



Worship Celebration

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Vacation Bible School Celebration

July 26, 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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer (From Compassion Camp VBS)

*Welcoming One,
Your warm, wide arms are always open,
drawing us into your heart full of love.
Make our arms your own, helping us see and welcome
with compassion all those we meet.
Amen.*

Opening Songs

New Song (Psalm 40)

*I've waited patiently. I've waited for you to hear me.
You listen and heard my cry. You lift me higher and higher.
You give me a new song, you give me a new song,
you give me a new song to sing.*

*You set me on solid ground. Protect me. Your love surrounds me.
You give me a new song, you give me a new song,
you give me a new song to sing.*

*I've waited patiently. I've waited for you to hear me.
You listen and heard my cry. You lift me higher and higher.
You give me a new song, you give me a new song,
you give me a new song to sing.*

New Song / Andra Moran / 2004 JITH Music Publishing / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Sing Sing Sing

*(We will) sing, sing, sing. And make music with the heavens
We will sing, sing, sing. Grateful that You hear us
When we shout Your praise. Lift high the name of Jesus.*

What's not to love about You.

Heaven and earth adore You.

Kings and kingdoms bow down.

Son of God, You are the One. You are the One we're living for.

You are the love that frees us.

You are the light that leads us.

Like a fire burning.

Son of God, You are the One. You are the One we're living for.

Sing, Sing, Sing / Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Matt Gilder, Travis Nunn/© 2008 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Ryan House Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

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 8.26-39 (CEB)

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. ²⁷The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. ²⁸We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. ³⁰Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

³¹So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

³³Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. ³⁴Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

³⁵Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

We are being put to death all day long for your sake.

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.

³⁷But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. ³⁸I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers ³⁹or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52 (CEB)

³¹ He told another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. ³² It’s the smallest of all seeds. But when it’s grown, it’s the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one very precious pearl, he went and sold all that he owned and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that people threw into the lake and gathered all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, they pulled it to the shore, where they sat down and put the good fish together into containers. But the bad fish they threw away. ⁴⁹ That’s the way it will be at the end of the present age. The angels will go out and separate the evil people from the righteous people, ⁵⁰ and will throw the evil ones into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

They said to him, “Yes.”

⁵² Then he said to them, “Therefore, every legal expert who has been trained as a disciple for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings old and new things out of their treasure chest.”

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Vacation Bible School Celebration

Sermon

VBS Song

Brave Enough

We are brave enough to love
We are brave enough to show compassion
We are brave enough to listen and tell the truth. **(2x)**

We can be brave
We can be brave
Because we are filled with love
From the bottom of God’s heart
We can be brave
We can be brave

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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

VBS Song

I Have Love to Share

I have love to share with the whole wide world
And I start with loving myself
When I take good care of my heart and soul
I have love for everyone else
I love me so I can love you
God loves me so I can love you

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Benediction (From Compassion Camp VBS)

God is good ***all the time!***
All the time ***God is good!***

God-With-Us

You lead us on life
Move our hearts so we can be there for others along the way.
Amen.

Postlude

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

Morning Prayer:

God of life,
as I recall the night's unsettled dreams
and foresee the day's demands,
come to me in the desires of my heart,
in the anger of the excluded,
in all I might ignore—
until I find you everywhere,
until your holy love fills every impulse,
in the Spirit of Jesus,
whose surprising call continues.
Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Joy of my heart,
thank you for this day's unexpected turns:
for provision when I felt stymied
and for laughter born of grace.
As I rest now in your mercy,
open my heart to your unruly love
and the neighbors you have set in my path.
Amen.

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Sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, August 2, during the 11 AM online worship service

On Sunday, August 2, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion together during our livestream worship service. Prepackaged Communion elements will be available for you to pick up on the porch (on the Seminary Street side of the building) from 5 PM to 8 PM on Wednesday, July 29. (If you do not receive the prepackaged Communion elements, please feel free to use whatever bread you might have in your house.)

If you have any questions or would like Communion elements to be delivered to your home, please contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org.



Wednesday Evening Prayer Service (In-Person)

Wednesdays, 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 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**.



Youth Group

This evening - July 26, 5 PM

Join us on tonight at 5 PM 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**.



New Adult Sunday School Class - God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath

Sundays beginning August 2, 10 AM via Zoom

For four weeks starting on August 2, join us on Sunday mornings at 10 AM via Zoom for a conversation that puts our current experience of pandemic into the context of our Christian scriptures and tradition, based on this recent book by N.T. Wright, professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews.

You are welcome to purchase the book but do not need to do so to join us for our conversations as we consider questions related to our experience of pandemic including, *What should be the Christian response? How should we think about God and God's role? How do we live in the present moment? What can we learn about ourselves? and How do we recover?*

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, 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=NUIFR3dUc0lKdkM2OVIWbHcwblpCdz09> 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.



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 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 local food pantries. 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.

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>.

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.

All are welcome to join any of the Zoom gatherings and it doesn't need to be the one in your district.

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

E-mail the **Rev. Linda McCowen**, chair of the Order of Deacons, at lsmccowen@gmail.com for more information.

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.

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.)