

**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](https://www.redcrossblood.org), visiting [redcrossblood.org](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](https://www.cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/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 [mysaa.org](https://www.mysaa.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"
Where Traditions & Innovations Commune

"National Red Cross Month"

Volume No. 3 Issue 1 | Date: March 1, 2025 | 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 begins on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. 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 start on March 5, 2025, 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.

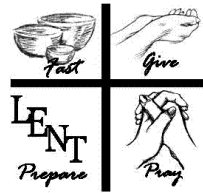
There are lots of meaningful ways you can give financially to what God is doing throughout the world. Take a moment and ask God to show you how you can bless those around you.

IN THIS ISSUE

What is Lent?..... Front Cover
 Special Days & Seasons of Christian Year.....2
 Upcoming Events.....3
 Adult Mental Health Resources.....4
 Prayer, Praise & Study & Adult Bible Class.....5
 The Outreach Team & Sunday School.....6

 Core Commitments.....7
 Baptist Church Etiquette.....8
 Have a Criminal Record? & Hiring an Ex-Con....9
 More Events/Birthdays/Anniversary.....10
 Sick & Recovering/Hymn/Giving.....11
 National Red Cross/MS Awareness Month.....12

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.



March 5, 2025

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

Love Lifted Me † Hymn #141

1 I was sinking deep in sin,
Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea, Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me - Now safe am I.

Refrain:
Love lifted me, Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me;
Love lifted me, Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me.

2 All my heart to Him I give, Ever to Him I'll cling,
In His blessed presence live, Ever His praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true, Merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful, loving service, too, To Him belongs.
[Refrain]

3 Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love, Out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea, Billows His will obey;
He your Savior wants to be- Be saved today.
[Refrain]

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

+++++

Sisters:

Eloise Ball	Deac. Annie Jones
Bertha Beckham	Eld. Louise Jones
Mary Chapman	Deac. Louise Myers
Sandra Chestnut	Sharene Richardson
Mother Hazel Drayton	Delores Withers (Watch Care)



Hospitalized/Nursing Center:

Bro. Albert Chambers	Bro. Ocie Rhoden, Jr.
Genesis Spring Nursing & Rehabilitation Center	Elkins Crest Health & Rehabilitation Center
1113 Easton Road	265 Townshipline Road
Room #423A	Room #215
Willow Grove, PA 19090-1901	Elkins Park, PA 19027-2221

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.

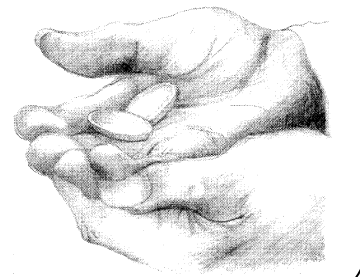
Worship Leader:
"Worship by Giving!"
Congregation:
"Praise the Lord!"

Worship Leader:
"Worship by Giving!"
Congregation:
"Praise the Lord!"

Worship Leader:
"Worship by Giving!"
Congregation:
"Praise the Lord!"

"...she... put in everything - all she had..."

Mark 12:44



Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
Philly Counts

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

We provide confidential, client-centered advocacy and individualized support while also promoting community empowerment.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT A CHW CAN ASSIST WITH:

- Access to health and mental wellness resources
- Support with utility assistance programs
- Referrals to transportation services
- COVID-19 vaccination and recovery resources
- Connections to Eviction Court resources

The CHW Program is an initiative funded by the CDC and led by the Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity, in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

Sheila Jones
Community Health Worker
SHEILA.JONES2@PHILA.GOV
215-964-8409 (TEXT FRIENDLY; M-F 9AM to 5PM)

phillycounts.gov | phillycounts@phila.gov

Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
Philly Counts

GET TO KNOW YOUR PHILLY COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Building bridges between our communities & social services

phila.gov/phillycounts | phillycounts@phila.gov

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.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO

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

Birthdays

March 20
Mother Christine Hargrove
(Celebrating 102nd 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

Happy Birthday

Congratulations

March 14
Mr. & Mrs. Frankie (Denise) Smith | 21st Wedding Anniversary



Sunday, March 2, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
(Focus on Evangelism & National Red Cross Month)



Wednesday, March 5, 2025
(Ash Wednesday)



Sunday, March 9, 2025
(Daylight Savings Time Begins)

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
(Youth & Young Adult Sunday)



Sunday, March 16, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
(Communion Sunday)



Sunday, March 23, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
(Focus on Family Harmony)



Sunday, March 30, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
(Social Justice Sunday)



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

DO YOU HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD? YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CLEAR IT!

Pennsylvania's new Clean Slate law expands record clearing eligibility!

Many felony convictions can be sealed after:	Most misdemeanor convictions can be sealed after:	Summary convictions will be sealed automatically after:
10 YEARS	7 YEARS	5 YEARS

Most **felony** and **misdemeanor** convictions in these categories can be sealed:

- Drug crimes
- Theft crimes, including Retail Theft and Receiving Stolen Property
- Trespass
- Forgery & Fraud crimes, including Access/Devise Fraud, Bad Checks, ID Theft and Welfare Fraud
- Criminal Mischief
- Conspiracy to commit an eligible crime

Most **misdemeanor** convictions and all **summary** convictions can be sealed, including:

- Recklessly Endangering Another Person
- Simple Assault
- DUI
- Disorderly Conduct
- Resisting Arrest
- Harassment
- Terroristic threats
- Possession of an Instrument of a Crime
- Prostitution

[LEARN MORE](https://mycleanslatepa.com/)

What is sealing?

A sealed record cannot be used for employment, housing, or education purposes. A sealed record is not publicly available and should not show up on background checks, except for FBI reports.

How do I seal my record?

Some convictions will be sealed automatically, while others will need a petition to be filed. You may qualify to have the petition filed on your behalf free of charge.

To learn more about the new law and see what is on *your* record free of charge, visit MyCleanSlatePA.com.

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.

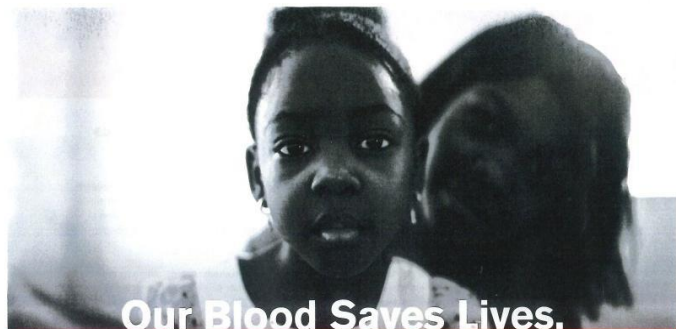
Wrap your mind around this, American taxpayers spent at least \$48.8 billion annually to incarcerate its prison population. In 2015, taxpayers spent more on prisoners than we did on U.S. Department of Education's entire Pell Grant budget (\$31.4 billion) that helps low-income students fund their college 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 2025 Newsletter)



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



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



Our Blood Saves Lives
SICKLE CELL FIGHTERS

© 2021 The American Red Cross | 9800 195 50 020410024

The Outreach Team

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"
(Romans 6:23, ESV)

The Outreach Team visited Kensington - a community experiencing the effects of drug addiction, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to demonstrate the love of Christ. The group provided individuals displaced from their homes with food, information about our Heavenly Father, an opportunity for prayer and a level of basic human respect.

Most often, supplies are handed directly to the eager individuals seeking support. However, some were too deep in their sleep on the sidewalk to even be aware that the team was there to distribute vital supplies. In cases when the individuals in need were fast asleep, the team members left the food beside them, ensuring that they would not be overlooked and that they would have the same opportunity to receive a gift of food, once they awakened.

The Lord has given to all the opportunity to receive the gift of salvation. He has given not only to the ones who are spiritually awake - that is, those who know Him - but He has also extended the offer of this gift to those who are still sleeping.

Submitted by Sister Charlene Howard



"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!

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.

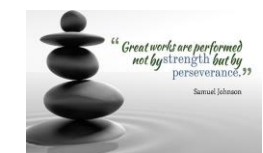


VII. Find a Biblical workout partner:

- 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

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 is in 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"

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE PAYING FOR GROCERIES, MEDICATION, OR UTILITIES?

A trained specialist will fill out the application with you and follow-up on your application status.

BenePhilly is a FREE service for Philadelphia residents that offers one-on-one support to Philadelphians like you to enroll in benefits that will help you afford costs such as:

- Property taxes
- Heat & other utilities
- Groceries
- Benefits
- Health insurance
- Prescription drugs

BENEPHILLY CENTERS

Philadelphia FIGHT* (215) 525-8636 1233 Locust St M-F: 9 am - 5 pm <i>*for FIGHT medical center clients only</i>	Esperanza (215) 324-0746 Ext. 108 4261 N. 5th St. M-F: 9 am - 5 pm	UESF (215) 814-6845 1608 Walnut St. M-F: 9 am - 5 pm	Impact Services (215) 739-3600 Ext. 156 1952 E. Allegheny Ave M-F: 7 am - 3 pm
Impact Services at PA Career Link @ Northwest (215) 298-9292 5847 Germantown Ave M-F: 8:30am - 4:30 pm	Catholic Social Services Southwest Family Center (215) 724-8550 Ext. 6 6214 Grays Ave M-F: 9:30 am - 5:30 pm	CEO Mobile Benefits Unit (215) 685-3654 M-F: 9 am - 5 pm	

phil.gov/benephilly

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

Prayer, Praise & Study

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE
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!

Healthcare & Prescriptions
Medical Assistance/CHIP: Free and low-cost health insurance for children
Medicare Extra Help / LIS: Lowers copays for drug and prescription costs for Medicare Insurance
Medicare Savings Program: Pays for the cost of health insurance that comes out of a Social Security check
Medicaid: Free or low-cost health insurance
PACE/PACENET: Lower drug and prescription costs for people that are 65+ and live in Pennsylvania

Access to Food & Nutrition
SNAP/Food Stamps: Help paying for groceries
WIC: Helps with baby food and formula, baby food, and healthcare for pregnant people, mothers, and children under 5 years old

Childcare
PHL Pre K/CCIS: Helps to find low-cost daycare and childcare programs

Income Supports
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families): Get money for families with children that need help
SSI (Supplemental Security Income): Money for low-income disabled people and people over 65 - SSI (Social Security Disability Insurance): Money for disabled people and widows
Unemployment Insurance Screening: Helps people find out if they may be eligible for unemployment payments

Shelter Costs
LIHEAP/CAP/CRP: Helps with heating and utility bills and some home repairs
Homestead Exemption: Lowers property taxes for homeowners in Philadelphia
Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR): Get money back for property taxes or rent that you paid last year

BRING THE FOLLOWING FOR YOU AND ANYONE APPLYING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

- Identification**
Driver's license, state ID card, or Social Security card.
Refugee records, or Employment Authorization card.
If you do not have ID or proof of ID that is okay!
- Income**
Pay stubs from last 30 days of work, or if you work for yourself, bring your most recent tax return.
Letters from Social Security/SSI of the VA that show the amount you get monthly
- Bills**
Bills for your house or apartment like mortgage or rent, gas, electric, oil or water
Bills or receipts for medicine or doctor's visits that you paid for.

Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
The Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity (CEO) is the Community Action Agency (CAA) for Philadelphia, promoting racial equity, economic justice, and greater financial independence for the city's most vulnerable populations.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Spring Quarter | March/April/May 2025

The Climax of History

Unit I: Challenges to the Faith
Mar. 2 - Beware of False Teachers - Jude 1:1-13
Mar. 9 - Build Up Your Faith - Jude 1:17-25

Unit II: The Revelation of Jesus
Mar. 16 - Jesus is Coming - II Pet. 3:3-15a
Mar. 23 - Worship Before the Throne - Rev. 4:1-11
Mar. 30 - Worthy is the Lamb - Rev. 5:1-5, 11-14
Apr. 6 - The Great Multitude - Rev. 7:9-17
Apr. 13 - Babylon is Fallen - Rev. 14:6-13
Apr. 20 - Jesus Fulfills the Scriptures (Easter) Luke 24:32-49

Unit III: The Final Victory
Apr. 27 - The Wedding Feast of the Lamb - Rev. 19:5-10
May 4 - A New Heaven and a New Earth - Rev. 21:1-8
May 11 - The Holy New Jerusalem - Rev. 21:9-14, 22-27
May 18 - The River of Life - Rev. 22:1-9
May 25 - Come, Lord Jesus - Rev. 22:12-21

