



*Then the righteous
will shine like the sun
in their Father's kingdom.*

Matthew 13:43a (CEB)

Worship Celebration

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 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

Because of Your Love

*As we come into your presence, we remember every blessing
that you've poured out so freely from above;
lifting gratitude and praises for compassion so amazing,
Lord, we've come to give you thanks for all you've done.*

*Because of your love, we're forgiven; because of your love, our hearts are clean;
we lift you up with songs of freedom; forever we're changed because of your love.*

*As we come into your presence, we remember every blessing
that you've poured out so freely from above;
lifting gratitude and praises for compassion so amazing,
Lord, we've come to give you thanks for all you've done.*

*Because of your love, we're forgiven; because of your love, our hearts are clean;
we lift you up with songs of freedom; forever we're changed because of your love.*

*Because of your love, we're forgiven; because of your love, our hearts are clean;
we lift you up with songs of freedom; forever we're changed because of your love.*

Love the Lord

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength;***

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength.***

With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength;

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength.***

***I will serve the Lord with all my heart, with all my soul,
with all my mind, and with all my strength;***

***I will serve the Lord with all my heart, with all my soul,
with all my mind, and with all my strength.***

With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, with all my strength;

I will serve the Lord with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

I will love you; I will praise you; I will serve you; I will trust you, Lord.

***With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, with all my strength;
with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, with all my strength.***

***I will love you, Lord, with all my heart, with all my soul,
with all my mind, and with all my strength.***

Love the Lord / Lincoln Brewster / 2005 Integrity Music / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

***Holy God of mystery and miracle, we wait for you even while you are with us,
for your promises are both now and yet to come.***

Reveal your presence to us and among us now as we gather our hearts in worship.

Send your Holy Spirit to descend upon us,

***and raise our attention that we may reflect on your promises fulfilled
and trust with hope in your promises yet to come.***

In your holy name, we worship, live, and pray. 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 8.12-25 (CEB)

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. ¹³ If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. ¹⁵ You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. ¹⁷ But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. ²⁰ Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. ²² We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. ²³ And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have

the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. ²⁴We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? ²⁵But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 13.24-30 (CEB)

²⁴Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷"The servants of the landowner came and said to him, 'Master, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?'

²⁸"'An enemy has done this,' he answered.

"The servants said to him, 'Do you want us to go and gather them?'

²⁹"But the landowner said, 'No, because if you gather the weeds, you'll pull up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvesttime I'll say to the harvesters, "First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.'"

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn

Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

UMH 583

***You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch, my witnesses wherever you go.
Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."
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.***

You Are the Seed / Cesareo Gabarain / 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House 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

Creation Sings

WS 3018

*Creation sings! And we are in the music, the movement of God's energy and art,
a liturgy that links our life to angels, a litany that rises from the heart.
The Spirit sings! Through love and lamentation, from Pentecost to joy of Easter Day
the universe is resonant with music, the smallest creature dances to its play.*

*Creation groans at our discordant clashing: the Spirit comes with music as our friend
to bring the harmony of peace and beauty, to teach the textures of the way to blend.
O God, you draw the melody from silence, you make of us the instruments of song!
We offer thanks in worship and in wonder that such a gift to human souls belong.*

Creation Sings / Shirley Erena Murray / 2000 Hope Publishing Company / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Benediction

May patience be our path.
May hope comfort our world.
And may love guide our lives, this day and every day.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Morning Prayer:

In whatever shelter I wake this morning,
I know this place is holy because you meet me here.
As I wash my body and prepare for the day,
I remember the baptismal waters
and the claim upon my life.
Wherever darkness looms, O God,
spread your mercy this day. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

As darkness spreads over the land,
I trust that you move in it.
As I yield the night to sleep and dreams,
I pray you would remake me
into a servant, courageous and compassionate,
for the sake of Jesus. 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.

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 final conversation, "Intersections of Oppression", will be this Monday, July 20 at 7 PM.

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 during the month of July and we look forward to faithful discussions that will lead to transformation.

Canal
Tuesday, July 28, 7 PM

North Coast
Wednesday, July 22, 7 PM

Western Reserve
Sunday, July 19, 7 PM

Firelands/Ohio Valley/Southern Hills
TBD in August

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.

Compromised Email Accounts

Over the past few months, we know that there has been an increase in email accounts being hacked and misused. 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.)

Reminder: No Children's Chapel this Friday, July 24 due to Vacation Bible School.



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**.



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**.



Thursday Women's Bible Study

Thursdays beginning July 23, 6:30 - 8 PM

Thursday evening Bible Study will start again on July 23. We will be studying *Determined* by Heather M. Dixon. All are welcomed to join us in this study of Luke and how he helps us see the everyday encounters, turn into something more. Books can be ordered through Amazon.

Join us online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85619179718pwd=NUIFR3dUc0lKdkM2OVlWbHcwblpCdz09> or by phone by dialing 1-888-788-0099. **Meeting ID** 856 1917 9718 and **Password** 600537

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



Youth Group

Sunday, July 26, 5 PM

Join us on Sunday, July 26 for a Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt, physically-distanced and safe social experience! Face coverings required. Show off your best designs! A short devotion and prayer will kick off the fun. Plan Purple (if our county is at level 4/purple) is a Virtual Scavenger Hunt via Zoom. Both versions will include prizes!!

Questions? Please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.



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**.



Food Collection for Church Street Ministries

Wednesdays, 5 pm - 8 pm in the UMCS 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.