



BE LOVE WEEK

MOBILIZING GOOD NEIGHBOR CULTURE

JANUARY 19-23, 2026

THE VISION

After over a decade of moving forward her husband's legacy and strategy of nonviolence, in 1984 Mrs. Coretta Scott King watched President Reagan sign a bill into law to create a federal holiday to honor her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A decade later, the holiday became the first federal service holiday, with President Clinton signing into law that the day be focused on citizen action volunteer service.

Consistent with Martha Berry's motto, "not to be ministered unto, but to minister," Be Love Week is a campaign where the Berry College community mobilizes our Good Neighbor Culture to serve in the Rome community. The week begins on MLK Day with a community gathering that honors the life and mission of Dr. King, and continues with service, partnership, conversation, global awareness, and opportunities to make a difference. Being a Good Neighbor is putting love into action. We hope you'll help us advance our Culture of Belonging outside of the Berry gates and join us for Be Love Week.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1

Participate in the MLK Day gathering. This optional event has an inspiring keynote speaker to honor Dr. King and start the week.

2

Attend cultural events during Be Love Week, focusing on how organizations bring change both locally and globally.

3

Join or lead a service project through a partnership with Berry Impact during Be Love Week.

4

Engage in our Beloved Community Celebration to reflect on MLK service and commit to actionable steps.

MLK DAY GATHERING

We are grateful to partner with campus and community partners in a joint MLK Day gathering that is open to the Berry and Rome community. The service will be held in the Krannert Ballroom at 10 am on January 19th, 2026. We're excited to have world renowned artist, actor, & author, Lecrae, as our keynote this year.

ARTIST, ACTOR, AUTHOR LECRAE

A catalyst for restoration in faith, music, and popular culture, Lecrae is part of the new wave of thought leaders who are engaging the culture and taking Jesus out of the pulpits into the wider world in hopes of restoring faith. "We can change the narrative, empower the disenfranchised, close wealth gaps, and restore the dignity stripped from us, but we can't do that by separating ourselves. We need to connect with each other and lean on God to restore our sense of purpose and worth," shares Lecrae. "There is so much on the horizon. I'm literally just getting started."

Referring to himself as a 'social anthropologist,' Lecrae seeks social change through authentic connections and calls for redemption through positive change. His books, *I Am Restored: How I Lost My Religion, But Found My Faith*, and *Unashamed* are roadmaps to social transformation.

Lecrae surpassed the label, "Christian hip-hop artist", when his *Anomaly* album (2016) debuted at #1 on Billboard Top 200 Charts, the first time ever in Billboard chart history that an artist occupied the No. 1 album spot on both the Billboard Top 200 and Gospel Albums. "I am a hip-hop artist who happens to be Christian, believes in God, and follows the teachings of Jesus, but my music is created for all! Music itself does not have a label; it's the people that attach the label to the artist and their music."



SERVICE PROJECTS

Berry Impact is partnering across campus and with community organizations across Rome to lead several service projects in our local community, starting MLK Day (after community lunch), January 19th through January 23rd. Students, staff, and faculty will have many options with which to get involved. Some areas our service projects may address are:

Volunteer Opportunities

- Restoration Lindale
- Salvation Army
- Hospitality House Thrift Store
- Mama Mountain Farm
- Restoration Rome
- End Slavery GA
- LivingProof Recovery
- ESS Department
- Davies Shelter
- And many more to be announced

Acts of Service

- Community Clean-Ups
- Historical Preservation
- Food Assistance
- Animal Shelter Support
- Housing & Shelter Support
- Youth Development & Education
- Health & Medical Support

Sign-up by scanning the QR code by Wednesday, January 14th 5:00 PM



HOW TO VOLUNTEER

On Monday, January 19th, 2026, Berry College will host a Service Day as part of our MLK Day observance. The Conversation with Lecrae at 10 am will be followed by preparations for an afternoon of service.

Volunteers will return for check-in and T-shirt pickup at 1:30 p.m., with service projects beginning at 2:00 p.m. This schedule is designed to bring our community together in reflection, connection, and action as we honor Dr. King's legacy through service.

Service Day is open to all Berry and Rome community members, and there will be a sign in form available before starting service.



CULTURAL EVENTS

In addition to all the incredible events happening during Be Love Week, we'll also host several programs focused on community engagement and highlighting the important work of organizations locally & globally. These events will be open to all Berry College students, staff, faculty, Rome community members, and organizations.

TUESDAY

**Berry Circles
Civil Discourse
(CE)***

Led by Interfaith Council
Time 6PM
Krannert Ballroom

WEDNESDAY

**Film "Caregiving" & Panel
Discussion (CE)***

Guest panelist Josh Carter
Time 6:30 PM
Krannert Ballroom

THURSDAY

Global Health Expo

5:30 PM
Krannert Ballroom

**Reimagining Global Health:
A Call for Collective Optimism
(CE)***

Dr. Anatole Manzi
Time 6:30 PM
Krannert Ballroom

**Panel on Peace In the Midst of Adversity
(CE)***

Time 6PM
Good Neighbor Center



PEACE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20th | 6 PM



Modeling Civil Discourse: Faith, Sex, and Gender Identity

Berry Circles Led By Interfaith Council
Tuesday, Jan. 19, 6 PM | Krannert Ballroom

Engage in an open and thoughtful conversation focused on strengthening our ability to communicate across differences. This guided dialogue invites participants to listen deeply, share respectfully, and explore how civil discourse can build understanding and connection within our community.

CE Credit Pending

Length approximately 60 minutes

Panel on Peace In the Midst of Adversity

Good Neighbor Center | Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6:00 p.m.

A panel-style discussion from Berry alumni about how they have navigated adversity in their time at Berry. By exploring different perspectives, the panel will provide a space to listen, reflect, and ask questions about how others have transformed hardship into growth, determination, and success.

CE Credit Pending

Length approximately 60 minutes



Wednesday Jan. 21 | 6:30

*CE Credit Pending

KRANNERT
BALLROOM

BE LOVE CARE



Come see a PBS film about life through the lens of caregivers. We can all be caregivers, but it is important to be equipped with the necessary skills to take care of our own mental health.

Hear from our panel about their experiences and advice in caregiving.

Featuring special guest, *leader of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers*, Josh Carter.

Come enjoy some popcorn while you watch the PBS Documentary



Length approximately 90 minutes

BE LOVE WELLNESS

THURSDAY, JAN. 22 | 5:30-7:30 P.M.
KRANNERT BALLROOM

Reimagining Global Health: A Call for Collective Optimism



Come hear from speaker Dr. Anatole Manzi, Chief Medical Officer at Partners & Health in Rwanda, and founder of Move up Global, as he discusses his experience of working in resource limited settings. Learn how we can become united to inspire positive change in global health.

Dr. Manzi's Discussion begins - 6:30 PM

Made possible by a grant from the Tumaini Foundation for Global Health and Humanitarianism *CE Credit

One Health Expo

Starting at 5:30 PM, visit tables featuring, Partners in Health, the One Health dept., and other organizations committed to innovation and service.

Get involved in internships and service.



Co-Sponsored by Berry's One Health Center

BE LOVE

Friday, January 23RD | 10:30 AM- 2 Pm
GNC Gathering Space



Celebrate

Come hang out and celebrate Be Love Week!

Feel free to reflect, connect with others, and share experiences that look back on Be Love Week's overarching themes.

Educate

Come learn about how to get involved both on and off campus. Learn about our cultural student organizations. Also, learn about how to get involved in service with community partners through Berry Impact.



BERRY BONNER CLOTHING DRIVE

JANUARY 19-23, 2026

Boxes located In Evans, Krannert, Library,
Alumni Center, and Hermann Hall

Clothes, shoes, and hats for all ages.
Bags, scarfs, and other accessories are also accepted.

CLOTHING DIGNITY &
ACCESSIBILITY



Contact

Diego.Rodriguez@vikings.berry.edu
for more information.



OFFICE OF BELONGING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Belonging and Community Engagement builds Berry's Good Neighbor Culture, where every person feels seen, valued, and invited to belong.

WHAT WE DO

We create inclusive spaces on campus, build community partnerships, support 40+ local organizations, and support student led organization. Also, we host programs like Solidarity Week, Be Love Week, and Berry Circles, and offer training in restorative practices in leadership.

BUILDING BELONGING TOGETHER

We help you connect through service, dialogue, and shared experiences while supporting your growth with leadership workshops and campus programs.

CONNECT WITH US

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706-368-6985

berry.edu/belonging

[@BerryBelonging](https://www.instagram.com/BerryBelonging)





OTHER INFORMATION

The Office of Belonging and Community Engagement serves the campus in envisioning and implementing how Good Neighbor Culture is sustainably accomplished at Berry and beyond the Gate of Opportunity.

We're grateful to partner with the Athletic Department, Academic Affairs, Advancement, Oak Hill & Martha Berry Museum, GHD, and The King Center in making Be Love Week possible.

Along with that we would like to thank the Rome International Film Festival, Winshape, & our community partners.

For more information, visit: <https://www.berry.edu/student-life/diversity-belonging/>



Office of Belonging and
Community Engagement