



THE CALLER

OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE AND MATURE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

The United Methodist Church of Berea ♦ 170 Seminary Street ♦ Berea, Ohio 44017
(440) 234-3525 Phone (440) 234-3078 Fax www.umcb.org

March 2017

Living our Baptismal Calling

An Overview of the Season

The season of Lent often is thought of as a season for individual self-examination, penitence, and “giving something up” as a spiritual discipline. It’s commonly seen as being about “what’s wrong with me as an individual” and “what I’m willing to do to improve myself.”

While self-examination and some individual work are part of the purpose of Lent, the early church intended it primarily to be “other-focused.” Lent was created as the final steps of intense and intentional preparation and support for people who had chosen to learn to live the way of Jesus. It was the last leg of the journey for those preparing for baptism and lifelong Christian discipleship.

During Lent this year, we will focus our attention in worship on the intersection of each week’s scripture lessons with our shared baptismal vows. In this way, each week will be for us an occasion to celebrate and to recommit to living as those who have been named, claimed, and called by God.

Because worship is necessary but insufficient for Christian formation, we are also encouraged to participate in small groups during this season. In addition to regular Sunday school meetings (10 am every week) and a special Lenten study on forgiveness (Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings), each Sunday during Lent we will provide an outline and guidance for small groups you are invited to form on your own. Using the resource provided on Sunday morning, just find five to seven other people—in the congregation or otherwise—and meet in your home, a coffee shop, or some other place to pray together, deepen your understanding of our baptismal vows, and encourage and support one another to follow Christ more closely.

By God’s grace, may these resources for worship, formation, and learning help each of us and all of us together to keep a holy and life-giving Lent.

Shalom,
Pastor Nathan



Lenten Study on Forgiveness

Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central practices for all followers in the way of Jesus Christ. Lent is a great time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. This year, guided by the work of Marjorie Thompson in her book, *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study*, over the course of six weeks we will address questions such as:

Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances, or are there situations when Christians need not forgive?

Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?

Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?

How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

Using biblical examples and real-life situations, Thompson’s work illustrates each week’s theme in an informative and engaging way. With clarity, insight, and sensitivity, this will be a great resource for examining both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness. Please join us for this six week study.

Wednesday Evening Group

Beginning March 8 at 6:30 pm in the Parlor

Thursday Morning Group

Beginning March 9 at 9:30 am in the Parlor

Ash Wednesday Worship March 1 at 12:00 pm and 7:30 pm

The season of Lent—forty days of preparing for Easter—begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on March 1. Join us in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm for a time together in worship including the imposition of ashes—as a sign of our mortality and changed hearts and lives—and the celebration of Holy Communion. Those who are unable to join us in the evening are welcome to join us at 12:00 pm in the Chapel for an abbreviated Ash Wednesday worship service.

Walk the Labyrinth

Before and after the 7:30 p.m. worship, a labyrinth will be available in the Fellowship Hall for use as a time of centering for those interested.



Walking the labyrinth is a way of praying with our bodies, minds, and spirits, opening our whole selves to God. For those who have not used a labyrinth previously, some resources for guided prayer will be provided.

Worship & Fellowship



Save the Date: Sunday, April 30

During all three morning worship services on **Sunday, April 30**, we will welcome the **Rev. Dr. Romeo del Rosario** (aka “Romy” — pictured here from our January 2017 mission trip to Cambodia), a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The UMC serving as country director of the United Methodist Mission in Cambodia.

Born in Manila, Philippines, Romy holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Philippine Christian College, a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, and a PhD in theological and religious studies from Boston University. Before his current assignment to Cambodia, Romy previously served in Malaysia, Jerusalem, and Sierra Leone.

Now as country director in Cambodia, Romy is administrator and supervisor of mission programs/projects with a team of workers that includes Cambodians and eight missionaries from different parts of the world. He traveled with our North Coast District team throughout our two weeks in Cambodia, and we were blessed abundantly by his joy, commitment, and enthusiasm.

We look forward to welcoming him to Berea on **Sunday, April 30** as we anticipate building ongoing connections with our sisters and brothers in Christ in Cambodia.

(biographical information is from umcmmission.org)

March 5, 2017	March 12, 2017	March 19, 2017	March 26, 2017
First Sunday in Lent	Second Sunday in Lent, Girl Scout Sunday	Third Sunday in Lent, M.S. Awareness Sunday	Fourth Sunday in Lent UMCOR Sunday
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 (UMH 766) Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 (UMH 844) Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 (UMH 814) Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137) Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

	March 5, 2017	March 12, 2017	March 19, 2017	March 26, 2017
8 a.m. Liturgist	Helen Rathburn	Fred Moss	Condit Dibble	Joanne Mansfield
8 a.m. Communion	Joanne Mansfield			
arise! Communion	This could be you!			
arise! Communion	This could be you!			
11:15 a.m. Greeter	Bobbie DiNicola	Ron Larkey	John Bornancin	Phil Gehring
11:15 a.m. Greeter	Barbara Swartz	Dorene Larkey	Terrie Bornancin	Jeanette Kiracofe
11:15 a.m. Liturgist	Ken Williams	Vivien Swaddling	Barb Peterson	Bobbie DiNicola
11:15 a.m. Communion	Ken Williams			
11:15 a.m. Communion	Rikki Price			
11:15 a.m. Communion	Bobbie DiNicola			
11:15 a.m. Communion	Christopher Neely			
Communion Preparation	Tom & Sandy Marek			

Contact the Church Office at 440-234-3525 x100 or info@umcb.org if you are interested in serving as a Greeter, Liturgist, or Communion Server.

Worship & Fellowship

Church Family Prayer Concerns

Bruce Akins
 Florence Baker
 Esther Berger
 Fran Bobo
 Lenora Cool
 Diane Corey
 Linda Donahue
 Tom Elliot
 Edward Filina
 Clea Fletcher
 Carol Forster
 Laurie Garvin
 Helen Graham
 Karen Grant
 Betty Green
 Pat Harf
 Melissa Hennie
 Carol Isgro
 Marilyn Jelinek
 John Kappeler

Clint Lunt
 Margaret McCready
 Joyce McGee
 Bernice McHenry
 Betty Miller
 John Miller
 Kenneth O'Hearn
 Esther O'Hearn
 Laverne Prizner
 Lou Russell
 Ron Skelley
 Jeanette Sheneman
 Victoria Thomson
 Kathleen Wargelin
 Mary Jane Weaver
 Eva Williamson

Currently Serving in the Military

John Cline Carros
 Chad Droney
 Nikki (Myers) Droney
 Eric Elles (*Son of Brad*)
 Jamie Elles (*Daughter-in-law of Brad*)
 Bill Lambert (*Son-in-law of Corky Cline*)
 Matthew Metzger
 Zachary New (*Grandson of Bob & Jackie King*)



We reach out in Christian sympathy & love to...

...Helen Graham and the Graham family on the passing of Robert Graham on January 29, 2017. The Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

...The Robinson Family on the passing of Robert Robinson on February 3, 2017. The Memorial Service was held February 19, 2017 in the Sanctuary.

A full list of the Prayer Concerns is available each week on the Narthex Table.

To receive Prayer Concerns by email, please email Beth in the church office at ebarner@umcb.org.

Please note: We appreciate your efforts to keep us informed of prayer needs. While we wish to pray for all those in need, we cannot publish specific requests without the permission of the individual or a direct family member. This is to ensure we do not breach confidentiality or publish misinformation. Thank you for your understanding as well as your continued concern for our UMCB family.

World Day of Prayer March 3, 2017 in the Fellowship Hall

A continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m. is followed by a presentation by Kenin Shaner, "Immigration Issues on the Texas/Mexico border," with time for questions. Following the presentation we will have the official World Day of Prayer Program, "Am I being unfair to you?"

Cost: A donation of \$3 for the Southwest Church Women United treasury.

An offering will be collected for Church Women United which is used for projects all over the World.

All are welcome.



Worship & Fellowship



The NEWSingers Annual Concert and Pie Festival

Sunday, March 19, 2017, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The NEWSingers annual concert and pie festival will be held on Sunday, March 19th at 4 p.m. A light supper and plenty of pie will be served after the concert. We hope you will join us and bring a friend! There is no charge for the concert. A free will offering will be taken for the meal.

All are welcome!

Mmmm...Don't miss it!



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Thank you to all the ladies of UMW that prepared the wonderful brunch for the "Singing Hands" program. Thank you Vivien for the truly beautiful valentine decorations that were on the tables. If you missed this program, I am sorry. Hopefully you will be able to attend next year.

Upcoming Events:

March 1, 2017 10:00 a.m. Lenten Service & Breakfast – Columbia Station UMC Call to make your reservation at (440) 236-8822

March 11, 2017 10:30 a.m. UMW Executive Board Meeting – UMCB

March 25, 2017 9:30a.m. – 12:00 p.m. UMW Spring District Mtg. – Come and meet UMW ladies from the East side and West side. On March 25, 2017 The United Church of Berea will be hosting the spring meeting of the North Coast District United Methodist Women. The women of Berea UMW will be hosting all the officers and units of the North Coast District churches. The meeting times are 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Officer training will follow the meeting.

Our own Pastor Nathan Howe will be presenting a program on Climate Change.

Any questions about attending the meeting or program contact Sandy Marek at (440) 234-6858.

RSVP to Carol McCleery if you plan to attend.

Cost \$7.00.

April 6-9, 2017 See page 6 about volunteering for the Spring Garage Sale – Sign-up sheet on UMW Bulletin Board.

April 22, 2017 See Page 9 for details about our upcoming Women's Retreat to be held at BW Marting Hall

May 13, 2017 Christopher Banks-fashion show- Salad Luncheon at Berea Church

July 21-23, 2017 Mission U. – Mt. Union College- any UMW member that has not been to Mission U can apply for first time visitor, with expense paid.

Peace and Blessings
UMW Berea UMC
Molly Arthur & Sandy Marek
Co-Presidents

Outreach and Service



M.S. Awareness Sunday - March 19, 2017

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Sunday, March 19 will be MS awareness day. Our own Laurie Garvin will speak about living with M.S. "It would be a blessing" if everyone would wear orange (the official color for M.S. supporters) to church if you are able.

Donations may be made to support Laurie in the M.S. walk on April 22, 2017 can be sent to the Ohio Buckeye Chapter of the National M.S. Society at 6155 Rockslide Rd, Independence, OH 44131 or online at www.nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/OHA/Donate. Click "Find a Participant" and search for Laurie.

SCAN Sunday food collection - March 5

The SCAN pantry's "most needed" request for March 5 is for pancake syrup. They obtained an unusually large quantity of pancake/waffle mix from the food bank, but no syrup. Both sugar free and regular syrup are needed.

As usual canned fruit, canned vegetables, coffee, cocoa mix, paper products, etc. are a continuing need.

Thank you to all who faithfully support this outreach mission.



February's Loose Change Offering for SCAN totaled \$28.00



March's Loose Change Offering will be for the Berea Community Meal

Finance News

*From Condit Dibble, Finance Chair
Joanne Mansfield, Financial Secretary*

The 2017 financial budget for the church, presented to and approved by Church Council, reflects a deficit of <\$25,561>. The budget includes 100% of shared ministries asking (connectional/ministerial/education support and world service and district benevolences). In 2016, we expected to pay 20% of our shared ministries asking but ended up paying 95%. With your continued generosity in 2017, once again we will be able to eliminate any projected deficit and help make a real difference in the world through our connectional giving. Set forth below is a comparison of 2016 actual revenue and expenses to the 2017 budget amounts.

The United Methodist Church of Berea Operating Fund

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2016 Actual</u>
Total Income	\$ 478,811	\$ 490,784
Expenses:		
Staffing	\$ 276,267	\$ 283,494
Christian Education	\$ 10,915	\$ 9,991
Programming/Worship	\$ 10,675	\$ 9,276
Shared Ministries	\$ 81,203	\$ 73,918
Church/Parsonage costs	\$ 109,187	\$ 97,042
Church Office	\$ 16,125	\$ 17,063
Total Expenses	\$ 504,372	\$ 490,784
Net Deficit to be eliminated through increased giving/decreased expenses	\$ <25,561>	\$ - 0 -

If you have any questions, you may contact either Dib or Joanne (jmansfield@umcb.org).

**UMCOR Sunday
March 26, 2017**

Reaching people in more than 80 countries, including the United States, the United Methodist Committee On Relief provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

UMCOR does incredible work and does not receive apportioned funds. Your gift on UMCOR Sunday covers many of the operating costs for UMCOR. This means that any donations that come in during disaster relief can be 100% contributed to the disaster.

Also on March 26, our UMCOR mission team will share about their recent trip to the distribution center at Sager Brown.

**Your generous gift on
UMCOR Sunday Matters.**

IMAGE HERE

Outreach and Service

UMCB Youth in conjunction with UMW and in partnership with the Easter Seals

“Fill the Truck” Fundraiser - April 09, 2017

Easter Seals Northern Ohio is partnering with UMCB to give back to the community while helping children and adults with disabilities. UMCB is hosting a “Fill the Truck” fundraiser to benefit the Youth Work Mission. We will be collecting any and all cloth items. Easter Seals will provide the truck to pick up all donations. This truck will be parked at UMCB on Sunday April 9th from 9 AM – Noon. UMCB will be compensated based on the number of bags/pounds of cloth collected. Acceptable items include (but are not limited to): clothing, comforters, blankets, towels, sheets, shoes, accessories, and purses. UMCB will only earn money from those types of cloth donations listed above. Even stained or torn items can be recycled into something else.

Besides the clothing listed above Easter seals will also accept Dishes/kitchenware (This includes small appliances such as mixers, blenders, crockpots, toasters, coffee pots, waffle makers, etc.), small picture frames/wall hangings, small kids’ toys/games, knickknacks, jewelry, and CDs/DVDs/VHS tapes.

Tell your friends and neighbors! If you need someone to come and pick up your donations or need a special drop off scheduled or if you have any questions, feel free to contact Clayton Allen:

Send an email to callen1205@gmail.com
Call or text 440-596-7431.

Clothing drives are a big “WIN” for everyone!

This fundraiser is an innovative way for UMCB to raise funds without having to SELL anything!

- * All donated items will be reused, resold, or recycled.
- * All donations are tax deductible. Easter Seals will provide receipts.
- * Easter Seals’ Community Action Program supports vital services for children and adults with disabilities in Northern Ohio. The proceeds from the bulk sale of the contributions support programs such as speech therapy, home care, medical equipment loans, and summer camp opportunities.



Looking for volunteers to help with the garage sale. Positions for all are available. Sign up sheet is posted on the UMW bulletin board located next to the door of the library.

Also, Please remember to save your items for the Spring Garage Sale. We will start accepting your collections on Monday, March 27.

Any further question, please call Laura Sperry at (440) 891-8607.

Sponsored by United Methodist Women



We wish to express our deep appreciation to our UMCB family for their expressions of sympathy in card and personally, on the occasion of the death of our sister/sister-in-law, Ann Louise Harlamert Phelps.

Paul & Janet Harlamert

Wanted:

Volunteer Van Drive for Southwest General

Volunteer lift drivers are needed as part of Southwest General’s Van Transportation program. Drivers would be requested to work one, four-hour shift per week, and must have a current driver’s license and a clean driving record. We are looking for drivers to transport elderly and wheelchair-bound patients to medical appointments. If you or someone you know might be interested in this rewarding opportunity, please call Lenita Harsch at 440-816-4046.

Outreach and Service

LIVE from UMCB!



Members of all ages are invited to display their talents for the congregation.

All are welcome to participate and attend.

If you have a talent such as singing, dancing, reading, playing an instrument, visual art, or something different, we are looking for you!

The sign up sheet will be available in the Narthex starting **February 20th**.

LIVE From UMCB will take place on **Saturday, May 6th at 4:30 pm**. We will have popcorn and drinks to enjoy during the performance. There will also be a Dessert Auction to support our Youth Work Mission. If your talent happens to be making Desserts, we are also taking donations for the auction.



Spring is right around the corner and all that "Spring Cleaning" will soon be upon us.

UMCB's Youth Work Mission Team is ready and willing to help you with those jobs. Let us know if you need a youth or two, or a whole crew, to help you this spring. All of the proceeds will help them with their work mission costs this summer.

Rent-a-Youth Rent-a-Crew



Contact Clayton Allen with your request. You can call or text him @ [440-596-7431](tel:440-596-7431) or email him at csallen1205@gmail.com

Christian Education

When I was a little girl, I remember staring up at the Sanctuary ceiling and thinking that it was Noah's Ark flipped over. What a special place this church has been for me over the past 25 years. It has been a valuable experience growing in the Lord while serving this congregation for the past 6 years as the Youth Ministry Director. That time, however, has come to an end. My last day serving in this capacity is February 28, 2017. Thank you to the numerous adults who volunteered their time and worked beside me. I know I drove you crazy but appreciate your help and encouragement. It is so important to have lots of adults in our youths' lives, modeling what it means to be a follower of Christ. Lastly, thank you to the youth. It has been a true pleasure getting to know all of you and being a part of your spiritual journey.

In His Love,
Sarah Dave

READY FOR A



Come and join in the fun! There will be new and classic games, relays, picture scavenger hunt, food, and a movie or two or three.

All friends grades 6-12 are encouraged to come and bring a friend!

**WHEN: MARCH 11th 5:00 pm through
March 12th 11:00 am**

(Bring a snack to share)

Sponsored by Youth Council

See the "UMCB Youth" page of www.umcb.org for permission slips and other upcoming events.

Christian Education

Tuesday morning Bible Study

9:05 a.m. in Room 37

Beginning on February 28th John Kappeler will make a 15 to 20 minute presentation on The Seven Last Words of Jesus, from the Cross.

After the presentation, the class will share study notes from their Study Bibles, followed by a discussion. The study is a six-week study and will complete on April 6th.

The Intercessory Prayer Team meets after the Bible Study.

Reading Recommendation

"Extraordinary Grace: How the Unlikely Lineage of Jesus Reveals God's Amazing Love," by Gary Chapman, is listed in the category of "spiritual growth" by UMW. In this book, the author discusses several people from the Old Testament and points out their shortcomings, yet he notes that God forgave them and included them in the lineage of Jesus. Abraham, Rahab, Tamar, David, and Solomon all had many of the same faults as ordinary people today, but God still chose them to be part of Jesus' story. This book has a study guide with discussion questions for each chapter, which may be used in a Bible study class.

Submitted by Betsy Meikle
UMW Reading Program Chair

Read and Grow Book Group

Read and Grow Book Group meets the 2nd Monday of each Month 6:45-8:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

You are always welcome to attend.

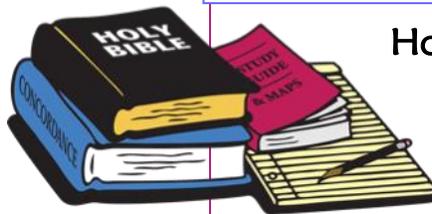
March 13 - "**Still Alice**" by Lisa Genova

Alice Howland-Harvard (professor, gifted researcher, lecturer, wife, and mother of three grown children) sets out for a run and soon realizes she has no idea how to find her way home. Alice slowly but inevitably loses memory and connection with reality.

April 10 - "**The Train to Crystal City: FDR's secret prisoner exchange program and America's only family internment camp during World War II.**" by Jan Jarboe Russell

For information call Janet Mallarnee [440-235-7331](tel:440-235-7331).

Be
Nourished



Homebuilders Christian Fellowship

Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor

You are welcome to join us for any or all topics.

March 5 - "Bridge out of Poverty" with speaker Jennifer Hedinger. This program uses the lens of economic class to provide tools and specific strategies to prevent, reduce and alleviate poverty.

March 12 - "Helps for Seniors" with Sharon Johnson from Division of Seniors Services

March 19-April 2 - Lenten Study "The Heart of the Matter" (core spirituality of Judaism and Christianity) with Dr. Hugh Burtner. Dr. Burtner's three week study is open to everyone.



The Risen Christ

Friday, March 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place
This 2016 film is told from the perspective of a fictional top Roman officer who oversees the Death of Jesus. Come, see, and decide if it is as good as the film *The Passion of Christ*. Snacks will be provided.

Sponsored by Adult Council

Christian Education



Commission On the Status and Role Of Women

March has been designated "Women in History" month. For several "Marches" I have quoted Susanna Wesley who gave our denomination its name. It was Susanna who while recovering from an illness, was visited by John her 15th child. (Altogether she had over 20 children, many of whom died soon after birth.) She discussed the "club" which John and brother Charles had formed at their school. Susanna urged John to have a "method" or schedule for their meetings hence, we were named "Methodists". In England, the Wesley brothers are recognized as social reformers. We can be inspired by Susanna's words, "I am content to fill a little space if God be glorified."

submitted by Jo Swanson

Women's Retreat

"Deepening our Relationship with God through Prayer"

With Rev. Dr. Valerie Stultz and Mary Senechal

How do we develop a closer relationship with God? What promotes or blocks our friendship with the very One who calls us "friend?" Our friendship with God is like our human friendships, which thrive on mutual trust and honesty. God seeks to reveal as much as possible to us and asks the same from us. We deepen our friendship with God by opening ourselves more and more honestly to God in prayer. The ideal is to be equally transparent with each other. Discover how to deepen your prayer life, and in so doing, find yourself closer to your eternal friend.

All women of the church are invited to participate. Feel free to invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative, too! We hope to meet new friends and come away refreshed and renewed.

Retreat Details

This year's retreat will be led by Reverend Valerie Stultz and Mary Senechal, both were trained from the Ignatian Spirituality Institute. The retreat begins at 8:30 AM on Saturday, April 22 and concludes at 3:30 PM. It will be held at Baldwin Wallace, Marting Hall, 50 Seminary Street, in Berea. The cost is \$25.00 per person, which covers your continental breakfast and a box lunch, as well as speaker costs. (Contact Karen Caldwell if scholarship assistance is needed.) Breakfast will be at 8:30, and our first speaker will begin promptly at 9 AM, so don't be late!

What to Bring: notebook, pen, and Bible. Dress is casual. We ask that all cell phones be turned off or muted during the retreat.

Please register as soon as possible. Space is limited and we will have a maximum of 30 people. Return the attached registration form to the church finance office, with the fee (checks made payable to The United Methodist Church of Berea) by April 1.

Street parking is available, and adjacent parking lots off of Beech Street and Church Street will be made available by BW. Those who are able may park at UMCB and walk down.

This event is co-sponsored by UMCB's Adult Council and United Methodist Women.

WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Lunch box selection: ___Veggie Ah-Roma ___ Chicken Salad ___Cafe Smoked Turkey

(Check here if you'd like a wrap instead of a sandwich ___)

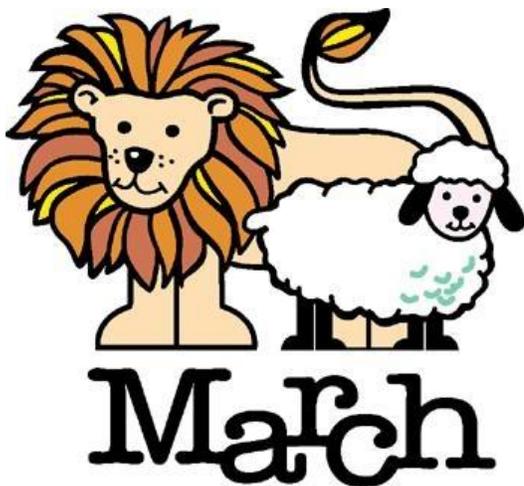
Please bring or mail your registration and check to the church office by April 1.
United Methodist Church of Berea, 107 Seminary St, Berea 44017, Phone: 440-234-3525

The Caller

The United Methodist Church of Berea
170 Seminary Street
Berea, OH 44017
www.umcb.org

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NOTE: If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office to remove your name from the mailing list.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Our Vision Statement

The United Methodist Church of Berea is a loving, accepting church for all people that celebrates Christ's love through education, worship, and community and global outreach.