

 ...the love of God  
has been poured  
out in our hearts  
through the  
*Holy Spirit*  
who has been  
given to us.



Romans 5:5 CEB

# Worship Celebration

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2020 + 11 AM

## **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](http://www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA)), or watch and share the video of our worship service later on our website at [www.umcb.org/sermons](http://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

*God of wondrous love, your miracles always catch us by surprise.  
When our time of blessing comes, may we have faith enough to laugh with Sarah.  
When our bodies are touched by your healing grace, may we have faith enough to give you thanks.  
Make your presence known among us now as we gather to worship you;  
touch us with your Spirit, and make us whole by your grace,  
as we join with all creation in singing your praise. Amen.*

Hymn

*All Creatures of Our God and King (vv. 1, 4-6)*

UMH 62

*All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, O praise ye! Alleluia!  
O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam!  
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Dear mother earth, who day by day unfoldest blessings on our way, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let them God's glory also show!  
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part, O praise ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care!  
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*And thou, our sister, gentle death, waiting to hush our latest breath, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou ledest home the child of God, and Christ our Lord the way has trod,  
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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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—Genesis 18.1-14 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day's heat. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. <sup>3</sup>He said, "Sirs, if you would be so kind, don't just pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant."

They responded, "Fine. Do just as you have said."

<sup>6</sup>So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, "Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!" <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup>Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where's your wife Sarah?"

And he said, "Right here in the tent."

<sup>10</sup>Then one of the men said, "I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!"

Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, "I'm no longer able to have children and my husband's old."

<sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Me give birth? At my age?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too difficult for the LORD? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son."

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

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

### Second Lesson—Romans 5.1-5 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. <sup>3</sup>But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>endurance produces character, and character produces hope. <sup>5</sup>This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

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

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

### Children's Message

#### Sermon

#### Hymn

*Do It Again*

*Walking around these walls, I thought by now they'd fall, but you have never failed me yet.*

*Waiting for change to come, knowing the battle's won; for you have never failed me yet.*

*Your promise still stands, great is your faithfulness, faithfulness.*

*I'm still in your hands. This is my confidence: you've never failed me yet.*

***I know the night won't last. Your word will come to pass. My heart will sing your praise again.  
Jesus, you're still enough; keep me within your love. My heart will sing your praise again.  
Your promise still stands, great is your faithfulness, faithfulness.  
I'm still in your hands. This is my confidence: you've never failed me yet.***

***I've seen you move. You move the mountains, and I believe I'll see you do it again.  
You made a way where there was no way, and I believe I'll see you do it again. I'll see you do it again.***

*Do It Again / Steven Furtick, Matt Redman, Chris Brown, Mack Brock / 2016 Elevation Worship Publishing  
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## **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Moment for Mission and Invitation to Give 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](http://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**

***Touch these gifts, O God, with your many blessings.***

***Touch our very lives, that we may be instruments of your hope in our community.***

***May our gifts and our lives bring your healing, love, and compassion to a world in need. Amen.***

## **We Go Out to Serve in God's Name**

Hymn

My Tribute

UMH 99

***How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?  
Things so undeserved, yet You give to prove Your love for me.  
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude;  
all that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.***

***To God be the glory; to God be the glory. To God be the glory for the things he has done.  
With his love he has saved me, with his power he has raised me,  
To God be the glory for the things he has done.***

***Just let me live, my life let it be pleasing Lord, to Thee;  
And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.  
With his love he has saved me, with his power he has raised me,  
To God be the glory for the things he has done.***

*My Tribute / Andrae Crouch / 1971 Bud John Songs, Inc. / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566*

### **Benediction**

Leave this time of worship in peace, prepared to be surprised by God's promises.

Leave this time of worship in hope, ready for the unexpected.

Leave this time of worship in love, for the One who loves us goes with us, now and always.

***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

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

### **Morning Prayer:**

Holy Presence,  
make me more aware of your presence today.  
Awaken my senses to the wonders of your creation,  
and fill me with compassion for each person I meet.  
Protect me from those who would harm me;  
make me watchful so that I do not harm others.  
Fill my inward being with the love of Christ,  
and let others know your presence through me.  
In this way, let me glorify you, Holy One, Holy Three.  
Amen.

### **Evening Prayer:**

Maker of day and night,  
creator of sun, moon, and all that is,  
thank you for your presence throughout this day.  
Guard me now through the night.  
As I settle into sleep, recall to my mind  
each blessing you gave me while awake.  
Grant me peace, rest, and renewal while I sleep.  
And let me awaken to a new day tomorrow,  
joining my voice with all the faithful  
in giving you thanks and praise. Amen.

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(Excerpt from a June 4, 2020 letter from Pastor Nathan and Pastor Carrie:)

*Our connectal leaders "recognize that racism and injustice are deeply embedded and vexing issues within our Church and our communities" and commit themselves to "take action, to learn together, and to continue to press forward in transforming our Church, our communities, and our world into the 'beloved community.'" We echo and affirm the expressed commitment of our Bishop and members of the Extended Cabinet, and we invite you to join us in an intentional period of self-examination and learning conversations, trusting that if we are to be peacemakers in this world (cf. Matthew 5.9), then we must be willing to begin that process of transformation with ourselves. Here are some of the ways we invite you to join us in this journey:*

### **Learning Conversations**

All are invited to join us on Zoom for a series of weekly videos and conversations about racialized injustice and what we can do to resist this injustice, both in ourselves and in our communities. We will be utilizing a resource from the General Commission on Religion and Race of our United Methodist Church, and the tentative schedule for these conversations will be:

- Monday, June 15, 7 PM: "Deconstructing White Privilege"
- Monday, June 22, 7 PM: "Building the Beloved Community"
- Monday, July 6, 7 PM: "Meaningful Conversations on Race"
- Monday, July 13, 7 PM: "Continued Struggles in Race Relations"
- Monday, July 20, 7 PM: "Intersections of Oppression"

Please RSVP to **Pastor Nathan** at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x101** for more information about these conversations and if you plan to participate (or if you are interested in participating but Mondays at 7 pm will not fit your schedule).

(Continued on next page)

**Summer Book Club: *Grace Will Lead Us Home* by Jennifer Berry Hawes**  
***Monday, June 29 at 6:30 pm***

On Monday, June 29 at 6:30 pm, all are welcome to join us for a discussion of the book, *Grace Will Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre and the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness*, by Jennifer Berry Hawes. (Our meeting location—whether in person or online and by phone—will be determined closer to the date of our meeting; please contact Pastor Nathan to express your interest in participating so that you can be kept informed.)

Five years ago, on June 17, 2015, twelve members of the historically black Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, welcomed a young white man named Dylann Roof into their evening Bible study. Nine of them were shot and killed by Roof in an attempt to start a “race war.” Two days later, relatives of some of those who had been killed stood at Roof’s hearing and offered forgiveness, but that offer of forgiveness was just the beginning of a long journey toward healing. In *Grace Will Lead Us Home*, Pulitzer Prize-winning local journalist Jennifer Berry Hawes provides a definitive account of the aftermath of this tragedy, sketching a story of how a community begins to heal.

Copies of *Grace Will Lead Us Home* can be purchased through most retailers or borrowed through our Cuyahoga County Public Library system. If you need help finding a copy—or for other additional information—please contact **Pastor Nathan** at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x101**.

**Parents Book Study: *Raising White Kids* by Jennifer Harvey**  
***June 30, 7 PM - Please express your interest using the link below.***

As we’re watching and praying for our country as we realize the deep pain our brothers and sisters of color are experiencing, some of us have begun to talk with each other about how do we raise kids in all of this. How do we raise them to make a difference? What do we even say about race? When and how do we talk about white privilege?

I have found *Raising White Kids* by Jennifer Harvey (available on Amazon), very helpful and a great starting point for group conversation. It comes from the perspective of parenting “race consciously” as opposed to teaching color-blindness. It is the hope that with teaching race consciousness, kids will be able to point out and help end racism in their communities. Other topics include healthy white identity, privilege, what valuing diversity means, and more. It would be helpful for parents of any stage, and caregivers and teachers as well. If you have friends you want to join us, just let me know.

We’re hoping to do this on Tuesday, June 30th at 7 pm, on the Facebook parent page (UMCB Parents) using the “room” function to have a discussion. If you’re putting littles to bed and need to come on later, that’s ok. We want to have ample time to talk without a zoom time limit. Using the private group will also allow us to share resources as we go.

**[Click here to indicate your interest and availability](#) or contact **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105**.**



### **Correction**

Erikah Jackson graduated from University of Akron with a degree in **Mechanical Engineering**, not Medical Engineering as erroneously printed in last week's bulletin. Our sincere apologies for the error and congratulations to Erikah.

### **Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests**

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto: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.

### **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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org).

### **Staff & Office Hours**

In accordance with the Governor's recommendations 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.



## Children's Chapel

*Fridays, 9 AM*

Children's Chapel moves to 9 AM on Fridays beginning June 5. Join us on Zoom for a half hour of praise, Bible stories, prayer, and more fun. Come in your jammies from your living room, yard, sandbox, or wherever! All are welcome, so please invite your young friends!

For more information, contact **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.



## Women's Bible Study

*Thursdays, at 6:30 PM*

Join us each Thursday at 6:30 PM online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85619179718?pwd=NUIFR3dUc0lKdkM2OVlWbHcwblpCdz09> or by phone 1-888-788-0099. Enter **Meeting ID 856 1917 9718** and **Password 600537** when prompted. Questions? Please contact Mary Lynn Swartz at 440-409-5931 or [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com).



## Vacation Bible School Registration Opens June 10

Children of all ages, including grown-ups, are encouraged to join us for our at-home/virtual Vacation Bible School - Camp Compassion! Register between June 10 and July 10 at [www.umcb.online-formation-resources](http://www.umcb.online-formation-resources). Then pick up your bag of supplies July 18 or July 19 on the church front porch.

We'll livestream VBS each morning on a private Facebook group where you can comment and send in your pictures. When livestream is over, enjoy crafts, games, and mission projects from your home or yard!

For more information, contact **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.



## 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](http://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



## Letters for Immigrants in Detention Centers

We are collecting letters of support and encouragement to be sent to those in detention centers. During this pandemic, these places are of particular concern for people to be held. Let's do what we can in advocacy, and by sending our support and love.

Send your letters to **Pastor Carrie** at the church (170 Seminary Street, Berea, OH 44017). She will box and send them all to a group working with the Methodist Federation for Social Change.

For great ideas in supportive phrases and how to write them in Spanish, visit our website (<http://www.umcb.org/resources-for-connecting-supporting-our-community/>).

Thank you!