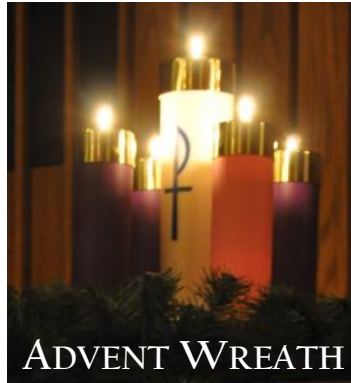




For weekly updates on events and activities, please subscribe to our weekly e-mail newsletter at www.umcb.org.



Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA



ADVENT WREATH

SUNDAYS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE


As we count down the Sundays leading up to Christmas, in worship we will light an additional candle each week on the Advent wreath. This is a great opportunity especially for families with children to participate in a tangible ritual, but of course individuals, friends, or any other groupings are more than welcome, too!

For more information or to sign up to participate during any of our three Sunday morning worship services from December 1 through December 22, please contact Pastor Nathan at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.

THE LONGEST NIGHT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
5 PM, CHAPEL

The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. All are welcome to join us on Saturday, December 21 at 5 PM in the Chapel for a time filled with scripture, prayer, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Invite others, and join us as we affirm God's presence with us, even in the darkest and loneliest of times.



CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING



Christmas Eve Worship Services

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

We will gather together for four worship services on Tuesday, December 24. Each service will include beautiful music, a message of hope, and the traditional passing of candlelight while we sing "Silent Night." Invite your friends, family members, and neighbors, and join us as we celebrate the gift of God's presence with us in Jesus Christ.

2:30 PM AT PARKSIDE VILLA

4 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

7 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

(See Page 2 for details)

11 PM IN THE CHAPEL



THE CALLER

ADVENT YOGA RETURNS

WEDNESDAYS STARTING DECEMBER 4, 7-8 PM, ROOM 31-32

It's our 3rd year offering Advent Yoga! "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength" through this moving prayer and yoga practice. Advent Yoga will be on Wednesdays (Dec. 4, 11, and 18) from 7 -8 PM. This is a donation only class, led by Rev. Lisa Morrison.

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at 440-234-3525 x105 or cantczak@umcb.org.



DECEMBER 24, 7 PM, SANCTUARY

One of the more amazing things to me about the Christmas story is that it can't happen without the people who are in the story. God does not just swoop in and make this story happen all by God's self. Instead, for the story to happen, there needs to be willing people in the story. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and even the angels are obedient and follow through with what they are told to do. And so on Christmas Eve, we will have an opportunity to do the same thing: By choosing to participate in the story, we will make the story happen. People of all ages will be invited to take part in the story of Christmas in this engaging retelling and celebration of the Christmas story, including our candle-lighting tradition.

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at 440-234-3525 x105 or cantczak@umcb.org.

BLESSING OF HOMES

POST-EPIPHANY (JANUARY 6, 2020)



In some parts of the world and in some branches of our Christian community, there is a custom of inviting God's blessing on dwelling places, including homes and workspaces, and upon all who live, work, or visit there. Along with prayers of blessing, the front or main entrance is marked with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence into our homes.

This tradition is linked to the visit of the magi to the place where the Christ-child was residing (Matthew 2.1-12), and so, it is most appropriately practiced near or in the season after the Epiphany (January 6, the conclusion of the Christmas season). Tradition has named the three magi as Caspar, Mechior, and Balthazar, although no names for the magi are found in scripture. During the "chalking ritual," the first letters of these three names are inscribed in chalk on the doorframe along with numbers corresponding to the new calendar year.

If you would like to share in this brief and simple ritual of worship in your home or workplace, please contact Pastor Nathan with a time that would be convenient, beginning January 6, 2020: nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



THE CALLER

CHANGING WORSHIP COLORS

In our life together as church, we know what time it is by the colors used in our worship services. During Advent—the first season of the new church year—either blue or purple is used. During the seasons of Christmas and Easter and other festival days, either white or gold becomes the primary color. During Lent, the penitent color of purple is used. On the Day of Pentecost, the color red reminds us of the Holy Spirit’s presence as tongues of fire. And throughout Ordinary Time, green is used to remind us that we are always growing as followers of Jesus Christ.

We give thanks for memorial gifts that have helped us to purchase colored paraments for the Sanctuary throughout recent years, including gifts in memory of:

Advent (blue): Betty Joyce, Thomas Oakley, Tom Szudy, Jean Tharp

Lent (purple): Case Genemans, Margaret Laner, Dan Lansell

Pentecost (red): Helen Aylor, Eileen Bell, Robert Dial, Robert Ferrell,
Nancy Gehring, Helen Mallarnee

Ordinary Time (green): Mary Gay, Sue Kennel Hall

DECEMBER 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

Sunday, December 1 First Sunday of Advent	Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent	Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent	Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 (UMH 845) Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UMH 795) Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 1:46b-55 (UMH 199) James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801) Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day	Sunday, December 29 First Sunday after Christmas Day	
Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 (UMH 815) Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20:27-38	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 (UMH 818) Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-69 (UMH 208) Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43	

PARLOR HUTCH DISPLAY

I would like to start the New Year with a new display in the Parlor Hutch. Do you have a special collection (tea cups, music boxes, bells, figurines, homemade crafts, etc.) that you would like to share with the Church? Just let me know before the end of the year. I can help you organize the display.

Please call me at 440-234-4839 or cass.beckman@yahoo.com

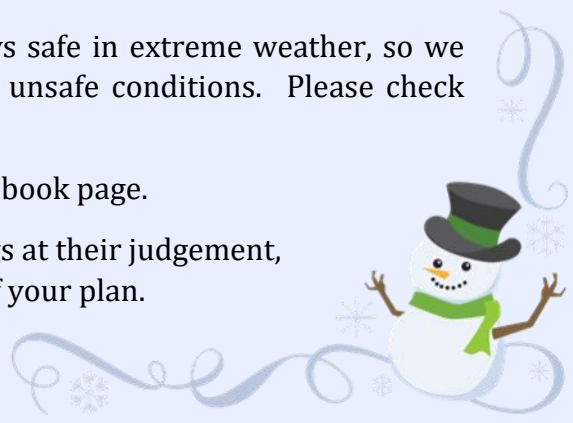
INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

Winter is coming! We want to ensure that our congregation stays safe in extreme weather, so we want to let you know our plan should we need to close due to unsafe conditions. Please check Channel 3 (WKYC) for any weather cancellations.

We will do our best to also update our Facebook page.

Groups and meetings are free to cancel their meetings at their judgement, just be sure to let all of your group know of your plan.

Stay warm and safe!



CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS

Bruce Akins
Betty Atherton
Dick Baker
Heidi Blue
Carol Bodle
Jean Brenneison
Donna Dial
Cleda Fletcher
Carol Goepfort
Pat Harf
Carol Heskett
Janice Kavander
Cindy McCowen
Joyce McGee

Betty Miller
Rev. Cal Myers
Donna O'Brien
Esther O'Hearn
Lou Russell
Russ Sanderson
Barbara Scoon
Carol Thompson
Victoria Thomson
Kathleen Wargelin
Bob Warner
Gloria Wharton
Eva Williamson



SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

J.D. Ferut (*Grandson of Gerry & Jo Boggs*)
Ryan Hopkins
Ron Krueger (*son-in-law of Georgiann Baesal*)
Bill Lambert (*Son-in-law of Corky Cline*)
Ben Lebrun
Zachary New (*Grandson of Bob & Jackie King*)
Jeff Patrick

WE REACH OUT IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO

The Garvin Family. Laurie Garvin went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Friday, October 25. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, November 16 at Lakeview Cemetery.

The Wheaton Family. Al Wheaton's brother, James Benway Wheaton went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Thursday, October 31.

A full list of Prayer Concerns is available on the tables at the back of each worship space.

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

If you know of someone needing care or a visit, please contact the church office (info@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x100) or Pastor Nathan (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101).



THE CALLER

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

The November Loose Change Offering for The Giving Tree totaled \$124.50.
(See Page 8 for more information about The Giving Tree.)



The Loose Change Offering on December 8 will be collected for The Mam Association of Guatemalan Women.

We are partners with The Mam Association of Guatemalan Women. Among other activities, the women work to develop healthy bodies for themselves and their families and to strengthen their spiritual resources. Our church focuses on the development of healthy bodies through the "cost-sharing" of safe, fuel efficient stoves. Under cost-sharing, our church contributes a portion of the cost and the women and their families provide the remainder.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE



A special thank you...

...to Pam Wetterau for donating nine native plants from her garden. The plants donated are excellent species for pollinators such as zinnias, swamp milkweed and blue mistflower.

Kathleen Bradley made the connection with Pam and coordinated a group of volunteers to plant these new plants and do some weeding in the garden in the north lot.

Thanks to Mark Williams for watering them.

Thank you from us all!

Submitted by Wendy Jelinek for UMCB

Photo credit: www.flickr.com/photos/readerwalker/44970884271

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY!

A heartfelt thank you to Ken & Marilyn Foster and Clark & Betty Wright for their many years serving in mission through the SCAN Food Pantry collection ministry. We truly appreciate all that you have done in helping our congregation sharing food blessings with those in our community.

Also, thank you to Dave and Peter LeBrun who will now be overseeing this ministry. SCAN collection continues to be on the first Sunday of the month.

You can help by donated non-perishable food (Page 8 for a list of suggested items), or by assisting in loading up or transporting food. Together, we can make a difference in food security in our community.

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

Christmas is coming and as we plan what gifts we want to give, John Wesley suggested this:

"Gaining all you can, saving all you can, and giving all you can."

It is a tall order, but we can guess what he meant. Love for our friends would be a good way to begin.



TEACHING

ADVENT STUDY: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

SUNDAYS BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 10 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

All adult disciples are invited to join us for **Light of the World**. Advent is not only the perfect time to read the story of the birth of Jesus; it's also a great time to dive deeper into the biblical texts that surround the event.

In **Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent**, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament; highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture; and emphasizes the importance of Mary's visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt.

This class will be led by Pastors Nathan and Carrie, Rev. Linda McCowen, and Rev. Linda Short. Books are available for purchase from Room 12 for \$13.

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.

ADVENT & 2020 DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE IN ROOM 12

We would love to support you in your commitments for 2020 to be in regular study and reflection on Scripture. One way we are doing that is by providing a few different devotional materials to get your year started on the right foot.

Advent Devotional booklets for adults, teens, and children are available now! Stop by and pick up your free copy.

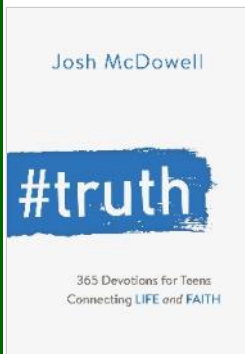
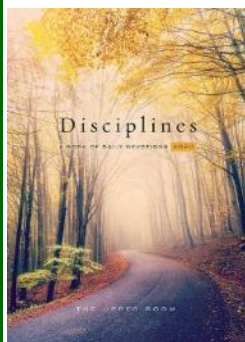
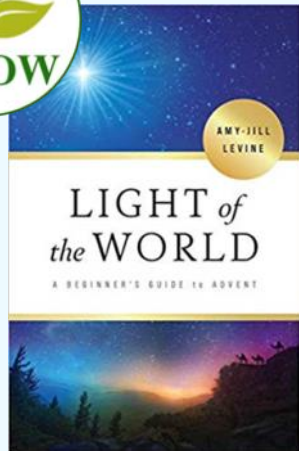
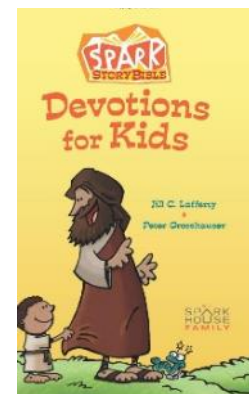
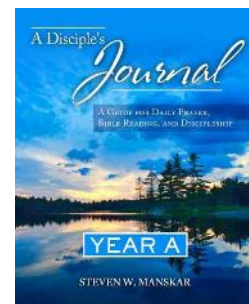


We will again be offering **Disciplines**, a daily devotional book, for 2020 for the price of \$5. If you'd like to increase your focus on Scripture reading with a Wesleyan focus on prayer and spiritual disciplines, we recommend **A Disciple's Journal**, available for \$13. This book begins with Advent and goes through next fall following the liturgical year, while **Disciplines** follows the calendar year. Both focus on lectionary readings for the week.

We are also thrilled to offer this year a devotional, **#truth**, for youth (recommended 6th grader and older) for FREE for any youth who commit to daily Bible study.

We also have a children's/family devotional from Sparkhouse, the same publisher of our Sunday School lessons, that will pair nicely with what kids are learning at church. Devotions can easily be done at dinner or before bed. The price is \$13.

Please prayerfully consider how you will continue to grow in your faith this upcoming year, and what materials might assist you with this. These resources make great Christmas gifts! What else can we do to encourage you? Talk to Pastor Carrie to share your ideas!



TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER

All materials are available in room 12. Bring exact change or a check and place in secure box. Thank you!

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.



DECEMBER 15

4-6 PM, FIRST FLOOR

Bring your friends and family to a very special Messy Church as we celebrate Christmas and the tradition of St. Nicholas! Sure to build beautiful Christmas memories, we hope you'll join us for Messy Christmas play, celebration, and dinner! Extra volunteers requested for this popular holiday event!

For more information, please contact Carolyn Williams at weaseltv@msn.com or 440-570-2913.



DISCUSSION GROUP

THE SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH
6:30-8 PM, PARLOR

Read and Grow group is open to you either for an individual month or every month. We hope you will want to join us for lively open discussions.

DECEMBER 9

Ape House by Sara Gruen

When a family of bonobo apes who know American Sign Language are kidnapped from a language laboratory, their mysterious appearance on a reality TV show propels scientist Isabel Duncan, together with reporter John Thigpen, on a personal mission to rescue them. It calls into question our assumptions about these animals who share 99.4% of our DNA.

Start the new year with a resolve to join our Read and Grow Group.

JANUARY 13

Spark of Light by Jodi Picoult

The warm fall day starts like any other at the Center—a women's reproductive health services clinic—its staff offering care to anyone who passes through its doors. Then, in late morning, a desperate and distraught gunman bursts in and opens fire.

The entire reading list can be found at: <http://www.umcb.org/adult-faith-opportunities/>.

For more information or to answer any question you may have, call Janet Mallarnee at 440-235-7331, Betsy Meikle at 440-243-5767, or Margaret Proctor at 440-243-9498.

TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER



DECEMBER
YOUTH GROUP
CALENDAR

SUNDAYS
5-6:30 PM
(unless otherwise stated)

ROOM 31-32

OPEN TO 7TH - 12TH GRADERS

DECEMBER 7-8
8 PM - 9 AM



DECEMBER 15
4-6 PM

Messy Church (See above for details)

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at 440-234-3525 x105 or cantczak@umcb.org.



SCAN FOOD PANTRY
COLLECTION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

In December, SCAN continues collecting foods to be included in the special bags for holiday dinners. This would include such things as stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, chicken or turkey gravy mixes. Also needed are canned green beans, mushroom soup and dried onions (for the "famous " green bean casserole) and pie crust mix or graham cracker crusts, canned pumpkin with the spices already added, cranberry sauce, and anything else that you would have for a holiday meal.

If you are not going to be in worship that Sunday, your food donations may be delivered ahead of time and placed in the cupboards inside the room between the Narthex and the Library.

Monetary donations are also welcome. Mark them for SCAN and place them in the offering plate or Joanne Mansfield's office door mailbox.

Thank you for helping.

For more information, please contact
Pastor Carrie at **440-234-3525 x105**
or cantczak@umcb.org.



DECEMBER E-BIT
("ENVIRONMENTAL TIDBIT")
FROM
CHURCH & SOCIETY



After you've decided to take down your (live) Christmas tree and holiday decorations you can help the Earth by recycling your tree. Many cities recycle trees -- just check with your city to see if they do and up until what date. Or you can take the tree (with all lights and decorations removed) outside and prop it up for some temporary shelter for the birds. You can also recycle string lights that are damaged or no longer work. Lowe's in Strongsville as well as some cities take them. Peace to you and yours this holiday season.

Submitted by Wendy Jelinek



Giving
Tree



IN THE SANCTUARY NARTHEX
RETURN GIFTS BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Our giving tree in the Sanctuary Narthex has stars for several children whose families submitted wish lists to the Berea Community Outreach.

If you decide to buy gifts this year, please do not wrap them, but rather return them in a bag with the star taped on the outside. You may include wrapping paper if you wish.

Gift cards should be placed in an envelope with the star on it and put in Joanne Mansfield's office door mailbox.

Please return all gifts by **Sunday, December 8.**



AT OHIOGUIDESTONE

Donate new toys and clothing items to the Saylor Christmas Shop which assists social workers in playing "Santa" to the families they serve. Any new toy or clothing item can be donated. Collection boxes will be in the Narthex. Contact Marge Saylor if you are interested in serving at the shop, stocking shelves and helping the social workers.

For more information, please contact
Marge Saylor at 440-234-1952.

THE CALLER



With Christmas soon to arrive there are still plenty of opportunities to share some fellowship with the UMW and to get events on your calendar for the new year:

CIRCLE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 9:00 AM TO NOON, FELLOWSHIP HALL

We will be having our annual Christmas Brunch. Please bring a dish to share.

We will be assembling gift bags to deliver to our "Shut-In" friends.

All are welcome as it promises to be a fun morning with a delicious meal.

CIRCLE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 9:30 AM, PARLOR

For more information about these events and all that UMW has to offer, please contact Betsy Meikle at meiklebj@juno.com or 440-243-5767.

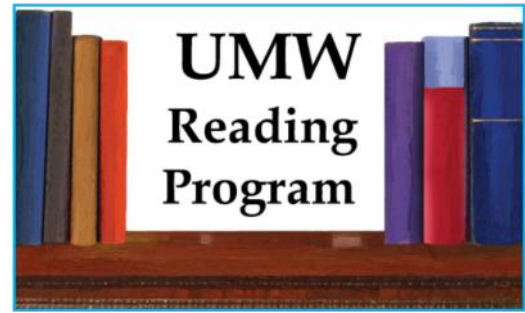
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW LUNCHEON: LAURA'S HOME WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER

JANUARY 12, 2020
FOLLOWING THE 11:15 AM SERVICE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

The entire Church is invited to attend a potluck luncheon and program. The speaker from Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center, part of the City Mission in downtown Cleveland, will tell us about the services and mission they provide to Cuyahoga County.

The entire congregation is welcome and encouraged to attend.



If anyone has completed the UMW reading program by reading at least one book in each of the five categories (leadership, spiritual growth, education for mission, social action, and nurturing for community), please submit your list to me by December 31.

Thank you!

Betsy Meikle
(meiklebj@juno.com or 440-243-5767)

EXCITING NEWS FROM THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NATIONAL DIVISION

Sandy Marek, North Coast District, has been nominated for Board of Directors/Program Advisory Group. Sandy will be voted on at the UMW North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD., June 26-28, 2020.

The UMW leadership structure includes the Program Advisory Group, which provides representation from each Annual Conference and from 6 other general agencies, regional missionaries, deaconesses and home missionaries and the World Federation of Methodist and United Church Women. This group gives voice from the membership directly into the working programs and initiatives of the organization and provides new connection across the denomination, strengthening the connections between local women (units, districts) and their national policy-making body.

THE CALLER



UMW MISSIONS AND EVENTS

Women, youth, and children are the focus of UMW's planning and giving. Your Berea unit prayerfully and carefully chooses a variety of missions (local, regional, national, and international) to support and then plans and organizes events to meet those commitments.

Here is a brief re-cap of our 2019 mission giving and projects.

UMW SERVICE PROJECTS 2019

(Service Projects are events for the purpose of raising funds to support our many missions.)

Spring Garage Sale	\$ 3895
Spring Bake Sale	\$ 250
Plant Sale	\$ 399
Fall Garage Sale	\$ 3453
Fall Bake Sale	\$ 203
Craft and Mission Fair	\$ 845+
Gift Basket Silent Auction	\$ 900+
Circle Pledges	\$ 1375

UMW MISSION GIVING 2019 WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN

West Side Community House (10% Spring Garage Sale)	\$ 350
West Side Community House Camperships	\$ 375
Cambodia Women's Hygiene Kits (Spring Bake Sale)	\$ 250
SCAN (Fall Bake Sale)	\$ 203
Hanson House (Basket Auction)	\$ 300+
OhioGuidestone (Basket Auction)	\$ 300+
OhioGuidestone (10% Fall Garage Sale)	\$ 250
Church Street Ministries (Basket Auction)	\$ 300+
(as well as sponsoring a pasta shelf, Thanksgiving turkeys)	
BW Breakfast	\$ 100
Messy Church	\$ 200
Youth Work Mission	\$ 600
VBS/Renew	\$ 300
Grindstone Partnership	\$ 300
Community Meal	\$ 300
Feed the Kids Summer Lunch Program	\$ 300

North Coast district UMW	
Pledge	\$ 5000
Gift in Memory	\$ 25
Gift to Mission	\$ 50
World Thank Offering	
Prayer and Self-Denial	

Quilters - Copy Room Supplies/Materials	\$ 450
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On behalf of all the women, youth, and children who have benefitted from our giving,
thank you all for your support, encouragement, and generosity.

THE CALLER

2019 POINSETTIA & GIDEON BIBLE ORDER FORM

Live poinsettias will again grace our worship spaces for Christmas Eve. Plants are available in **red, white, or "ice crystal"** (red petals with a white center - pictured to the right). The 6.5" pots are **\$8.00 each**, and may be dedicated in memory or honor of a loved one. You can also choose to honor a love one by donating a Gideon Bible for **\$5.00**.



You are welcome to take your flowers home after the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service from the Sanctuary, after the 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service from the Chapel, or after Sunday worship on December 29.

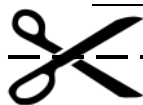
Please make checks Payable to "UMCB" and notate "poinsettias" on the memo line.

All **PAID** orders are due to the Church Office no later than **Monday, December 9, 2019**.

	<u>Flower Color</u>	<u>Price (each)</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
Your Name: _____ <i>(as you wanted printed on the Flower listing)</i>	Red	\$8.00	_____	_____
	White	\$8.00	_____	_____
Your Phone: _____ <i>(in case we have questions)</i>	Ice Crystal	\$8.00	_____	_____
Will you take your poinsettias home?	Gideon Bible	\$5.00	_____	_____
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No				
			Grand Total	_____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



DONATION NEEDS QUICK REFERENCE

We hope you find this list of items being collected in December helpful when you do your shopping.

- ◆ Your gift for your star (Giving Tree)
- ◆ Gift Wrapping for your star (Giving Tree)
- ◆ A toy or two or three... (Sayler Christmas Shop)
- ◆ Baby/Children's clothing (Sayler Christmas Shop)
- ◆ Stuffing mix (SCAN)
- ◆ Instant potatoes (SCAN)
- ◆ Envelopes of gravy mix (SCAN)
- ◆ Canned sweet potatoes (SCAN)
- ◆ Canned vegetables - esp. green beans (SCAN)
- ◆ Dried or French-fried onions for the "famous" green bean casserole (SCAN)
- ◆ Mushroom soup (SCAN)
- ◆ Cranberry sauce (SCAN)
- ◆ Ready-made graham or chocolate graham cracker pie crusts (SCAN)
- ◆ Instant jello pudding mix for pie filling (SCAN)
- ◆ Pie crust mix (SCAN)
- ◆ Canned pumpkin pie mix with spices already added (SCAN)
- ◆ Evaporated milk (SCAN)
- ◆ Friend to bring to Messy Church with you!

The Caller

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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BEREA, OHIO

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2019

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

NOTE: If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office (440-234-3525 or info@umcb.org) 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.

We live into our mission by:

