would have been opening up everywhere. Berea Friendship do you know your resurrection God? Our God always has a better plan, and with Him it is never over. Believe in Him, and watch the resurrections.

Much Love In Christ,

Pastor Davon

Monthly mission collections for 2020

During this Covid 19 crisis, we will be collecting any nonperishable food/cleaning/hygiene products. We will be taking our donations to the North Greenville Crisis Ministries Pantry. The food pantries are being hit hard during this pandemic. Thank you to Margaret Rawson for delivering the items to them. If you would like to assist with delivery, please let Vickie Failor or Margaret Rawson know.



United Methodist Women

The Friendship Circle will not meet during the month of August.

The Shalom Circle will meet on Saturday, August 15, 2020 at the church. We will continue our mission project of reaching out to the shut-ins. On Saturday, July 18th we delivered frozen meals to several of our shut in families and visited with them from a safe distance and by phone. We are also sending notes to some of our shut ins and members not able to attend church. We hope to deliver more meals and other goodies in the near future. We will also be doing a Spiritual Growth Study provided by the National UMW.

Prayer Focus

Our prayer focus for August is on the Susanna Wesley House in Baltimore, Maryland. It was founded in 1919. Today they serve the Baltimore metro area and have received a 4.8 star rating.

Their mission is to provide a safe and clean temporary home to assist women in need and their dependent children while ensuring there is a viable program in place for the residents to obtain independent living. Services offered include child care, parenting classes, job training, and GED classes.

Recent community and fund raising events have included luncheons, a silent auction, spring garden party, jazz night benefit, and a party to celebrate the birthday of Susanna Wesley.

Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Fay Flanary in Massachusetts and Ginny Moore in Ohio.

Inspiration Group

We have sure missed meeting with everyone and hope to be able to meet again in September social distancing. We will send more deals in next months newsletter and on the website.



Church Website and Facebook Information

Please check the Website, www.bereafriendshipumc.org and our Facebook page (Berea Friendship United Methodist) for regular updates on services and information going on in the church. If you have news that you would like to be put on either one, please contact, Vickie Failor. If your group has information that you would like to share with the website or Facebook page, please contact Vickie Failor or the church office and we will get it on the pages. We are making changes regularly.

Helping Children Thrive

by Richard Lord

United Community Centers, a United Methodist Women-supported national mission institution in Fort Worth, Texas, knows this well as it serves and advocates for its 14,000 participants. Its programs focus on educational enrichment for students, community meals and a food pantry, and assistance and advocacy.

“United Methodist Women connects to United Community Centers because its mission coincides with ours,” said Lynne Grandstaff, president of Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women and a member of the centers’ board. “UCC is a direct connection to children, youth and families.

“It’s a well-rounded resource,” Grandstaff continued. “Education and literacy fit right into the United Methodist Women emphases, as does its family health programs and its support of and advocacy for working families. It helps keep kids safe before and after school and offers food and inexpensive clothing.”

Grandstaff has also served as a board member of Red Oak Schools.

“UCC has excellent education programs,” she said. “Education affects all parts of a person’s life. These programs don’t affect poverty alone. They reduce the probability that a young person will enter the prison pipeline. We’re trying to close that pipeline.”

The centers also work closely with Faith Community Nursing from Texas Health Resources to educate program participants on health issues. Asthma and other environmental diseases are prevalent in the community.

“Local children can be affected by issues associated with oil wells,” said United Methodist Women board member Cynthia Rives. “In Denton, where I live, on the Dallas-Fort Worth border, there are 58 wells that are close to schools, homes and businesses.”

Meeting changing needs

United Community Centers constantly modifies its programs to meet the community’s needs.

“One way to know whether something is alive is to see if it changes,” Rives said. “Looking at the growth of UCC’s literacy program, it is very obvious that UCC is alive.”

The centers’ literacy program has recently exploded, which focuses on grades 1-3 in its three different locations in Fort Worth, where only 34 percent of third graders read at grade level. Among third graders at the centers, 72 percent read at grade level.

“And one concern leads to another,” said Rives. “Fort Worth has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the country. This health problem comes from the poverty. UCC’s focus on mothers leads to the entire family.”

The average poverty rate in the United States is 11.8 percent. The poverty rate in Fort Worth is 16 percent. The neighborhood of Polytechnic Heights is one of the lower income neighborhoods in the city, where the average median household income in 2016 was around \$25,000, compared to the \$56,000 average for Fort Worth as a whole. Known as Poly, it has more than twice the population density than Fort Worth, lower education levels and less access to food. The struggles for a living wage profoundly affect the community.

The centers’ participants reflect the ethnic composition of the neighborhood. There are many new immigrants who speak English as a second language.

“UCC doesn’t have programs to serve specifically immigrants,” Rives explained. “Their programs are for the community. And the community is primarily immigrant.”

Jonathon Juarez was 12 years old when he began attending Poly Center. That experience transformed his life. After his father left, his mother, Susan Hernandez, was left to raise Juarez and his three siblings alone. At one point the family was living in a homeless shelter.

With the help of his pastor, Juarez found his way to United Community Centers. He flourished in the program. Today he is a Texas A&M University graduate and works as an engineer in Austin.

“He needed to allow himself to be smart,” said Celia Esparza, president and CEO of United Community Centers. “He needed to break from the influences of his environment. He came from an impoverished neighborhood to work as an engineer. His world has changed totally.”

United Community Centers “provides encouragement, not just services,” said Linda Hutchings, former president of Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women. “It’s very important that they offer the kids activities and a safe place to be. And they give them food. But, more than anything, they give them the encouragement to succeed.”

United Methodist Women connection

Every month, between 50 and 100 United Methodist Women members volunteer to help with the literacy program or its food and clothing program. Since 2000, between 3,000 and 5,000 United Methodist Women members have volunteered. “Our relationship with United Methodist Women is very open,” said Esparza. “United Methodist Women members are very loving. They are generous, and they are always there for us. They do their best to respond when we inform them of a special need.”

Grandstaff explained, “UCC has a very special place for United Methodist Women. It was United Methodist Women that first proposed starting Wesley, one of its locations. And the ties and respect remain very strong.”

The centers serve 250 children during the school year and 450 over the summer.

“Literacy is a major project for us during the school year as well as during the summer,” Esparza explained. During the summer of 2019, we offered sessions in four schools as well as our three campuses.”

The emphasis on the most vulnerable children perfectly fits United Community Centers’ mission. It helps create a brighter future for those for whom it could be most dark.



August Birthdays

- 01 Maribeth Willard
- 02 Sarah Reinhardt Gonzalez
- 04 Donna Helms
- 07 Masen Willard
- 15 Ronnie Hunter
- 15 Claire Philpot
- 16 Shanna Creswell
- 18 Corky Holman
- 19 Tom Smith
- 20 Jim Rawson
- 22 Michelle Artificio Johnson
- 26 Matthew Willard
- 27 Alex Philpot
- 29 Molene McDuffie
- 30 Ryan Farley Mann
- 30 Matthew Anthony Earnest



August Anniversaries

- 06 Laura & Mike Brown
- 12 Nancy & Junior Neal
- 27 Becky & Henry Philpot

Thank You

Thank You so much for remembering us with the many cards & notes sent to us in the past few months which have been very challenging, especially not being able to get out. The notes give us the “pick-up” we need. We miss coming to our church, hearing Davon’s great sermons, and visiting with our church family. Hope we can soon be back. Also, thanks to Vickie for bringing us the chili beans, vegetable soup & corn bread, and the “yummy” cake. Such a nice treat not to have to cook. Thanks for all your prayers and love,

Pat & Bill Teat

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.



Our Sympathy and Prayers

The family of George Failor, Sr., who passed away in April, will have a memorial service on Saturday, August 22,2020 at Grace United Methodist Church, 42E. Main St., Williamston. The family will receive friends at 1 pm and the service will be at 2 pm. Please remember **Ronald Failor** and his family during this time.

- Becky Philpot
- Bagwell Family
- Alex Philpot
- Clements family and Greer family
- Dunn family and Presnell family
- Mildred Pollard
- Blanche Creswell
- Laura Childs
- Robert Moler, Linda Crouch’s brother
- Mary Penland
- John Disher
- Joe Philpot
- Nichols Family
- Farr Family
- Bobbie Bogan’s brother
- Jim Philpot
- Becky Philpot’s brother, Jim Smith
- Bill Teat’s sister Carolyn Knight
- Allen Zorn
- Alex Stone
- Janet Stone
- Elmo Mann
- Molene McDuffie
- Mildred Bray
- Mary Childs
- Troy Clements
- Millie Dunn
- Shirley Dickson
- Jane-Hunt Grady
- Kathleen Griffin



Sympathy

The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to **Robert and Sue Bagwell and Cindy Cooper (Alex)** and family on the death of Robert’s mother Elizabeth Buchanan Bagwell who passed away on Thursday, July 16, 2020. A private graveside funeral was held on Monday, July 20, 2020 at Graceland West.

Sympathy

The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to **Troy Clements** upon the death of his sister-in-law Ellen H. Weatherford and to **Diane Greer (Rick)** upon the death of Diane’s aunt. Ellen passed away on July 8, 2020 and was the sister of the late Myra Clements. She was a member of Enon Baptist Church.

Book Club / Bible Study Wednesday 7 pm on line

Working with Pastor Davon a small group is piloting an on line Wednesday evening Zoom meeting. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested. If you have a computer or smart phone go to the app store and download Zoom. It is free. You can then join on line meeting and both see and hear other people in the meeting. we are also sending electronic invites. Let Debbie know In the church office if you are interested in an electronic invite. She sends a reminder weekly. Brenda Benton and Jan Smith are leaders for the pilot study that will go through August.

The current book study is “Fresh Expressions “ for the Methodist church and aligns with the Forward Focus project we were working on when covid disrupted the world . A study page is available by email or on the church web page for review. The Zoom connection information is also available on the church web page.

Hope many of you will Zoom in to join us

Time: This is a recurring meeting. 7 pm Wednesday’s



Glad you are here!
Baby Grace Ann Worley

Congratulations

Congratulations to the proud parents Julie and Bryan Worley! Their baby girl, Grace Ann Worley was born on Sunday, July 19, 2020 around 11:00 p.m.
Grace Ann weighed 7lbs. 10oz. and 20 inches long.

The proud grandparents are Pastor Davon and Pam Harrelson and the proud uncle and aunt are Justin & Taylor Harrelson

Everyone is doing well!!!

Congratulations to all!

BAZAAR 2020

The Quilters and Bazaar committee are discussing the feasibility of a Bazaar this year in 2020 based on Covid. We are hoping to have at least a scaled down version of the Bazaar with our Country Store (Jams, Jelly's and Baked Goods). We are also investigating possibility of other vendors joining us.

Watch for more information in the next newsletter and on our website.



In times like these



“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

— Mother Teresa