

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 [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, 2026 | 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 18, 2026. 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.

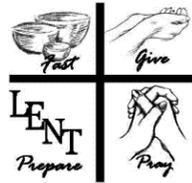
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

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 18, 2026

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

If Jesus Goes With Me † Hymn #416

1. It may be in the valley, where countless dangers hide;
It may be in the sunshine that I, in peace abide;
But this one thing I know- if it be dark or fair,
If Jesus is with me, I’ll go anywhere!

Refrain:

*If Jesus goes with me, I’ll go. Anywhere!
Tis heaven to me, Wher-e’er I may be, If He is there!
I count it a privilege here. His cross to bear;
If Jesus goes with me, I’ll go - Anywhere!*

2. It may be I must carry the blessed word of life,
Across the burning deserts to those in sinful strife;
And tho’ it be my lot to bear my colors there,
If Jesus goes with me, I’ll go anywhere!

3. But if it be my portion to bear my cross at home,
While others bear their burdens beyond the billow’s foam,
I’ll prove my faith in Him - confess His judgments fair,
And, if He stays with me, I’ll go anywhere.

4. It is not mine to question the judgments of my Lord,
It is but mine to follow the leadings of His word;
But if to go or stay, or whether here or there,
I’ll be, with my Savior, content anywhere!

Sick & Recovering

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

+++++

Sisters:

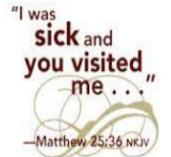
Eloise Ball	Mother Effie Gamble
Mary Chapman	Eld. Louise Jones
Sandra Chestnut	Deac. Louise Myers
Deac. Olivia Collins (Watch Care)	Jannie Powell
Mother Hazel Drayton	Sharene Richardson
Bertha Edwards (Watch Care)	Selena C. Scott
Betty Ford (Watch Care)	Delores Withers (Watch Care)

Brothers

Joseph L. Davis, Sr.

Nursing Center & Rehabilitation Center:

Bro. Albert Chambers
Genesis Spring Nursing &
Rehabilitation Center
113 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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“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





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

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"

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 10
Bro. Zayne Foster

March 18
Sis. Charlene Howard

March 20
Mother Christine Hargrove
(Celebrating 103rd 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

BIRTHDAYS



Congratulations

March 14
Mr. & Mrs. Frankie (Denise) Smith | 22nd Wedding Anniversary



Sunday, March 1, 2026, 10:00 A.M.
(Focus on Evangelism & National Red Cross Month)

Sunday, March 8, 2026
(Daylight Savings Time Begins)

Sunday, March 8, 2026, 10:00 A.M.
(Youth & Young Adult Sunday)
(Graduation & Right Hand of Fellowship)



Sunday, March 15, 2026, 10:00 A.M.
(Communion Sunday)



Sunday, March 22, 2026, 10:00 A.M.
(Focus on Family Harmony)
(Berean's 75th Church Anniversary)

Rev. Dr. Cean R. James, Pastor & Guest Preacher
Salt & Light Church of Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia, PA

Sunday, March 29, 2026, 10:00 A.M.
(Palm Sunday)
(Social Justice Sunday)
(Appreciation Service for Fire Fighters & 39th Precinct)



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

BEREAN Baptist Church
22 MARCH 10AM
REV. DR. MICHAEL COUCH
75th CHURCH Anniversary
GUEST PREACHER REV. CEAN JAMES
 PASTOR OF SALT & LIGHT CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA
 2425-33 W. INDIANA AVE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19132
 Join us!

8:39 • nogunzone <https://gotund.me/fe0269d60...> more
 9 hours ago
 resources.westphilly • Follow
 Joe • More & More
PHILADELPHIA'S 3RD ANNUAL REENTRY Job Fair
Wed. April 29, 2026 10am-2pm
LOCATION:
 Howard Gittis Student Activity Center/Rm. 200
 1755 N. 13th St., Phila. PA 19122
 *Corner of 13th & Montgomery Ave. Enter Building from the Middle of the Block

- If you are a **formerly incarcerated** citizen, this job fair is especially for you!
- Come dressed to impress and bring copies of your resume.
- Come prepared to meet with many eager second chance employers!

JOB SEEKER REGISTRATION:
 This is a FREE public event, open to all adult job seekers. Walk-ins welcome, but registration is strongly encouraged:
<https://bit.ly/ReentryJobFair2026>

339 likes • 3 comments • 57 shares • 688 views
 resources.westphilly I hear you... you want... more

LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE
 Philly College Fair 2026
THURSDAY, MARCH 26
 3:30pm - 7:30pm
 LOCATION:
THE SALVATION ARMY KROC CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA
 4200 WISSAHICKON AVENUE | PHILADELPHIA, PA 19129

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MARCH 18
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FACTS
 Celebrate Women!
 1920 1963 1981
 Did You Know?
 FIRST WOMAN IN SPACE 1963
 VOTES FOR WOMEN

Berean Baptist Church - Short History, 1951-2026



On January 20, 1951, a meeting was held at the home of the late Deacon Phillip and Estelle Jenkins at 2402 N. 17th Street; there were 23 people in attendance.

On January 28, 1951, the first worship service was held at the home of the late Deacon Lee Williams, at 2403 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA. The message was delivered by the late Reverend Jack Kelly. In the midst of looking for a permanent facility to worship, the Lord opened the doors of the 2nd Pilgrim Baptist Church, where the late Reverend R.L. Thomas presided. Delivering the 'Word' each Sunday, was the late Reverend J.H. Marshall of Harrisburg, PA.

On October 7, 1952, various members cashed in personal savings bonds to purchase a vacant building, located at 1828-33 W. Norris Street for \$20,000.00.

The 1st **Pastor** called by God to shepherd this small flock, was the late **Reverend John A. White** of New York. Reverend White was actively presiding over a church named, 'Berean'- Thus, the birth of the name, '**Berean Baptist Church**' was officially adopted. Shortly thereafter, officers and auxiliaries were formed. Pastor White, who was encouraged to move on, resigned in November 1955.

In March, of 1956, the late **Reverend J.E. Cunningham** was the 2nd **Pastor** called to the pulpit to lead the faithful few of Berean. All members who cashed in savings bonds to purchase the building on Norris Street, were fully reimbursed. Reverend Cunningham faithfully served out his pastoral tenure that had come to a close in September 1961.

On March 3, 1962, the late **Reverend Christopher C. Sharpe** was summoned to be the 3rd **Pastor** of the Berean Baptist Church. The church paid off its mortgage on the Norris Street property and renovated the building.

March 13, 1966- Giving all the glory and honor to God, the church humbly held its 'Mortgage Burning Service Celebration,' for the Norris Street property.

On July 12, 1967, while still under the leadership of Pastor Sharpe, Berean purchased the present 2425-33 W. Indiana Avenue site for the amount of \$55,000.00. As a result, on the 3rd Sunday of September 1967, the congregation marched from the Norris Street building to the newly purchased property on Indiana Avenue.

Pastor Sharpe resigned on November 13, 1967. Again, we were without a shepherd, but we held on to God's unchanging hand. touched by divinity!

Filling the leadership void was Deacon John Williams, Deacon Oliver Chapman and Reverend Michael Dawkins. What an example of humanity

On June 2, 1968, the late **Reverend James Henry Milteer** became the 4th **Pastor** of the Berean Baptist Church. As membership increased, the church purchased and paid for a parsonage. In addition, three vans were purchased, and a day care nursery was in operation 5 days a week.

As the Army of God continued to grow in numbers at Berean, the need for new ideas and spiritual innovation was on the horizon.

In June of 1968, several more auxiliaries, youth functions and clubs were organized. The "Fruit of the Spirit" was blossoming throughout as new talents were discovered and exercised for the sole purpose of uplifting and edifying the church.

In 1980, the Pastor ordained Reverend Michael Dawkins and asked him to serve as the spiritual leader for one year, after his death.

Reverend Milteer served faithfully for 13 years before the Lord called him from labor to await his reward on April 7, 1981. Rev. Michael Dawkins and Deacon Oliver Chapman served during the interim.

June 22, 1982, the **Reverend E. McKinley Taylor** took the reins as the 5th **Pastor** of Berean. Pastor Taylor was responsible for changing the course of history at Berean, as he recognized the need to place women in leadership roles. At a church business meeting on January 9, 1984, Pastor Taylor resigned. Deacon Oliver Chapman served during the interim.

On September 10, 1984, the 6th **Pastor** of the Berean Baptist Church was installed. The late **Reverend, Dr. Albert Wilson Dock** was handed the anointed 'Staff' to lead and protect the spiritual body of Berean. A vision was planted for the congregation. That vision was: "Bringing, Blessing and Building." The mission was: "Seeking, Saving and Serving." The commitment was: "Evangelizing, Educating and Equipping." The goal was: "Making People Better from Life's Beginning to End." On August 25, 2008, Pastor A.W. Dock, who shepherded this congregation for 24 years, was awarded a seat in the Kingdom for his labor. Deacon Cleveland Way, Jr. led the Berean congregation while a search took place for a new leader.

On April 5, 2010, **Reverend James Henry Buck, Jr.** was elected as our 7th **Pastor**. Pastor Buck's Installation Service was held on October 3, 2010, at the Hilton Hotel, 4700 City Avenue in Philadelphia, PA 19131.

Habakkuk 2:2 states: Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."

(continued on next page)

On Saturday, January 22, 2011, Pastor Buck presented the Mission, Vision & Value statements to the congregation. Mission: "Evangelize, Edify and Empower," Vision: "Community, Commune and Christ," Values: "Faith, Hope & Love," ~ "Where Traditions & Innovations Commune." Many new ventures occurred under Pastor Buck's leadership. Sadly, Pastor Buck resigned on January 8, 2017, after worship service.

Deacon Anthony Gamble led the Berean congregation as the membership continued to grow.

On May 11, 2019, **Reverend Dr. Michael W. Couch** was elected to serve as our 8th **Pastor**. He preached his first sermon as Pastor-Elect on Sunday, June 2, 2019. Pastor Couch's Installation Service was held on October 6, 2020, at Berean.

Not long after Pastor Couch began serving as our Pastor, COVID-19 Pandemic hit the entire country.

However, one of the first things Pastor Couch noticed about Berean was that we did not have a lawn sign; this was his first order of business. All through the pandemic, Pastor Couch worked tirelessly to get the new sign for the church. He set up Zoom for the church, so we could continue to have Sunday School, Sunday worship service and Bible Study. He telephoned and checked on his congregation during this time, as well.

Pastor Couch wanted to pay homage to our late, Pastor, Reverend Dr. Albert Wilson Dock, and so a petition was started to co-name the corner of 25th & Indiana Avenue to Reverend Dr. A.W. Dock Way. Once again, Pastor pushed through and worked to have the Co-Street Renaming Ceremony, which took place on Friday, May 6, 2022. Pastor made sure that First Lady Dock and the family were in attendance. He has initiated Prayer Walks for the congregation once a month and is making sure Berean will not only become the Church whose light is always shining, but under his leadership, we will become a Beacon of Hope for the 19132 community.

We honor the Faithful Christian Soldiers who started this journey, and who are still with us; the Pioneer member for which we Praise God is Elder Grace C. Weston-Allen.



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.

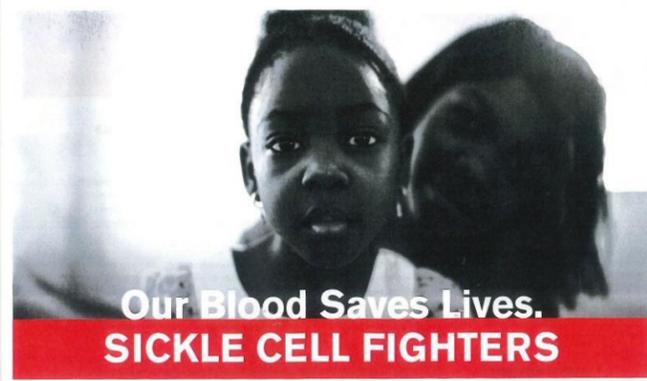
As to the Benediction - Do not leave the sanctuary until after the benediction, unless your departure is a dire necessity or emergency. The benediction is the final "good word" of the service, the last blessing of the hour. Do not leave God's house without your blessing.

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.





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.redcross.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.redcross.org/ourblood)



Our Blood Saves Lives
SICKLE CELL FIGHTERS

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Spring Quarter | March/April/May 2026

God's Wrath Satisfied in Christ

Unit 1: God's Wrath on Sin

Mar. 1 - The Dross of Unrighteousness - Ezek. 22:17-31
Mar. 8 - The Way of the Lord is Just - Ezek. 33:12-20
Mar. 15 - God's Wrath Revealed - Rom. 1:18-23

Unit 2: God's Wrath Poured Out

Mar. 22 - Jesus Prepared for Death - Mark 14:32-52
Mar. 29 - Jesus Bears God's Wrath - Mark 15:16-39
Apr. 5 - Jesus Overcomes the Grave (Easter) - Mark 16:1-8
Apr. 12 - The Destruction of False Teachers - 2 Pet. 2:1-10a
Apr. 19 - The Deception of False Teachers - 1 Pet. 2:10b-22

Unit 3: God's Wrath Satisfied

Apr. 26 - God's Righteous Judgment - Rom. 2:1-16
May 3 - Righteousness Through Faith - Rom. 3:21-31
May 10 - Saved from Wrath - Rom. 5:1-11
May 17 - The Second Adam - Rom. 5:12-21
May 24 - The End of the Law - Rom. 10:1-13
May 31 - Christ's Sacrifice Once for All - Heb 10:1-10

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

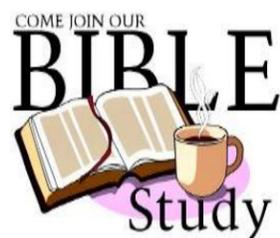


"Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance."
- Samuel Johnson

Submitted by Pastor Couch

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/86840810473>

Connect via FREE Phone Conference:

Dial: (301) 715-8592, At the prompt, enter
Meeting ID: 86840810473

Join to Study God's Word With Us!