

Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit...

Matthew 13:8 (CEB)

Worship Celebration

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 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

Your Grace Is Enough

Great is your faithfulness, O God; you wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.

You lead us by still waters into mercy and nothing can keep us apart.

So, remember your people, remember your children, remember your promise O God.

Your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me.

Great is your love and justice, God of Jacob; you use the weak to lead the strong.

You lead us in the song of your salvation, and all your people sing along.

So, remember your people, remember your children, remember your promise O God.

Your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me.

Your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me.

Remember your people, remember your children, remember your promise O God.

Your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me.

Your grace is enough; haven reaches out to us. Your grace is enough for me.

God, I sing: your grace is enough; I'm covered in your love. Your grace is enough for me.

Your Grace Is Enough / Matt Maher / 2003 Thankyou Music / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Enough

***All of you is more than enough for all of me, for every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love, and all I have in you is more than enough.***

***You're my supply, my breath of life; still more awesome than I know.
You're my reward, worth living for; still more awesome than I know.
And all of you is more than enough for all of me, for every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love, and all I have in you is more than enough.***

***You're my sacrifice of greatest price; still more awesome than I know.
You're my coming King, you everything; still more awesome than I know.
And all of you is more than enough for all of me, for every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love, and all I have in you is more than enough.***

***More than all I want, more than all I need, You are more than enough for me.
More than all I know, more than all I can say, you are more than enough.
And all of you is more than enough for all of me, for every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love, and all I have in you is more than enough.***

Enough / Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio / 2002 sixsteps Music / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

***Divine Gardener, cast us like seeds upon the winds of your mercy,
that we may grow in fertile ground.
Keep our lives from stony pathways,
where the heat of life's cares and strife strip our strength and vitality.
Protect us from thorny gullies,
where the snares of life's worries and fears block the sunshine of your Spirit.
Land us safely in rich soil, God, and bless us with the fall of gentle rain,
that our faith may increase and our joy may be complete. 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—Romans 8.1-11 (CEB)

¹ So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. ⁴ He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. ⁵ People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. ⁶ The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. ⁷ So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. ⁸ People who are self-centered aren't able to please God.

⁹ But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. ¹¹ If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23 (CEB)

¹That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

³He said many things to them in parables: “A farmer went out to scatter seed. ⁴As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn’t deep. ⁶But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. ⁷Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. ⁸Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. ⁹Everyone who has ears should pay attention....”

¹⁸“Consider then the parable of the farmer. ¹⁹Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don’t understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. ²⁰As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. ²¹Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. ²²As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. ²³As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one.”

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn

Way Maker

You are here, moving in our midst; I worship you, I worship you.

You are here, working in this place; I worship you, I worship you.

***You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness,
my God, that is who you are.***

You are here, touching every heart; I worship you, I worship you.

You are here, healing every heart; I worship you, I worship you.

You are here, turning lives around; I worship you, I worship you.

You are here, mending every heart; I worship you, I worship you.

***You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness,
my God, that is who you are.***

Even when I don’t see it, you’re working. Even when I don’t feel it, you’re working.

You never stop, you never stop working.

Way Maker / Kalu Okoro Egbu / 2016 Integrity Music Europe / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Opportunities for Ministry 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.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Hymn of Promise / Natalie Sleeth / 1986 Hope Publishing Company / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Benediction

Sisters and brothers, may we sow the gospel wherever we go,
not judging the soil on which we find ourselves
but trusting God to bring forth good fruit from unexpected places.
And may God, whose love is boundless,
and Christ, whose grace is our freedom,
and the Holy Spirit, who is our life and peace,
keep our minds and our lives now and always in grateful communion as we seek to serve.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Morning Prayer:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Living Word, shine on me this day.
Quicken my steps and open my ears
that I might approach each neighbor
with a heart ready to greet you. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Beacon of truth, I entrust to you the day that has been:
tasks accomplished and tasks overlooked;
friends acknowledged and friends ignored;
silence kept and silence squandered.
In your mercy, mend these tattered offerings.
Grant me the gift of rest this night
and good companions in the new day,
as you speak me further down the path
toward home. Amen.

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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

For the protection of all, our staff continues to work 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.



Wednesday Evening Prayer Service (In-Person)

Wednesdays in July, 7 pm

All are welcome to join us on the north lot of our property on Wednesday evenings in July (weather-permitting) for brief worship services to re-center and re-focus together around scripture and prayer in the middle of the week. Please bring your own chair, wear face coverings, and maintain safe social distance (six feet) from members of other households.

For more information, contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



Children's Chapel

Fridays, 9 AM

It's a fun way for your kiddos (and your friends and family) to start the day! 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.



Adult Faith Formation

Sundays, 10 am

On Sundays in July, join us for a new study: *Hope for the Hard Times: Lessons on Faith from Elijah and Elisha*. Together, we will discover how these two prophets trusted God to find a way for them through difficult times.

Join us online: <https://zoom.us/j/487816871> or
by phone: dial **1-888-788-0099** and enter meeting ID **487 816 871**



Vacation Bible School Starts July 20

If you registered for Vacation Bible School, remember to pick up your bag of supplies Saturday, July 18 or Sunday, July 19 on the church front porch. Our livestream VBS starts Monday, July 20.

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



Feed The Kids

We are again helping with the Feed the Kids program in Berea. Disbursement has been narrowed down for reduced contact, and therefore, we are only distributing prepared lunches on Mondays (with enough lunches to cover multiple days). Our week of service will be the week of July 27.

To help with this program, either by hands-on service or by making a financial gift, please 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

Dave LeBrun will be in the church parking lot, practicing safe social distancing and receiving your donations of non-perishable food items to support the pantry at Church Street Ministries. 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 or online at www.umcb.org/donate. Please note "food pantry" on the description line.

Thank you for your generous participation.



Flower Gardens around the Church Building

Even though we are not yet meeting in person inside our building, our flower beds around the outside of the building could use some attention and care. If you have some time to spare and would like the opportunity to enjoy the fresh air, please feel free to stop by and pull some weeds.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Nathan at nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**.

Compromised Email Accounts

Over the past few months, we know that there has been an increase in email accounts being hacked and mis-used. If you receive an email that seems suspicious, do not open any links or respond to the email. You can contact the sender directly with a new email or by phone. However, please be aware that the sender may be receiving many of these notifications and it may not be possible to respond to all of them.

If this has happened to you and you have had to change your email address, please be sure to contact the church office to update your contact information.

And if you are in need of the most up-to-date contact directory for our congregation, please contact the church office at info@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x100. (Digital copies are available to be sent to your email.)

UNITED METHODISTS STAND AGAINST RACISM



UMC.org/EndRacism

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 remaining conversations will be Monday, July 13 at 7 PM: "Continued Struggles in Race Relations" and Monday, July 20 at 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).

Just Mercy Conversations

The Deacons of the East Ohio Conference in Partnership with the Multicultural Vitality office hope that many of you had the opportunity over the past month to watch Just Mercy. If you're like many of us, you now want to continue that conversation. Deacons and other clergy are offering Zoom discussion groups in each district during the month of July and we look forward to faithful discussions that will lead to transformation.

All are welcome to join any of the Zoom gatherings and it doesn't need to be the one in your district. E-mail the Rev. Linda McCowen at lsmccowen@gmail.com, chair of the Order of Deacons, for more information.

Canal

Tuesday, July 28, 7 PM

Mid-Ohio

Tuesday, July 14, 7 PM

Mahoning Valley

Wednesday, July 15, 7 PM

(Please RSVP by July 13)

North Coast

Wednesday, July 22, 7 PM

Three Rivers

Wednesday, July 8, 4 PM

Tuscarawas

Thursday, July 16

Noon and 7 PM

Western Reserve

Sunday, July 19, 7 PM

Firelands/Ohio Valley/Southern Hills

TBD in August