



... like
LIVING STONES,
let yourselves
be built into a
spiritual house ...
1 Peter 2:5, NRSV

Worship Celebration

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Festival of the Christian Home

May 10, 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/UMCBEREA), 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

*We gather today, O God, our guide and guardian,
remembering those who have nurtured us, protected us, and helped us grow.
We give you thanks for homes that accept us and affirm us as your precious children.
In the shelter of your healing love, fortify us as living stones,
and build us into a spiritual home where all are welcomed and celebrated
for being who they are.
In the name of Christ, our foundation and cornerstone, we pray, Amen.*

Hymn

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

UMH 126

*Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.*

*The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.*

*Thus, all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.*

*Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.*

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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—Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16 (NRSV)

¹ In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

² Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

¹⁵ My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson—1 Peter 2.2-10 (CEB)

² Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, you will grow into salvation, ³ since you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Now you are coming to him as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. ⁵ You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Thus it is written in scripture, *Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in him will never be shamed.* ⁷ So God honors you who believe. For those who refuse to believe, though, the stone the builders tossed aside has become the capstone. ⁸ This is a stone that makes people stumble and a rock that makes them fall. Because they refuse to believe in the word, they stumble. Indeed, this is the end to which they were appointed. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. ¹⁰ Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn

Be Still My Soul

UMH 534

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side. Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide; in every change God faithful will remain.*

Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future, as in ages past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.*

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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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

O God, our fortress and our rock, may these offerings and our lives be acceptable to you.

*In a world facing profound need, these gifts seem quite insignificant,
but we know that in your hands, even small things become great.*

Use these gifts and use us to make this world a home

where all are sheltered, nourished, and celebrated as your children. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

UMH 529

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word!

What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

*"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*"When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."*

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Benediction

Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people together.

God's face shines on us. God's faithful love saves us.

This news is too good to keep to ourselves.

Everywhere we go, we will share the good news of God's inexhaustible love.

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

Morning Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as I serve you this day,
let not my heart be troubled.
Help me to trust with conviction
that you are with me, and I am in you,
and you are in God. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Faithful God, my rock and my fortress,
into your hands I commit my spirit.
As darkness falls,
let your face shine upon your servant,
and keep me in your steadfast love. Amen.

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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.

Food Collection for Church Street Ministries

Wednesday, May 13, 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.

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>.



Our Congregation's Favorite Children's Books

In celebration of the Festival of the Christian Home, we asked our congregation to share their favorite children's books that they were read as children, or books and stories they shared with their children.

Stories shape us, mold us, and touch our hearts. We hope this list will inspire you to share stories with the young and old in your life.



Love You Forever
Scuppers the Sailor Dog
The Greatest Story Ever Told
But Not the Hippo

Green Eggs and Ham
The Gruffalo
Guess How Much I Love You
Goodnight Moon

Dear Girl
I Wish You More
The Three Questions
All Mo Willems books!

Old Black Witch
Katy No Pockets
Noisy Nancy Norris
Miss Suzy



Everyone Poops
The Giving Tree
Anne of Green Gables
Hop on Pop

Uncle Wiggily
The Boxcar Children
Corduroy
Edith the Lonely Doll



Attic of the Wind
Sally's Caterpillar
The Golden Treasury of Poetry
Walter the Lazy Mouse
A Birthday for Frances

Better Homes and Gardens
Storybook
Animal Crackers and
Cocoa to Drink
The Kissing Hand
Richard Scarry's Books

