



The Friendship Connection

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

Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Motivation is critical in understanding individuals, peoples, institutions. There is a spirit involved in everything humanity does. Invariably the motivating spirits (invisible) within humanity result in physical realities (visible). People centered churches are motivated by what's good for me, good for us. Christ centered churches are motivated by the love of God. Jesus came into the world to love mankind personally. Jesus was fully invested personally, with blood, sweat, tears, and skin in the game. He poured out all His time, energy, and life for one reason. So that the redeeming love of God in Christ Jesus could save whosoever believes. The love of God renews the human mind such that we can be transformed into Christ's likeness. Once an expert in the scriptures asked Jesus, "which commandment in the law is the greatest? Jesus said, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Translation – love is the only legitimate motivation in God's Kingdom. If a church's motivation is not to glorify and honor the God we love (Jesus Christ), then a fatal disconnect exist. If ever a church fails to give and love personally, then we fail to communicate the Gospel effectively. Jesus tells His church, "go and do likewise!" Oneness is of God. Our loving God never divides His church. Our loving God is always with us, offering His church a way forward in one mind, in one accord, in one Spirit. God is always offering His church a way forward in the oneness of His love. God is love, and all that He is emanates from His divine (agape) love. So why is there such a huge division in the Methodist church today? This is good for me! Why are churches so easily divided over the use of money, worship practices, old verses young, effective outreach, etc. etc. This is good for me! Every time we (the church) forget our first love, a thief sneaks in and says, this is about what's good for you! The thief is really saying – this is good for me! Oneness is of God. God is always offering us a way forward in the oneness of His love. Whenever divisions are brewing among us, we need to remember our first love, and how He first loved us! Only in such motivation will we be the church of Christ.

*In Christ with You,
Pastor Davon*



February Birthdays... 5th Terry Bikas, 5th Jeffrey Fann, 7th James Ferrer, 7th Kenneth Tucker, 11th Justin Bayne, 19th Matthew Painter, 22nd Joan Kotrady, 24th Judy Armstrong, 26th Jessica Martin Krabbe, 28th Natalie Brown, 28th Alyssa Dossier Smith, 28th Summer Rawson



February Anniversaries... 3rd Barbara & Jim Durham, 12th Shanna & Wilson Creswell 13th Janie & Carol Riley, 17th Carol & Stanley Dunn



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: Patty Bowers, Donna Helms, Brenda Johnson, Jerry Kruse (Jimmy's Dad), Denise McCloud (Daughter of Dennis & Terri McCloud), Steve Nabors (friend of Bobby Taylor), Ann Nicholson & Chris Nicholson (friends of Jean Vaughn), Robert Moler (brother of Linda Crouch), Jeffrey Moore, Harry Philpot, Carol Presnell, Aurora Ray (granddaughter of Bob & Karen Leigh), Anne Marie, Rob, & Matthew Graham Wallace, Gwen Williams

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



Congratulations to Anne-Marie & Rob Wallace who had a baby boy Matthew Graham Wallace!

The Friendship Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Shalom Circle will meet on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

Men's Group is now meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. This month's meeting is on February 14th at 6:00 p.m. We will be serving a meal on the Third Thursday of each month. This month's meal is on February 16th at 6:00 p.m. The menu will be Lasagna, Salad & Bread.

Fitness Fellowship will resume Thursday, February 2nd. We will 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, February 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall. All chairpersons serve on the council and are encouraged to attend these meetings. If you are not able to attend the meeting, please let Vickie Failor, Administrative Council Chairperson now.

United Women Of Faith: Our prayer focus for February is on the Dallas Bethlehem Center in Dallas, Texas. They have a five star rating. They are a community impact organization first established in 1946. Today they offer early Headstart for ages 0-3, early childhood day care, after school programs, summer day camp programs, a robust weekly food program, and hot meals on weekends to needy families. Their mission statement reads "To promote, deliver, and expand the best early child care and education programs for children, parents, and early childhood professionals." The center hosts many community-wide events throughout the year. Some recent past events they sponsored include a Thanksgiving celebration, North Texas giving day, a community Easter egg hunt called Eggstravaganza, and breakfast club - held one Saturday a month to offer free breakfast and a program/activity for families with young children. They always keep their main focus on being a multi-faceted education pipeline as a means to help address generational poverty in the South Dallas/Fair Park area. Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Judy Poole in Alabama and Margie Greene in Pennsylvania.

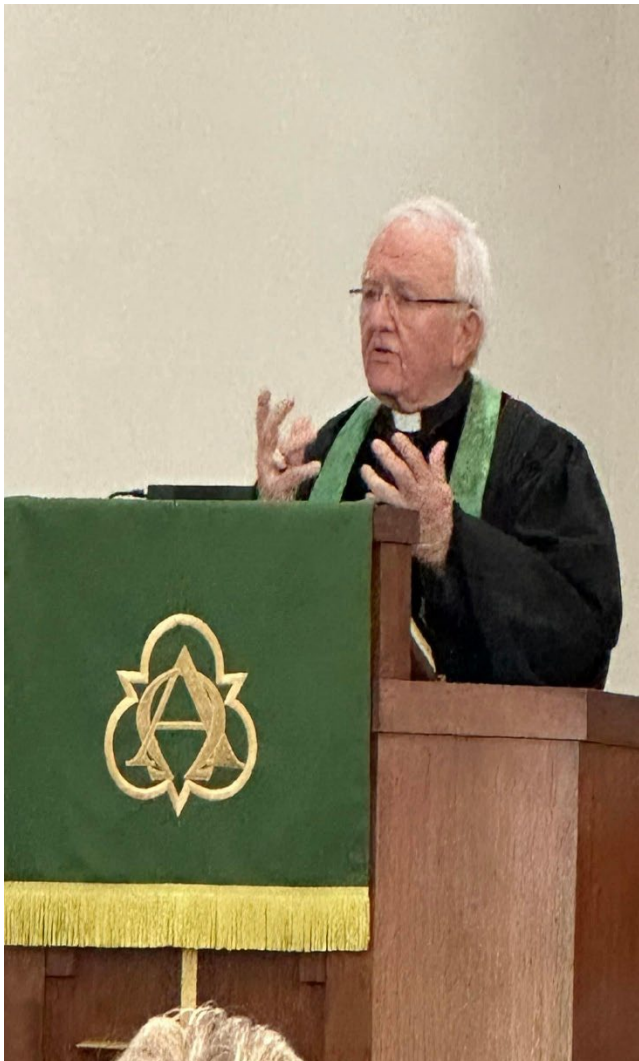
Outreach Ministries has met and made plans for the year. We have decided to support 6 organizations twice a year with monthly collections: They are: North Greenville Crisis Ministries: January & July, Triune Mercy Center: February & August, United Ministries: March & September, Jasmine Road: April & September, Meals on Wheels: May & November, & Local Animal Shelters: June & December. Each month we will post a list of items need for the organizations. You may place the donation items in the shopping cart located at the back of the Sanctuary. Watch the monthly newsletters and the bulletins and announcements on Sunday mornings for upcoming Outreach Ministries news. Our next activity will be providing Valentine's for the children in the Child Development Center. The outreach committee will meet again on March 14th at 6:30 p.m. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or would like to be involved, please join us.

Triune Mercy Center Wish List...food pantry: art room supplies, bottled water, thread, peanut butter, glue gun and glue sticks (regular size), jelly (in plastic bottles if possible), mini glue sticks, canned green beans, 11x14 canvases, canned corn, 16x20 canvases, Hamburger Helper (or similar), ream of 8 1/2x11 copy paper, canned fruit, acrylic paints, canned soup, pasta sauce, miscellaneous, men & women's clothing and hygiene needs, 8 1/2 x 11, 20 lb. white copy paper, men and women's winter gloves, men and women's winter scarves, \$25 gas cards from QT or Spinx, men and women's long underwear, postage stamps, women's jeans, sizes 8,10,12, men's jeans and dress slacks, waist sizes 32 and 34, women's prayer journals - soft cover, no metal parts, men's dress shoes sizes 9-12, women's underpants, sizes 6, 8, 9 (some 10 and 11), quart Ziploc bags, sports bras, sizes small, medium, and large, women's sneakers, size 6, gallon Ziploc bags, full-size deodorant (men's and women's), travel-size deodorant, travel-size shampoo, travel-size body wash, travel-size bar soap, razors, wash cloths, toothbrushes, pop-top bag supplies,, Beanie Weenies, Ramen Noodles, protein bars, ready to eat tuna or chicken salad w/crackers, individual soups, Lance crackers or similar, mac-n-cheese (individual serving), small snack pack of raisins or cranberries or fruit strips, Vienna sausage, & granola bars.

The SC Conference of United Women in Faith collect pull tops tabs to send to Ronald McDonald House and used postage stamp, that are sent to Marion Mission Storehouse in Marion, IN, which supports missionaries in Africa. If you would like to help support these missions, a collection box is located on the table in the Narthex.

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=bnNYRVJqVm5FNtk2Q3ZJWFpwSWUrdz09>
Meeting ID: 815 4215 6573 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.



Special thanks to Jim Patterson for leading our Traditional Worship Service & to Matt Greer for leading our Praise & Worship Service on January 8th & January 15th!



Josh's Jots...January can be a difficult month...and let's be honest Christmas is a hard act to follow...after the newness of the new year wears off we are left with some dreary cold cloudy days...I don't know about you but I prefer the sunshine...unfortunately we live in a world where all some people know are dreary cloudy days...as we move on into February may we as a church & as Christians try to spread some sunshine on those who are going through storms...February is a month where we celebrate love right there in the middle of it...love is a good thing to celebrate...and I love me some conversation hearts...but there is nothing great than the love of God...as we move forward & try to grow the church...let us remember to love one another as He loves us...thank y'all so much for my Christmas gift...hope y'all have a blessed month!

Dear Berea Friendship Family, Thank you for all the prayers, words, food and love you showered on our family. Your visits and calls have helped during this time of grief. We thank God for such a caring and loving church. Patty Bowers and family

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers for our new Aura Rayne. Her health has improved, and she is on her way to healthy baby life. Our kindest and warmest appreciation. The Leigh Family

Carol and Carolers, Carol Presnell is a DEAR friend of mine, and she guided you to my house on Hiwassee Drive on the evening of December 17th. I had just had hip surgery on Dec. 13, and I was still in quite a bit of pain, as well as depressed over spending the holidays stuck at home, but your GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS SPIRIT made me feel so much better! My mother and I were both touched to the point of tears. It was so much more than singing! You lifted me out of sadness and reminded me of the HOPE of Christmas! And that hope continued as I read the book you left. Good Tidings Of Great Joy filled my heart with the gift of the birth of Jesus! I will treasure it, the small tree, and the memory of a lovely group of angels who came to me that night! Thank you and GOD BLESS! Pam Wheeler

To the Berea Friendship Congregation, I loved hearing you sing the many Christmas Carols. I thought it was the happiest special Christmas service I have been part of. Thank you. I loved your singing. Joan Kotrady

To the Berea Friendship Staff. I want to thank you for the kindness of your Christmas gift. I love you all – dollars are never needed. You are so kind. Fondly, Joan Kotrady

Thank you so much for the Staff Christmas gift. It is my pleasure and joy to help the church in any way I can. Debbie Gissendanner

Thanks so much to the congregation for the generous bonus at Christmas time. I am so blessed to be able to still be on the church staff. My wish to all of you is that 2023 will be one of many blessings to you and your family. Much love, Pat Teat

Vickie & Berea Friendship Congregation,

Thank you and your church so very much for hosting one of our shoe trees this year. Thank you for reaching out to me. It means so much to me and all the children we serve. This year 2,475 local children received some really "cool" new shoes and I'm sure had lots of smiles and felt God's love as well as ours. God bless you and everyone in your congregation! Cheryl Carpenter

Love Is

Love is patient,
 Love is kind,
 It does not envy,
 It does not boast,
 It is not proud.
 It is not rude,
 It is not self-seeking,
 It is not easily angered,
 It keeps no record of wrongs.
 Love does not delight in evil
 But rejoices with the truth.
 It always protects,
 Always trusts,
 Always hopes,
 Always perseveres.
 Love never fails.
 (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a NIV)

God Is Love. (1 John 4:8, 16)

Perfect Love Drives Out Fear. (1 John 4:18)

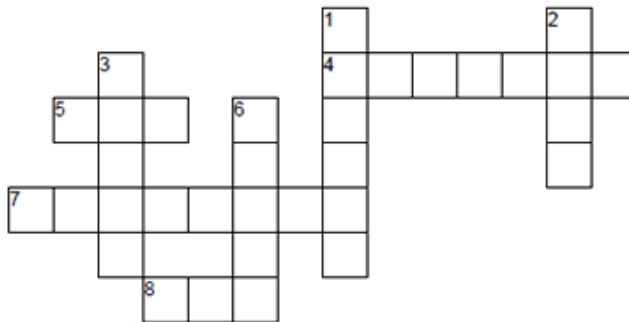


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|---------|------------|-------------|
| ANGERED | PROTECTS | PROUD |
| BOAST | HOPES | RECORD |
| DELIGHT | KEEPS | REJOICES |
| DRIVES | KIND | RUDE |
| EASILY | PATIENT | SELFSEEKING |
| ENVY | PERFECT | TRUSTS |
| EVIL | PERSEVERES | WRONGS |
| FAILS | | |

God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

Complete the activity below.



ACROSS

4. Lasting forever; without end
5. Male offspring
7. Accept something as being true, genuine, or real
8. The creator of heaven and earth

DOWN

1. To die or be destroyed
2. To rescue from danger or harm
3. The earth with its inhabitants and everything on it
6. Cared very deeply for someone

ETERNAL	WORLD	PERISH	SAVE
LOVED	GOD	BELIEVES	SON



We would love to have you join us for our traditional service
at Berea Friendship United Methodist Church!
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.

February

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			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	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 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. Choir Christmas Program	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	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			31 Special Music Davon Harrelson Larry McCants Bobby Taylor	

Weekly Calendar...

Sunday School...9:00 a.m.

Sunday Traditional Service...10:00 a.m.

Sunday Praise & Worship Service...5:00 p.m.

Choir Practice...Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Quilters & Crafters...Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Fitness Fellowship...Tuesday & Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Monthly Calendar...

Men's Group...Tuesday, February 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Administrative Council...February 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Third Thursday Dinner...Thursday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Shalom Circle...Saturday, February 18th at 11:30 a.m.

Friendship Circle...Tuesday, February 21st at 2:00 p.m.