



**BE LOVE**  
**WEEK**

MOBILIZING GOOD NEIGHBOR CULTURE

**JANUARY 20-24, 2025**

# 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 weeklong 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 a week of service and partnership from various groups on campus follows. 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

Engage in our community lunch and conversation. After our MLK Day service, we will connect over a meal and community dialogue.

3

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

4

Attend a cultural event during Be Love Week focusing on how local organizations bring change to the Rome area and beyond.

# MLK DAY GATHERING

We are grateful to partner with campus and community partners in a joint MLK Day gathering open to the Berry and Rome community. The service will be held in the Berry College Chapel at 10 am on Monday, January 20th, 2025. We're excited to have American Civil Rights Activist, Ruby Bridges, as our keynote this year. This event is part of the Conson Wilson Lecture series and in partnership with our friends at GHD. \*CE Credit

# RUBY BRIDGES

Ruby Bridges is a Civil Rights icon, activist, author and speaker who at the age of six was the first Black student to integrate an all-white elementary school alone in Louisiana. She was born in Mississippi in 1954, the same year the United States Supreme Court handed down its landmark decision ordering the integration of public schools. Her family later moved to New Orleans, where on November 14, 1960, Bridges began attending William Frantz Elementary School, single-handedly initiating the desegregation of public education. Her walk to the front door of the school was immortalized in Norman Rockwell's painting *The Problem We All Live With*, in Robert Coles' book *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, and in the Disney movie *Ruby Bridges*.

She established the Ruby Bridges Foundation to provide leadership training programs that inspire youth and community leaders to embrace and value the richness of diversity. Bridges is the recipient of numerous awards, including the NAACP Martin Luther King Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and honorary doctorate degrees from Connecticut College, College of New Rochelle, Columbia University Teachers College, and Tulane University. Bridges is also the author of *Through My Eyes*, *This Is Your Time, I Am Ruby Bridges*, and *Dear Ruby, Hear Our Hearts*, released in January, 2024. In March, 2024, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



# COMMUNITY LUNCH

On Monday, January 20th, 2025, immediately after the MLK Day Community Gathering, a community lunch and conversation will follow directly in the Berry College Krannert Center Ballroom at 12:00 pm. Sponsored by the Athletics Department, lunch is free to all participants. This is an opportunity to share a meal with other community members and engage in meaningful discussion and reflection. This is open to all Berry community members. RSVP is required for participation. Scan the QR code below to RSVP.



# 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 20th through January 24th. Students, staff, and faculty will have many options with which to get involved. Some areas our service projects may address are:

- 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 below



# OTHER EVENTS

In addition to all the good happening during Be Love Week, there will also be a few other focused on community engagement and the important work of local organizations in Rome. These events will be open to all Berry College students, staff, faculty, Rome community members, and organizations.

## TUESDAY

### **Bias Challenge Training**

11:00 am

The GNC | Gathering  
Space

### **Bonner Panel: The Media Literacy and Digital Divide in Politics (CE)**

6:00 pm

Krannert Ballroom B

## WEDNESDAY

### **Berry Circles: A Dialogue on Race (CE)**

6:00 pm

The GNC | Gathering  
Space

## THURSDAY

### **Voices of Desegregation (CE)**

11:00 am

College Chapel &  
Blackstone Hall





# 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, and GHD in making Be Love Week possible.

For more information, visit: <https://www.berry.edu/student-life/diversity-inclusion/programs/be-love>



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Office of Belonging and  
Community Engagement