



Worship Celebration

4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 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), 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

Opening Songs

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship

***Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.
One day every tongue will confess You are God. One day every knee will bow.
Still, the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose You now.***

***Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.
Willingly we choose to surrender our lives. Willingly our knees will bow.
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we gladly choose You now.***

***Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.***

Come Now Is The Time to Worship / Brian Doerksen / 1998 Vineyard Songs / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of eternal gladness, fill us with the light of day!*

*All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.*

Public Domain

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Holy One, by whose breath we are given life,
we receive comfort and courage in your presence.
Through your love and light,
we are able to explore what it takes to place our trust entirely in you.
Help us lovingly to put you before all else as we journey the roads of uncertainty,
trusting that your steadfast love shepherds us on paths unknown. Amen.*

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 22.1-8 (CEB)

¹ After these events, God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"
Abraham answered, "I'm here."

² God said, "Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you." ³ Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him.

⁴ On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. ⁵ Abraham said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father?"

Abraham said, "I'm here, my son."

Isaac said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?"

⁸ Abraham said, "The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son." The two of them walked on together.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 10.40-42 (CEB)

⁴⁰ “Those who receive you are also receiving me, and those who receive me are receiving the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Those who receive a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. Those who receive a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴² I assure you that everybody who gives even a cup of cold water to these little ones because they are my disciples will certainly be rewarded.”

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Report from the Nehemiah Work Mission Team

Sermon

Hymn

Reckless Love

*Before I spoke a word, you were singing over me. You have been so, so good to me.
Before I took a breath, you breathed your life in me. You have been so, so kind to me.*

*O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
O, it chases me down, fights ‘til I’m found, leaves the ninety-nine.
I couldn’t earn it, I don’t deserve it, still you give yourself away.
O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.*

*When I was your foe, still your love fought for me. You have been so, so good to me.
When I felt no worth, you paid it all for me. You have been so, so kind to me.*

*O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
O, it chases me down, fights ‘til I’m found, leaves the ninety-nine.
I couldn’t earn it, I don’t deserve it, still you give yourself away.
O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.*

*There’s no shadow you won’t light up, mountain you won’t climb up, coming after me.
There’s no wall you won’t kick down, lie you won’t tear down, coming after me.*

*O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
O, it chases me down, fights ‘til I’m found, leaves the ninety-nine.
I couldn’t earn it, I don’t deserve it, still you give yourself away.
O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.*

Reckless Love / Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, Ran Jackson / 2017 Cory Asbury Publishing / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

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) 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

*Through the teachings of Jesus, the constant love of God, and the empowering winds of the Spirit,
we have been taught to share what we have: our time, talent, and treasure.*

As we serve our neighbors, we serve Christ.

In gratitude for your many gifts, O God,

we celebrate your call to care for creation and boldly to love all your children. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Together We Serve

TFWS 2175

*Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.*

*We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.*

*We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hands ready to share.*

*Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.*

Together We Serve / Daniel Charles Damon / 1998 Hope Publishing Company / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Benediction

God's reckless love is etched into our souls. May we carry it with us always.

Whether welcoming the stranger or risking all we have,

whether facing the cross or wrestling with God's call,

God is our constant companion on this journey.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Morning Prayer:

I rise this day in the power of your Holy Spirit.

I lift up my hands, my heart, and my songs.

Be for me today, O Savior,

the guardian in my weakness, a friend on my journey,
the aim for all I do.

And when night begins to fall,

then bid me home and be my home

that I may find my rest in you,

Three in One, Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Be my light, O Creator of light,

as evening comes again.

Let me see your name written in the skies.

Let me hear you pass gently in the breeze.

And give me strength to rise again tomorrow

to bear witness with heart and hands

to your light which always shines. Amen.

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UNITED METHODISTS STAND AGAINST RACISM



UMC.org/EndRacism

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

Our connectional 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:

Praying for Change: Daily Prayers for Anti-Racism from Discipleship Ministries

Discipleship Ministries of our United Methodist Church is providing resources and guidance to help bathe our current moment and work together in prayer. From Monday through Friday, new prayers are being posted and can be received by email.

For more information and to sign up to receive these resources at your email address, visit <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/praying-for-change-daily-prayers-for-anti-racism>.

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, 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 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).

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.

Continued on next page

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 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 or 440-234-3525 x105.

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.

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.

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. It's a fun way for your kiddos to start the day! Please share this fun program with your family and friends. You don't need to be local to join us since we use Zoom (meeting ID **820 1966 6376**)! We gather together for half an hour of praise, Bible stories, and prayer. Come in your jammies from your living room, yard, sandbox, or wherever!

For more information, contact **Pastor Carrie** at 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=NUIFR3dUc0lKdkM2OVIWbHcwblpCdz09> 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.



Register for Our Virtual/Online Vacation Bible School

Children of all ages, including grown-ups, are encouraged to join us for our at-home/virtual Vacation Bible School - Camp Compassion! Register by July 10 at www.umcb.online-formation-resources and 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 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 (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!