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**Berea Friendship News**  
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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
9:00 AM—1:00 PM  
Friday—Closed

## Berea Friendship United Methodist Church News

Berea Friendship United Methodist Church

### April 2017

#### Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters

**United Methodist Women's work for racial justice must be unceasing.**

*by Janis Rosheuvel*

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. —Amos 5:21-24

I love the image of justice rolling down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. I think of the powerful waterways, rivers and streams I have encountered. I remember a trip to Niagara Falls with friends, standing in the mist of that thunderous wonder where over six million cubic feet of water falls over the crest line every minute on average. I recall also a trip with my father to our homeland, Guyana, where we stood atop Kaieteur Falls, one of the world's highest single drop waterfall, and marveled at its majesty. Whenever I am in front of a vast body of water I am shaken by its fierceness. I am made instantly humble and afraid of water's awesome potential.

If systemic racism and white supremacy are to end, we must commit ourselves as people of God to make sure that justice rolls down like waters, powerfully and unceasingly. When I think of the work at hand to end systemic racism, I am struck by the enormity of the task. Antiracism work has been ongoing for centuries, and yet there is so much more to do. With unprecedented rates of incarceration of black and brown people, a deepening racial wealth divide, stark racialized maternal health disparities, the continuing theft and pollution of indigenous peoples' lands and more, we see the costs of systemic racism everywhere we turn. Indeed, what is at stake in our work to end racism is nothing short of our very ability to exist and thrive according to God's will for all of us.

#### **Move beyond “checklist racial justice”**

To be sure, fighting for justice is hard work, and doing it unceasingly takes grit and grace. We may want there to be surefire ways to certify that the work we do will result in a racially just world. Maybe, one theory goes, we just need to teach tolerance and have more inclusive history lessons in school. Or, as another theory posits, we simply need to spend more time together with people across racial lines to heal past wounds. These are not bad steps, but to see them as the answer leaves our work for racial justice incomplete. This is because these steps do not address the ways racism is fundamentally embedded into every institution in our society in order to systemically shift power and resources to white people and away from people of color.

The hard truth is that there is no list of things we can check off to guarantee racial justice. We must humbly and continually recommit ourselves to the lifelong struggle against racism and to changing our institutions so that they benefit all people equitably. It is hard to contend with the fact that we will likely never reach a point where our societies are racially just. But that is not the aim of antiracist work. As antiracist mobilizers, we must instead always be ready to respond to the evolving nature of racism. So, for instance, what must we do when our church has sound written policies on ending systemic racism but we see racial inequities and cultural bias and domination on matters such as recruitment, training, appointment, evaluation and pay of clergy? As racism evolves so too must our work to resist it evolve. This can be mundane and messy and will certainly disrupt the status quo of our institutions. And it should. This is the work God's calls us to do. As Amos notes, God does not want to listen to the “melody of our harps” but God wants us to put our noses to the grindstone and fight to end injustice.

## Share power equitably

A key way to work unceasingly for racial justice is to attack racism systemically. Systemic racism is racial bias across institutions and society. It is the cumulative and compounded effects of an array of factors that systemically privileges white people and disadvantages people of color. Systemic racism inherently relies on abuses of power. Community organizers mobilizing people to fight for justice often define power as “the ability to make things happen.” Power is also about how we use and distribute resources. If we understand racism as a system of inequities that are maintained by gross abuses of power, then we must also understand racial justice as the proactive reinforcement of policies, practices, attitudes and actions that produce equitable power, access, treatment, opportunities and outcomes for all.

To share power equitably, we must first understand where we hold power in the institutions that order our lives. Where do you hold power within your family? At your job? In United Methodist Women? On your local school board? Think of any place where you contribute to decisions about how money is spent and who is in leadership. This is where you can do the work of power sharing. Ask yourself: Who is missing from the places where I hold power and influence? How can I work with others to ensure that more people of color are at decision-making tables?

You can also share power by not tokenizing the roles, responsibilities and decision making of people of color. You can amplify the work and words of people of color, and in the fight to end racism, you can trust and fight to implement the solutions proposed by those most harmed by racial injustice. The United Methodist Charter for Racial Justice in an Interdependent Global Community echoes Amos’ call by also demanding that our struggle for racial justice “must be based on new attitudes, new understandings and new relationships, and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures and practices of both church and state.” We must create and sustain new ways of sharing power that as the charter says, affirm, “the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons.”

Unceasingly doing racial justice also means that we must take risks to embody our commitment to ending systemic racism. When I think of the call of the Hebrew prophets in the Bible, like Amos, I am inspired by their demanding vision for a just world. Living according to God’s will, Amos reminds us, is not about shallowly fettering God with “burnt offerings and grain offerings” but about standing up to injustice, not when it is easy and little is at stake but when taking risks is hard and will cost us. Amos also shows us that God rejects our “solemn assemblies” if they are not accompanied by diligent and constant work for justice.

The group Showing Up for Racial Justice, a partner of United Methodist Women, is a national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multiracial majority for justice with passion and accountability. SURJ holds risk-taking for racial justice as a key value of their organizing: “We know that we will have to take risks. Every day, people of color take risks in living their lives with full dignity. ... We challenge ourselves and other white people to take risks as well, to stand up against a racist system, actions and structures every day. We know that in that process we will make mistakes. Our goal is to learn from those mistakes and keep showing up again and again for what is right and for racial justice.” And there are always opportunities to show up, speak out and take action.

Just 10 days after the 2016 presidential election in the United States, the Southern Poverty Law Center reported that there had been “national outbreak of hate” with nearly 900 hate incidents being submitted to the #ReportHate page on the SPLC website and given through media accounts. The group Human Rights Watch has also teamed up with SPLC by creating text-based systems that allows people to call out hate by reporting these incidents via cell phone text message.

United Methodist Women also continue to speak out. General Conference 2016 passed a resolution written by United Methodist Women called *Speaking Out for Compassion: Transforming the Context of Hate in the United States* that, in part, encourages “United Methodists to end complicity with hate by speaking out when jokes, disparagements and stereotypes are based on identity or status difference.” The resolution also calls us to “engage in efforts to enable communities to unearth the truth about past and present hate-violence, to bring perpetrators (including state actors) to trial, justice, and to heal wounds and seek reconciliation based on justice and more equitable power relationships.”

We cannot say that our mandates are not clear and precise. Our job as faith-full people is to resist systemic racism in all forms by, among other things: (a) moving beyond “checklist racial justice,” (b) sharing power justly and (c) taking risks over and over again. This must be ongoing work over our entire lives. So let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Let it be so through us, O Lord. Let it be so through us.

### **NEED.**

We can't thank you all enough for all your support! Without you we could not provide the assistance we give out in the form of food, clothing and crisis funds. In February we served 256 families and 623 individuals.

Our current needs include the following: Spaghetti noodles, jelly, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste and tooth brushes.

Thanks again!

Linda Hollis, Director

**Priscilla Shirer SIMULCAST worship with Anthony Evans.** Join CUMC’S Women’s Ministry for digital streaming of this worldwide simulcast from Tulsa, Oklahoma on Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Doors open at 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$25.00 per person – includes event, souvenir program, and lunch. Register online by April 1 (or until sold out) at [covumc.org/shirer](http://covumc.org/shirer). Contact is Katie Graham at [Kgraham@covumc.org](mailto:Kgraham@covumc.org) or 864-244-3162.

## United Methodist Women

### Our Circles

#### Morning Circle

The Morning Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the quilter's room.

#### Shalom Circle

The Shalom Circle will meet on Saturday, April 15, 2017 at noon at Mama Maria's restaurant. We will have a short devotional and work on our shut in mission project.

## Prayer Focus

Our prayer focus for April is on the Henderson Settlement Mission Church in Frakes, Kentucky. Henderson Settlement has received 4.9 of five stars and is well known and respected in the area.

It began in 1925 when Pastor Hiram Frakes of Pineville Methodist Church started to develop schools and programs to help improve the lives of those in the community.

Today they provide many programs to offer support and encouragement to those in need. These include work camp, volunteers in mission, log house craft shop, thrift store, basketball camp, food preservation classes, library, medical and utility assistance, youth ministries, senior citizen center, new mother support, and a child care center.

Birthday cards will be sent to missionaries Juanita Rodriguez in New Jersey and Emma Samson in Virginia.

### Upcoming District and conference events

Greenville District Day Apart	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lee Rd. United Methodist Church
Spiritual Growth Retreat	April 28-29	Lake Junaluska
Come Together, Be Together	May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Cumerland UMC, Florence SC
Mission U	July 27-29	Spartanburg Methodist College
Greenville District Annual Meeting	September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	St. Mark UMC, Taylors, SC
Annual Meeting of SC UMW	October 27-28	Union UMC, Columbia, SC

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Please watch the newsletter for more details on these events.

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### Mission Opportunity

We have received an invitation to help Victor United Methodist Church with a mission opportunity this summer. If you are interested, please let Vickie Failor, Outreach Ministries Coordinator, know by April 5, 2017, so she can notify Victor UMC. Please read the letter below from the Pastors at Victor in regards to the mission work.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We hope that you are well and that things are going well in your local church ministry setting.

It is hard to believe we are talking about Summer 2017 but we are! And we would like to include you in the invitation to a local mission opportunity this summer at Victor UMC. We are reaching out to see if you have some people in your local church setting who might want to hear about the opportunity. We have learned that if there are some laity you have that lead such efforts they make the best ones to talk with along with any staff that oversee.

This opportunity involves primary adult leadership and is perfect for those adults to partner with youth (if you are looking for a youth opportunity) and serve together. It is a week-long Monday through Friday (8:30am-1:00pm) commitment in ministry to children elementary age.

The weeks we are needing to staff include: July 17-21; July 24-28; July 31- August 4.

It is intense and is just as big a commitment as leaving on a mission trip going out of the area to serve. You will be serving children in an under-served community and these children look for consistency in those who come during the week.

There will be a mandatory training for all serving, both adults and youth. This will be scheduled per group and we will work with your schedule.

We would love to meet with you and those you think would like to hear more. The number of people is not our concern, a sense of call is the key. Meeting with us does not obligate you. We will ask for a prayerful decision. Churches with small groups of volunteers are welcome, we can

combine groups. We are also happy to accommodate an individual who senses this as a call to serve. Those serving must love God, love kids and love to serve God.

Please let us know if hearing more is of interest by April 7 by your response to this email. We will then contact you.

We are scheduling these meetings at your convenience to happen by the first week of May.

Together in Christ,

Rev. Pat Gannaway, Pastor

Rev. Debbie Pisor, Minister of Community Engagement

Victor UMC

864-416-4554

Schedule of Committee Meetings

**Administrative Council:** April 12<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup>

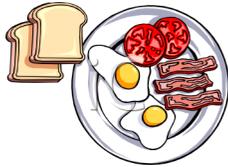
**Finance Committee:** May 10<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>

**Trustee Committee:** June 14<sup>th</sup>, September 13<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Committee chairs can call a special meeting if needed at other times.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mission Breakfast**

Please join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mission Breakfast. Breakfast will start at 8:30 a.m. in the social hall. All proceeds from the breakfast will go to support the Salkehatchie Mission Project.



**19 things to Give Up during Lent**

1. **Fear:** God is on my side. In Him I am more than a conqueror.
2. (See Romans 98)
3. **The need to please everyone:** I can't please everyone anyway. There is only one I need to strive to please.
4. **Envy:** I am blessed. My value is not found in my possessions, but in my relationship with my Heavenly Father.
5. **Impatience:** God's timing is the perfect timing.
6. **Sense of entitlement:** The world does not owe me anything. God does not owe me anything. I live in humility and grace.
7. **Bitterness and Resentment:** The only person I am hurting by holding onto these is myself.
8. **Blame:** I am not going to pass the buck. I will take responsibility for my actions.
9. **Gossip and Negativity:** I will put the best construction on everything when it comes to other people. I will also minimize my contact with people who are negative and toxic and bring other people down.
10. **Comparison:** I have my own unique contribution to make and there is no one else like me.
11. **Fear of failure:** You don't succeed without experiencing failure. Just make sure you fall forward.
12. **A spirit of poverty:** Believe with God that there is always more than enough and never a lack.
13. **Feelings of unworthiness:** You are fearfully and wonderfully made by your creator. (see Psalm 139)
14. **Doubt:** Believe God has a plan for you that is beyond anything you could imagine. The future is brighter than you could ever realize.
15. **Self-pity:** God comforts us in our sorrow so that we can comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
16. **Retirement:** As long as you are still breathing, you are here for a reason. You have a purpose to influence others for Christ. That does not come to an end until the day we die.
17. **Excuses:** A wise man once said, if you need an excuse, any excuse will do.
18. **Lack of counsel:** Wise decisions are rarely made in a vacuum.
19. **Pride:** Blessed are the humble.
20. **Worry:** God is in control and worrying will not help.

**April Ministry Workers Ushers**

April 02	Steve Capps, Tony Earnest, Corky Holman, Ronnie Hunter
April 09	Eddie Hughes, Jim Humphreys, Corky Holman, Ronnie Hunter
April 16	Steve Capps, Rick Greer, Corky Holman, Ronnie Hunter
April 23	Steve Capps, Corky Holman, Jim Humphreys, Ronnie Hunter
April 30	Steve Capps, Corky Holman, Jim Humphreys, Ronnie Hunter



**Those who serve in April**

<b>Altar Guild for April</b>	Patty Bowers
<b>Stewardship for April</b>	Tony Earnest
<b>Trustee for April</b>	Jim Humphreys

**Children's Message For April**

April 02	Terri McCloud
April 09	Terri McCloud
April 16	Terri McCloud
April 23	Terri McCloud
April 30	Terri McCloud

**Nursery for April**

April 02	Vickie Failor & Lynnsey Nalley
April 09	Jane Walker & Kristie Argo
April 16	Debbie Capps & Lynne Dyson
April 23	Becky Philpot & Melissa or Mark Miller
April 30	Pat Teat & Kristie Argo



**Acolyte Schedule for April**

April 02	Debbie Gissendanner
April 09	Lynnsey Nalley
April 16	Debbie Gissendanner
April 23	Lynnsey Nalley
April 30	Anne-Marie Failor

**Children's Church for April**

April 02	Terri McCloud & Melissa Miller
April 09	Terri McCloud & Carolyn Earnest
April 16	Melissa Miller
April 23	Terri McCloud & Linda Crouch
April 30	Terri McCloud

**Covered Dish Lunch.**

**No Covered Dish Lunch in April**



OUR CDC NEWS

Spring has sprung and we are so happy to see the warm weather. Our busy time of the year has arrived. We have been cleaning out, and were able to make a huge donation of items to the men's yard sale. We have full classrooms this time of year so we will be able to give a little extra to the church. We will be beginning practice this month for our graduation on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. We will also be singing for the Morning circle on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Our Easter Egg hunt and party are April 13<sup>th</sup> and we will be closed on Good Friday. Enjoy your April and love to all.

Shannon and the CDC Staff

April 02 Melissa Miller  
 April 02 Carol D. Presnell  
 April 05 Jennafer Bikas  
 April 07 Shane Dosser  
 April 08 Jackie Lumsden  
 April 09 Ellen Holman  
 April 10 Jan Vaughan  
 April 11 Patti Taylor  
 April 12 Glenn Wells  
 April 13 Debi Bush  
 April 15 Chris Rosa  
 April 16 Rodney Lee  
 April 18 Jean B. Vaughan  
 Bud Dosser  
 April 19 Ellie Hazel  
 April 20 Howard Johnson  
 April 21 John Disher  
 April 22 Elmo Mann  
 April 23 Willie Nalley  
 April 24 Sherrelle Bayne  
 April 25 Lavelly Sue Philpot  
 April 26 Andy Gray  
 April 27 Louise Fair  
 April 30 Eric Disher  
 Stella Schaefer



April 04  
 Vickie & Ronald Failor

April 24  
 Sonya & Parks Evans

**April 25**  
 Libby & Allen Gilliam

**Bobbie Bogan**  
**Mildred Bray**  
**Bob Cehen**  
**Mary Childs**  
**Troy Clements**  
**Jane-Hunt Grady**  
**Rick Greer**  
**Kathleen Griffin**  
**Vera Hunt**  
**Donna Helms**  
**Carolyn Hunter**  
**Andi Nichols**  
**Dot Nichols**  
**Joe Philpot**  
**Margie Philpot**  
**Mildred Pollard**  
**Glenn Wells**  
**Allen Zorn**



Special prayers for Glenn Wells as he has been in the hospital and now is back at Heartland Health in Room 426-B.

Special prayer for Bob Cehen

Prayers for Kathleen Griffith, and Randall.

Special prayers for Rick Greer as he heals from Knee surgery that he had on March 31st.

**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.

**Examples of Inspirational Christian Quotes from This Day's Thought**

"Our little time of suffering is not worthy of our first night's welcome home to Heaven."  
*Samuel Rutherford*

"We turn to God for help when our foundations are shaking only to learn that it is God shaking them."  
*Charles West*

"Heaven is full of answers to prayers for which no one ever bothered to ask."  
*Billy Graham*

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains; it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."  
*C.S. Lewis*

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all, but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."  
*Martin Luther*

**Lenten Offering.** Lent Offering Envelopes are located in the pews, please take one and give (whatever the Lord places in your heart to give), this will go toward our missions and outreach.

**Inspiration Group.** The Inspiration Group will meet on Thursday, April 27th at 11:30 a.m.

**Sympathy.** The Pastor and congregation express their deepest sympathy to **Bobbie Bogan** upon the death of her niece and to **Henry Philpot and Alex Philpot** upon the death of their cousin, **Teresa Lynn Rice Burgess** who passed away on Saturday, March 11, 2017. The memorial service was held at Thomas McAfee Funeral Home Northwest chapel on Monday, March 13, 2017 and the visitation followed.

**Holy Thursday**

We will have a Holy Thursday service on Thursday, April 13th at 6:00 p.m.



**Sunrise Service**

We will have Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 16th at 7:00 a.m. Regular Worship 10:30.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt here at the church on Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon.



# APRIL 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>2</b> <i>Communion Sunday</i></p> <p>S.S. 9:30 a.m. <i>Worship 10:30 a.m.</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 am 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>5</b> <i>Choir 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 am</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> <i>Passion Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>Sunday S.S. 9:30 <i>Worship 10:30</i></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 am 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b> <i>Administrative Council 6:00 p.m.</i> <i>Choir 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 am</p> <p><i>Holy Thursday Service at 6:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <i>There will be no Good Friday Service</i></p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> 10:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon</p> <p><u><b>Shalom Circle</b></u> 12 noon at Mama Maria's <i>We will work on mission project, and have devotion</i></p>
<p><b>16</b> <b>Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:00</b></p> <p>S.S. 9:30 <i>Worship 10:30</i></p> <p><b>No Covered Dish Lunch</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Morning Circle</b> 10:00 a.m. the Quilters will follow</p> <p><i>Quilters 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><b>19</b> <i>Choir 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><b>20</b> <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b> S.S. 9:30 <i>Worship 10:30</i></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> <i>Quilters</i> 10:00 am 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>26</b> <i>Choir 7:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>Inspiration Group</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> <i>Spiritual Growth Retreat Lake Junaluska 28-29</i></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>30</b> <b>5th Sunday Breakfast</b> S.S. 9:30 <i>Worship 10:30</i></p>						