

March is National Red Cross Month

Celebrate Red Cross Month by Giving Blood in March

During Red Cross Month in March, the American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to join in its lifesaving mission by giving blood.

Since 1943, every U.S. president has designated March as Red Cross Month to recognize how the Red Cross helps people across the country and around the world. Red Cross Month is a celebration of supporters, who are the face of the Red Cross in their communities and bring hope to people facing emergencies.

Blood donor Timothy Sheely knows the need firsthand. His wife required 12 units of blood during emergency surgery following the birth of their son. "If it had not been for blood donors, she might not have survived," he said. "Thanks to generous blood donors, I still have a wife and my kids still have their mom. I can't possibly thank those people in person, but I can give a little piece of me back with each donation for the greater good."

The Red Cross depends on blood donor heroes across the nation to collect enough blood to meet the needs of patients at approximately 2,600 hospitals nationwide. Donors of all blood types, especially type O, are needed to help those who rely on blood products.

Make an appointment to become a hero to patients in need by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



How to help

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood donors can now save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site.

About the American Red Cross, con't.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.



About Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease of the central nervous system (CNS), which consists of the brain, optic nerves, and spinal cord. MS damages or destroys the protective covering (known as myelin) surrounding the nerves of the CNS, and can potentially injure the nerves as well. This damage causes reduced communication between the brain and nerve pathways. Common MS symptoms include visual problems, overwhelming fatigue, difficulty with balance and coordination, depression and cognitive issues, and various levels of impaired mobility. Many experts estimate that 2.5 million people worldwide have been diagnosed with this disease, and most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 15 and 50. MS is not contagious, and researchers continue to look for both a cause and a cure.

About MSAA

The Multiple Sclerosis Association of America (MSAA) is a national nonprofit organization and leading resource for the entire MS community, improving lives today through vital services and support. MSAA provides free programs and services, such as: a Helpline with trained specialists; award-winning publications, including MSAA's magazine, The Motivator; MSAA's nationally recognized website (at mymsaa.org), featuring award-winning educational videos and research updates; S.E.A.R.C.H.™ program to assist the MS community with learning about different treatment choices; a mobile phone app, My MS Manager™ (named one of the best multiple sclerosis iPhone & Android apps by Healthline.com); a resource database, My MS Resource Locator; safety and mobility equipment distribution; cooling accessories for heat-sensitive individuals; educational programs held across the country; My MSAA Community, a peer-to-peer online support forum; a clinical trial search tool; and more. For additional information, please visit www.mysaa.org or call (800) 532-7667.

(Article from MultipleSclerosis.net)



BEREAN Baptist Church

"Where Traditions & Innovations Commune"

"He Is Risen" (Luke 24:6-7)

Volume No. 3, Issue 3 | Date: March 1, 2024 | Website: www.bereanphilly.org | Email: bereanvision@yahoo.com

2425-33 West Indiana Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132-1304 | (215) 229-8048
Reverend Dr. Michael W. Couch, Pastor

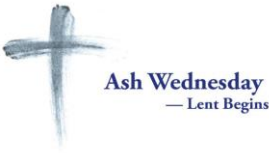
What is Lent? 4 Different Ways to Practice

Pause for a moment and look outside. What do you see? What makes you smile?

Whatever you just described, think about this: what you saw was always there-it was just waiting for you to pause and notice it.

That's the basic purpose of Lent: to create space in the middle of life's responsibilities to appreciate what's always been there: God's presence.

What is Lent?



Lent is a 40-day period of stillness, focus and repentance leading up to Resurrection Sunday. Based on Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, Lent is an important tool that can help you stay attuned to God's voice as you reflect on His sacrificial love.

"Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world." Psalm 46:10

While Lent does include personal sacrifice, the goal of this time isn't to "better" your life, but to center your life on what matters most: the One who made you and died for you.

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

Lent began on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. However, you choose to practice it, we hope you'll spend the next 40 days creating space in your soul to reflect on Jesus' sacrificial suffering and the power of His resurrection.

Here are 4 great ways to practice Lent: (And, they include your Bible)

1. Memorize the Verse of the Day - Our outlook on life changes when we get God's Word inside of us. If you've always wanted to memorize Scripture but were never sure when to start, commit to memorizing the Verse of the Day for 40 days. If you started on February 14, 2024, you'll know 40 passages by Resurrection Sunday, and you'll be well on your way to establishing a lifelong habit.

2. Create a Prayer List - Prayer is simply an honest conversation between you and God. And, it's a great discipline to begin during Lent. Becoming a person who prays confidently may take some practice, but you can get started by committing at least 10 minutes a day to prayer.

3. Start a Lent Devotional - One of the best ways to draw closer to God is by spending time in His Word. If you're not sure where to start, pick a Lent Plan in your Bible App and complete one Plan, every day, for all 40 days of Lent.

To get the most from your Plan, set up daily reminders in Plan settings. Then, invite a few trusted friends to join you and reflect together on what God is doing in your lives.

4. Practice Generosity - God modeled what generosity looks like when He sacrificed His greatest treasure for us. During the next 40 days, draw near to God through irrational generosity.

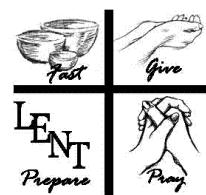
There are lots of meaningful ways you can give financially to what God is doing throughout the world. Take a moment and ask God to show you how you can bless those around you.

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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The Special Days and Seasons of the Christian Year



Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon *lencten*, which means “spring,” the time for the lengthening of days. At first Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism on Easter Eve. They were taught the gospel message and the Lord’s Prayer. They prayed, fasted, and did penance. Eventually, Lent became a time of reflection and self-examination for all Christians.

In our busy, secular world, Lent is a time of renewal, a time to remember Jesus - to walk with him in study, prayers, and service to others, to engage in personal and family worship. However, during Lent, Christians, as the body of Christ also need to come together to worship and study with others.

Dates of Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent last for forty days, not counting Sundays. Sundays aren’t counted because Sunday always celebrates Jesus’ victory over sin and death. Even during Lent, Sunday is a “little Easter.”

Special Days of Lent

Ash Wednesday
Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday.

Color for Lent

Purple, a royal color that also signifies penitence and preparation, is used during Lent on cloths for altar, pulpit, lectern and on stoles and banners.

Visuals for Lent

Sometimes shiny objects are removed from the worship area during Lent, and some churches omit flowers. A large rough cross may be used, or a veil placed over the sanctuary cross.



February 14, 2024

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Worship for the day focuses on the themes of sin and death in the light of God’s redeeming love in Jesus Christ. Traditional words in the service are “Remembering that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” We receive everlasting life as a gift of God’s grace.

Worship may be held at any time on Ash Wednesday and may follow a sacrificial noon or evening meal. Worshipers are called to observe Lent as a time of repentance, prayer and self-denial; of meditation on Jesus’ life and death; and of self-giving to others, especially to those who suffer and are in need.

Date of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday may fall anytime from February 3rd to March 10th.

The Significance of Ashes

Scripture refers to ashes both as a sign of mortality and a sign of repentance. In many churches, palms used on Palm Sunday the previous year are burned and mixed with a little water to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. In the service, the pastor uses the ashes to make a cross on the forehead of each worshiper.

Colors for Ash Wednesday

Gray or other dark earth tones are especially appropriate as are rough textured cloths such as burlap - to suggest sack cloth and ashes. Purple, the Lenten color may be used.

Giving Things Up for Lent

This tradition probably grows out of Lenten penance for sin and fasting to be one with Jesus in suffering. Churches or individuals may give to people in need, the money saved from their practice of self-denial.



CHURCH FOOTBALL

Quarterback Sneak - Church members quietly leaving during the invitation.

Draw Play - What many children do with the bulletin during worship?

Half-time - The period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave.

Benchwarmer - Those who do not sing, pray, work or apparently do anything but sit.

Backfield-in-Motion - Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.

Staying in the Pocket - What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord’s Work.

Two-minute Warning - The points at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Instant replay - The preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week’s illustrations.

Sudden Death - What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes “Overtime?”

Tray - You’re called on to pray and are asleep.

End Run - Getting out of church quickly without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

Flex Defense - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.

Halfback Option the Decision - 50% of the congregation not to return for the evening service or Bible Study.

Blitz - The rush for the restaurants following the benediction.

Submitted by,
Sister Jackie Curtis

Surely He Died on Calvary † Hymn #91

Refrain:

Calvary, Calvary,
Calvary, Calvary,
Calvary, Calvary,
Surely He died on Calvary.

1 Ev’ry time I think about Jesus,
Ev’ry time I think about Jesus,
Ev’ry time I think about Jesus,
Surely He died on Calvary. [Refrain]

2 Don’t you hear the hammer ringing?
Don’t you hear the hammer ringing?
Don’t you hear the hammer ringing?
Surely He died on Calvary. [Refrain]

3 Don’t you hear Him calling His Father?

4 Don’t you hear Him say, “It is finished?”

5 Jesus furnished my salvation.

6 Sinner, do you love my Jesus?

Sick & Recovering
“Naked & Ye Clothed Me; I Was Sick & Ye Visited Me”
(Matthew 25:36)

+++++

Sisters:

Eloise Ball
Mother Mary Beamon
Pearlie Burrows
Mary Chapman
Sandra Chestnut

Elizabeth Crudup (Watch Care)
Eld. Louise Jones
Bertha Marshall
Juanita Parker

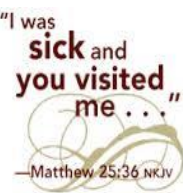
Brothers:

Lincoln Bowen
Theodore Hall

Ocie Rhoden, Jr.

Hospitalized/Nursing Center:

Bro. Albert Chambers
Genesis Spring Nursing
& Rehabilitation Center
1113 Easton Road
Room #423A
Willow Grove, PA 19090-1901



Please remember to pray for our sick and recoveries★
“Visit★Send Cards★

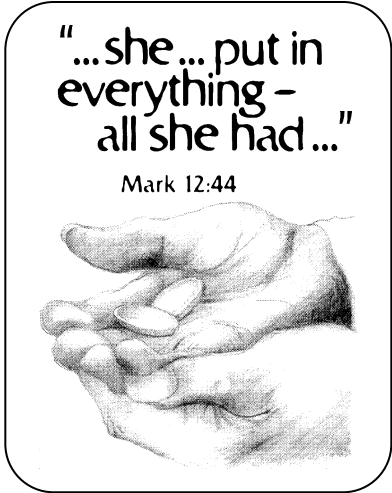
“Worship by Giving”

Worship Leader - 8. Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. **9.** Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. **10.** Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Worship Leader:
“Worship by Giving!”
Congregation:
“Praise the Lord!”

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AARP TAXAIDE TAX PREPARATION

CENTER IN THE PARK

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.
5818 Germantown Avenue - 215-848-7722

WEST OAKLANE SENIOR CENTER

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
7210-12 Ogontz Avenue - 215-685-3511

PHILADELPHIA SENIOR CENTER

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
509 South Broad Street - 215-546-5879

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA OLDER ADULT CENTER

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
1430 E. Passunk Avenue - 215-685-1697

-FREE SERVICES FOR ALL-



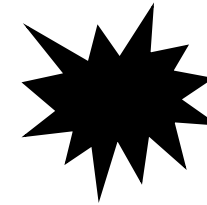
Worship Protocol

Whenever possible, we ask that offerings be prepared before services begin. (I Corinthians 16:12).

The presentation of our tithes and offerings is an essential part of our worship. It is not "recess" from worship. We ask each member to maintain the same sense of reverence and refrain from unnecessary talking during this time that they would have in any other part of the worship service. Thank You.



When God blesses you financially, don't raise your standard of living. Raise your standard of giving.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
(Ash Wednesday)



Sunday, March 3, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
(Focus on Evangelism & National Red Cross Month)

Sunday, March 10, 2024
(Daylight Savings Time Begins)

Sunday, March 10, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
(Youth & Young Adult Sunday)
(Baptism, Graduation & Right Hand of Fellowship)



Sunday, March 17, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
(Communion Sunday)



Sunday, March 24, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
(Focus on Family Harmony & Palm Sunday)
Evangelist Susan Shine, Associate & Guest Preacher
South Camden St. Paul Baptist Church
Camden, NJ



Sunday, March 31, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
(Social Justice Sunday & Resurrection Sunday)



ServSafe Manager Certification Class

ServSafe Manager April 2024

The class is 100% free, including testing.
You must have your ServSafe Food Handler certification to enroll.

ServSafe Manager Certification

April 1 - May 3 (five weeks)
Monday and Wednesday (two days)
12:00 am - 3:00 pm (three hours)

Project HOME | Adult Learning and Workforce Program
Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs
1936 Judson St 19121 (near 23rd and Berks in North Philly)

Apply by Thursday, March 21.
<https://forms.gle/ufUzoUDMQEIMMCKx5>
Text "Classes" to (484) 229-3482 for the link above.

<https://www.projecthome.org/adult-education>



BIRTHDAYS



March 1
Bro. Jah'ier Lewis

March 6
Sis. Brooklyn Chapman

March 7
Sis. Briana Poteat

March 8
Min. Felisha Poteat

March 10
Bro. Zayne Foster

March 18
Sis. Charlene Howard

March 20
Mother Christine Hargrove
(Celebrating 101st Birthday)

March 22
Eld. Grace C. Allen-Sheppard

March 25
Eld. Hattie Murph

March 28
Bro. Zaheer Allen

March 29
Bro. Malachi Couch

March 30
Sis. JaLisa Wesley

Congratulations

March 14
Mr. & Mrs. Frankie (Denise) Smith | 20th Wedding Anniversary



Thought of the Month: "It's not about a bunny... it's about The Lamb!"

Adult Mental Health Resources

Mental Health has taken our community by storm.
Here are some Resources available to help the Congregation and Community!

Community Behavioral Health

CBH is the city-operated health maintenance organization for persons needing mental health care. Most Medical Assistance patients must call this number first for information and referrals (215) 413-3100, or 1 (888) 545-2600 - Crisis Hotline (215) 686-4420

www.dbhids.org/community-behavioral-health/

Online Mental Health Screening

Through Dept. of Behavioral Health - Free online screening and resources.

Go to healthymindsphilly.org/screening to check it out.



National Suicide Prevention Hotline

24-hour a Day National Hotline. Call 1 (800) 273-8255 or go to website below:

<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA

Organization that develops, promotes, and supports education and advocacy programs and serves children with mental health needs - 1211 Chestnut Street - (800) 688-4226 or (215) 751-1800.
www.mhasp.org

Magellan Behavior Health (Health Partners, KHPE, BCBS)

Call (800) 688-1911 for intake.

www.magellanofpa.com



BHSI (Behavioral Health System Initiative)

City-funded agency for individuals without health insurance with **substance abuse**. 801 Market Street, (215) 546-1200. bhsi-dbhids.org

Drug and Alcohol Helpline

The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment hotline. Call 1 (800) 662-4357 to find a resource near you.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/>



Nar-Anon

Support for families of addicts. Call 1 (800) 477-6291

<https://www.nar-anon.org/>



Alcoholics Anonymous

Call (215) 923-7900 for information or go to their website below.

www.aasepia.org

Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

Support groups for clean addicts and active users. Call 215-NA-WORKS.

<http://www.naworks.org/>



CRISIS TEXT LINE: TEXT "MHFA" TO 741741

Available 24/7, 365 days a year, this organization helps people with mental health challenges by connecting callers with trained crisis volunteers who will provide confidential advice, support, and referrals if needed.

<https://www.crisistextline.org/>

Submitted by Pastor Couch

Guest column: The Upside of Hiring an Ex-con

Published 09/13/18 | Updated 08/19/21 | **Opinion**

Serving time in jail is a tough sentence no matter how you slice it. But the reality is that thousands of ex-offenders are released from American jails every month and it's imperative that local employers make a genuine effort to hire qualified ex-offenders that are re-entering society.

If we (employers) don't make the genuine effort to train and/or hire ex-offenders then we become guilty of handicapping their opportunity to attain gainful employment, which greatly reduces recidivism and crime in the community at-large.

To give this issue some perspective, it costs taxpayers a bundle every year to incarcerate inmates. "The fee to cover the average cost of incarceration for federal inmates in Fiscal Year 2015 was \$31,977.65 (\$87.61 per day), according to the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Prisons.

The costs to taxpayers to fund half-way house facilities isn't cheap either, "The average annual cost to confine an inmate in a Residential Re-entry Center for Fiscal Year 2015 was \$26,082.90 (\$71.46 per day)."

In 2015, there were an "estimated 1,526,800 prisoners under the jurisdiction of state and federal correctional authorities," as reported by the U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Wrap your mind around this, American taxpayers spent at least \$48.8 billion annually to incarcerate its prison population. In 2015, taxpayers spent more on prisoners than we did on U.S. Department of Education's entire Pell Grant budget (\$31.4 billion) that helps low-income students fund their college education! The more ex-offenders we gainfully employ, the least likely they are to return to a life of crime and be re-incarcerated. The fewer people we have in jail, the more federal and state taxpayer dollars we can divert to education, senior citizen programs, road and bridge repair, health care and other important domestic programs and services.

In Pennsylvania, Philadelphia is our largest metropolitan city - and America's fifth largest city.

In his 2017 article 10 Things You Should Know about Re-entry in Philadelphia published by Generocity.org, reporter Tony Abram reveals that, "As of 2011, approximately 40,000 people return to Philadelphia from state and federal prison every year ... That's hundreds of thousands of Philadelphians, primarily people of color, fighting to escape the pull of gravity - the cycle of recidivism that keeps people with criminal records unemployed, at risk of re-arrest and eventually, back in prison."

Published by Michael Robinson | Daily Times

(Article will be continued in April 2024 Newsletter)

The Outreach Team

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33, KJV).

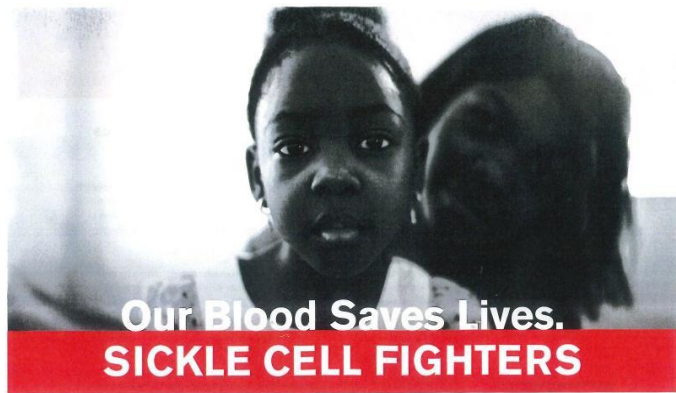
The Outreach Team met in the Kensington section of Philadelphia to feed displaced people in need on a mild winter day in January 2024. The team used their car to distribute food because it allowed them the opportunity to cover a large area. The team no longer gave out food at the neighborhood park because the homeless individuals had been forced out of that location, which they had considered home. The individuals had returned to where they had resided in the past: up and down the streets in tents and cardboard boxes placed on the sidewalk in front of local businesses.

Upon the team's arrival in the area, a lady rushed up to the team members to ask for prayer. At that moment, the woman was not concerned with receiving food - she only wanted to pray. After the prayer, a team member noticed that the woman was wearing only one boot and that her other foot had just a sock on it. Up to that point, the woman had not said anything about her need for shoes.

This team member grew very concerned about the woman's foot, which was resting on the cold ground, and discussed the possible dangers of this situation. The woman informed the team member that she had lost her other boot some time ago. The team member then asked if she would be willing to wait while the member went to try to get her a pair of shoes. The woman refused as she explained that it was not necessary and that she would instead ask the other individuals, living on the streets, if she could borrow a pair of shoes. Unfortunately, they did not have any shoes to give. However, one man offered to help and told her to look inside his shopping cart, which was filled with random items. He pointed to one black flip-flop sitting on the top of the cart. The lady put the flip-flop onto her socked foot. She then happily walked away wearing a boot on one foot and a flip-flop on the other.

This woman placed her spiritual needs above her physical needs. She felt that prayer was more important than eating a portion of food or even having shoes on her feet. In the end, our Heavenly Father did provide all her needs for that moment in time. While she did not receive some fancy name-brand pair of shoes or even matching shoes - she no longer walked barefoot on the cold ground. She did not complain about her circumstances; instead, she was very grateful for the gifts she had received that day: prayer, food, and a flip-flop.

Submitted by Sister Charlene Howard



Our Blood Saves Lives. SICKLE CELL FIGHTERS

Who is impacted by sickle cell disease?

Approximately 100,000 people in the U.S. are living with sickle cell disease. Most people with sickle cell disease are African American or of African descent. In fact, the disease affects 1 out of every 365 African American babies born in this country.

What is sickle cell disease?

Sickle cell disease causes red blood cells to be hard and crescent-shaped (like a sickle) instead of soft and round. As a result, it is difficult for blood to flow smoothly and carry enough oxygen to the rest of the body, which may result in severe pain, organ and tissue damage, or even strokes.

How is sickle cell disease treated?

Blood transfusions help provide a lifesaving treatment during a sickle cell pain crisis by replacing sickled red blood cells with healthy red blood cells. This helps deliver oxygen to tissues and organs and unblock blood vessels. Donated blood is the only source of this treatment.

How can I help?

Blood donors who are Black have the unique ability to help patients with sickle cell disease. A person with sickle cell disease may need a precise pairing with a blood donor, especially if frequent transfusions are necessary. If a patient receives a transfusion of a blood type that is not a close match, they may form antibodies against the mismatched antigens. To help avoid transfusion-related complications, a patient is more likely to find the most compatible blood match from a donor of the same race or similar ethnicity.

Schedule a blood donation appointment and learn more at:
[RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood](https://www.redcrossblood.org/OurBlood)



Blood donations can save lives.

Here are a few people whose lives have been touched by generous blood donors:



At 27, Justina is living her dream. She supports people with sickle cell disease and helps them work through health-related challenges. Diagnosed with sickle cell disease at birth, Justina needed her first emergency blood transfusion at three. "Doctors said they could have lost me had I not gotten to the hospital and got that transfusion."

That was the first of many blood transfusions to help relieve Justina of the pain she endures during a crisis. To manage her sickle cell disease today, Justina receives monthly blood transfusions. She estimates she's received blood more than 100 times.



Melvin began donating blood at age 18 for a simple reason: "the boss would let you leave work early!" he said, laughing. In the past 54 years, Melvin has donated 95 pints of blood, and for several years he's been matched with a patient with sickle cell disease. He came to donate every time that person needed a transfusion.

Melvin stopped giving a few times in his life, following cancer diagnoses. Both times, he went back to giving blood after completing treatment. In 2020, he was diagnosed with bone cancer. Melvin receives blood transfusions himself as part of his treatment. "This experience impressed on me the importance of giving blood because it is the one thing each of us can do for others. It helps so many people," said Melvin. "Believe me, donating blood saves lives."



Nicole was diagnosed with sickle cell disease at birth. She experienced her first pain crisis at six months old. Nicole depends on blood transfusions every three to four months and has received over 60 transfusions.

"Blood saves my life," said Nicole. "When I receive a blood transfusion, I can immediately feel the warmth and replenishment of blood to my organs. Blood donors allow me to continue to live my best life and I will never take them for granted."

Schedule a donation and learn more at [RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood)



Our Blood Saves Lives
SICKLE CELL FIGHTERS

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Core Commitments



I. Bereanites, start each day the Right Way:

- Commit to personal development by reading one chapter of the Bible every day and every night.
- Listen to fifteen minutes of an inspirational audio/video.
- Reflect on your action steps for that day.

II. Stay Connected:

- Discipleship Training Zoom "Bible Study" on Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.
- Discipleship Training "Sunday School" 9:00 A.M.-9:45 A.M.
- Discipleship Training "RightNow Media" our streaming library of more than 20,000 Bible Study videos for you and your family.

rightnow MEDIA | Free Gift for Your Family



III. Commit to planting two seeds Every Day:

- Share your story or the Gospel story with two people every day.
- By texting, emailing, tracts, social media, Berean Newsletters, and by any means necessary = (48 seeds planted every month).
- Proverbs 11:30

IV. Attend weekly service with Guests:

- Invite guests each week by sharing your story or the Gospel story to grow the ministry.
- Make a 52-week commitment.

V. Help new members get started right:

- Help new members plug into Bible Study on Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.
- Help new members plug into Sunday School from 9:00 A.M.-9:45 A.M.
- Help new members plug into RightNow Media
- Help new members to share their story or the Gospel story by texting, emailing, tracts, social media, Berean's Newsletter, etc.



VI. Retain membership:

- Pray for the Berean family every day and every night.
- Check-in with other Berean members.
- Show love and encouragement to all your Berean family and guests.
- Follow-up with Berean family and new members.

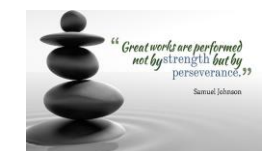


VII. Find a Biblical workout partner:

- Partner with someone who will hold you accountable, motivate you, and help you stretch for more.

III. Be here next year if the Lord allows it:

- Commit to the commitments.
- We will see a harvest in you and the ministry.
- Strength & Honor



Submitted by Pastor Couch

Free New Parent Support!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Let us take care of you as you care
for your new baby.

COMPLETE CARE FOR YOU AND YOUR BABY!

- Healthy meal and snacks!
- Breastfeeding Help!
- Mom and Baby Health Checks!
- Emotional Support!
- Meet other new parents!
- All services and gift bags provided at no cost to you!



**Fridays
9 AM - 12 PM**

This 4 week program will give
you and your baby the
healthiest start.



SIGN UP HERE!

Your start date: _____

DR. ALA STANFORD
CENTER for HEALTH EQUITY
2001 W Lehigh Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19132
484-270-6200



1ST ANNUAL RE-ENTRY SECOND CHANCE JOB FAIR & RESOURCE VILLAGE! Meet with Reentry Friendly Hiring Employers and Community Agencies that Provide Services to Formerly Incarcerated Citizens! Exclusively for Job Seeking Returning Citizens! Friday, April 19, 2024, 10am-2pm



REENTRY JOB FAIR LOCATION:

Howard Gittis Student Activity Center/Temple University
1755 North 13th St / Room 200, Philadelphia, PA 19122
(corner of 13th & Montgomery / enter from middle of block building entrance)



FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT EVENT ORGANIZER:

Michael Robinson, M.S.
Temple University Lenfest North Philadelphia Workforce Initiative
215-204-0677
mike.robinson@temple.edu

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR EVENT PARTNERS/SPONSORS:



Baptist Church Etiquette

"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism"
Submitted by Sister Sharmaine Ellison

Baptist Church etiquette is a practice designed to demonstrate poise, grace and consideration for the spirit of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. It is most commonly practiced to show an attitude of respect for other fellow worshippers and the edifice to which we glorify God for His grace and mercy. Listed below are seven forms of church etiquette which Christians should practice:

As to Graciousness - A person is characterized as a Christian or Anti-Christian, cultured or ill-mannered, by his or her ability to act graciously toward others. A person may be considered gracious when being more considerate of others than of self.

As to the Pulpit - Do not cross in front of the pulpit while service in is progress. Follow the direction of the ushers for seating.

As to the Sanctuary - Do not enter the sanctuary when the Scripture or prayer is being given. Such movement disturbs the solemnity of the service and is a distraction to those who seek communion with God.

As to the Benediction - Do not leave the sanctuary until after the benediction, unless your departure is a dire necessity or emergency. The benediction is the final "good word" of the service, the last blessing of the hour. Do not leave God's house without your blessing.

As to the Ushers - Follow the directions of the ushers. Ushers are to ensure that you receive prompt and comfortable seating. It is impolite and inappropriate to proceed to your seat without the directions of a church usher during worship services.



As to Bibles or Hymnals - Do not remove the Church Bibles or Hymnals from the Church. These items are the property of the Church and to remove them deprives others from the full participation in the worship experience.



As to Common Sense -

The rules of grace are generally based on a liberal dosage of common sense. Remember to treat others as you would like to be treated. Take time to think before you act or speak. Remember that all you do or say is under the lawful watch of God.



The reason we have
17000 pages in our
law books is because
we cannot follow 10
lines on a tablet
made of stone.

Berean Baptist Church

Mission:

"Evangelize, Edify & Empower"

Berean Baptist Church's Mission is to be a biblically centered ministry, designated to **Evangelize** to the lost, **Edify** the people of God, and to **Empower** persons through the sharing of our Lord's love toward the saved and unsaved. We seek to unapologetically, provide a holistic ministry to our congregation first, community second, and to the crowds and masses of humanity, third.

Vision:

"Community, Commune & Christ"

Berean Baptist Church's Vision is to build a **Community** of Revitalized servants and saints, to **Commune** in Reconciliation through the message of Salvation, and to **Demonstrate a Christ-like** Redemption to the world.

Values:

"Faith, Hope & Love"

Berean Baptist Church surrenders its heart, mind, and spirit to the abilities that enables our ministries to be Fruitful.

"Where Traditions & Innovations Commune"



The Order of Worship Service
Sunday, March 31, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
Worship Leader: Sis. Michelle Hagans



SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY & RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Praise & Worship.....	The Praise Team
Processional.....	Choir
*Call to Worship:	
Leader: "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in" (Matthew 25:35).	
All: "Naked, and ye clothed: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me" (Matthew 25:36).	
*Doxology.....	"Glory Be To The Father".....#538
	"Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, It's now and ever shall be, World without end, Amen! Amen!"
**	Enter His Gates
*Invocation.....	Diaconate Ministry
Welcome & Announcements.....	Deac. Kim Woods
Welcome Song.....	Bro. Tyrone Davis
**	Enter His Gates
*Congregational Hymn.....	"Surely He Died on Calvary".....#91
Responsive Reading.....	"Justification".....#566
Resurrection Sunday Presentation.....	The Youth Ministry
Selection.....	Highly Favored Choir
**	Enter His Gates
*Altar Call.....	Min. Anthony Gamble
Selection.....	Highly Favored Choir
Presentation of Our Pastor.....	Worship Leader
Sermon.....	Dr. Michael W. Couch, Pastor
*Invitation to Christian Discipleship	
*Worship by Giving.....	(See Page 15).....Worship Leader
	"All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given thee. Amen"
*Closing Words & Benediction.....	Pastor Couch
*Organ Prelude/Seating Interval/Postlude	
Note: "This service may be interrupted at any moment by the Holy Spirit"	

BEREAN'S GIVING ENVELOPE



Members, please use the offering envelopes in the pews. You will need to place your name on your envelope. If you'd like a boxed set of envelopes, please see any member of the Trustee Ministry.

The Sunday School Ministry thanks you for placing your name on your envelope.

Reminder! Please remind your children that the offering envelopes are not to be used as scratch paper. Thank you!

Assembly Required

We believe that regular church attendance is important for every Christian because...



It follows the example set by our Lord Jesus Christ.

"So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up.


And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read" (Luke 4:16)

*Altar Call.....Min. Anthony Gamble
Selection.....Berean’s Mass Choir
Presentation of Our Pastor.....Worship Leader
Sermon.....Dr. Michael W. Couch, Pastor
***Invitation to Christian Discipleship**


*Worship by Giving.....(See Page 15).....Worship Leader
“All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we giv-en thee. Amen”

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

*Church Covenant.....Responsively
*Communion Medley of Hymns
Consecration of the Elements & Benediction.....Pastor Couch
**Organ Postlude
***Congregation Standing**
***Organ Prelude/Seating Interval/Postlude**



The Order of Worship Service
Sunday, March 24, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
Worship Leader: Sis. Linda Thomas



FOCUS ON FAMILY HARMONY & PALM SUNDAY

Devotional & Testimonial Service.....The Praise Team
Processional.....Choir
*Call to Worship:
Leader: “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him” (John 4:23).
All: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).
*Doxology.....**“Glory Be To The Father”**.....#538
“Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, It’s now and ever shall be, World without end, Amen! Amen!”
Enter His Gates

**
Invocation.....Diaconate Ministry
Welcome & Announcements.....Deac. Kim Woods
Welcome Song.....Bro. Tyrone Davis
**
Enter His Gates
*Congregational Hymn.....**“Surely He Died on Calvary”**.....#91
Responsive Reading.....**“The Christian Family”**.....#558
Selection.....Men of Berean (M.O.B.) Chorale
**
Enter His Gates
*****Prayer for the Palms*****


*Altar Call.....Min. Anthony Gamble
Selection.....Men of Berean (M.O.B.) Chorale
Presentation of Guest Preacher.....Worship Leader
Sermon.....Evangelist Susan Shine
Associate, South Camden St. Paul Baptist Church, Camden, NJ
***Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

*Worship by Giving.....(See Page 15).....Worship Leader
“All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we giv-en thee. Amen”

*Closing Words & Benediction.....Evangelist Shine

Newsletter Update: Please submit all items, articles, anniversaries and birthdays to the office by the 15th of each month so they can be published in our monthly newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation. **"It's All About Ministry: Serving the Lord With Gladness"** (Ephesians 4:11-16).

What is Maundy Thursday?



As a Jew, Jesus celebrated the annual Passover (pascha) meal. However, through His sacrificial death, He transformed it once and forever into *His* supper. The bread and juice we eat and drink during Communion and Agape Meal remind us of the new covenant provided through the breaking of Jesus’ body and shedding of His blood. During the last supper, Jesus washed His disciples’ feet and gave a new command or mandate: *Love one another*. Read John 13:1-35, also Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-30. The name “**Maundy**” comes from the Latin root for mandate in remembrance of Jesus’ mandate to love one another.

Some Christians celebrate Maundy Thursday in Foot Washing Services in remembrance of the act of humility and love that was demonstrated by our Lord and Savior at the Last Supper. They do this to remember that we too must have an attitude of service. Jesus taught that strength and life in the Kingdom of God comes not by power, authority or miracle working, but by lowly service to one another.

Tell Me About Good Friday

Jesus was crucified at noon on Good Friday. We might think that the word “Good” refers to the good that God accomplished for us by His Son’s death for our sins. But, it is more likely that just like the “good” in the phrase ‘good-bye’ comes from the old greetings, “God be with you,” Good Friday comes from the phrase God’s Friday.

That particular Friday - *the* turning point in the history of humanity, when God paid the price for our redemption with the sacrifice of the Son, Jesus Christ - that day, more than any other, was God’s day.

On Friday, March 29, 2024, Christians will be observing Good Friday services in many churches throughout the world. If you have never participated in a worship service on Good Friday, perhaps you might consider doing so this year.

Wherever you choose to worship, you may prepare by reading the following Scriptures: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9, and John 18:1-19:42.



“Let the little children come to me....”
MATTHEW 19:14

We invite you and your children, of all ages,

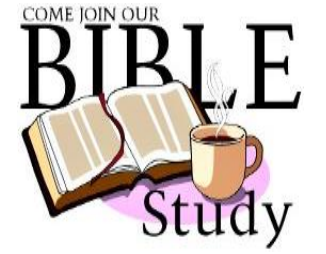
to join us for

Sunday School every Sunday morning @9:00 A.M.

We Look forward to seeing you!

Berean Baptist Church
2425-33 W. Indiana Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19132

Prayer, Praise & Study



Every Wednesday on "Zoom" at 6:00 P.M.

Connect on your Computer or Smartphone for Free:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84441541339>
Connect via FREE Phone Conference:
Dial: (301) 715-8592, At the prompt, enter Meeting ID: 84441541339

Join to Study God's Word With Us!



The Order of Worship Service
Sunday, March 3, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
Worship Leader: Sis. Gloria Monroe

FOCUS ON EVANGELISM & NATIONAL RED CROSS MONTH



Praise & Worship.....The Praise Team
Processional.....Choir
*Call to Worship:
Leader: “For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods” (I Chronicles 16:25).
All: “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” (I Chronicles 16:29).
*Doxology.....**“Glory Be To The Father”**.....#538
“Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, It’s now and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen! Amen!”
**
Enter His Gates
Invocation.....Diaconate Ministry
Welcome & Announcements.....Deac. Kim Woods
Welcome Song.....Dr. Josiah N. Rogers
**
Enter His Gates
*Congregational Hymn.....**“Surely He Died on Calvary”**.....#91
Responsive Reading.....**“Christian Living”**.....#561
Selection.....Berean’s Unity Choir
**
Enter His Gates
*****Draping of the Seat of Deaconess Edith Lewis*****
*Altar Call.....Min. Anthony Gamble
Selection.....Berean’s Unity Choir
Presentation of Our Pastor.....Worship Leader
Sermon.....Dr. Michael W. Couch, Pastor
***Invitation to Christian Discipleship**
*Worship by Giving.....(See Page 15).....Worship Leader
“All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we giv-en thee. Amen”
*Closing Words & Benediction.....Pastor Couch



The Order of Worship Service
Sunday, March 10, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
Worship Leader: Sis. JaLisa Wesley



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT WORSHIP SERVICE
BAPTISM, GRADUATION & RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

Devotional & Testimonial Service.....The Praise Team
Processional.....Choir
*Call to Worship
Leader: “Young people, in the same way, be submissive to those who are older. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time” (I Peter 5:5-6).
All: “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings” (I Peter 5:7-9).

"Do you approach God with your hands up or with your hands out?"

*Doxology.....**“Glory Be To The Father”**.....#538
“Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, It’s now and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen! Amen!”
Invocation.....Bro. Sincere Root
Welcome & Announcements.....Sis. Danielle Sterrette
Welcome Song.....Bro. Julian Warthen
**
Enter His Gates
*Congregational Hymn.....**“Surely He Died on Calvary”**.....#91
Responsive Reading.....**“Christ’s Concern for Children”**.....#598
Selection.....Berean’s Youth Choir
**
Enter His Gates
*****Graduation & Right Hand of Fellowship*****
*Altar Call.....Min. Anthony Gamble
Selection.....Berean’s Youth Choir
Presentation of Our Pastor.....Worship Leader
Sermon.....Dr. Michael W. Couch, Pastor
***Invitation to Christian Discipleship**
*Worship by Giving.....(See Page 15).....Worship Leader
“All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we giv-en thee. Amen”
*Closing Words & Benediction.....Pastor Couch



The Order of Worship Service
Sunday, March 17, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
Worship Leader: Dea. Oliver Matthews



COMMUNION SUNDAY

Praise & Worship.....The Praise Team
Processional.....Choir
*Call to Worship:
Leader: “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you” (John 6:53).
All: “Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:54).
*Doxology.....**“Glory Be To The Father”**.....#538
“Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, It’s now and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen! Amen!”
**
Enter His Gates
Invocation.....Diaconate Ministry
Welcome & Announcements.....Deac. Kim Woods
Welcome Song.....Sis. Loretta Jenkins
**
Enter His Gates
*Congregational Hymn.....**“Surely He Died on Calvary”**.....#91
Responsive Reading.....**“The Lord’s Supper”**.....#581
Selection.....Berean’s Mass Choir
**
Enter His Gates



"Stop praying for things you don't have the discipline to work for!"