

Worship Celebration

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020 + 11 AM

*The **Easter Season**, also known as the **Great Fifty Days**, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost (this year, on May 31). This our most joyous and celebrative season and the core of the entire Christian year. Together, we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the continual invitation and call from God to live as Easter people, sharing God's love with the world.*

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Join us in worship, Sunday mornings at 11 am, on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/UMCBERE), or watch and share the video of our worship service later on our website at www.umcb.org/sermons.

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Hear our prayers, O God, as we come together, offering thanks and praise.
Bless us with your steadfast love, both in times of peace and times of trial.
Make your presence known to us this day, for we seek to know you better.
Enliven us with your Spirit of truth, and increase our faith,
as we place our hope and trust in you. Amen.*

Hymn

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

UMH 152

*I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
who formed the creatures thru the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where're I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.
There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care;
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.*

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We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson—Acts 17.16-31 (CEB)

¹⁶While Paul waited for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to find that the city was flooded with idols. ¹⁷He began to interact with the Jews and Gentile God-worshippers in the synagogue. He also addressed whoever happened to be in the marketplace each day. ¹⁸Certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers engaged him in discussion too. Some said, "What an amateur! What's he trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods." (They said this because he was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹They took him into custody and brought him to the council on Mars Hill. "What is this new teaching? Can we learn what you are talking about? ²⁰You've told us some strange things and we want to know what they mean." (²¹They said this because all Athenians as well as the foreigners who live in Athens used to spend their time doing nothing but talking about or listening to the newest thing.)

²²Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. ²⁴God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples made with human hands. ²⁵Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. ²⁶From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. ²⁸In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹"Therefore, as God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. ³⁰God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. ³¹This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—John 14.15-21 (CEB)

¹⁵[Jesus said,] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. ¹⁷This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

¹⁸“I won’t leave you as orphans. I will come to you. ¹⁹Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn

Here As In Heaven

***The atmosphere is changing now, for the Spirit of the Lord is here.
The evidence is all around that the Spirit of the Lord is here.***

***Overflow in this place, fill our hearts with your love; your love surrounds us.
You’re the reason we came, to encounter your love, your love surrounds us.***

***Spirit of God fall fresh on us; we need your presence.
Your kingdom come, your will be done here as in heaven.***

***A miracle can happen now, for the Spirit of the Lord is here.
The evidence is all around that the Spirit of the Lord is here.***

*Here As In Heaven / Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Matthew Ntlele, Steven Furtick, Wade Joyce
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Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Moment for Mission

Giving our Tithes and Offerings

Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

God of love, you are present in all things.

Be present now in our hurting world through these gifts.

***Help us to use this offering to create a community of love
and a place of belonging for all people.***

Use us and use these gifts to help people know the blessings of being your beloved children. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God’s Name

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

***Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.***

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

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Benediction

Let us go from this time of worship in the name of God, who created all the earth.
Let us go in the name of Christ, who abides in love and abides in us.
Let us go in the name of the Spirit of truth, who advocates for us and guides us.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Morning Prayer:

I give thanks for the gift of life and breath
that is mine today in Christ.
Make me eager to do good and to resist evil,
and grant me the wisdom to know the difference.
Fill me with your assurance in all I say and do
that I may share the hope that is within me
in gentleness and reverence to Christ. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

O God, in whom we live and move and exist,
you hear me when I cry and listen to my prayer;
you set my feet on steady ground.
As I rest in you tonight, sanctify me in Christ,
and fill me with your strength,
that I may rise to love and serve you
and greet another day. Amen.

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Care Leaders

While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of “care leaders” who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests. If you have not heard from a “care leader” yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a “care leader,” contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org.

Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you; we have a team of servants ready to respond as best we can. Know that none of us is alone even though we will not be gathering together in person.

Staff & Office Hours

In accordance with the Governor’s Stay-at-Home Order and for the protection of all, our staff is working from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.

Upper Room Available Online

Do you enjoy the daily devotions in The Upper Room? The Upper Room has made these daily devotions available on their website, <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>.

Supporting East Ohio Missions with Masks

UMCB has a long history of sharing the love of Jesus through our support of UM missions. We’ve been asked to assist East Ohio missions in making masks. Masks are needed for food pantries, for homeless shelters and for mission outreach centers. Masks are also needed throughout the world. These masks are not for medical use, they are for what is called *cough etiquette*. The most important things to remember are to use high quality cotton, such as quilting fabric or high thread count cotton sheets and the mask should be able to cover your mouth and your nose.

- * If you sew and have been making masks, consider making some masks for UM missions. If you have a favorite pattern and you’re happy with the way the masks fit, please continue to use your pattern. Please wash the fabric several times before sewing the mask so that the mask does not shrink.
- * If you sew and haven’t been making masks or don’t have a pattern, click the link below.
- * If you don’t sew and have the means to contribute some fabric, elastic, or money for supplies, that would be helpful.
- * Prayers are also always needed.

More information to come about how we will be collecting and distributing the masks to where there is need. If you’d like more information or patterns, please click <https://www.eocumc.com/missions/news.html>. If you would like to be part of the UMCB mask makers or have questions? Please contact **Linda McCowen** at lsmccowen@gmail.com or **440-234-7211**.



UMW Greenhouse Coupons Available Now

Gardening is easy this year with the help of UMW. We're selling coupons for \$16. Coupons may be redeemed at J & J Greenhouse for a flat of flowers, vegetables, or a 10" hanging basket.

Swing by the church parking lot on Wednesdays at 11.00 AM...we'll be there chatting (practicing social distancing) and drinking our coffee!

Or contact **Carol McCleery** at **440-234-9078** or mcmanistee7250@gmail.com) to make more convenient arrangements. Thanks for your support.

Women's Book Study: Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

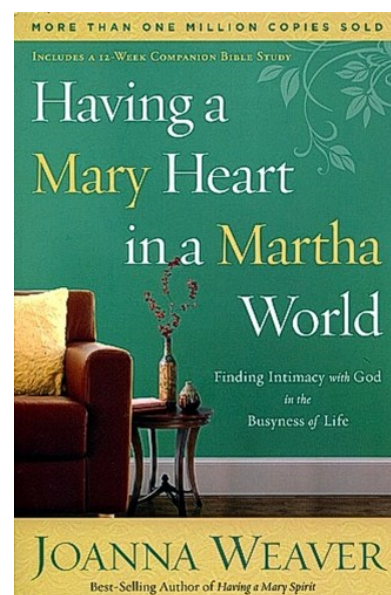
Starting Thursday, May 28, 5 PM

Mary Lynn Swartz will be starting a new women's study focused on the book: **Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World** by Joanna Weaver. It will start on Thursday, May 28 at 5PM.

Participate online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85619179718?pwd=NUIFR3dUc0lKdkM2OVIWbHcwblpCdz09>) or by phone (1-888-788-0099).

Enter Meeting ID **856 1917 9718** and Password **600537** when prompted.

Need more information? Please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at **440-409-5931** or marylynn482@gmail.com.



Food Collection for Church Street Ministries

Wednesdays, 5 pm - 8 pm in the UMCB Parking Lot

We will be collecting non-perishable food items again to support the pantry at Church Street Ministries in the church parking lot. Dave LeBrun will be there to meet you, practicing safe social distancing and receiving your donations. Canned meat (e.g. tuna or chicken) especially is being requested. If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office (noting "food pantry" in the memo line) or by donating online at www.umcb.org/donate (noting "food pantry" in the line marked "other.") Thank you for your generous participation as we continue to love our neighbors

